

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 7:34 pm.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2015 Regular Meeting.*

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

3.0 Public Comment

None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

The Board agreed to move item 4.3 Extended Response for Science, Math and the Common Core Grant presentation up in the agenda.

4.3 Extended Response for Science, Math and the Common Core Grant (CLS Teachers/Dr. Ric Campbell)

Dr. Ric Campbell briefly reported on the success of the Extended Response program in assisting teachers engage K-5 students in deep math reasoning through writing. Dr. Campbell spoke briefly on the difference between how math was taught in the past and how it needs to be taught today in order to prepare our students with the necessary skills for their success in mathematics.

Mary Fleischhauer, Special Education teacher, presented on what the teachers learned, how they learned, and how they will continue to learn in their teaching practice through the professional learning community made possible by the Extended Response program.

Kristen Secor, First Grade teacher, shared that peer observation was invaluable in helping to deepen understanding of teaching practice. David Woulfin, STEM and AIS Math teacher, explained that the math games and strategic questioning he is practicing in the classroom is seeing great results from students. Deborah Roberg, Second Grade teacher, shared that she found the information to be very beneficial.

Mrs. Fleischhauer thanked the Board, Rhinebeck Science Foundation, and Dr. Ric Campbell for the fantastic professional development opportunity.

A discussion followed on how writing in elementary school improves students' writing in the secondary grades by getting students to think through problems step by step. Also, teaching students to reflect in writing helps them internalize information. The peer observations are helpful in studying how students react and learn from the instruction provided by the teachers, which helps shape better teaching practice. Teachers are sharing what they are learning from the program with other members of the staff.

Ms. Peters, First Grade teacher, shared that last year the focus was to get students to think about their thinking creating habits of mind. This year, the program focused on implementation of open responses and on the professional learning community.

Ms. Berger, ESL teacher, shared that although she does not teach math, these approaches seem to work with her students. The questioning techniques and open ended writing have students thinking through their writing and helps create independent thinking.

The Board thanked the teachers and Dr. Campbell for coming and sharing their work with the Board. The Board thanked the Rhinebeck Science Foundation for funding the project.

4.1 2015-16 Budget Development Update

Superintendent Phelan shared that things are heating up in Albany in terms of State budget discussions, but has no new information relating to State Aid. He hopes that more information will be available by the next Board meeting and the Budget Workshop on Saturday, March 21. Superintendent Phelan reported that a number of the Board members and he met with all three state legislators recently. The budget, State Aid, and some of the strategies being used by elected officials, were the primary focus of discussions.

Superintendent Phelan mentioned that Assemblyman Cahill had requested a letter from the District regarding the benefits of the GAP elimination adjustment versus a percentage increase in state aid. In addition, the new regulation relating to ESL was discussed. The Assemblyman's office is researching the possibility of a waiver due to the increased costs of special education having a great impact on the school budget. The Board wished to thank the legislators for making time in their schedules to discuss the issues that are important to the school district.

Mr. Burnell reported that special education is almost done with annual meetings and there will be some adjustments for the budget. He mentioned that we should see approximately \$125,000 - \$150,000 increase in additional excess cost aid for next year. The District continues to put together a list of potential cuts in the event that State Aid is unfavorable. Local school business officials met to discuss the property tax freeze credit. The property tax freeze credit will provide tax relief to taxpayers if the school district complies with the tax cap and reduces costs by consolidating services. Mr. Burnell reported that as a consortium of schools, the goal of consolidating services will most likely be met.

4.2 Board Committee Reports

Personnel Committee

Mr. Walker reported that the Personnel Committee discussed matters which are more appropriately discussed during executive session. The Committee is in the process of reviewing the superintendent's evaluation process.

Communications Committee

Mrs. Schulkind reported that the Communications Committee recommends that the Board spend some time during the Board Goal reflection period at the end of the year to acknowledge staff with a letter of appreciation. Mr. Jensen reported that a new tool for webpage design (Weebly) was introduced to the teacher committee for testing and feedback. Mr. Jensen reported that student email addresses have been created for grades 6-12 students. A letter explaining the new communication system will be mailed to parents outlining the new initiative. The Committee discussed how to address the development of new clubs in a budget climate that may not allow the District to budget "placeholder" money for new clubs. Dr. Davenport created a written procedure for students who wish to propose a new extra-curricular activity. Superintendent Phelan stated that it is possible for non-profit groups who hold their own certificate of insurance to sponsor community clubs for students.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

The Board commented on how wonderful to see so many faculty members participate in the Extended Response program. The Varsity Sectional Basketball game in New Paltz was well attended by students supporting the team. Although, the team did not win the game, our athletes showed great sportsmanship. President Fleischhauer stated his appreciation to the many board members that were able to make time to meet with our local legislators.

5.2 Old Business

Superintendent Phelan was invited to participate with the focus group that is putting together the profile for the hiring of the new BOCES superintendent. He reported that it was a great opportunity to let them know what the District likes about BOCES and what we would like to see improved. Superintendent Phelan is working on the preliminary draft of next year's school calendar, which is proving

challenging due to the late date for Labor Day. Ms. d'Albertis commented on the great job by the press covering the early start time discussions by the Board.

Superintendent Phelan reported that the two work committees provided for in the RTA contract are continuing their work. The Mentoring Plan working committee is wrapping up the plan with hopes to have a draft to the Board by the next board meeting. Some new language in the plan provides for new teachers to observe their mentor's and other teachers' classes and vice versa.

The other committee continues the review of the extra-curricular activity schedule for internal consistency.

5.3 Public Comment
None

5.4 Other

The Board had a short discussion on taking advantage of having a BOCES representative come to a Board meeting to review the proposed 2015-16 BOCES Administrative Budget. Ms. Rosenthal requested that Superintendent Phelan give a synopsis of the budget, and if the Board has more questions, the District can invite them for a presentation.

President Fleischhauer attended the Dutchess County School Boards Association meeting where lobby day was discussed. In recent years, the Board has not participated in lobby days in favor of meeting with legislators in their own offices. The Board has found this practice more productive.

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 a leave request from Alyce Dolce, to commence on March 11, 2015, such leave to be taken as unpaid child care leave through June 25, 2015.*

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 an additional extension of the appointment of Rosemarie Messina as a long-term substitute in the position of Family and Consumer Science Teacher at the Bulkeley Middle School/Rhinebeck High School, at the pleasure of the Board, having been made effective on or about March 26, 2014, initially through the end of the 2013-14 school year, then through January 30, 2015, now from March 11, 2015 through June 24, 2015, at the salary of Step 13 MA+15 (\$83,823, 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 Alyce Dolce, Family and Consumer Science Teacher at the Bulkeley Middle School.*

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

- 6.3** *****WITHDRAWN******Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the appointment of TBA as a long-term substitute in the position of Social Worker at Chancellor Livingston Elementary School, on or about April 6, 2015, through the conclusion of the 2014-15 school year on June 25, 2015, at the pleasure of the Board, at the substitute salary of TBD, in accordance with the 2014-15 RTA Salary Schedule. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence granted to Morgan LoBrutto, Social Worker at the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School.*

- 6.4** **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 Kimberley Appenauer, to commence on April 13, 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 and, thereafter, such leave to be taken as unpaid child care leave through May 25, 2015 or thereabouts.*
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 resolution directing the District Clerk to give notice of the Annual School District Public Hearing on the Budget, the Annual School District Election, and the Vote on the School Budget. (See attached.)*
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 9:15 pm for the purpose of discussing 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 10:27 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 10:28 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