

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
THE LANSINGBURGH CENTRAL  
SCHOOL DISTRICT AT TROY, HELD  
AT LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015.

Prior to the start of the Board meeting, Mr. Macri, LHS Principal, conducted the mid-year graduation ceremony for Lansingburgh High School. Mariah Dodd, Joshua Forhan and Zorrion Staley were the first graduates for the Class of 2015.

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Shover led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ROLL CALL: K. Bristol, M. Cusack, L. Devaren, S. Farrell,  
J. Shover, M. Sweeney, C. Walp

Absent: R. Morris

Others Present: K. Alexander, T. Broderick, C. Buff, S. Colfer, C. DeDominick,  
K. Graber, M. Harkin, L. Kyer, A. Luciano, J. McClure, S. Paolino,  
S. Pendergast, D. Sampson, D. Steenrod, M. VanDervoort

Visitors: P. Jerominek , J. Jerominek

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: A motion was made by Mr. Cusack and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the MINUTES of the REGULAR MEETING held on January 26, 2015 be APPROVED.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Ms. Devaren that the MINUTES of the SPECIAL Meeting held on February 11, 2015 be APPROVED.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

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

- A. Budget Transfers
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Monthly Financial Reports

7 Ayes Motion Carried

V. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Mr. Shover again congratulated the January 2015 graduates and wished them well.

Mr. South and his high school Robotics Team have asked to reschedule their presentation to the Board until March.

Mrs. Metcalfe and Mr. Bulato – Color-a-thon fundraiser – 5K-Run presentation was postponed until March as well.

Mrs. Pendergast and Mrs. Buff did a Library Media Center/English Class collaboration project presentation. Mrs. Pendergast explained how they would like to make the media center a place for learning and research, not just for checking books in and out. They host book festivals once a marking period with specific themes, they hold interactive stations around the library on specific topics being studied in Mrs. Buff's English classes. By doing these activities, they have noticed an increase of students reading and about 90% of these students have books with them to read. Students are utilizing the library for research and writing projects as well. Mrs. Pendergast brings supplemental materials to Mrs. Buff's classroom for students to use for their research on their particular topic of study. Students' creativity and interest have increased.

Mr. Jerominek stated that his son is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at LaSalle and wishes to go to Tech Valley for 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mrs. DeDominick asked if he reached out to Mr. Macri to explore other options. Mr. Jerominek said no. Mrs. DeDominick went on to explain that 2 to 3 years ago the Board had decided to cut Tech Valley due to other factors, one of which was mixed results in our students' accomplishments who attended that school. The district felt that Tech Valley did not meet the needs of our Lansingburgh students. Mr. Macri is here tonight and may be able to provide you with more information about opportunities that exist for your son.

Mr. Macri – currently at Lansingburgh H.S. we have courses where students can earn up to 60 college credits without stepping foot inside a college. We offer Computer Aided Drafting courses, Design and Drawing courses, Physics, Advanced Placement courses all of which have small class sizes.

We have cooperative learning, college writing and creative writing courses. We offer transition courses. We have a Robotics Club and many more clubs.

Mr. Jerominek asked a question about Charter Schools. Mrs. DeDominick responded by stating that we are legally obligated to budget money for this. We do not have control over the allocation for Charter Schools.

Mr. Jerominek - What about your reserve slush fund?

Mrs. DeDominick – there is no slush fund. All accounts have a “0” balance at the end of the fiscal year. School districts can only carry a 4% budgeted amount in unreserved cash. This is used for emergency expenditures.

Tech Valley had problematic issues. We still have students there who are in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade and we also have students who take vocational courses through Questar BOCES. We also send students to the New Visions Program at Questar.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS: We received a letter and Plaque from the New York States School Board Association.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit Committee Report – Mrs. Farrell – We met with Assemblyman John McDonald to discuss the needs of the district and status of the Governor’s 2015-16 budget. No State aid runs from the Governor, mandated requirements into his budget for districts if they want to receive an increase for next year’s budget, and such are placing undue questions into the process.

Assemblyman McDonald reassured us that the GEA – Gap Elimination Adjustment was the focus of the legislatures. He also stated that the legislature believes that the Regents proposal is realistic regarding APPR.

Mrs. DeDominick stated that we invited Assemblyman McLaughlin as well, but he had a conflict, but he is looking forward to a future date to meet with the Board to discuss the needs of the district and the Governor’s 2015-16 budget. We made several attempts to schedule Senator Marchione, however we have not heard back from her. We have left several messages with Senator Marchione’s scheduler and still no reply to our request.

Mr. Shover – We received an email from a non-resident citizen questioning, in a good way, a tax exemption for Veterans which has to be acted on by March 1 if it were to be put into place. On a personal level, who wouldn’t want to have this benefit. We looked at this last year. We started in November to see the effect it would have on our tax payers and to see if it could be done. Less than 1% would be eligible and it would be over \$300,000 in cost to the tax payers. We take taxes and programs very seriously and to take this on to the tax payers at this time isn’t a good idea.

Mr. Shover will be scheduling a meeting with Mr. P.J. Higgitt, President of the Lansingburgh Veterans’ Club and former Board of Education member to review everything with him and Carmella Mantello. We also researched other districts and there are very few districts adopting the tax exemption and those that are had significantly lower tax payer impact.

VIII. PERSONNEL INSTRUCTIONAL:

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney that Mrs. Megan Haley-Green be granted an unpaid parental leave of absence beginning February 2, 2015-June 30, 2015.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Walp that Ms. Staci Chadwick be appointed as a Visual Arts Teacher (Permanent Substitute) at Rensselaer Park School with compensation according to the L.T.A. contract as set forth below:

Commencement of Service – February 3, 2015	
Expiration of Service – June 30, 2015	
Certification Status – Visual Arts K-12 – (Provisional)	
Salary – Step 1	\$37,903
Masters	450
Graduate Credits – 30	<u>1,250</u>
	\$39,603 (pro-rated)

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that Mr. Robert White’s Graduate Credit hours and Masters of Science information be amended as indicated below:

Dual Masters – Special Education and Literacy	\$900
Graduate Credits – 43	\$1,750

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Walp that the attached list of Home Tutoring Assignments be approved.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Ms. Devaren that the following Winter Ski-Club Appointment be approved for the 2014-15 school year, pending completion of NY State coaching certification requirements, with reimbursement according to the L.T.A. Contract:

Substitute KMS/LHS Ski Advisor - Kelly Cataldo

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the following Coaching Appointments be approved for the 2014-15 school year, pending completion of NY State coaching certification requirements:

Josh Key – Assistant Coach for Girls’ Varsity Track  
Jahmel Grant-Samuels – Assistant Coach for Boys’ Varsity Track  
Andrew Ferris – Girls Modified Softball Coach

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mr. Walp and seconded by Ms. Devaren that the following Volunteer Coaching Appointments be approved for the 2014-15 school year, pending completion of NY State coaching certification requirements:

Kelly Cataldo – Volunteer Coach for Girls’ Softball  
Christopher Jura – Volunteer Coach for Girls’ Softball

7 Ayes Motion Carried

IX. PERSONNEL NON-INSTRUCTIONAL:

A motion was made by Mrs. Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Walp that the resignation of Mr. Daniel Hepp, Teaching Assistant at Lansingburgh High School, be accepted, with regret, effective February 20, 2015.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Ms. Devaren and seconded by Mr. Walp that the letter of resignation from Mrs. Sarah Conyers from her appointment as Lansingburgh District Treasurer made at the December 22, 2014 Board meeting, with a start date of March 1, 2015, be accepted, with regret, effective February 28, 2015.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

X. ACTION ITEMS:

A motion was made by Mr. Walp and seconded by Mrs. Farrell that the following policies, as recommended by the Policy Committee and presented for information at the Regular Board Meeting on January 26, 2015, be approved:

Policy 4326 – Programs for English Language Learners  
Policy 4326-E.1 & 2 – Programs for English Language Learners Exhibits  
Policy 5150 – School Admissions  
Policy 5460 – Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in a Domestic Setting  
Policy 5460-R – Child Abuse, Maltreatment or Neglect in a Domestic Setting Regulations  
Policy 8520 – Free and Reduced Price Meal Services

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Bristol and seconded by Mrs. Sweeney that the Lansingburgh Central School District accepts the donation of 9 computers and 9 monitors from Siena College.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

A motion was made by Mrs. Farrell and seconded by Mr. Walp that the Lansingburgh Central School District accepts the donation of \$20 from Warren Lansing to be used for the Dress-A-Knight program.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

XI. OLD BUSINESS: None

XII. NEW BUSINESS: None

XII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

2015-2016 Budget – There have been no State Aid runs from the Governor. The Governor has put requirements into the budget for school districts to meet if they wish to receive an increase in money.

Our meeting with Assemblyman McDonald was reassuring to us that our legislators are aware of the potential impact of the Governor's proposals.

LHS

Mr. Macri – I just wanted to congratulate the three students who just graduated. It took a lot of hard work on their part as well as our faculty for helping them through.

The high school semi-formal is Friday night in the gym.

We have an upcoming blood drive and our Music in Our Schools concert. There are a lot of fun, educational things going on in the high school. In science labs, they are doing crime scenes and Mr. Huba's class debates and poetry, just to name a few.

The high school received a proclamation from the Governor concerning our production of the Teenage Dating Violence Video.

KMS

Mr. Harkin – Our day today started with a very early unplanned fire drill at 7:25 a.m. Two-thirds of the staff and students were already in the building and had to exit outside without their coats. They were outside for approximately 20 minutes until clearance was received from the fire department to re-enter the building. It was caused by a dirty smoke alarm.

Mr. Harkin visited Global Foundries. He submitted a grant for \$800 to obtain camera equipment to produce a morning news show similar to Rensselaer Park. At the end of the meeting tonight, I would like to show you a video produced by Mr. Ferris and students using their cell phones.

A lot of great things are happening.

RPES

Mrs. Alexander spoke for Mrs. McGrouty who was unable to be at tonight's meeting. Rensselaer Park currently have several service learning projects such as Pennies for Patients which they raised \$1,300 and red hearts day. They held their Sweetheart Dance which was quite successful and they recently had their Dare Graduation for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. March is PARP month. Faculty, staff, guest readers will be coming in to visit and read to the students. Their Dance Crazy Program will be hosting their Jitterbug Tussle on Thursday, March 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. There will be raffles, dance lessons and a dance exhibition.

TES

Mrs. Steenrod explained that the Capital District "Roots" Urban Growth Center will be visiting their Pre-K program for the month of March to do a presentation on healthy food choices and to work with the students. It is a 40 minute program once a week for 6 weeks.

March is PARP month. Our focus is literacy at the primary level. We will be having a Dr. Seuss week. Mrs. Schwenker will be reading to students in her favorite Dr. Seuss characters. We also have a book fair highlighting books appropriate for their age level. We will be participating in "World Read Aloud Day" on the first Wednesday of March.

Athletics

Mr. Colfer – Winter sports are winding down. We have 3 students from our two varsity bowling teams who qualified for the State tournament on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Syracuse. Tuesday night at our high school gym at 6 p.m. the Varsity Girls Basketball team will play their sectional game against Hudson Falls and our Varsity Boys Basketball team will play Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Glens Falls against Glens Falls.

Pupil Personnel Report

Mr. Paolino - Mrs. Flanigan and I are currently doing our Annual Reviews at the secondary level. We had to also do a random audit of 30 IEPs of high school students to review transitional services that students should be receiving. A few were out of compliance and corrections will be made and put in place prior to their annual review meeting.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Shover asked if there was Executive Session items.

Mrs. DeDominick – 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. Farrell that the meeting be adjourned.

7 Ayes Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

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Clerk to the Board of Education