

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

1.0 Call to Order

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order in the High School/Middle School Library at 7:34 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting.*

**VOTE: 6 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (Burns); 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

2.2 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2014 Special Meeting.*

**VOTE: 6 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (Burns); 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

3.0 Public Comment

Mr. Steve Ellis spoke on behalf of the Rhinebeck Science Foundation, inviting the Board to the RSF Open House and dedication of the STEM Lab at CLS on January 22, 2015 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Alternative Veterans Tax Exemption*

Superintendent Phelan reported that Mr. Burnell provided additional information to the Finance Committee for their review, which included several different scenarios on the possible impact to District taxpayers should the Board approve a veteran's tax exemption. If the Board of Education were to pursue and approve a basic exemption, then only one public hearing would be required. Any other variations of the exemption would require two separate public hearings before the Board could vote on an approval of the exemption.

Board members welcome the opportunity for feedback from the community and a hearing will be scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2015, at 7:00 pm, immediately before the Regular meeting start time.

4.2 Annual Special Education Report (R. Zipp)*

Mr. Zipp, Director of Special Education and Programs, presented the Special Education Annual Report to the Board. Mr. Zipp reported on the private and public programs offered to special education students based upon their disability. The current classification rate for the District is approximately 11% which is below the State average of 13%.

Mr. Zipp reported that currently there are 16 children in the CPSE (Committee on Preschool Special Education) program and projected that approximately 11 students will be entering Kindergarten in the 2015-16 school year.

Mr. Zipp stated that the number of students with spectrum disorders continues to increase and expects the numbers to inch up in coming years.

Mr. Zipp explained that the IEP diploma was discontinued by the State in the 2013-14 school year and was replaced with the CDOS and SACC credentials. The CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) Commencement Credential is for students who cannot meet the requirements for a local diploma, whereas the SACC (Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential) is for more profoundly handicapped students.

New regulations require teachers to have 15% of their professional development time focused on the needs of students designated as ELL (English Language Learners). Currently, the District has one ESL teacher who serves students K-12 in ESL and is an AIS Reading teacher at the elementary school. With the new regulations, the District will need to budget for at least one additional teacher to provide ESL services. Mr. Zipp explained how students are determined to be ESL students and how they are tested yearly to assess proficiency.

Mr. Zipp reported on the growing number of “emotionally fragile” students who do not require academic support but who need social and emotional support. Many of these students look to outside programs (6-10 weeks) and transition back into school. This is a growing trend across the State.

4.3 2015-16 Budget Development Update

Mr. Burnell was not available to report.

4.4 School Start Time*

Ms. d'Albertis reported that the School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee met with District officials to discuss possible challenges to changing the school start time, possibly to 8:00 or 8:30 am. Potential scenarios for transportation would be to “flip” the elementary school with the middle/high school bus runs or to consolidate bus runs for a single trip. The latter option would require more buses but less time overall (billable hours), so there is a possibility of savings. The committee would like to investigate further the adjustment of mixed-age ridership, the staggered drop-off/pick-up of students at the two campuses, and keeping the bus rides to no more than 40-50 minutes. Dr. Davenport expressed that his overall sense is that a

later start time would not necessarily impact chronic tardiness issues. Mr. Boucher pointed out that there could be a significant impact on after-school sports, especially because of the lack of light as the days grow shorter in the late Fall.

The committee will continue to investigate if a change in time will actually be worth implementing in terms of student health and wellness.

4.5 Mid-Year Review of 2014-15 Board Goals*

The Board reviewed the mid-year progress of the Board goals.

1. Communication
2. Comprehensive Educational Planning
3. Celebration of Educational Progress
4. Food Service

The Board agreed that the communication goal and food service goals have shown the most gains. Superintendent Phelan stated that the staff is sending communications and photographs for publication on the District website and on Twitter on a regular basis. The development of the new website design is going well and Mr. Jensen continues to meet with various stakeholders for feedback.

The Comprehensive Educational Planning goal has been the slowest in terms of growth, and the Curriculum Committee was charged with discussing CDEP and finding out what the obstacles are. The CDEP will have their first meeting on January 30th.

The Board acknowledged that the School Start Time Ad Hoc Committee is an additional task that is taking Board time which was not anticipated when the District goals were established.

President Fleischhauer believes that this year the Board has had much more progress toward goals than in previous years.

4.6 Board Committee Reports (Communications, Policy, Finance, Curriculum, Audit) *

Finance Committee

Ms. Burns reported that the Finance Committee discussed the Veteran's Tax Exemption, which was discussed earlier this evening.

Mr. Burnell reviewed with the committee the estimated expenses in relation to the budget and the impact on the fund balance. Fuel prices are down but electricity costs have increased due to the increased technology. The District may have to draw from the fund balance to run programs next year. Mrs. Burns cautioned that as the District drafts a budget for the coming school year, unexpected costs can quickly drain the fund balance. As such, the District should not spend down too quickly. Typically, the district has one million dollars in fund balance to support the following year's budget. Mr. Burnell anticipates the District will have half a

million dollars this year. These closer margins, in the context of the tax levy cap, will affect the District's ability to add "wish list" items to the budget.

The Committee reviewed enrollment projections and the administration is not recommending specific changes in response to the decline at this time.

Policy Committee (December 11, 2014)

Mrs. Lyons reported that the Policy Committee discussed the proposed meal charge policy. The Committee wanted the community to know that the new policy will not have a student go without a meal. The Committee continues to look at professional development policies.

Policy Committee 2 (January 8, 2015)

Ms. Rosenthal reported that the Policy Committee discussed the "Textbook Selection and Adoption" policy. Education law requires that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Board must approve the adoption of a new textbook if the District wishes to do so less than five years after the previous textbook in that subject area and grade level was adopted.

Policy #4730, "Homework", was reviewed, and the Committee is concerned that this policy may not reflect actual policy. The Board will put this topic as a future agenda discussion item to give the Board time to review the current policy.

Communications Committee

Ms. d'Albertis reported that the Communications Committee discussed the website redesign. The Q & A portion of the website was heavily discussed, primarily how official information should be disseminated. The Committee discussed Board Goal #3 relating to the celebration of educational progress and whether Board meetings are the best venue to acknowledge educational progress. The Committee wondered if principal reports can be made available online and the possibility of adding podcasts, still photographs, and/or brief write-ups of student work on the website. The Board expressed their appreciation of a local newspaper that reports on school activities

Curriculum Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Curriculum Committee discussed a concern by a parent regarding the 10th grade reading list and the District's values around issues of diversity and gender, specifically what appeared to be the exclusive use of male authors instead of a more diverse set of voices. Mr. Kreps outlined the high school's English course offerings with the Committee and expressed that the reading list is in no way a complete picture of what happens inside a classroom. Students are challenged to explore issues of inequality and gender bias through various texts. Mr. Kreps further explained that the English Department is working with a consultant to continue to provide instruction that not only embraces many voices through literature but that meets the standards of the Common Core.

The completion of CLS Curriculum work has been delayed. The faculty continues to grapple with integrating the units of study across all subject areas, and Mr. Kreps has recently received revisions to the curriculum documents.

The State has issued revisions to the K-12 Social Studies curriculum. Although high school Global Studies courses will be affected, the requirement for graduation will continue to include Global I and II course work. Most importantly, the State has moved units and topics across grade levels, so the Committee will need to spend time reviewing the K-5 Social Studies course work in order to better prepare students.

The Next Generation Science standards have been approved at the State level and will have a major impact on K-12 Science education.

Mr. Kreps is gathering input from the Foreign Language department to see if getting a foreign language consultant to help with curriculum is appropriate at this time.

The Committee discussed the Commissioner's new regulation relating to English Language Learners, which Mr. Zipp covered during his presentation earlier in the BOE meeting.

Audit Committee

Ms. Burns reported that the Audit Committee reviewed the Audit Committee Volunteer application form. Although, the State Education Department is not requiring the District to have an internal auditor, the District is interested in retaining the relationship with Vanacore to consult on best practices.

4.7 SED Survey Re: the Sole Supervisory District of Dutchess County & BOCES*

Superintendent Phelan reported that Dr. Pennoyer, Dutchess County BOCES Superintendent, has retired. When a BOCES Superintendent position becomes vacant, NYSED conducts a study as to whether said position needs to be filled. Superintendent Phelan replied that no change should be made in the structure and composition of the BOCES District.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Ms. Burns reported that the Church of the Messiah posted a notice that their food pantry served over 100 families during the holidays and would have run out of food had it not been for the middle school bringing food donations.

Ms. Rosenthal and Mrs. Schulkind commented on the outstanding winter performances by the High School and Middle School bands.

5.2 Old Business

None

5.3 Public Comment

A member of the community spoke in support of a possible change in the school start time, asked the Board to consider a reduction of homework in the Homework Policy, and asked that students be asked for feedback in relation to the new school website.

5.4 Other

Superintendent Phelan asked if it is in the Board's interest that a group of members meet with local legislators this February or March. The response from BOE members was unanimous.

Mrs. Schulkind wished to express her thanks to the staff responsible for the thoughtful work on class ranks.

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 declare the attached items as surplus for disposal.*

6.1.2 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the Treasurer's Reports (General Fund – November 2014; Extra Classroom Fund, November 2014).*

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

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 as a first reading the consideration of new Board Policy #8530 – Cafeteria Meal Charges.*

Prior to the vote, the Board discussed procedures for reaching out to families in arrears with cafeteria charges to work out payments.

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 the list of additional emergency conditional substitute teachers and non-instructional staff for the 2014-15 school year.*

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 adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the negotiating teams for the District and the Association of Non-Instructional Employees (ANIE) executed a Memorandum of Agreement on November 13, 2014, calling for the creation of a four-year successor Collectively Negotiated Agreement to the one that expired on June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, legislative approval is required by the Board of Education in order to implement the funding of said Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby ratifies the Memorandum of Agreement between the District and the Association of Non-Instructional Employees (ANIE) covering the period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2018, and authorizes the funding of those monies necessary to implement the provisions of the 2014-2018 Collectively Negotiated Agreement. A copy of the Memorandum of Agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.*

Prior to the vote, the Board congratulated Superintendent Phelan and the ANIE negotiating team on working together on the Memorandum of Agreement.

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 appoint additional 2014-15 CLS Before-School Enrichment Program instructors. (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 resolve that substitute nurses will be paid at the daily Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse substitute rate, based upon the substitute nurse's certification status, effective January 1, 2015.
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 10:35 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 d'Albertis, 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 d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 11:12 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 d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 11:13 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