

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
LANSINGBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT AT TROY, HELD IN THE
LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Shover at 6:30 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Shover asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Farrell to enter into executive session at 5:31 p.m.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

At 5:45 p.m. Mrs. Oboyski-Butler and Mrs. DeDominick were invited to join Executive Session.

Ms. Devaren arrived at 6:10 p.m. and entered Executive Session

At 6:30 p.m. Mr. Shover asked for a motion to end the Executive Session. A motion was made by Mr. Walp and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney that the BOARD of EDUCATION end their EXECUTIVE SESSION.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

Executive Session Ended 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 6:33 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL: K. Bristol, L. Devaren, S. Farrell, P.J. Higgitt, E. McDonough,
J. Shover, M. Sweeney, C. Walp, J. Ward

Absent: 0

Others Present: T. Broderick, C. DeDominick, M. Harkin, D. Hopkins, L. Kent,
F. Macri, L. McNeil, K. Oboyski-Butler, S. Paolino, B. Sperling,
D. Steenrod, J. Wager

Visitors: 4

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 28, 2011 be Approved.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS: A motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. McDonough that the Board Approve the following Financial Reports as well as make payments to the vendors listed on the Schedule of Bills:

- A. Budget Status
- B. Treasurer's Report

9 Ayes Motion Carried

V. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Mr. Shover asked if any visitors would like to speak to the agenda.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS: Mrs. DeDominick said that the communications received were sent home with their Board agenda on Friday.

VII. PERSONNEL INSTRUCTIONAL:

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Ms. Ward that pursuant to the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following be appointed to tenure to the position to which they have served the required probationary period as specified below:

Name – Justine Nigro
 Tenure Area – Reading 7-12
 Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 1/11/12
 Certification Status – Initial

Name – Andrew Sheehan
 Tenure Area – Social Studies 7-12
 Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 2/2/12
 Certification Status – Initial

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that Mr. Matthew Loatman be appointed as Family and Consumer Science Teacher at Knickerbacker Middle School, per the LTA contract as set forth below:

Commencement of Probationary Service -	January 3, 2012
Expiration of Probationary Service -	January 2, 2015
Certification Status – Family and Consumer Sciences (Professional)	
Salary – Step 5	\$40,505
Masters	450
Graduate Credits – 96	4,000
	\$ 44,955 (pro-rated)

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Ms. Ward and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that the following Substitute Teacher be appointed on an emergency conditional basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project SAVE law, for the 2011-2012 school year:

Jillian Borden – Uncertified BS pending in Adolescent Education and Mathematics from
 SUNY Oneonta

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the attached list of Home Tutoring assignments be approved.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Bristol that the following Volunteer Coaching Appointment be approved for the 2011-12 school year, pending completion of NY State coaching certification requirements, with reimbursement according to the L.T.A. Contract:

Marc Fruscio – Assistant Volunteer Basketball Coach for Boys

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Ms. Ward that the following teacher substitute be appointed for up to 4 hours weekly for the 2011-2012 ELA and Math clubs with compensation per the LTA contract:

Robin Delaney – substitute

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mr. McDonough that the following be appointed as advisors of Extracurricular Activities for the 2011-2012 school year with compensation according to the L.T.A contract:

Rian Colbert – LHS Mock Trial Advisor
 Co-Advisor for Better Burgh Club

9 Ayes Motion Carried

VIII. PERSONNEL NON-INSTRUCTIONAL:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Ms. Ward that the following Non-Instructional Substitute be approved, on an emergency conditional basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, for the 2011-2012 school year:

Beverly Mohr - Substitute Typist, Noon Aide, Breakfast Aide, Teacher Aide

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Ms. Ward that Stephen Pasinella be appointed as A Custodial Worker (Permanent Substitute) at Lansingburgh High School, from December 27, 2011 through the duration of employee's absence with compensation per the C.S.E.A. contract.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

IX. ACTION ITEMS:

A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney that the following policy be repealed due to the adoption of Board Policy 5204 Co-Curricular Code of Conduct at the Regular Board Meeting held on November 28, 2011.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Bristol that the attached list of Students with Disabilities be approved.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Ward that the Board President or Superintendent be authorized to extend the contract with the Rensselaer County Chapter, NYSARC for the 2011-12 school year beginning December 5, 2011 through June 22, 2012 at the rate of \$5,589.99 to be paid in seven equal monthly installments.

9Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney that the Board President or Superintendent be authorized to enter into a Contract with Habitat for Learning, Inc., d.b.a. Sylvan Learning Center FOR 3:1 student to teacher ratio instruction at Sylvan Center to provide supplemental services to eligible Knickerbacker Middle School students as required by N.C.L.B. Act, Title I at a per session hourly rate of \$52.00 for each attended hourly session, not to exceed the New York State maximum rate of \$1,376. per student and; FOR 8:1 student to teacher ratio instruction at the district or other location: A per hourly rate of \$40 for each attended hourly session, not to exceed the 2011/2012 NYS maximum rate for the DISTRICT of \$1,376.00, beginning October 20, 2011 through and including August 31, 2012 and that the Superintendent file a signed contract with the Clerk of the Board.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney that the Board President or Superintendent be authorized to enter into a contract with ATS Project Success, a provider of supplemental services to eligible Knickerbacker Middle School students as required by N.C.L.B. Act, Title I, the District agrees to pay the hourly rate for services of \$60 per hour per student and to pay the maximum sum of \$1376 per child, operating from October 20, 2011 through and including August 31, 2012 upon completion of the number of sessions as defined by the Individual Supplemental Education Services Agreement (ISSA). Payments shall be processed on a monthly basis upon verification of services performed and that the Superintendent file a signed contract with the Clerk of the Board.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. McDonough that the Board President or Superintendent be authorized to enter into a contract with Ready Succeed, a provider of supplemental services to eligible Knickerbacker Middle School students as required by N.C.L.B. Act, Title I, the District agrees to pay the basis of fee: \$79.00 individual rate per hour each student spends on Contractor's distance-learning tutoring programs or tutored by certified teacher and in any event, total compensation to Contractor shall not exceed the 2011-2012 District maximum Per Pupil Expenditure Allocation of \$1,376 per child, operating from December 6, 2011 through and including August 31, 2012 and that the Superintendent file a signed contract with the Clerk of the Board.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

IX. OLD BUSINESS - None

X. NEW BUSINESS - None

XI. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

1. Elementary Reconfiguration Planning

Mrs. DeDominick gave the Board an update on the Reconfiguration Committee Meeting forum. They met once in November and twice in December. When they conducted a preliminary poll of the committee members, 17 voted in favor of the reconfiguration of the two elementary schools, three were opposed and three were undecided. Four members were absent. When polled they were in favor of the reconfiguration plan. After the outcome of the vote, the Reconfiguration Committee is recommending to the Board of Education that the two elementary schools be reconfigured to a primary school K-2 at Turnpike and an Intermediate School (Grades 3-5) at Rensselaer Park effective September 2012.

Mrs. DeDominick went on to say there were different academic advantages such as age appropriate students, grade level bands of teachers can work together, aligns teacher curriculum, even distribution of class size, easier for Curriculum Specialist to work with all teachers from one grade level, a united Lansingburgh – they're all our kids, new traditions, libraries aligned to grade level, music, gym, art (grade level bands) age appropriate materials, better delivery of Special Education services and Academic Intervention services, removes image that my kid at RPES gets X, TES gets Y, and can accommodate UPK more easily.

Mrs. DeDominick stated that some of the concerns brought up were lack of ownership for testing results, APPR ownership, transportation concerns (we have 3 buses that currently service Turnpike and 3 buses that service Rensselaer Park.) We would have all 6 buses service the whole district. There would be staggered arrival time. The primary grades would be dropped off first, then the intermediate grades. For afternoon, primary would be picked up first, then intermediate students.

An advantage to adopting the proposal now would be more time to fine-tune everything for a smooth transition. We will be developing a Transition Team which will include maintenance/custodial workers, clerical, instructional, administrative, parental and community.

We have already met with Noah's Rainbow and will be meeting with Head Start and the Boys and Girls Club.

Mr. Shover asked the Board to make a motion to act on the Reconfiguration Committee's Recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney to bring the recommendation of the Reconfiguration Committee to a vote.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Higgitt to accept the recommendation of the Reconfiguration Committee to make Turnpike School a primary school with grades K-2 and Rensselaer Park an intermediate school with grades 3-5, effective September 2012.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

Mrs. DeDominick went on to say that she will be contacting Questar BOCES' public relations person to get the word out about the change and the establishment of the Transition Team for interested parties.

2. Refinancing of long term debt

Mrs. DeDominick stated that we have the opportunity to refinance our current long-term debt. It would save the district up to \$250,000. We will most likely place it on the agenda for the January meeting unless we receive the resolution sooner, at which time we may call a special meeting prior to a workshop.

3. Pre-K

Within the Elementary Reconfiguration Committee meetings it was also reviewed how we currently deliver Pre-K services to our community. UPK funding began 1999-2000. We contracted out for Pre-K services because we did not have the room to provide services. We now have the room to bring Pre-K services into the district buildings. By bringing these services into the elementary school, this will ease the transition into our Kindergarten program. The elementary administrators have asked for the inclusion of Pre-K into our program. The Board of Education has discussed delivery of our own program in the past. A review of the numbers served and the monies allotted indicate we have the ability to now provide a quality program within our building.

In Lansingburgh there is about a 30% migration rate. We will be able to offer four morning sessions and four afternoon sessions.

One of the major concerns from parents is that their child(ren) currently go to a program that is open at 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. While the district monies are designated for a full or half day program the outside agencies have developed wrap-around services which parents pay for.

We would deliver a 2 ½ hr. program, solely academic work with a breakfast or lunch offered. There would be no nap time, toothbrush time, etc.; purely instructional time.

For the Pre-K morning session, Folmsbee would pick up the students at whatever provider and bring them to Turnpike school for their program. We would create a bus to stop at the programs to do this. For the afternoon sessions, Folmsbee would pick up the students at the provider and bring them to the school.

The recommendation of the Superintendent is that we proceed with introducing Pre-K services at Turnpike school. The district will work with local childcare agencies to enhance availability and affordability of wrap-around care for the alternate end of the pre-school day.

Mr. Shover asked the Board to make a motion to act on the Superintendent of School's recommendation.

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Higgitt to accept the Superintendent of School's recommendation.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

Mr. Shover asked for a motion to act on the recommendation.

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Farrell to add the Pre-Kindergarten program to Turnpike School beginning September 2012.

9 Ayes Motion Carried.

4. Preliminary Budget Planning – Regents Proposal

We are in preliminary budget planning. The Board of Regents is realizing that they need to change the calculation for awarding state aide. The Regents Board realizes that they only have so much money to work with. Governor Cuomo placed his 2% tax cap in place putting more challenges against lower poverty schools. Hopefully high needs schools will receive more relief. Lansingburgh is a high-needs school district.

Mrs. DeDominick attended a State-wide school finance consortium this morning and they are introducing a form letter to advocate for the Regents proposal. Unfortunately, it will be upstate vs. downstate. This will help to redirect the money. They ask that we target our legislators for the needs of our students.

5. Third Board of Education Training at Questar – Saturday, January 7, 2012, 8:30-9:00, light breakfast, 9:00-12:00 – Special Education Learning.

6. Opportunity for Board to learn more about tax cap implications – Rick Timbs will be at Catskill High School – January 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

LHS

Mr. Macri began by stating that the Winter Concert was outstanding. It was very well attended. The food drive has concluded. He wanted to thank the Lansingburgh Teachers Association for making a \$2,500 donation to the Lansingburgh families. Hannaford Groceries donated gift cards to go along with the food baskets. Donations were also collected from faculty, staff and students. The National Honor Society adopted a family this year for Christmas, and they currently have 6 very large garbage bags filled with gifts and a bicycle.

Congratulations to Ben Theopoulos who became an Eagle Scout. This is quite an achievement.

The Freshman Team will be beginning a mentoring program with Juniors and Seniors in strong academic standing being their mentors. They will be mentoring students who are academically at risk. We will provide the Juniors and Seniors with training.

KMS

Once again the middle school and high school have generously donated food to the food drive. Over 100 families will be given a box/basket of food for Christmas dinner. Mr. Smith and Mr. Pasinella will begin delivering the food on Tuesday.

This year we held our first honor roll assembly for students and parents. It was very well attended by family members.

Seventh grade students are working on their poetry unit. Mr. Paolino has volunteered to perform next Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium. He will dance. He has been taking instruction through the Advantage Afterschool program.

The Winter Concert was very well attended.

Mrs. Kent is currently working with the ELA, math, AIS, and special education teachers.

TES

ELA and Math Club has begun. There are approximately 80 students participating from grades 3-5. Jennifer Proper has been in to discuss nutrition and exercise with 4th and 5th grade students. Make-a-Wish is ongoing. The teachers are going crazy with the smartboards.

The veterans' breakfast was well attended. Staff had a wonderful time. Mr. Williams brought his choir and carolers to Turnpike to entertain the veterans. The leftover food was donated to St. Joseph's House and a needy Lansingburgh family.

This year the Turnpike faculty chose a needy Lansingburgh family who is struggling.

RPES

Mr. Wager stated that their ELA and Math Clubs started on December 12 for 4th and 5th grade students who tested below level 3 on their state tests. Mr. Wager went on to say that combined with 3rd grade, there are 225 students eligible to participate in this program. There are currently 64 students enrolled. This program will run through April.

The Berkshire Museum visited our 2nd grade students and spent about 1 hour with each class.

The combined Winter Concert was fantastic. The students did an excellent job. Mr. Rowlands and Mr. Williams did a wonderful job preparing the students.

Athletics

The end of the year season awards are posted on the website. The varsity girls' soccer team made NYS Scholar Athlete as a team. Twenty out of 21 members of the team had a 90% or better average while playing sports. Any information regarding athletics is on the website.

Mrs. DeDominick stated that she will be meeting with the building construction team on December 22, and will update the Board at their next meeting. If all goes well, bids will go out early January and we should have results for the January Board meeting.

XII. USE OF FACILITIES:

Mr. Shover asked if there were any Executive Session items. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Shover asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Bristol that the meeting be adjourned.

9 Ayes Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Clerk to the Board of Education