

MEMBERS PRESENT: **DEIRDRE BURNS**
 DEIRDRE d’ALBERTIS
 MARK FLEISCHHAUER
 DIANE LYONS
 LISA ROSENTHAL
 LAURA SCHULKIND

MEMBER ABSENT: **RICHARD WALKER**

OTHERS PRESENT: **THOMAS BURNELL, MEMBERS OF THE**
 PUBLIC, MEMBER OF THE PRESS

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2016 Regular Meeting.

**VOTE: 5 AYE (d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind);
0 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN (Burns); 1 ABSENT (Walker)**
MOTION CARRIED

Prior to the vote, the Board recommended the following changes to the minutes:

- *Under Rhinebeck High School (principal report) change bullet from “Tech Club will sponsor the 4Wall New York...” to “Tech crew attended the 4 Wall New York in New Jersey...”*
- *Under School Start Time Committee change “Mrs. Lyons expressed...” to “President Fleischhauer expressed...”*

3.0 Public Comment

Mark Long from Fox Hollow Road asked the Board to consider the effect of the proposed school start time change on family schedules, time for students to do homework, and sports, especially in late fall and early spring.

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 School Start Time Proposal*

Mrs. Lyons reported that the School Start Time Subcommittee reviewed the one-question survey sent to staff, students, and parents where they were asked "Do you support the proposal for a change to the school start time for next year as outlined in the email with this link?". The Subcommittee reviewed the comments submitted by the various participants and analyzed the outcome to be presented at the Special School Start Time presentation on February 16, 2016. The Subcommittee clarified that students will not be leaving classes early for athletics unless a particular team or athlete has made a playoff or championship game, as is currently though infrequently the case. Students will be permitted to enter the MS/HS lobby or

cafeteria by 7:15 am. Students at CLS will continue to be permitted to enter at 8:45 am.

The Board briefly stated that various parameters should be used to measure success of the pilot program that are sufficiently objective so as not to rely solely on anecdotal experience. Some members of the Board expressed disappointment in the low response to the latest survey question and asked that a reminder be sent out that the survey is still open for input.

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to suspend the rules to hear public comment.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Mike Dampf proposed to the Board that there may be other ways to look at adolescent sleep needs. The research shows a benefit to students for a 1-2 hour delay in school start time but not for 30 minutes. Mr. Dampf asked how the District will evaluate the success of the school start time change. He also mentioned the possibility of more tardiness being that more students will be leaving for school after parents leave for work. Mr. Dampf wondered if the reduction of the class change time from 4 to 3 minutes was to accommodate sports and how it will impact the buses at CLS.

Maureen Terranova asked as to other ways the District can reach out to the students (if email doesn't work) particularly to canvas their thoughts in the change from 4 to 3 minute class change time.

4.2 Board Committee Reports (Finance, Curriculum, School Start Time)* School Start Time Committee

Mrs. Lyons reported on the School Start Time Committee minutes earlier in the meeting.

Finance Committee

President Fleischhauer reported that the Finance Committee discussed the transportation vendor management, which will be discussed further in executive session. The Committee discussed that the cafeteria program continues to perform at a loss but expects that said loss will be reduced once inventory on hand is used up. The CRE State Audit of the CLS cafeteria program will be in March. The audit will look at lunch menus and their nutritional value, as well as the count for free/reduced lunches.

As part of the budget update, each school building was asked to provide options for reducing their budgets by \$100,000 and each department by \$50,000, which could reduce the budget gap by \$500,000. The Committee briefly discussed potential reductions due to declining enrollment and to the athletic program.

The Board had a brief discussion on the budget gap and how school districts wrestling with this problem is entirely due to the state's making. The Board urged the community to make their voices heard by writing letters and sending emails to, and by attending meetings with, legislators asking them to stop shortchanging school districts.

Curriculum Committee

Ms. d'Albertis reported that the Curriculum Committee met with Dr. Davenport to discuss opportunities for independent study options in the high school. Independent study is not a regular feature of the high school program. Rather, if necessary, students are counseled to pursue further learning opportunities by enrolling in a college class at DCC or Bard. A few students have undertaken online high school coursework, but the completion rate is not robust. A few of the proposed new course offerings for next year include an AP English Lit course, Journalism course, Drama course, Mathematics of Finance, Holocaust and Human Rights course, and a Local History. These proposed courses are in the planning stages and will be budget neutral.

Mr. Kreps reported on his preliminary audit of the current health program across grades K-12 with regard to the prevention of childhood sexual abuse. The health courses in the middle and high schools do cover prevention of abuse. The elementary school's health curriculum is in need of further development and full implementation. The Dutchess County Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse (CPCA) offers a free Personal Safety Program for children in grades K-5 which will not require much time in the schedule but will require processing to determine its appropriateness.

4.3 Nominations and Elections for Dutchess BOCES Board*

Dutchess BOCES Board has two seats set to expire on June 30, 2016 with one of the members not running for re-election. The Board wished to make the opportunity available to community members who may be interested in serving on the DC BOCES Board.

President Fleischhauer stated that the date of the BOCES vote falls on a regularly scheduled Board meeting and that the scheduled April 19, 2016 Special Meeting may be cancelled.

4.4 2016-17 Budget Development Update

Mr. Burnell reported that there are not too many changes from the first budget draft. Additions to the first draft budget include salary increases due to contract obligations. Deletions from the first draft budget include BOCES services, NYS Teacher Retirement System contributions, and health insurance fees.

The District is still working on fine-tuning the budget, but at this time, the District has a \$1,072,857 gap. Based on preliminary state aid runs provided by the governor, the District will see a \$165,000 reduction in excess cost aid.

The Board discussed how the District will start looking at some scenarios on how to close the budget cap. The Board asked Mr. Burnell for possible scenarios if the District were to pierce the tax cap to 2%.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Ms. Rosenthal praised the Flickr collaborative album created by Ms. Linenbroker that showcases the work of second grade students and secondary students. The “Take A Stand” project continues to amaze, with really great writing from eighth grade students. The Wizards vs. Rhinebeck Faculty game sponsored by the PTSO was a great event involving K-12 students.

5.2 Old Business

None

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

President Fleischhauer shared that Superintendent Phelan had received a letter from Assemblyman Cahill asking for his input. The Board has met with Assemblymember Barrett and Senator Serino to advocate on the District’s behalf. Ms. d’Albertis reported that she will be running for re-election to her seat on the Board. She stated that, if anyone in the community is interested in board service, to please speak to a board member or attend the Dutchess County School Boards Association’s free training.

6.0 Action Item

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 declare the attached items as surplus for disposal.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

6.2 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept two 2016 Exxon Mobil Fuels Educational Alliance grants in the amount of \$500 each for Rhinebeck High School and Bulkeley Middle School for the maintenance and support in the area of Math and/or Science, through the sponsorship of Mr. Richard Matthies and Rhinebeck Mobil.

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

MOTION CARRIED

The Board wished to thank Mr. Matthies and Rhinebeck Mobil for their continued generosity to the District.

- 6.3** **Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the selection of Man's Search for Meaning by Viktor Frankl (Beacon Press, 2006) as a textbook for the high school Psychology course.*
VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Walker)
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.4** **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 non-instructional staff for the 2015-16 school year.*
VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Walker)
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.5** **Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve a leave request under the Family and Medical Leave Act from Patricia Dannemann, to commence on or about September 1, 2016, 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, such leave to be taken as unpaid child care leave through September 2017.*
VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Walker)
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.6** **Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept a donation from the Rhinebeck PTSO in the total amount of \$2,423.74, as stipulated. (See attached.)*
VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Walker)
MOTION CARRIED

The Board wished to thank the PTSO for their generous support.

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

- Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:34 pm for the purpose of discussing a particular vendor and salary negotiations.
VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Walker)
MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board appointed Thomas Burnell as Clerk Pro Tempore.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10:16 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:17 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk

Thomas Burnell
Clerk Pro Tempore