

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBER ABSENT:

DEIRDRE BURNS

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ALTERNATIVE VETERANS’ EXEMPTION

President Fleischhauer called the Hearing to order at 7: 03 pm.

Mr. Burnell reported that eligibility for the various Alternative Veterans’ Exemptions is determined by the Town Assessor’s office. Mr. Burnell explained the basic exemptions as follows:

- Basic exemption not to exceed \$12,000
- Combat exemption is in addition to the Basic exemption, not to exceed \$8,000
- Disabled exemption is in addition to the Basic and Combat exemptions, not to exceed \$40,000

The Alternative Veterans’ Exemption is not an automatic exemption. A veteran must file an application with the local assessor’s office by the taxable status date and provide the required proof. Mr. Burnell reported that the Alternative Veterans’ Exemption is not reimbursed by the state and will shift the tax burden from one group of taxpayers to another group. The average home in Rhinebeck (at approximately \$325,920 home assessment) will likely see an increase of approximately \$20 a year. The estimated savings for qualified veterans with the basic exemption will be approximately \$187 a year.

President Fleischhauer opened the Hearing for public comment at 7:12 pm.

Mr. Heath Tortarella, Mayor of Rhinebeck and veteran from Operation Iraqi Freedom, stated that it was an honor to serve this country and community. Mr. Tortarella urged the Board to approve the exemption as a way to express gratitude to those who serve.

Mrs. Piper Woods inquired as to whether the exemption applies to commercial property and the cost of the Town to manage the exemption. Mr. Burnell stated that the exemption applies to the primary residence of the veteran and estimates that it may not be a great impact on the assessor’s office as they are already managing the exemption for the municipality.

Mr. Dennis McGuire, former Board member and Town Supervisor, shared that he is a Vietnam veteran. Mr. McGuire stated that his family has long served this country in the armed forces. He stated that he was fortunate to have made it through the war, but many did not. Although not seeking a handout, speaking on behalf of the veterans present as well as those who were not able to

appear, he urged the Board to approve the exemption as a small token of appreciation for what veterans have done in their service for this country.

Mr. Joseph Newton served in Vietnam and urged the Board to consider passing the exemption as a sign of gratefulness to the sacrifices that military families make.

Mr. Wayne Rifenburg, a veteran of the US Army, gave the Board a brief synopsis of what veteran organizations do in our community. From the Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the American Legion, to food basket programs at Christmas, Halloween Parades as well as sponsorship of high school students to Boy State programs, veterans continue to serve the community long after active service.

Mr. Ray Joyce, a Korean War veteran, shared memories of collections for the war effort as a child as well as his enlistment in the Navy. A veterans’ tax exemption would be appreciated so much.

Mrs. Amy McCauley, an army spouse, appreciated very much the effort on the Board’s part to bring this exemption forward for consideration.

President Fleischhauer thanked all the veterans in attendance for their service and explained that the Board will most likely take action on this exemption at the next Board meeting on February 24, 2015. Board members shared their appreciation to the veterans for their service.

President Fleischhauer closed the Hearing at 7:34 pm.

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

Following the Hearing on the Alternative Veteran’s Exemption, President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order in the High School/Middle School Library at 7:41 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

Prior to the vote, a Board member offered the following correction as follows:

- Page 5, 3rd paragraph should read, “The Next Generation Science standards have been approved at the State level and will have a major impact on K-12 Science education.”

3.0 Public Comment

None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Taking a Stand Project (D. Kaake)

Ms. Deedra Kaake presented the Taking a Stand Project. Grade 8 students read “To Kill a Mockingbird,” then conducted library research on a civil rights topic of their choice. Students worked with artists in designing elements of graphic design for their project, as well as writing an artists’ statement. Students presented their projects to the Board, which included topics on the Stonewall riots and the glass ceiling project.

Ms. Pat Sexton thanked the Board for their support of the arts and invited the Board to the gallery opening in the BMS/RHS Auditorium lobby on Wednesday, February 11, 2015.

4.2 Interscholastic Athletics Report (S. Boucher)*

Mr. Steve Boucher reported on NYSPHSAA updates. A new classification, due to BEDS numbers, moves the District to a “B” school in Baseball, Basketball and Softball but remains a “C” school in Cross Country, Field Hockey, Lacrosse and Volleyball. NYSPHSAA is moving from a selection classification process to an athletic placement process, and more changes are expected in the Fall. Mr. Boucher touched on profit sharing by NYSPHSAA and Section IX in an effort to keep the dues for schools low. More corporate sponsorships will be seen at sporting events.

Mr. Boucher reported on the great success of the Fall season and the achievements of individual teams and athletes. He explained that the District will be merging with the Pine Plains Central School District for football, starting in Fall 2015.

Mr. Boucher shared additional goals for interscholastic athletics as follows:

- Increased participation in Varsity Boys and Girls swimming
- Additional time for the Athletic Trainer to work with students
- Additional financial support for Crew, Lacrosse, and Swimming

4.3 BOE Policy #4730 – Homework*

The Board discussed the current homework policy. Many Board members seemed in favor of allowing teachers to make their own decisions relating to homework. After further discussion, the Board referred the homework policy to the Policy Committee with instructions to revise the policy consistent with the goal of giving teachers discretion to decide what and how much homework to give.

4.4 Principals Reports

The principals will present their reports at the February 24, 2014 Board meeting.

4.5 2015-16 Budget Development Update*

Mr. Burnell went over the 2015-16 budget development with the Board. The first draft includes 2.5 additional teachers at CLS which includes 1 new elementary teacher in order to have 4 sections of each grade, as well as 1.5 new ESL teachers that are required due to new regulations by the NYSED.

The budget will see increases due to salaries, health insurance, supplies and textbooks, and BOCES costs. The District will realize some savings in Special Education students exiting the District, fuel costs, and savings in retirement and social security costs.

The first draft of the budget shows a \$1.5 million increase. The growth factor is positive and the maximum allowable tax levy limit is 2.18%. The District is currently drafting the budget with 0% increase in state aid due to the politics being played out at the State level.

The second draft of the budget shows a balance of \$708,770 over the tax levy cap. The Board had a short discussion on the difficulties of responsibly budgeting for the 2015-16 school year without any figures of the expected state aid from NYSED. The Board discussed the possibility of having administrators put together a list of tiered cuts.

4.6 Board Committee Reports (Communications, Finance, Personnel, Audit, Facilities)*

Communications Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Communications Committee discussed the Superintendent’s Conference Day on February 13, 2015. The entire day is dedicated to technology. After the keynote speaker, teachers will break out into sessions on how to use the new technology in the classroom as well as training on Google apps.

The Committee continues to grapple with how to publicly acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of students and staff. The Committee would like full Board feedback on possible strategies.

Ms. d'Albertis added that the Committee went back to the Communications Board goal and will follow up by having a Q & A on the website before moving to a survey. Students in grades 6-12 will be assigned school email addresses which will facilitate communication.

Finance Committee

Mrs. Lyons reported that the Finance Committee discussed participation in the cafeteria program. The cafeteria program is still operating at a loss, but less so than last year. The ability for parents to pay online for lunch should be available within the next few months.

The Committee is looking at a second option to the Technology plan involving getting devices/carts for each grade level rather than the 1:1 model proposed originally.

The Committee discussed the multi-year fund balance projections and the impact of budgeting so tightly that it does not make room for unexpected expenses.

Personnel Committee

Mrs. Lyons reported that the Personnel Committee worked on Policy 9110 - Confidential, Managerial Employees and the upcoming negotiations with the RAA.

Audit Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Audit Committee has made the Audit Committee Volunteer Application form available to the community.

The Committee has been informed that a new contact at Vanacore (Internal Auditor) has been asked to provide guidance in identifying weaknesses as well as guidance on improving audit operations.

Facilities Committee

Ms. Rosenthal reported that the Facilities Committee discussed the District issuing its own RFP (Request for Proposal) for the Building Condition Survey due in January 2016, as BOCES has chosen a firm that the administration does not wish to use due to prior experience with that firm.

The District has realized substantial savings in fuel oil due to the unexpected drop in prices. Although the District’s electricity prices have declined, electricity usage cost is likely to increase due to the greater use of technology in the schools.

The Committee is reviewing a document from NYSED’s Office of Facilities Planning that outlines the process of planning and engaging in a capital project.

4.7 New York State School Boards Association Board Achievement Award (Mark Fleischhauer and Diane Lyons) and Board Excellence Award (Laura Schulkind)

Mark Fleischhauer, Diane Lyons, and Laura Schulkind were recognized with awards from the NYS School Boards Association.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the CLS Science Night Out was an astounding event and well attended.

5.2 Old Business

Ms. d'Albertis asked whether the letter drafted by Ms. Rosenthal regarding the District’s alleged failure to report data in various subcomponents of the APPR was mailed. Mr. Phelan is working on the schedule for meetings with public officials.

5.3 Public Comment
None

5.4 Other

The Board discussed snow days and the school calendar. Currently, the Monday after Easter (April 6) is now a school day. In the event of additional snow days, the makeup formula will be as follows:

- If one more day, March 30
- If two more days, March 30, March 31
- If three more days, March 30, March 31, April 1
- If four more days, March 30, March 31, April 1, April 2

The Board had a short discussion on the Alternative Veterans’ Exemption and agreed that the District should move forward with the default basic exemption.

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, 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 Treasurers’ Report (General Fund, December 2014; Extra Classroom Fund, December 2014).*

6.1.2 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept the resignation of Melinda Lorne, Food Service Helper, effective Jan 30, 2015.*

6.1.3 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept the resignation of Katelin Grande, from the positions of Yearbook advisor, Book Club advisor, and Mentor, effective Jan 22, 2015.*

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

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

MOTION CARRIED

6.2 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve as a final reading the adoption of Board Policy #8530 – Cafeteria Meal Charges.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

6.2 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, 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 Patricia Dannemann, having commenced on September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, with such leave 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 30, 2016 as unpaid childcare leave.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.4 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve an athletic merger with the Pine Plains Central School District for football for the 2015-16 school year.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.5 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept mini-grant donations from the Rhinebeck PTSO in the total amount of \$830.93, as stipulated. (See attached.)*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.6 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve additional Spring coaches for the 2014-15 school year:

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Softball: | Varsity | Erin Doyle | \$3,804 |
| Baseball: | Modified | Todd Martin | \$2,259 |

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.7 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to appoint Debra Triglia to the Civil Service position of Food Service Helper, effective January 21, 2015, at a rate of \$11.50 per hour at 6.0 hours per day, with a 26 week probationary period.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.8 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve an additional Mentor for the 2014-15 school year. (See attached)*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.9 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Maureen

Cunningham, Rhinebeck High School English Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, as stated, effective the close of business on June 30, 2015.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

Prior to the vote, the Board expressed their gratitude to all the retiring teachers who have contributed immeasurably to the district.

- 6.10 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Barbara Altstadt, Chancellor Livingston Elementary School Library Media Specialist, for the purpose of retirement, as stated, effective the close of business on June 30, 2015.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.11 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Deborah West, Chancellor Livingston Elementary School Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, as stated, effective the close of business on June 30, 2015.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.12 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Glen Vining, Rhinebeck High School Earth Science Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, as stated, effective the close of business on June 30, 2015.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.13 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Debra Breger, Bulkeley Middle School Science Teacher, for the purpose of retirement, as stated, effective the close of business on June 30, 2015.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 6.14 Motion** by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints Gideon Moor, who possesses certificates in Business & Marketing (Initial), and Social Studies 7-12 (Initial) to two and a half year probationary terms in the tenure areas of Business Education – General and Social Studies (7-12), in which tenure areas he will be assigned to devote a substantial portion of his time, commencing on February 17, 2015 and ending on August 16, 2017.

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

6.15 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve a request from Shannon Denise for an unpaid leave of absence under the Family and Medical Leave Act, effective March 21, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

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

6.16 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Jaclyn Wagner as a long-term substitute in the position of English teacher at the Rhinebeck High School, effective February 11, 2015, through the end of the 2014-15 school year, at the pleasure of the Board, at the salary of Step 1 MA (\$57,245, prorated), in accordance with the 2014-15 RTA Salary Schedule. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence granted to Katelin Grande, English Teacher at the Rhinebeck High School.*

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

6.17 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of an additional advisor for the Bulkeley Middle School for the 2014-15 school year. (See attached.)*

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

6.18 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve a request from Tina Michaluk for medical leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, to commence on February 5, 2015, 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, through March 15, 2015.

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

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

There were no matters before the Board requiring an Executive Session.

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 10, 2015
Public Hearing – Alternative Veterans’ Exemption
Regular Meeting

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:35 pm.

VOTE: 6 AYE (d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker);

0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Burns)

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk