

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

**JOSEPH PHELAN, TOM BURNELL,
MEMBER OF THE PRESS, MEMBERS
OF THE PUBLIC**

1.0 Call to Order

President Burns called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2014 Regular Meeting*

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

3.0 Public Comment

None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Annual Independent Auditors Report (T. Thomas)

Mr. Thomas was unable to attend.

4.2 Alternative Veterans Tax Exemption*

Mr. Phelan presented information regarding the recently adopted legislation, "Alternative Veterans Tax Exemption", authorizing certain exemptions from school taxes for eligible veterans. New York State has passed this legislation, leaving the decision to adopt with local school districts without additional funding. The tax burden will be shared by the non-veterans in the community. Mr. Phelan explained that, should the Board wish to provide a veterans exemption, there are several different levels of exemptions available under the State legislation which are subject to maximum limits. The timeline for adoption is February 28, 2014 for the 2014-15 school year. The Finance Committee has had a short time to review this matter and is recommending not to adopt the exemption until there has been more time to review the legislation thoroughly and understand the impact on veteran and non-veteran taxpayers. Mr. Burnell stated that the tax impact will depend on the level of exemption that the District might approve, but at the basic exemption, the increase may be minimal. Mr. Burnell offered that there is also a Seniors Exemption, unrelated to the veterans exemption, that may be considered as well. The Board felt that this is a difficult decision to make that will help one group of people and burden another. The

Board felt that it would have been preferable for the State to help veterans on a statewide basis rather than burden the school district. The consensus of the Board was to hold off for this school year and look at it more carefully before making a decision for a future year.

4.3 Board Committee Reports*

Facilities Committee

Mrs. D'Albertis reported that the Facilities Committee began to look at the draft of the 5-Year Plan prepared by Mr. Tieder. The committee will continue to study the plan to clarify necessary expenditures and discussed the possibility of a small bond referendum to meet those needs. Mr. Burnell added that while the committee is looking at categories like Safety and Security as well as Environmental, we may want to consider adding a Curriculum category. Dr. Kantaros added that the 5-Year Plan is very helpful in understanding expenses and will be a resource to use when grants become available. Mr. Burnell offered that the Board may want to consider creating a capital reserve for these anticipated expenditures. The committee is happy to announce that the new, energy-efficient external lighting was installed and is operational.

Communications Committee

Mrs. D'Albertis reported that the Communication Committee has a tentative date for the "Coffee with the Board" set for March 12 from 9-10 am at CLS and from 7-8 at BMS/RHS. Mrs. D'Albertis thanked Mr. Fleischhauer for completing all the paperwork with Central Hudson relating to the Class of 2014 banners. Mrs. D'Albertis reported that Steve Jensen presented the committee with a draft of a "Comprehensive Communications Plan". The committee spoke at great length about the communications goals, not only communications with the community but internal communications as well. Mr. Jensen shared with the committee that since September 2013, the website has had approximately 12,000 hits from mobile devices and a short discussion ensued regarding who is accessing the website and what pages they are visiting. The committee also reviewed the script written by Mr. Jensen for the telephone interviews with families of students who have elected to leave the District, as well as the request for a survey of overall satisfaction with Rhinebeck schools.

4.4 Nominations and Elections for Dutchess BOCES Board*

Mr. Phelan explained that Dutchess BOCES has two seats open for the Dutchess BOCES Board. The nominees for the seats can be a board member or a member of the Rhinebeck community. The nominations must be received by the BOCES District Clerk no later than March 12, 2014. BOCES is also having their Annual Meeting on April 9, 2014.

4.5 2014-15 Budget Development Update

Mr. Burnell commented that there have been some additions and many deletions to the draft budget. Mr. Burnell reported that the budget has been adjusted to reflect some of the final cost figures from BOCES, monies for salaries shifted to grants, as well as removal of some duplicate items. At this time, the proposed tax

levy increase is 2.53% and the maximum allowable tax levy limit is 2.78% which means we are approximately \$63,000 under the maximum allowable limit. Mr. Phelan commented that the tightening of elements in the budget means that we have less headroom for unanticipated expenses, and that less fund balance will be generated at the end of the year from a tighter budget. President Burns added that for the next Board meeting, the Board would like to see a prioritized wish list of items that may be considered to be added to the budget. Dr. Kantaros asked for a follow up on the topic of sports participation and overall costs, as well as a review of the historical costs of the budget percentages over the last 10 years run against enrollment numbers. Mr. Phelan shared that although we are below the tax levy limit earlier in the budget development process this year, we are also at the point, except for potential breakage from additional retirements, where we are not expecting great decreases in expenses.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Mrs. Lyons commented on the great job the maintenance crew is doing with the removal of snow and ice. President Burns shared that Spirit Week and the pep rally at the high school were a great success. Mrs. D'Albertis commented that the BMS top chef competition went very well at the middle school. She shared how wonderful it was to see local chefs educate students in nutrition and the art of cooking and baking. Mr. Phelan shared that the debut of the Point of Sale system for the cafeteria had gone reasonably well.

5.2 Old Business

President Burns shared that it was very gratifying to hear the positive feedback from the letter the Board sent to Commissioner King with their perspective on the Regents Reform Agenda. At the Chamber of Commerce dinner, members of the Board spoke to local leaders. Assemblyman Cahill praised our schools and spoke to the reduction of funding from the State. Senator Gibson spoke about meeting with school leaders. Lobby dates are set for February 21 with Assemblywoman Didi Barrett to discuss state policies that potentially pit members of the community against each other, the formula for the tax freeze, and the enactment of policies that shift responsibilities from the state to the community.

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

President Burns spoke about the NYSSBA Lobby Day on March 9-10. The Board has not participated in this lobby day for some time because meeting with local representatives privately is more productive.

Dr. Kantaros questioned the policy relating to the reviewing of personnel records. Mr. Phelan commented that although we are not prepared to answer the question, he will speak with legal counsel because it references regulations. The Policy Committee is in the process of reviewing all policies and has not reached this one

yet. Dr. Kantaros commented to a previous discussion about teachers making great coaches and is happy to see that the district is bringing in two new faculty members who have extensive coaching experience.

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Motion by Fleischhauer, 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 declare the attached items as surplus for disposal.*

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

6.2 Motion by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the permanent Civil Service appointment of Stacey van den Thoorn to the position of Senior Typist, effective February 18, 2014.*

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

6.3 ***TABLED********Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept the Independent Auditor's Report for the 2012-13 school year.*

6.4 Motion by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept grant awards from the Rhinebeck PTSO in the total amount of \$743.15, as stipulated. (See attached.)*

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

President Burns thanked the PTSO for their contributions.

6.5 Motion by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to appoint 2013-14 CLS Before-School Enrichment Program instructors. (See attached.)*

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

6.6 Motion by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the selection of Social Psychology (7th edition) (Aronson, Wilson, Akert, 2010), Pearson, and Exploring

Social Psychology (5th edition) (Myers, 2008), McGraw Hill, as the textbooks for the Social Psychology course.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.7 Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the three year probationary appointment of Kevin Yarnell to the position of Physical Education teacher, assigned to Chancellor Livingston Elementary School, effective February 24, 2014, in the tenure area of Physical Education, at a salary of Step 1 BA+3 (\$51,389, pro-rated), in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2013-14.*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, Fleischhauer, Kantaros, Rosenthal, Lyons, Schulkind, d'Albertis); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

Mrs. D'Albertis looked back on the concerns of replacing beloved retiring teachers and praised the efforts of the search committees in finding new teachers.

- 6.8 Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the three year probationary appointment of Ryan Edson to the position of Physical Education teacher, assigned to Chancellor Livingston Elementary School, effective September 1, 2014, in the tenure area of Physical Education, at a salary of Step 1 MA (\$56,538, pro-rated), in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2013-14.*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, Fleischhauer, Kantaros, Rosenthal, Lyons, Schulkind, d'Albertis); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.9 Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to re-number the following policy: Preschool Special Education (#4321.2 to #4321.13).
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, Fleischhauer, Kantaros, Rosenthal, Lyons, Schulkind, d'Albertis); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.10 Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve an extension of the leave request under the Family and Medical Leave Act from Megan Rodier, having commenced on December 2, 2013, through March 10, 2014 with such leave to be taken as paid medical leave through the period of disability as certified by a physician in writing, to the extent of her accrued sick leave, and thereafter through June 1, 2014 as unpaid childcare leave.*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, Fleischhauer, Kantaros, Rosenthal, Lyons, Schulkind, d'Albertis); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.11 Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve an additional extension of the appointment of Lisa Cole as a long-term substitute in the position of Social Worker at Bulkeley Middle School/Rhinebeck High School, having commenced on December 3, 2013, and extended through a date on or about January 29, 2014, to be further extended through May 30, 2014, at the pleasure of the Board, at the salary of Step 1 MA+30+30 (\$61,960, prorated), in accordance with the 2013-14 RTA Salary Schedule. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence granted to Megan Rodier, Social Worker at Bulkeley Middle School/Rhinebeck High School.

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

- 6.12 Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the donation of \$17,846.65 from the Rhinebeck Swim Team Booster Club and \$6,737.33 from the Friends of Rhinebeck Lacrosse, in support of the 2012-13 Boys and Girls Varsity Swimming program and the Boys Varsity Lacrosse program as stipulated. (See attached.)*

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

President Burns thanked parents for all their efforts in making these programs possible.

- 6.13 Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve an extension of the appointment of Anita Thompson as a long-term substitute in the position of Teaching Assistant at Chancellor Livingston Elementary School, having commenced on September 20, 2013 through January 19, 2014, through February 25, 2014, at the pleasure of the Board, at the salary of \$127.89 per diem (50% of Step 1 BA, \$51,155), in accordance with the 2013-14 RTA Salary Schedule. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence granted to, and the subsequent retirement of Paula Martin, Teaching Assistant at the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School.*

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

- 6.14 Motion** by Fleischhauer, 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 substitute non-instructional staff for the 2013-14 school year.*

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

6.15 ***TABLED*****Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the following resolution**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, in accordance with Article 5-A of the General Municipal Law, has invited sealed bids for the furnishing of transportation contractor services for the School District, including bids for home-to-school transportation (cooperative bid with Spackenkill UFSD), and field and sports trips transportation (cooperative bid with Spackenkill UFSD), home-to-school transportation with small buses and summer school transportation effective the 2014-2015 school year, which bids were opened publicly on January 16, 2014;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby determines that the following transportation contractors are the lowest responsible bidders in accordance with the bid specifications for the several transportation contracts:

Durham School Services for home-to-school transportation (for 65/66 passenger, 28/35 passenger, 16/22 passenger and 2-wheelchair position buses)

Durham School Services for field and sports trip transportation (for 65/66 passenger, 28/35 passenger, 16/22 passenger and 2-wheelchair position buses)

DeFile Transportation for home-to-school transportation (6/7 passenger Minivans)

Ethan Allen Transportation for summer school transportation (6/7 passenger Minivans); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby awards the transportation contracts to the transportation contractors set forth above for the 2014-2015 school year, subject to renewal for additional years, in accordance with the prices set forth in the bid analysis, annexed hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute contracts with Durham School Services, DeFile Transportation and Ethan Allen Transportation upon submission by such transportation contractors of the required insurance certificates and security for the performance of said contracts in the amount of the individual contract prices and in the form specified in the bid documents.

Motion by Kantaros, seconded by Fleischhauer, the Board voted to TABLE Item 6.15.

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

- 6.16** *******TABLED*******+**Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve an increase in the appointment of Gideon Moor by .6 FTE, from .2 FTE to .8FTE, such increase as a long-term substitute in the position of Social Studies/Business/Computer Teacher at Rhinebeck High School/Bulkeley Middle School, at the pleasure of the Board, effective January 29, 2014 through March 26, 2014, at a salary of MA + 30 + 30, Step 2 (\$63,927, pro-rated at .8 FTE), in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2013-14.*

Motion by Lyons, seconded by Kantaros, the Board voted to TABLE Item 6.16.
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, Fleischhauer, Kantaros, Rosenthal, Lyons, d'Albertis, Schulkind); 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.17** *******TABLED*******+**Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the appointment of Susan Van Vlack as a long-term substitute in the position of Computer Teacher at Bulkeley Middle School, at the pleasure of the Board, effective January 29, 2014 through March 26, 2014, to be reimbursed at her hourly rate.*

Motion by Lyons, seconded by Kantaros, the Board voted to TABLE Item 6.17.
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, Fleischhauer, Kantaros, Rosenthal, Lyons, d'Albertis, Schulkind); 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:00 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular persons.

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

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

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

Motion by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10:57 pm.

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

- 6.15 Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the following resolution

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, in accordance with Article 5-A of the General Municipal Law, has invited sealed bids for the furnishing of transportation contractor services for the School District, including bids for home-to-school transportation (cooperative bid with Spackenkill UFSD), and field and sports trips transportation (cooperative bid with Spackenkill UFSD), home-to-school transportation with small buses and summer school transportation effective the 2014-2015 school year, which bids were opened publicly on January 16, 2014;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby determines that the following transportation contractors are the lowest responsible bidders in accordance with the bid specifications for the several transportation contracts:

Durham School Services for home-to-school transportation (for 65/66 passenger, 28/35 passenger, 16/22 passenger and 2-wheelchair position buses)

Durham School Services for field and sports trip transportation (for 65/66 passenger, 28/35 passenger, 16/22 passenger and 2-wheelchair position buses)

DeFile Transportation for home-to-school transportation (6/7 passenger Minivans)

Ethan Allen Transportation for summer school transportation (6/7 passenger Minivans); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby awards the transportation contracts to the transportation contractors set forth above for the 2014-2015 school year, subject to renewal for additional years, in accordance with the prices set forth in the bid analysis, annexed hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute contracts with Durham School Services, DeFile Transportation and Ethan Allen Transportation upon submission by such transportation contractors of the required insurance certificates and security for the performance of said contracts in the amount of the individual contract prices and in the form specified in the bid documents.

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

- 6.16 +Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve an increase in the appointment of Gideon Moor by .6 FTE, from .2 FTE to .8FTE, such increase as a

long-term substitute in the position of Social Studies/Business/Computer Teacher at Rhinebeck High School/Bulkeley Middle School, at the pleasure of the Board, effective January 29, 2014 through March 26, 2014, at a salary of MA + 30 + 30, Step 2 (\$63,927, pro-rated at .8 FTE), in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2013-14.*

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

6.17 +**Motion** by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Susan Van Vlack as a long-term substitute in the position of Computer Teacher at Bulkeley Middle School, at the pleasure of the Board, effective January 29, 2014 through March 26, 2014, to be reimbursed at her hourly rate.*

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

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Fleischhauer, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:59 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore