

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**DEIRDRE BURNS
DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
DIANE LYONS
LISA ROSENTHAL
LAURA SCHULKIND
RICHARD WALKER**

OTHERS PRESENT:

**JOSEPH PHELAN, THOMAS BURNELL,
MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, MEMBERS
OF THE PUBLIC**

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2015 Regular Meeting.*

**VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

3.0 Public Comment

Prior to the public comment section of the agenda, Superintendent Phelan gave a transportation update, starting with the time in late spring when the previous vendor provided their customers a verbal "heads up" and then formally terminated their contract with the District in writing on 5/29/2015, up until recent events. The Spackenkill CSD, Dutchess BOCES, and the Rhinebeck CSD collaborated on a bid process, with Dutchess BOCES as the lead agency that went to bid in May. Bids were opened in June 2015 and, as required by law, the Board of Education awarded the bid to Always East as the lowest responsible bidder. Although the District has seen improvements in transportation over the last few weeks, the program has had a rocky start due to combined bus runs, substitute bus drivers, and mechanical problems with buses. Superintendent Phelan reported that currently all buses have hand-held radios and are able to connect directly to the District. The bus company has hired several new drivers and has plans to bring new buses to the fleet.

Mr. Burnell addressed the issue of routing. For purposes of the School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee, the District had been looking at the routing to optimize bus runs and get more state aid since the budget that already had been adopted by the voters would not support a higher transportation contract. Always East assured the District that the proposed routes would work. Although most routes are running well, some routes are not optimal. Mr. Burnell will be meeting with the dispatcher and bus drivers to discuss possible new pick up times and route changes. Parents will be notified by mail of any changes. Always East hopes for the arrival of the new buses within the next few days. The District has requested

the bus vendor to add a new run that would assign a small bus to one particularly difficult route, which will help alleviate issues with a few other runs. Mr. Burnell explained that state aid comes in only when elementary school students live more than 2 miles away and secondary students live more than 3 miles away.

Many parents in attendance expressed their concerns as follows:

- Allways East has major labor actions, which should have been investigated before hiring
- There is profound concern for the safety of children, which is a betrayal of faith
- Buses are not showing up to pick up students or are running very late
- Buses are picking up students on the opposite side of the road which is dangerous, especially on major roads; there are additional concerns when it is dark after the time change
- Students are spending close to an hour riding the bus both ways
- What steps are set up with the bus company to deal with issues/deadlines? What are the budget savings? What about next year?
- Buses are not stopping at proper bus stops; there are mismarked buses and new drivers every day
- Many parents are giving up and driving their children to school
- Any improvements felt by the district are at the expense of the families driving students to school
- There has been no response from the District when parents express concerns
- Secondary grade students are missing first period core classes because their buses are late to school
- Some students are experiencing fears
- The District needs a better system to evaluate and lay out routes

Although parents are respectful of what the District is doing to solve the issues, some parents expressed that families have lost confidence and trust in the busing arrangements. Board members thanked parents for taking the time to come speak to them, stating that the feedback is helpful.

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Principals' Reports

Chancellor Livingston Elementary

Mr. King reported that Chancellor used the "Dress Down Friday" funds to send one student to Dutchess Art Camp this past summer.

The STEM Lab continues to work with the PLTW modules – Mr. Woulfin is full time this year, which will provide more opportunity for exposure for students K-5.

In Physical Education, the Run Across America program's goal is to "run/walk" to San Francisco. Several CLS staff, as well as those participating in the Staff Fitness Class, are wearing pedometers, and the data will be documented and charted for students.

Young Rhinebeck and the LLL Program are in their 10th year. This year, a former LLL (Life, Learning, Language) student is working with the program as a tutor.

For the Pinwheels For Peace assembly, each K-5 student “planted” his/her pinwheel in the front of the school and sang the new version of *We Are The World*. Mr. King wished to thank Val Nikolatis for the beautiful artwork in the CLS lobby.

Upcoming Events:

- 3-5 Open House on Thursday, Sept 24th
- Title I/AIS Open House on Wed, Oct 28th
- Planning with Erin Cannon and Bard for Citizen Science Activities next week
- Grade 3 Safety Day on October 7th

Bulkeley Middle School

Mr. Kemnitzer thanked Mr. Tieder and the Operations and Maintenance crew for getting the school ready for students. He also wished to thank Carmela Fountain and the PTSO for organizing the pre-opening school activities and welcoming new students.

The extracurricular clubs have started meeting this week, with the Art Club having 26 students in attendance.

Due to a generous donation from the Rhinebeck Science Foundation, BMS is unveiling an updated computer lab this year. In addition, computer teachers spent the summer working with Laurie Keating, a consultant from CELT, on developing curriculum 6-8.

The middle school continues working with Dr. Patricia Wright from SUNY Stonybrook on the upcoming Madagascar Day, scheduled for October 16th -- a sustainable half day program in an effort to increase global awareness and provide students with a chance to interact with kids their age half a world away. Many activities are planned for each grade level which will be recorded and shared with the students in Ranamafana.

Rhinebeck High School

Dr. Davenport thanked the work of the custodians and staff for a smooth opening day. Mr. Burg organized a new student orientation/freshmen walk through. Once again, peer mentors from the Peer Mentoring Club assisted students new to the District and freshmen.

The BLPT will meet to begin planning objectives for the coming year based on senior exit surveys and freshman surveys.

The RHS Writing Center is up and running—with the support of the custodial staff and the Technology Department. A room has been organized with desks and chairs

and six computers. As with our Math Labs, teachers are keeping a sign-in of students who come in, and students are already availing themselves of the Center.

The high school has two national merit semi-finalists and five commended students.

Upcoming Events:

- The English Department and the Center for Civic Engagement and IWT from BARD will be partnering to present a Writer's Day. Bard students will facilitate discussion and writing around a shared text.
- Juniors will be travelling to Olana to begin the study of art and literature of the Hudson Valley.
- Drama Club will begin acting workshops—this year will culminate in a student organized and directed performance.
- Open house on October 2
- PSAT on October 14

4.2 Board Committee Reports (Finance, Communications, Curriculum)*

Finance Committee

Ms. Burns reported that the Finance Committee was happy to see tremendous improvements in cafeteria program losses. The new configuration of the cafeteria and the sharing of a food manager with Red Hook have greatly improved the District's net loss from \$70,000 to only \$10,000 last year. This school year, the District expects some additional costs for the recyclable trays and purchasing milk from a local milk purveyor.

The Committee also discussed concerns about the possibility of M & T Bank starting to charge the District for various transactions. The Committee had a preliminary budget discussion.

In addition, although there are many unknown factors at this time, a very rough estimate may be a .48% allowable tax levy increase with a budget to budget increase to be approximately 3%. The Board briefly discussed asking administrators for a "wish list" with most members thinking that it would be a good idea for administrators to continue to think on ways to improve our schools, even if the District can't afford it.

The Committee also discussed the bus transportation problems and the financial impact of adding bus routes and state transportation aid.

Communications Committee

Ms. d'Albertis reported that the Communication Committee discussed at length the problems accompanying the roll-out of the District's transportation routes with Allways East and the effectiveness of real-time communications to all members of the community. Superintendent Phelan updated Committee members about all the actions being taken to address specific concerns.

The Committee discussed the roll-out of the District's new website. Mr. Jensen has been responding to parent queries relating to design, making the staff directory more user-friendly, and the "Ask the District" page. There will be three basic categories with rotating content for the carousel of images on the website.

- Community
- Extra- and Co-Curricular Events
- "This is What Public Education Looks Like" focusing on classroom activities.

Mr. Jensen continues to meet with faculty groups and offices/staff to answer questions on how to use the site.

Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Curriculum Committee briefly discussed new rulings from the NYS Regents relating to assessments and APPR. However, the bulk of the discussion was the "penultimate" version of the K-8 ELA curriculum documents which are designed to be fluid to allow teachers to tweak the curriculum in order to accommodate needs of students in the classroom. Board members were invited to review the curriculum ahead of the next meeting to give opportunity for discussion before making a recommendation for approval. Mr. Kreps shared the first draft of the high school English curriculum with the Committee.

4.3 +Transportation Update

Superintendent Phelan stated that the Board had heard the transportation update at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Burnell expects to meet with the dispatcher and bus drivers on Wednesday in order to discuss changes involving pick up/drop offs. Mr. Burnell hopes to have letters mailed to families on Thursday to implement any changes by Monday, September 28. Mr. Burnell stated that every complaint is being logged and submitted to Allways East for resolution. Mrs. Lyons suggested that parents notify the District if buses are late or don't pick up students at bus stops in order to address every need. Board members understand that some parents have lost confidence with transportation and the District must find a way to earn their trust back.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Superintendent Phelan stated that the newly merged football team with Pine Plains is doing well. Mrs. Schulkind thanked the PTSO for the "Welcome Back" picnic. Mr. Walker thanked Mrs. Johnson for coordinating the Pinwheels for Peace at Chancellor. Ms. Burns stated that it was a great weekend of sports and wished to thank Mr. Boucher for organizing all the coaches.

5.2 Old Business

Ms. Burns wished to thank Superintendent Phelan for the work on the New Teacher Mentoring Plan. President Fleischhauer encouraged Board members to review the resolutions slated to be voted on at the NYSSBA Convention.

5.3 Public Comment

Parents offered comments as follows:

- Questions about the District's transportation policy were raised and a parent asked that the Board decide what a reasonable amount of time is for students to be on the bus.
- Questions were raised as to whether bus drivers are stopping at each stop with or without students
- Some confidence has been restored by hearing Board members comments and concerns

5.4 Other

The Board expressed interest in the number of students participating in clubs.

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the following consent items:

6.1.1 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the CSE and CPSE recommendations.*

6.1.2 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the Treasurer's Reports (General Fund, August 2015; Extra Classroom Fund, August 2015).*

**VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

6.2 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the list of additional emergency conditional substitute teachers and non-instructional staff for the 2015-16 school year. (See attached.)*

**VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

6.3 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve additional Summer 2015 program work. (See attached.)*

**VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

6.4 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve additional Mentors for the 2015-16 school year.*

**VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

- 6.5 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of additional advisors for Rhinebeck High School for the 2015-16 school year. (See attached.)*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.6 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of additional Enrichment Program advisors for Chancellor Livingston Elementary School for the 2015-16 school year. (See attached.)*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.7 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Christine Martin to provide teacher aide services for up to 1.75 hours per day for each day of Modified Cross Country practices, and/or for meets, effective for the 2015 Modified Cross Country season, in accordance with the 2015-16 A.N.I.E. salary schedule.*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.8 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept a grant from the Friends of Rhinebeck Lacrosse Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, in the amount of \$7,898, for the support of the Rhinebeck High School Lacrosse program.*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED
- Prior to the vote, the Board wished to thank the Friends of Rhinebeck Lacrosse Fund for their generous support.*
- 6.9 Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the revised 2014-15 school tax bills totaling \$1,902.22 in reduction adjustments, and to make the appropriate refunds to the property owner from the District's Tax Certiorari Reserve. (See attached.)*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 10:05 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board appointed Joseph Phelan as Clerk Pro Tempore.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10: 55 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:56 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore