

MEMBERS PRESENT:

DEIRDRE BURNS (arrived 6:54 pm)
DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
DIANE LYONS
LISA ROSENTHAL (arrived 6:36 pm)
LAURA SCHULKIND
RICHARD WALKER

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

SCHOOL START TIME PRESENTATION

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm in the BMS Cafeteria. Dr. d'Albertis presented on the District's School Start Time Committee's recommendation. The medical and scientific communities have become increasingly aware of adolescent sleep deprivation which appears to be due to endocrine rhythms in adolescents. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that schools align schedules to the biological sleep rhythms of adolescents whose sleep-wake cycles begin to shift up to two hours later at the start of puberty. The Centers for Disease Control declared insufficient sleep for adolescents to be a public health concern best addressed by adopting later school start times. Dr. d'Albertis reported that a study shows that even a modest 30-minute delay in school start time has been shown to significantly improve adolescent alertness, mood, and health.

The Board of Education set up the following parameters for the sub-committee's work:

1. Any recommendation must be cost neutral
2. Any recommendation must be able to maintain current extra and co-curricular programs
3. District will pilot the program for one year and assess effects throughout the year.

Dr. D'Albertis stated that the motivation of the sub-committee is the concern for the health and wellness of ALL our students.

Superintendent Phelan spoke briefly on the different options that the sub-committee initially considered and the reason why some of those options were eliminated. The sub-committee's recommendation will be to shift BMS/RHS start time to 30 minutes later and CLS end time to 5 minutes later.

Ms. Burns arrived at 6:54pm.

Superintendent Phelan went over the current and proposed times and how this proposed schedule addresses the concerns of parents, teachers, and administrators.

- BMS/RHS
 - Students will have an opportunity for more sleep and a healthy breakfast either at home or at school.

- Morning CTI students will benefit from four RHS academic periods (currently three)
 - Fifth period lunch to begin at 11:00 am rather than 10:30 am
 - Little or no change to before and after school co-curricular programs
 - Athletic Director affirms little to no change to current athletic schedule
- CLS
 - Parents will continue to drop off students at 8:45 am
 - Minimizes impact on elementary start/end time
 - Little to no change to before and after school programs.

Superintendent Phelan reviewed the data from the parent, teacher, and student surveys and explained how the District plans to assess the proposed start time change should the Board vote affirmatively. Next steps include a Board vote to adopt or reject the recommendation for a one-year pilot of an 8:00 am start time at BMS/RHS and 9:00 am start time at CLS at a Special Board of Education meeting on March 15, 2016.

President Fleischhauer provided an opportunity for public comment.

Noah Savolainen said that the change would be welcome as it will give students an opportunity to eat a healthy breakfast and not be tired all day and moody.

Lawrie Bird commended the Board on a great job with the research that went into this. She feels it will benefit all children although it may make it harder for parents with full time jobs; however, if student's health and wellness is improved, it is a good thing.

Ally Melious expressed her concern with transportation issues and the lack of opposed and undecided teacher opinion. She asked if there was an underlying concern with certain teachers and was the concern addressed. Superintendent Phelan generalized that the majority of questions and concerns from the teaching staff that was more negative was from some of the elementary school teachers and was centered around the fact that the proposal is a 5 minute shift in the beginning of the day. The secondary teachers were more amiable to the proposed change. As to the transportation question, the District feels that it has studied it enough that adjustments can be made in September in order to have students arrive on time. Ms. Lyons added that the survey that was originally sent to teachers, it was asking for a 20 minute later start time vs. 5 minutes and that could be the reason for different percentages.

Jacklyn Savolainen remarked that the District has done an outstanding job with transparency and worked with different stakeholder groups to hear the different concerns.

Julia Goldman suggested that the low response to the second student survey may have been due that there was a sense among students as to why the District is still talking about this and some of the negative student opinion may be that they felt more than 30 minutes was needed.

Michael Dampf thanked the Board for addressing his concerns from the last meeting and had additional questions about after school programs and tutoring which reflect a 10-minute shift but a 19-minute change. Does the District know why students are tardy? Is it because nobody is home to supervise them in the morning and get them to school on time? He would also like to see the 30-minute shift study made available.

Superintendent Phelan stated that although the District knows it's not a perfect option and there are tight parameters to follow, the students would get the benefit of 30 minutes additional sleep while maintaining school programs. Ms. Burns added that tardiness issues are due, in a large part, to parents dropping off the students late. Ms. Lyons added that after school clubs currently start 15 minutes after school, whereas it will be reduced to 10 minutes if the proposed school start time is approved.

Gabe Hammoud reported that there is overwhelming support for this measure among his peers although they are disappointed that it is for only 30 minutes. The second student survey was completed at the students' discretion and some students are not checking their student emails. He proposed that the next time there is a survey for students, it should be administered in class so it better reflects the views of the population.

Noah Savolainen added that although more time would be better, a small change can be beneficial.

Ms. Schulkind read a comment from Kyla Hart in which she supports the pilot program.

Due to the problems with buses early in the school year, the Board has taken a very serious look at this topic. If this is approved, the Board intends to pursue key components of the busing issue and is ready to meet these challenges.

Superintendent Phelan stated that the presentation will be available on the District's website.

President Fleischhauer concluded the School Start Time Presentation at 7:45 pm.

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

Following the School Start Time Presentation, President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order in the BMS Cafeteria at 7:55 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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

MOTION CARRIED

3.0 Public Comment
None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Principal Reports

Bulkeley Middle School

Dr. Davenport reported in Mr. Kemnitzer's absence. Students researched social injustices and created presentations now on display on The Taking A Stand: Civil Rights in America display. BMS had 10 students represented at the DCMEA All County Festival. Several grade 8 students participated in Bard's Science Day. BMS computer teachers continue working with consultant, Laurie Keating, as they develop curriculum. The PTSO Book Fair raised close to \$1,400 books to be donated. Upcoming events include the Annual Top Chef Competition on March 7, and Career Day on March 11.

Rhinebeck High School

Dr. Davenport reported that the high school Business Law class went on a field trip to Dutchess County Supreme Court. In English news, teachers continue their work on articulating a grammar instruction curriculum. In AP Biology lab classes, students are studying enzyme action, the effects of temperature on heart rate (while learning about the Q10 formula), and studying the human kidney in preparation for a lecture on March 9. In Art news, students studied a famous painter and created sculptures on display in the new wing.

In co-curricular news, spirit week and the pep rally was very successful. In Creative Writing Club, students attended Woodstock Day School's Lit Con, a conference for literature and art lovers. The Debate Club attended the Bard Debate which was a great experience for our teams. The Model UN Club hosted the 1st Annual Mid-Hudson Valley Invitational Model UN Conference at Rhinebeck High School. The conference was a great success, with spirited debate, furious negotiation, and nail-biting votes on international resolutions.

Three of our CTI students will attend the SKILLS USA competition, which showcases the best career and technical education students in the nation. The high school is proud to have two national merit finalists out of 15,000 students selected nationwide.

4.2 2016-17 Budget Development Update

Superintendent Phelan reported that the District continues to massage the budget as it tracks to budget adoption in mid-April.

Mr. Burnell reported that there are a few changes to the budget that have affected it in a positive way. There may be an increase to the revenue budget as the District looks at the excess cost aid. The Worker's Comp and Health Insurance rates seem to be coming in lower although the rates have not been set. The budget increase has

moved from 5.31% to 4.48% with a budget gap at approximately \$815,000. The District is waiting for final numbers from health insurance rates, special education program placements, transportation, and state aid.

Mr. Burnell will provide figures if the District were to go over the tax cap to 2% for discussion at the budget workshop.

4.3 Board Committee Reports (Communication, Curriculum, Finance)*

Communication Committee

Ms. Schulkind reported that the Communication Committee discussed the transition from Allways East Transportation to Total Transportation Company to take over management of the existing contract with the District. With the exception of some different buses, there has been no change to service, bus routes, bus drivers or transportation personnel.

The Committee discussed the past Superintendent's Conference Day and the various technology sessions available to teachers, particularly Canvas, a learning management system.

The Committee will be meeting with community support groups (PTSO, RSF) to receive feedback about the budget shortfalls facing the District for the 2016-17 budget.

Curriculum Committee

Dr. d'Albertis reported that at the Curriculum Committee, Mr. Kreps reported that he will not be able to make his annual report on state testing data to the Board until after the State lifts the embargo on student data.

On the last Superintendent's Conference Day, Dr. Jaeger engaged with the faculty with Kennedy's "Moonshot" speech. What is our "moonshot" as the district moves forward? Faculty met in fourteen different Vertical Teams to discuss moving forward from Vision to Action, from Gaps to Goals.

Ms. Schulkind shared with the Committee her thoughts on a new documentary directed by Greg Whitely about school reform. The film offers an interesting look at the pedagogical work with charter school, High Tech High, in San Diego.

The Committee discussed the College & Careers course and Superintendent Phelan noted that it would be a good summer curriculum project to review/update the course.

The District's K-5 Math Curriculum is under review. NYSED indicated their intention to review and revise the math standards, curriculum, and assessments.

Finance Committee

Ms. Burns reported that the Finance Committee discussed the previously reported transportation update. The Committee anticipates increased transportation costs.

The Committee discussed the gap of close to one million dollars. Administrators have been working on a list of potential budget cuts. The Committee discussed the smaller classes moving up through the middle school and the possible reduction of a 0.2 FTE teaching position in 7th grade. Ms. d'Albertis reminded the Committee to carefully consider cuts to staff as people are the fundamental foundation of our school community.

4.4 Nominations and Elections for Dutchess BOCES Board

Superintendent Phelan clarified that the nominations for the open seats on the Dutchess County BOCES Board are to be filled by candidates from one of the thirteen Dutchess county school boards that does not currently have a representative on the current DC BOCES Board.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Ms. Schulkind commended the District for the letter received from United Way for Rhinebeck's contributions. Ms. Burns reported that David Aierstok was nominated Dutchess County Coach of the Year, and that it was great to see such great participation at the Model UN.

5.2 Old Business

The Board briefly discussed the draft 2016-17 calendar.

5.3 Public Comment

Ms. Scheer expressed her support for the proposed school start time recommendation.

5.4 Other

None

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 approve the CSE and CPSE recommendations.*

6.1.2 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the Treasurers' Report (General Fund, January 2016; Extra Classroom Fund, January 2016).*

**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 the list of additional emergency conditional substitute teachers and non-instructional staff for the 2015-16 school year.*
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 designate Mark Fleischhauer as Board of Education representative to the Thompson-Mazzarella Park Committee, pending appointment to the Committee by the Rhinebeck Town Board.
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 approve the permanent civil service appointments of: Lisa Menz to the position of Typist, effective January 29, 2016; of Patricia Euell to the position of Teacher Aide, effective March 7, 2016; and of Ambyr Weidler-Lane, to the position of Food Service Helper, effective March 8, 2016.
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 reschedule the March 8, 2016 Regular Board of Education meeting to Tuesday, March 15, 2016.
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 plan for proposed changes to the 2015-16 school calendar through the scheduling of remaining unused emergency closing days, if any.*
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 appoint additional 2015-16 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

- 6.8** **Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the donation of \$575 to the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School from Christie's, in recognition of the 25th anniversary of Francis Wahlgren as an employee of the company.

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 a request from Jackie Dedrick, with such leave to be taken as unpaid leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act from September 1, 2016 through the end of the 2016-17 school year, concluding on June 30, 2017.*

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

- 6.10** **Motion** by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the following resolution:

Whereas, the District is required by law to provide transportation to eligible students who reside in the District;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Board of Education declares that an emergency exists with regard to the provision of transportation to eligible students who reside in the District, necessitating emergency transportation contracts for home-to-school transportation without the issuance of a request for proposal or competitive bid for a period of 31 days; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board President is authorized to execute Emergency Transportation Contracts with Total Transportation Corp., for home-to-school transportation, effective February 22, 2016 through March 23, 2016, at the rates set forth on the attached sheet which is made a part hereof ; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board President and Superintendent of Schools are authorized to execute such documents as may be required by the NYS Education Department.

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

6.11 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Jennifer Raymo to conduct Athletic Placement Process testing for the 2015-16 spring sports season, as necessary.*

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 9:07 pm for the purpose of discussing a particular vendor.

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 9:40 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 9:41 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