

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE LANSINGBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT AT TROY, HELD AT THE  
LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER ON TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Sweeney at 7:32 P.M.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mrs. Sweeney asked if we would all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL: K. Bristol, S. Farrell, K. Gamble, P. J. Higgitt,  
E. McDonough, H. McGrath, J. Shover, M. Sweeney

Absent: B. Lance

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

Visitors: 1

III. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: A motion was made by Mrs. Gamble and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING held on August 25, 2009 be APPROVED.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT: A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the Board APPROVE the following FINANCIAL REPORTS listed below:

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

8 Ayes Motion Carried

V. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Mrs. Sweeney asked if any visitors would like to speak to the agenda.  
None

VI. COMMUNICATIONS: None

VII. PERSONNEL INSTRUCTIONAL:

A motion was made by Mr. Shover and seconded by Mr. McDonough that the resignation of Ms. Janice Clark, Co-advisor to Student Council at Rensselaer Park Elementary School be accepted with regret effective September 23, 2009.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that Ms. Janelle Lyons, be granted an unpaid parental leave of absence beginning September 15, 2009 through October 2, 2009.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that the following summer coaches be approved for the 2009-2010 school year with reimbursement according to the L.T.A. Contract:

Allen McNall	-	Pre-Season Football
Jeffrey Pasinella	-	Pre-Season Football

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that Ms. Melissa Cox be assigned one additional teaching section of Earth Science at 1/6<sup>th</sup> of her annual salary effective September 21, 2009.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Shover and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that Ms. Erinne Flanigan, CSE Chairperson, be approved retroactively to work seven additional summer work days with reimbursement according to the L.T.A. Contract.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mr. McDonough that Ms. Adel Luciano be approved retroactively for four additional summer work days with reimbursement according to the L.T.A. Contract.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the following be appointed as advisors of Extracurricular Activities for the 2009-2010 school year with compensation according to the L.T.A. Contract:

Eileen Culliton – Co-Advisor for LHS Newspaper – Beacon  
Justine Fazziola – Co-Advisor for LHS Newspaper – Beacon  
Kathryn Schwenker – Advisor for KMS Olympics of the Visual Arts  
Megan Haley – Advisor for RPES Olympics of the Visual Arts Team  
Stefan Schechter – Co-Advisor for Enrichment – RPES  
Stefan Schechter – Co-Advisor for Student Council – RPES

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Gamble and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the following teachers be approved for summer CSE meetings with reimbursement according to the L.T.A. Contract:

Mary Danahy – 3 hours  
Kimberly Guiffre – 3 hours  
David Hamilton – 3 hours

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that the following Coaching Appointments be approved for the 2009-2010 school year, pending completion of NY State coaching certification requirements with reimbursement according to the L.T.A. contract:

Andrew Faragon – Boys Assistant Varsity Football Coach  
Anthony Faraci – Assistant Coach for Modified Football  
Michael Drinkwine – Volunteer Assistant Coach for Varsity Football

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the attached list of Home Tutoring assignments be approved with compensation according to the L.T.A. Contract.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that the following Substitute Teachers be Appointed on an emergency conditional basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project SAVE law, for the 2009-2010 school year:

Jennifer Long	-	Certified
Laura Weinman	-	Certified
Autumn Potter	-	Certified
John Conte	-	Certified
Benjamin Moscolo		Uncertified
Jamie Wilson	-	Uncertified
Nancy Lefebvre	-	Certified
Joseph Alteri	-	Certified
Brian Davey	-	Uncertified

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that Ms. Laura Weinman be appointed as School Counselor (permanent substitute) at Knickerbacker Middle School, beginning September 15, 2009 through October 5, 2009 with compensation according to the L.T.A. Contract as set forth below:

Commencement of Service	– September 15, 2009
Expiration of Service	– October 5, 2009
Certification Status	– School Counselor (Initial)
Salary – Step 1	\$35,802
Masters	450
Grad. Credits – 48	1,776
Differential	<u>500</u>
	\$38,528 (pro-rated)

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mr. McDonough that Ms. Melissa McQuade be appointed as Special Education Teacher (permanent substitute) at Lansingburgh High School, beginning September 17, 2009 with compensation according to the L.T.A. Contract as set forth below:

Commencement of Service	– September 17, 2009
Expiration of Service	– June 30, 2010
Certification Status	– Students w/Disabilities Grades 7-12 (Initial Pending)
Salary – Step 4	\$37,881
Masters	450
Grad. Credits – 39	1,443
Differential	<u>500</u>
	\$40,274 (pro-rated)

8 Ayes Motion Carried

VIII. PERSONNEL NON-INSTRUCTIONAL:

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Gamble that the resignation of Ms. Marisa Rivituso, teaching assistant at Lansingburgh High School be accepted with regret effective August 26, 2009.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Shover and seconded by Mrs. Bristol that Ms. Erin Lanni be appointed on an emergency conditional basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, as Teaching Assistant at Lansingburgh High School beginning September 1, 2009 per the C.S.E.A. Teaching Assistant Contract as set forth below:

Commencement of Probationary Service	– September 1, 2009
Expiration of Probationary Service	– August 31, 2012
Salary – Step 9 (C.S.E.A. Teaching Assistant Contract)	

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that Ms. Molly McLoughlin be appointed on an emergency conditional basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, as Teaching Assistant at St. Augustine's School beginning September 1, 2009 per the C.S.E.A. Teaching Assistant Contract as set forth below:

Commencement of Probationary Service – September 1, 2009  
 Expiration of Probationary Service – August 31, 2012  
 Salary – Step 9 (C.S.E.A. Teaching Assistant Contract)

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that Mr. Anthony Faraci, Custodial Worker, be transferred to Rensselaer Park Elementary School effective September 8, 2009.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mr. McDonough that Ms. Ellen Gordon, Typist at Knickerbacker Middle School, be approved for two additional summer work days for school year 2009-2010.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Shover and seconded by Mrs. Bristol that the following Noon Aides be approved on an emergency conditional basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, for the 2009-2010 school year with compensation as approved by the Board of Education on July 7, 2009:

Stacie Kacensky	-	Turnpike Elementary School
Barbara Gibbs	-	Rensselaer Park Elementary School

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mrs. Gamble 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 2009-2010 school year:

Michael Collins	-	Substitute Custodian
Tammie Hadden	-	Substitute Custodian
Jarita Ray	-	Substitute Custodian, Noon Aide
Darrell Thompson	-	Substitute Custodian
Beth Brant	-	Substitute Teacher Aide, Typist
Gail Sheffer	-	Substitute Noon Aide, Teacher Aide, Typist
Jennifer Laustrup	-	Substitute Teacher Aide, Noon Aide, Breakfast Aide, Typist

7 Ayes Motion Carried  
 1 Abstention (Sweeney)

IX. ACTION ITEMS:

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the Lansingburgh Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement with BENETECH, Inc., to act as third party administrator for the District 403B Plan in the amount of \$4,260.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mr. McDonough that the Annual Financial Report (ST-3) be Accepted as discussed at the Audit Committee meeting held on September 29, 2009.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that the attached, corrected tax assessment of Kristine E. Riley of 598 Fifth Avenue for the 2009-2010 tax year be approved and the tax rolls be corrected as stated.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Gamble and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that the Superintendent and the Board of Education President be authorized to approve the following Change Orders for the ongoing 9.9M construction project:

G-039	Bunkoff	\$ 9,975.00
G-040	Bunkoff	\$ 7,349.00
T-001	Copeland	\$ 4,000.00
T-002	Copeland	\$ 19,500.00
T-003	Copeland	\$ 10,000.00
T-004	Copeland	\$ 19,500.00
E-012	Clune	\$ 2,080.00
E-013	Clune	\$ 368.00
		Total \$ 73,222.00

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Shover and seconded by Mrs. McGrath that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contract with The Research Foundation of SUNY, on behalf of The University at Albany, Center on English Learning and Achievement (CELA), Partnership for Literacy to provide services to Knickerbacker Middle School from the period of August 31, 2009 through June 30, 2010 in the amount not to exceed \$39,998. This program is funded through the School Improvement grant.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mr. McDonough that the following policy, as recommended by the Policy Committee and presented for information at the Regular Board meeting on August 25, 2009, be approved:

Policy 4526.1 – Internet Safety

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Shover that the following policy, as recommended by the Policy Committee and presented for information at the Regular Board meeting on August 25, 2009, be approved:

Policy 5460 – Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in a Domestic Setting

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Shover and seconded by Mr. Higgitt that the Superintendent be authorized to enter into a contract with Abelson Test Preparation to provide PSAT and SAT test preparation to Lansingburgh High School students for the first semester of the 2009-2010 school year at a rate of \$265 per student.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the Board authorizes the Superintendent to amend the 2009-2010 School District Calendar due to changes made by the NYS Education Department in dates for the ELA and Math testing in Grades 3-8 to the following:

Tuesday, April 27, 2010 – grade 6 Half Day Parent Conferences is changed to:

Tuesday, April 20, 2010 – grade 6 Half Day Parent Conferences

And;

Thursday, April 29, 2010 – K-5 Half Day Parent Conferences – dismissal 11:45 a.m.

changed to:

Thursday, April 22, 2010 – K-5 Half Day Parent Conferences – dismissal at 11:45 a.m.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

X. OLD BUSINESS: None

XI. NEW BUSINESS: Yes

A motion was made by Mr. Higgitt and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the following Substitute Teacher be appointed on an emergency basis pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project Save Law, for the 2009-2010 school year:

Barbara Leatham - Certified

8 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mr. Higgitt 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 2009-10 school year:

Shelly Snyder - Substitute Clerical  
Wendy Sheftel - Substitute Noon Aide, Breakfast Aide,  
Teacher Aide, Clerical

8 Ayes Motion Carried

XIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Mr. Goodwin started by stating that today a parent informed the high school principal that her son was diagnosed with swine flu. Mr. Goodwin stated that he spoke to the county health department as well as the health and safety director with Questar III. The health department informed Mr. Goodwin that when there is a confirmed case, the hospital will notify the health department. The health department went on to say that the best prevention is if you do have symptoms, fever, vomiting, etc., 24 hours after the fever is gone without using medication, the child can return to school. The best approach is a pro-active approach. If you are sick, sore throat, fever – stay home. Wash your hands with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer. Mr. Goodwin went on to say that there is no public notification required. Treat it the way you would treat any type of flu.

Building Reports

Rensselaer Park and Turnpike Elementary

Mrs. Fushs said that the school year is off to a good start. The students are adjusting well. The new Mondo reading program at the elementary level is being introduced to the children. During the summer professional development classes were offered to the administrators and teachers on Mondo by representatives from Mondo and during the school year there will be a Lansingburgh Academy course offered to teachers for continued support on Mondo. Linda Crucetti and Kelly Alexander along with Mrs. Oboyski-Butler's guidance have been doing a great job with Mondo.

Knickerbacker Middle School

Mr. Erickson stated that on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 16 administrators and teachers met for the Comprehensive Educational Plan Forum Meeting from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. The group came up with a slogan for the school this year "Believe, Achieve, Succeed". Dr. Rivers from Troy spoke on the ramifications about homework. The week of September 9 through the 11<sup>th</sup>, teachers were doing exercises (ice breaker activities) to help connect with their students. The sixth grade students have created a great jigsaw puzzle on the bulletin board. Things are going quite well with the sixth grade. This year the students from Turnpike were kept together and the students from Rensselaer Park as well. They are more at ease and adjusting well. At the seventh and eighth grade level, homerooms and locker assignments were assigned by teams. They are working on motivating the students to "Believe, Achieve, Succeed". Assemblies were held for each grade to review guidelines, personal hygiene, etc. On September 14, Rachel's Challenge, Part 2 program was presented to both the middle school and high school students. It was a very positive message to students. A student task force of 46 students was formed. They want to plan projects for middle school and high school students. Mr. Erickson said that they had about 300 parents attend open house on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Also on September 24<sup>th</sup>, their Advantage afterschool program began with approximately 6 professional staff with 26 to 35 students participating. The program begins after school with one hour of homework time, snack and then projects, games, dance, and in the future photography.

Lansingburgh High School

Mrs. Bergin said that the social worker and school psychologist have been working on getting lunch applications filled out properly and turned in. The library is very busy. Teachers have been bringing their students into the library, researching new books, etc. Mrs. Bergin said that they have held class meetings reviewing rules and going over their new late policy and electronic devices policy. The high school along with the middle school are working with the Friends of Rachel. This year Lansingburgh High School will head up the task force for the Rensselaer County Youth Summit. Mrs. Bergin reported that Mr. Abelson just reported that they had 98 students registered for the PSAT Prep course.

Athletics

Mr. Harkin reported that the Boy's soccer team is in second place. The Girl's soccer team is having a tough season. Cross country track should have a very strong team for sectionals. Varsity football is off to a good start. They play Albany Academy on Saturday at 1:30 P.M. It should be a very good game. Varsity volleyball hasn't won a game yet, but are getting closer and closer to a win. The fall athletes met and received permission slips to participate in a survey sponsored by Skidmore College. The survey was on athletes and performance enhancing drug use. The representative from Skidmore called Mr. Harkin and stated how polite the athletes were, how grateful they were and how cooperative they were. Each athlete who participated and turned in their permission slip along with the survey received a \$15 gift certificate.

Mrs. Sweeney asked if there were any executive session items. Mr. Goodwin said yes. One update on collective bargaining negotiations, one student discipline issue and one employment history of an individual.

Mrs. Sweeney asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mr. McDonough to go into EXECUTIVE SESSION.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:07 P.M.

A motion was made by Mrs. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the BOARD of EDUCATION end their EXECUTIVE SESSION.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:06 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. McGrath and seconded by Mrs. Gamble that the meeting be adjourned.

8 Ayes Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 P.M.

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Clerk to the Board of Education