

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

DEIRDRE BURNS

OTHERS PRESENT:

**JOSEPH PHELAN, THOMAS BURNELL,
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 Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2014 Regular Meeting.*

Prior to the vote, Mrs. Schulkind offered a correction to Motion 6.6 as follows:
"...the Board voted to accept *the* Exxon Mobile Fuels Educational Alliance *grant* in the amount of \$500..."

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

3.0 Public Comment

None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Annual Independent Audit Report (T. Thomas)

Mr. Thomas from Toski & Co. expressed his gratitude to the Business Office staff for their courtesy and cooperation. The Audit covered the financial, administrative and operating policies and procedures of the District and found that the District is managing monies well and is in good financial shape.

Mr. Thomas reviewed the District's net position, governmental funds, and general fund, and noted that they decreased in 2014. Mr. Thomas noted that the school lunch program continues to operate at a deficit, but mentioned that most districts are struggling with this program.

4.2 **Principals Reports**

Chancellor Livingston Elementary

Mr. King reported that the STEM lab continues to work with the PLTW modules – currently with the 4th grade. Mr. Woulfin is doing a great job collaborating with all teachers to accommodate the lab and students are enjoying the space and course.

The BLPT met with a representative from the Mediation Center of Dutchess County to discuss next steps in going forward with the OLWEUS survey to be administered to grade 3-5 students in February. The survey will inform future practice around bullying prevention.

Mr. King praised the efforts of Mr. Yarnell and Mr. Edson, CLS PE teachers, in organizing activities such as the “Can Jam,” which joined students and staff as teammates. The teachers also organized the “Turkey Trot Fun Run,” which recorded that 238.44 miles were walked/run by students. The “Run Across America Campaign” will have students trying to cross the country on foot by running/ walking 5 minutes in the beginning of class. They will track the total distance run/walked by the students and calculate it to see what cities they have reached in the US. This is an example of integrating the Common Core and Social Studies standards with Physical Education.

Mr. King reported on the many examples of CLS reaching out into the community such as:

- Turkey Trot Food Drive – 501 items donated to a local food pantry
- Hands Helping Hands – collection of mittens, gloves, scarves, heavy socks, and hats for the Astor Home for Children in Rhinebeck
- Penny Harvest – Ms. Peters class is raising money for the Downy Quilts for Kids program
- Holiday Donation Drive for Astor Services for Children and Families – Mrs. LoBrutto and the CLS Peer Mediators are collecting books, board games, arts and crafts, sporting goods, stuffed animals and gift certificates.

Mr. King wished to thank the Board for supporting the Grief and Counseling Group for children coping with the loss of a parent.

Ms. Lyons expressed her gratitude in all the great things that are happening at CLS. Mrs. Lyons wished to know how the laptop carts were being used. Mr. King reported that the carts have been distributed to all the grades. The lower grades use the carts frequently; the upper grades have just received them so there is no feedback yet.

Bulkeley Middle School

Mr. Kemnitzer reported that the first three students have been recognized in the “Catching Kids Caring” (Anti-bullying program) sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. Students are awarded a \$25 certificate by Oblong Books. The program will recognize three students, one from each grade level, each quarter.

A recent Parent meeting provided information to 8th grade parents regarding high school graduation requirements and dispelled myths about the transition for students from 8th grade to 9th grade. The program received positive feedback.

In ELA news, the 8th grade is learning about refugees around the world by reading Inside Out and Back Again and writing their own historical fiction free verse poems. A gallery exhibit was held displaying student work. Thanks to Arts in Education, the 8th grade participated in the re-enactment of the Salem Witch Trials, which was presented to the 5th grade.

Brian Szabo was the guest speaker during the Veteran's Day Assembly. The assembly honored 185 veterans with 115 students participating and over 60 guests. One of the highlights this year was the commendation to our teacher, Bobbie Bloomer, by Mr. John Wirth (Chairman of the DC Veterans Affairs Committee) and several county legislators.

For the Mix-It-Up Day for 6th grade students, parent volunteers facilitated table conversations at lunch tables with the assistance of high school students.

In Band news, the band attended an open rehearsal of the NY Philharmonic.

In club news, the Art Club made holiday cards for troops overseas. The Student Council sponsored a food drive. The Bard mentor program was well attended as students work with Mr. McDonald and Bard students to facilitate events at the CLS Science Night Out in January. The first Scholastic Bowl will be held December 17.

Due to the hard work of Brian McDonald and Marvin Kreps in the application process and the ongoing support of the STEM programs by the Rhinebeck Science Foundation, Bulkeley Middle School has achieved National Recognition for the Project Lead the Way Gateway to Technology program.

Mrs. Lyons expressed her appreciation for the great Parent Meeting. It is a great new way to communicate with parents. Mr. Walker wished to express his gratitude to Mrs. Bloomer for coordinating the Veteran's Day Assembly and stated that the program is cherished by the veterans.

Rhinebeck High School

Dr. Davenport reported that during National Novel Writing Month, one of the members of the club completed a 50,000 word draft of her first novel, which is now in the process of revision, readying for possible publication. Several ELA classes studied persuasive texts from the colonial and modern periods and are relying on a range of non-fiction texts, with an emphasis on opinion pieces and editorials.

Dr. Scherr visited AP Physics and Engineering classes to discuss careers in physics and his own experience in education/training.

The RHS Special Education Department attended a conference regarding the new Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS) which has replaced the IEP diploma. The CDOS credential signifies that a student is career ready.

In BLPT news, the committee is looking at ways to reconfigure the format for parent/teacher conferences at the high school.

The National Honor Society inducted 13 students.

In Art news, one of our students was accepted to DCMEA All-County band while another student was accepted to play in the NYSBDA Honor Band (NYS Band Directors Assoc.) in Liverpool, NY. Painting and Portfolio students are painting Sinterklaas panels to be distributed throughout the community. The Art Club is working with the student government to create 80 Boxes of Joy to be donated to the Astor Home. The high school musical will be "Anything Goes" and auditions have begun. Four choral students were selected to perform in the Zone 10 Area All State Festival. The Men's and Women's Choirs will be performing once again for the Rhinebeck Chamber of Commerce at their annual Holiday meeting.

We are looking forward to our first band concert of the year tomorrow night, as well as the beginning of basketball season.

4.3 Alternative Veterans Tax Exemption

Superintendent Phelan explained how the Alternative Veterans' Exemption was signed into law a year ago. The law allows for three exemptions as follows:

- Basic Exemption
- Combat Exemption
- Disabled Exemption

The exemption will shift the tax burden from one group of taxpayers to another because it is not funded by the government. Although the impact will be fairly minimal, preliminary calculations show that the approximate tax increase would be \$20 for the average household. The Board will review additional scenarios of how the tax will affect the taxpayers and discuss findings at the next Board meeting. Board members encouraged the community to contact the Board through attendance at meetings, correspondence, phone or email.

4.4 2015-16 Budget Development Update

Mr. Burnell provided a brief overview of the rollover budget. Mr. Burnell reported a preliminary budget to budget increase of 3.43% without taking into account any retirements and costs to be finalized within the next several months. At this time, the District is expecting a lower contribution rates to the retirement systems, as well as decreased costs in electricity and fuel oil. Health care costs, liability insurance, and BOCES services are expected to increase. Although the District is required by law to provide mandated services to special education students and the costs are partially funded by the state, the increased costs are a concern.

4.5 Board Committee Reports

Personnel Committee

Mr. Walker reported that the Personnel Committee met to discuss personnel matters, to be further discussed during executive session.

4.6 School Start Time

Superintendent Phelan reported that the ad hoc committee will be meeting next week. The Committee has invited Mr. Burnell to report on transportation issues, Dr. Davenport to report on student tardiness and before school auto accidents, and Mr. Boucher to report on possible athletic program impact. The building principals have been directed to report to the Building Level Planning Teams that the District is studying this topic.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Mrs. Schulkind wanted to praise all the people involved in the Parent Academy held on December 6. The sessions were remarkable and a presentation by a student was especially compelling. She hopes that this program will continue.

Superintendent Phelan mentioned that Ms. Molly Albrecht, an administrative intern who has been interning with Dr. Davenport and now is working with Mr. Kreps, is doing a great job. Additionally, he wanted to thank Mr. Burnell and his staff for such a positive independent audit. He also wished to acknowledge the building principals, Mr. Tieder, Mr. Burnell and Ms. Bovee for coming in and readying the building for a Board meeting although there was no power most of the day.

Superintendent Phelan announced that the Dutchess County School Boards Association has hired Ms. Laurie Rich as their new Executive Director. Ms. Rich has previously served as a RCSD board member.

With an eye toward the District's Communication goal, Superintendent Phelan noticed that much of what the principals reported was communications based. He wished to thank Ms. Lox and Mr. Kemnitzer for sending photos for the District's Twitter feed.

Superintendent Phelan and Mr. Burnell will be meeting the District officials of the Red Hook Central School District to discuss possible opportunities to share services.

Mrs. Schulkind acknowledged the great news that Bulkeley Middle School had achieved Project Lead The Way National Recognition for the Gateway To Technology Program. Ms. d'Albertis was impressed with the principals' reports. It is extremely heartening to hear what is going on in the District.

5.2 Old Business

None

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

Ms. Rosenthal wished to invite the community to the Coffee with the Board on December 16, 2014 in the CLS Community Room from 9-10 am and in the BMS/RHS Library from 7:30 – 8:30 pm. The Board is very interested in hearing what is on the minds of the community.

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, 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.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

6.3 Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve as a final reading the adoption of modifications to Board Policies 1100 – Public Information Program; 1145 – Advertising Materials and Announcements; and 6910 – Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Fraud, Waste, Theft and Abuse.*

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 d'Albertis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to change Sheldon Tieder's job title to Director of Facilities III from the previous job title of Director of School Facilities and Operations, effective December 1, 2014, per the New York State Department of Civil Service and Dutchess County Human Resources.*

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 d'Albertis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Mary

Ann Bovee to the 1.0 FTE Civil Service position of Administrative School Secretary – Permanent, at an annual salary of \$52,844, effective July 1, 2014.

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 d’Albertis, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the Independent Auditor’s Report for the 2013-14 school year.*

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

MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d’Albertis, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:55 pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations with the ANIE bargaining unit.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d’Albertis, the Board appointed Joseph Phelan as Clerk Pro Tempore.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d’Albertis, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10:43 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d’Albertis, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:44 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

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore