

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 in the High School/Middle School Library at 7:32 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2015 Regular Meeting.*

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

2.2 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015 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

None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Board Committee Reports (Personnel, Audit)*

Personnel Committee

Ms. Rosenthal reported that the Personnel Committee discussed the upcoming Rhinebeck Administrators Association (RAA) negotiations and revisions to the superintendent evaluation form.

Audit Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Audit Committee reviewed the proposal letter from the internal auditor (Vanacore) to test internal controls and procedures around payroll expenses and records management in June. The committee reviewed the external audit engagement letter from Toski.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Superintendent Phelan reported that the Rhinebeck Village Board has asked the District for a letter of support to obtain a grant from NYSERDA to establish a microgrid in Rhinebeck. The microgrid will provide backup power to the community and the District in the case of an emergency. The Board gave their support.

The Board appreciated the great work and talent that went into the high school play.

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the marble sorting demonstration by the high school Principles of Engineering class was terrific. Three groups of students presented marble sorting mechanisms in which they had to plan, program, and present.

5.2 Old Business

The Board briefly discussed the 3-8 Math Assessment opt-out count for Rhinebeck, which was 81 out of 494 students. Ms. Burns stated that the State Education Department (SED) has come up with a way to arrive at a score for teachers who do not receive a state growth score due to the opt-outs, calling it a “Backup SLO”. Superintendent Phelan mentioned that this might impact grades 3, 6, 7, and 8 teachers, as numbers of test refusals in grades 4 and 5 were minimal.

Ms. Burns believed that the reaction from SED seemed like a convoluted effort to come up with data rather than creating a system that improves teaching. A short discussion followed regarding the reasons that SED is not letting schools “off the hook” from turning in data, even if it has limited meaning. Ms. Rosenthal said that one issue that complicates the matter is that legislation was passed years ago regarding the APPR, and SED must collect the data to comply with their obligations as a governmental agency.

The Board discussed revisions to the budget statement to be published in the budget newsletter going out to the community. The District is prohibited from advocating and/or giving their opinion on the budget. One Board member opined that the purpose of the document is to inform the community about the budget only, although not all trustees agreed with that opinion. After much discussion, the Board agreed to amend the budget statement, using revisions suggested by Mrs. Schulkind, if possible, before it goes to the printers. The Board would like to explore other venues to express their opinion about how the District is being impacted by decisions in Albany.

5.3 Public Comment

John LeHane spoke on behalf of the Rhinebeck Science Foundation.

5.4 Other

Superintendent Phelan reminded the Board that the District has scheduled a “Coffee with the Board” event for this coming Thursday, April 30 from 9:00 – 10:00 am at CLS and from 7:30 – 8:30 pm at BMS/RHS.

Messrs. Phelan and Fleischhauer spoke at the Chamber breakfast and Mr. Fleischhauer was asked to be part of Senator Serino's Education Advisory Committee.

The Senior Citizen Prom was well received with approximately 63 seniors attending.

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:

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

6.1.3 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the Treasurers' Report (General Fund and Extra Classroom Fund, March 2015).*

6.1.4 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the schedule of Staff Pay dates for the 2015-16 school year. (See attached).*

6.1.5 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the requests for Summer Study Grants – 2015, in accordance with the Rhinebeck Teachers Association Agreement.

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 accept a grant award from the Rhinebeck Science Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 in support of the implementation of a Rhinebeck High School Science Club, as submitted by student Sabrina Shih, as stipulated. (See attached).*

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

MOTION CARRIED

Prior to the vote, Ms. Burns thanked the RSF for their support for the RHS Science Club. Since there is a high interest in the development of new clubs by students, Ms. Burns advocated for having a formal process for reporting on attendance of students to clubs so the Board may evaluate which clubs are more robust for future budget planning.

6.3 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to extend the intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Rhinebeck regarding facilities use through August 31, 2016.*

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 appoint the following individuals, whose names were provided by the Dutchess County Board of Elections, in the capacities and for the pay rates so noted, for their employment with respect to the conduct of the Budget Vote and Board Election on May 19, 2015 in accordance with the requirements and guidelines of the Dutchess County Board of Elections:

- Elections Inspectors Trained on Use of Optical Scan Voting Machines: Jennifer Mund, \$150; Rima Liscum, \$150
- Voting Machine Technician: Truman Perry, \$150

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 Rhinebeck Crew Team overnight trip to the New York State Scholastic Rowing Association Championships in Saratoga, NY on May 8-10, 2015, at no additional unbudgeted cost to the school district.*

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 list of additional emergency conditional substitute teachers and substitute 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

6.7 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the permanent Civil Service appointment of Ed Morgan as Custodial Worker, effective April 20, 2015.*

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 approve the appointment of Kim Sneed to the position of Teaching Assistant, assigned to Bulkeley Middle School, effective March 25, 2015 through June 19, 2015, at a salary of Step 1 MA (\$28,622, pro-rated), in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2014-15.*

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

6.9 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the selection of the following textbook to be used in the Grade 9 English course: I Am Malala (Yousafzai), Little, Brown and Co., New York, 2013).

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 8:27 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the Rhinebeck Administrators Association (RAA) and 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 9:24 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 9:25 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