

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
THE LANSINGBURGH CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT AT TROY, HELD  
AT KNICKERBACKER MS AUDITORIUM  
ON TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Sweeney at 7:40 P.M.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

II. ROLL CALL:

S. Farrell, K. Gamble, P.J. Higgitt, B. Lance  
H. McGrath, J. O'Malley, M. Sweeney

Absent: none

Others Present:

A. Bergin, T. Broderick, D. Carroll, F. Erickson,  
M. Fushs, G. Goodwin, M. Harkin, L. Kyer, L. McNeil,  
K. Messler, K. Oboyski-Butler, S. Paolino, R. Schongar,  
B. Sperling, D. Steenrod, J. Wager

Visitors: 15

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: A motion was made by Mrs. O'Malley and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING held on March 24, 2009 and the MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON April 21, 2009 be APPROVED.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS: A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that the Board APPROVE the following FINANCIAL REPORTS:

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

7 Ayes Motion Carried

V. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Mrs. Sweeney asked for visiting faculty to introduce themselves. Ms. Nikodem, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Ravalli, and Mr. DiBacco introduced themselves.

Mrs. Sweeney asked if there was any other person who wished to address any item on the Board agenda?  
none

VI. COMMUNICATIONS: none

VII. PERSONNEL INSTRUCTIONAL:

A motion was made by Mrs. O'Malley and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that the resignation of Ms. Corinne Figel as Senior Class Co-Advisor at Lansingburgh High School be accepted, with regret effective April 1, 2009.

6 Ayes Motion Carried  
1 Abstain (McGrath)

A motion was made by Mrs. Lance and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the resignation of Mr. Seth Reynolds, Modified Boys Baseball Coach for 2008-2009, be accepted with regret effective April 2009.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that the resignation of Mr. Peter Mason, Special Education Teacher at Lansingburgh High School, be accepted with regret effective June 25, 2009.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Lance and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that Ms. Amy Kiley, Science Teacher at Knickerbacker Middle School, be granted an extension to her unpaid parental leave of absence beginning September 1, 2009 through June 25, 2010.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Farrell 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 – Jessica Nikodem  
Tenure Area – School Guidance Counselor  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09  
Certification Status – Permanent

Name – Melissa Taylor  
Tenure Area – Speech and Language Disabilities  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09  
Certification Status – Professional

Name – Jaime Cavanaugh  
Tenure Area – Elementary K-6  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09  
Certification Status – Initial

Name – Jonathan Ravalli  
Tenure Area – Social Studies 7-12  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09  
Certification Status – Initial

Name – Patrick Wilson  
Tenure Area – Social Studies 7-12  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09  
Certification Status – Initial

Name – Michael Benfer  
Tenure Area – Teaching Assistant  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09

Name – Martha Johnson  
Tenure Area – Mathematics 7-12  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09  
Certification Status – Initial

Name – Guy DiBacco  
Tenure Area – Social Studies 7-12  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09  
Certification Status – Permanent

Name – Celeste Bova  
Tenure Area – Teaching Assistant  
Commencement of Tenure Appointment – 9/1/09

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Lance and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that the following Coaching Appointment be approved for the 2008-2009 school year pending completion of NY State coaching certification requirements with reimbursement according to the LTA contract.

John Naples

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. O’Malley and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the following Substitute Teachers be approved on an emergency conditional basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, for the 2008 – 2009 school year:

Joseph Erdman                      Uncertified  
Yemelly Castro                      Uncertified

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Lance that the following attached list of Home Tutoring assignments be approved.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

VIII. PERSONNEL NON-INSTRUCTIONAL:

A motion was made by Mrs. O'Malley and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that the resignation of Ms. Christine Curran, Teaching Assistant at Lansingburgh High School be accepted, with regret effective March 30, 2009.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Lance and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the resignation of Ms. Kathryn Jordan, Breakfast Aide/Noon Aide at Rensselaer Park Elementary School be accepted, with regret effective April 16, 1009.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the following Non-Instructional Substitutes be appointed on an emergency conditional basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government, per the Project SAVE Law, for the 2008-09 school year, with compensation according to the C.S.E.A. Contract:

Kenneth Border – Substitute Custodian  
Robert Bulson, Jr. – Substitute Custodian

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Lance and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that Ms. Joyce Jones be appointed as noon-aide at Rensselaer Park Elementary School effective April 29, 2009 through June 25, 2009 with compensation as approved by the Board of Education on July 15, 2008 Re-organizational Meeting.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Lance and seconded by Mrs. O'Malley that Ms. Mary Jones be appointed as breakfast-aide at Rensselaer Park Elementary School effective April 29, 2009 through June 25, 2009 with compensation as approved by the Board of Education on July 15, 2008 Re-organizational Meeting.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. O'Malley that Ms. Jennifer Laustrup be appointed as part time teacher aide at Rensselaer Park Elementary School effective April 20, 2009 through June 25, 2009 with compensation according to the C.S.E.A. contract.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

IX. ACTION ITEMS:

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Lance that the Superintendent be authorized to enter into a contract with SpecEd Solutions\$, LLC for Medicaid services for the 2009-2010 school year at the rate of \$4,200 per year, to be paid in equal installments the first of each month and that the Superintendent file a copy of the signed contract with the district clerk.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Lance that the following policy, as recommended by the Policy Committee and presented for information at the Regular Board Meeting on March 24, 2009, be approved.

Policy 1741– Home Schooled Students

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. O'Malley and seconded by Mrs. Lance that the following policy, as recommended by the Policy Committee and presented for information at the Regular Board Meeting on March 24, 2009, be approved.

Policy 5020.3 – Rights of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the following policy, as recommended by the Policy Committee and presented for information at the Regular Board Meeting on March 24, 2009, be approved.

Policy 5300.40 – Disciplinary Penalties, Procedures and Referrals

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Lance and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the superintendent of schools be authorized to enter into an Inter-Municipal Agreement with Rensselaer City School District for Internal Audit Services effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 at a cost of \$650 per day for 10 days as discussed at the Audit Committee meeting on March 24, 2009.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Gamble and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that Ms. Stacey Meisner-Mackey Be appointed as Internal Auditor for the 2009-2010 school year.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

X. OLD BUSINESS: none

XI. NEW BUSINESS: none

XII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Gully from Pop Warner Football has a parcel of land which borders with Turnpike. He would like permission to clear trees and brush on the property which borders his to improve the appearance of the area. They will be building a storage shed. Bob Schongar, Mike Harkin and I looked at the area that they would like to clear. They would like to put a turnstile fence in. They do not wish to use our property.

Mrs. McGrath has concerns from previous issues with Pop Warner and asked if we could get something in writing, maybe a letter specifying exactly what they wish to do after clearing the land.

Mr. Goodwin said he would contact Mr. Gully.

Mr. Goodwin gave Karlene Gamble a certificate from School Boards for Developmental Achievement Citation for participation in leadership development opportunities totaling 40 credits.

Mr. Harkin: The baseball and softball teams are in first place at this time, track is in second place and lacrosse has been competitive. Their website is current and all sports schedules are posted if you wish to see when the next game is scheduled.

Mrs. Steenrod: The fourth grade students are taking their New York State Science Test on April 29 and May 1<sup>st</sup>. The faculty have been working with Melissa Pinke from Questar III on their Safety plans. They are looking at all procedures. Kindergarten students and staff raised \$850 for the March of Dimes. For Music In Our Schools week, they had three members of the Albany Symphony Orchestra at the school.

Mrs. Fushs: Their science fair is May 8 and the school fair is May 19. They just had the mother/son dinner dance and the father/daughter dinner dance and will be having an ice cream social.

Ms. Messler: (for Mr. Paolino) Two teams competed at the Regional Odyssey of the Mind competition. One team went on to compete at the State level in Binghamton. The eighth grade students are taking their science practicum. In ELA, they are working on their literacy essays. Ms. Puckey invites everyone to come to celebrate her students' writings.

Mr. Erickson: The mentoring program has approximately 45 adults and 70 student participants. They have one event each month. They bowled. On May 9<sup>th</sup> they will be going to Oakwood Cemetery to clean the grounds and to learn about the history of Oakwood Cemetery. They go twice a year and have been doing this for 10 years.

Mrs. Bergin: They have 32 students eligible to take the Regents Component Retest and are preparing for this. Students will be taking Advanced Placement exams in May. Ms. Bergin said that they had three of their best teachers here and asked them to speak. Ms. Nikodem, Director of Guidance said that they have just concluded seeing and scheduling the selections for the 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade students and that the middle school counselors have met with the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students for next year. Currently, seniors are meeting with the eighth grade students in order to help them transition into the high school in ninth grade. The seniors for 2009-2010 will have full schedules. No more early releases or late arrivals. A lot of students have been accepted into prestigious colleges: Dartmouth, RPI, University of Florida, Siena, Union, etc.

Mr. Wilson – Mock Trial has done better this year. This year they defeated their rival Emma Willard. On Friday there will be a recognition ceremony at the Rensselaer County Court House.

Mr. Ravalli – The trivia team was second in the league this year and will be facing Guilderland High School.

Mrs. Bergin: We have a lot of extracurricular events occurring. National Honor Society, SADD pre and post prom promises, and the BBC will again sponsor Relay for Life, especially this year with the recent loss of Mrs. McHugh and the loss of Mrs. Boyko.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> the “L” awards will be given out. Guidance has been working very hard with our juniors and 30 juniors have received awards toward their colleges.

They recently held a symposium with ELA and History students. The Jazz Band and Soundwaves will be traveling to Virginia Beach for their competition.

They too have been meeting with Melissa Pinke to go over safety procedures.

## XII. USE OF FACILITIES:

Mrs. Sweeney asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss 4 items: matter regarding discipline of a particular student, employment history of a particular person, matters related to a current investigation of a crime which would impact law enforcement if disclosed, and a student issue.

A motion was made by Mrs. O’Malley and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the Board go into EXECUTIVE SESSION.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:10 P.M.

At this point Mrs. McGrath had to leave.

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Lance that the Board end their EXECUTIVE SESSION.

6 Ayes Motion Carried

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:30 P.M.

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

6 Ayes Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 P.M.

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Clerk to the Board of Education