

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412***MINUTES***

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 21, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.
Phoenicia Elementary School

Call To Order	President Legnini called meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
Tobacco Policy Statement - read	
Pledge of Allegiance - led	
Board Members Present	Trustees Ralph Legnini (President), Laurie Osmond (Vice President), Maxanne Resnick, Michelle Friedel, Richard Wolff, Donna Flayhan and Ann McGillicuddy
Board Members Absent	Laurie Osmond (arrived at 7:42 p.m.)
Administration Present	Leslie Ford, Superintendent of Schools; Joyce Long, Denise Palmerini, Former District Clerk, Laurel Herdman, District Clerk Pro Temp
Administration Absent	Assistant Superintendent, Victoria McLaren
Others Present	Student Board Representative, William Melvin and approximately 23 visitors
Early Departures	Trustees Maxanne Resnick (8:30 p.m.) and Michelle Friedel (10:05 p.m.)
Appointment of Clerk Pro Tem	<p>BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District that in the absence of a District Clerk, Laurel Herdman be appointed as Clerk Pro Tem. No discussion.</p> <p>Motion: Resnick Second: McGillicuddy Carried: 6-0 (unanimous)</p>
Agenda Addendum	<p>President Legnini entertained the motion to add an Addendum to the Agenda.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> Rick Wolff noted time limit on agenda and wondered how that applied. Dr. Ford explained that Personnel issues would be part of the <i>Consent Agenda</i> and a first reading of a Policy occurred during the <i>Discussion</i> part of this meeting.</p> <p>Motion: Resnick Second: McGillicuddy Carried: 6-0 (unanimous)</p>

**Acceptance of
Minutes**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District that the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education held on September 29, 2008, are hereby accepted as submitted.

Discussion: Trustee Flayhan requested that the discussion regarding the Trustees not seeing the 3/19/08 Notice of Violation from the Ulster County Department be included in the minutes.

Carried: 6-0 (unanimous)

Discussion: President Legnini referred to *Public Be Heard* stating that the minutes did not accurately reflect Kate Hyman's comments. Trustee Flayhan agreed. President Legnini suggested the following text be inserted regarding the 3/19/08 Violation Notice: "Kate Hyman did not approve of the lack of public/parental notification." All agreed.

Motion: Flayhan

Second: Resnick

Carried: 5-1 (Flayhan opposed)

Welcome

Linda Sella, Phoenicia Elementary School Principal, welcomed the Board and described how she located a map of school grounds for Ace De Siena, a former Phoenicia and Onteora student and Eagle Scout candidate, who wanted to refurbish the on-site Memorial Garden dedicated to a deceased 4th grade student. In collaboration with the Phoenicia PTA, community members (far and wide), and past and present students/parents/Board members, Phase 1 (tree/shrub clearing, rock-enclosed bed and pathways formation, fencing, arbors, design and construction of outdoor furniture, etc.) is completed and Phase 2 is under consideration. Describing this project as a new beginning, Mrs. Sella said, "The past is the past, the present is here and now, and the future will hold whatever we want it to." She came to realize that "as the result of one student who had an idea and who saw an opportunity to bring people together for a common good...we are all still connected." Mrs. Sella wanted to publicly thank all who participated in this event and invited everyone to take a look. Reflecting her sentiment, President Legnini said, "It would be nice if that spirit could reverberate through the 300 square miles of our School District."

District News

Superintendent Ford reported on the following:

- 1) In recognition of School Board Participation Recognition Week, and on behalf of all District staff, Dr. Ford presented certificates to each Trustee, thanking them for the leadership and passion for educating students that we all share. On behalf of the Trustees, President Legnini in turn thanked Dr. Ford;
- 2) Dr. Ford extended an invitation to the 9th Annual Halloween Parade in Phoenicia. Dr. Ford agreed to dress up to advertise the Music Department's production of *Bye Bye Birdie* and announced that Phoenicia's afterschool Kool Skool program has prepared many projects for the event;
- 3) Per Bobbi Schnell, the Chess Club at Woodstock Elementary has been preparing for their tournament, dying their T-shirts today. Also, the afterschool KidStock program is up and running with approximately 60 students enrolled;
- 4) Dr. Ford extended thanks to Dave Moraca, Transportation Department Director, and his wife, for painting the bus stalls at Bennett. This now helps: a) the District to meet the Board of Regents' new requirement to line up buses facing the school whenever possible in order to reduce inhalation of emissions, and b) buses to load/unload children without blocking other traffic;
- 5) Mr. Davenport reports that on October 8th, Team 1 of the Humanities students

transformed the Middle School Library into the Native American Museum. The culmination of a research project on Pre-Colombian Native American cultures, students created posters displayed in different museum rooms throughout the Library and practiced their oral presentation skills. Thanks to Mr. Kowski and Mrs. Loheide for sponsoring the event, and to parents and others who helped put it together.

- 6) The Middle School Peer Leadership Class decorated pumpkins that are on now display in homerooms and the Library;
- 7) Gifted & Talented Playwriters Workshops are being held in October and November for 8th Grade students. Professional actors will perform the students' play for a live audience on Friday, November 14th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Please come.
- 8) Middle School students are having their first dance of the year (the Annual Black Cat Dance);
- 9) Most Middle School clubs and afterschool activities are up and running (e.g., Student Council, Yearbook, Art Club, Math Club, Science Olympiad, Middle School Literary Magazine);
- 10) In conjunction with English classes, the Middle School Character Parade took place in the Library on Thursday, October 16th. At the completion of reading Hinton's The Outsiders (well-known in children's literature) or a free-choice novel, the students participate in a reading celebration where they assume the role of a character. Included are life-size character sketches, PowerPoint presentations, live character portrayals, and student-created movies re-creating a scene from the novel. Thanks to parents and teachers, it was a great success;
- 11) High School student five-week progress reports were mailed out last week. Thanks to Infinite Campus (new database program), this is the earliest this mailing has ever occurred. Parents can now receive this information on time without having to wait for the first Back-To-School Night or Parent's Conference. Dr. Ford asked parents to review the comments and attendance sections of these reports with their children;
- 12) Another first due to Infinite Campus: High School transcripts were mailed home to all members of the Senior Class, including official GPA and Class Rank data. All related questions should be directed to the Guidance Department;
- 13) In celebration of the upcoming Quadricentennial, the Honor Society planted 700 tulip bulbs; other schools will also be planting theirs;
- 14) The Student Affairs Council ran the first Student Activities Fair last Friday (photos were distributed). The intention of the event, attended by freshmen and sophomores, was to get more students involved in student activities. Mr. Edelman reported "quite a sign-up" and deemed the event successful, saying it would be expanded in the future.
- 15) Athletic Department: a) the Girls Tennis Team was in the NWAL Championships ("hooray for them"); b) six (6) girls qualified for the Section 9 Competition; c) Boys Soccer ranked 6th in NYS for Class B Schools; d) JV Football Team won last Friday against New Paltz; e) the Cross-Country Team will compete in the NWAL Championship this Friday; f) this past Saturday was a very successful Homecoming (the Varsity Team played hard in spite of not winning); g) a successful Senior Recognition Ceremony was held where senior athletes and band members were honored; h) Dr. Ford commended the Onteora Sports Fan Association for their continued support of our Athletic Program, suggesting that the Board send a letter of thanks for all they have done this year; i) Trustee Wolff added we also had a Senior Golf....the team didn't make it, but...; j) our Fall sports season is coming to a close and our

Winter sports season will begin November 10th.

16) Press release excerpt:

"Fifteen students at Onteora High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement program exams." This program allows students to take college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college and/or Advanced Placement credit for successful performance on the AP exams. About 18% of students worldwide who took the exam earned this designation. After completing challenging college-level courses at the high school, OCS students took the exam in May 2007.

Six OCS students qualified for the AP Scholar With Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are: Daniel Blaustein Rejito, Elise DeSantis, Jessica Panico, Michael Thompson, Alexander Wilsey, and Emma Wright.

Two students qualified for the AP Scholar With Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four (4) or more of these exams. These students are: Rosalind Hallinan and Kelsey Goldman.

Seven students qualified for the AP Scholar Award, completing three or more exams with grades of 3 or higher: Nick Alba, Elena Baum, Alexia Fawcett, Michael Herdman, R Melvin, Lindsay Myer, and Akira Shimizu.

Onteora High School is very proud of the accomplishments of these successful students. "This is outstanding. Big cheers and kudos to you."

The next Friday Memo will include Trustee-requested information on all the different clubs.

**Student Board
Representative
Report**

Student Representative William Melvin reported that the Activity Fair went well. While he would like to see more classes attend next year, it was a good start. Bill is currently working on the locker report with Mr. Edelman and the Student Affairs Council, and it should be ready for the next meeting. Reiterating comments made at the last meeting, Bill stated his preference for Field Trip requests to be located on *Consent Agenda*. Since field trips are presented at Dr. Ford's recommendation, he doesn't believe there is any need for them to be a topic of discussion.

Student Comment

President Legnini recognized students in the audience and thanked them for coming. In the absence of any comments, he offered to answer any questions and encouraged students to attend (even when not mandated) to observe a democratic process in action on behalf of their school. The District Clerk signed attendance verifications for six (6) students.

Public Comment

Abbe Aaronson wanted to follow up on Principal Sella and President Legnini's comments, adding her own about working together and cohesiveness. Reiterated message that this "newly blended Board is on the brink of some wonderful new discoveries and leadership," thanking everyone for their hard work and ability to work together. Particularly recognize President Legnini for his "enthusiasm and open-mindedness" at meetings, hoping they will be "infectious for our district." Abbe is on the Communications Committee and

looks forward to its first meeting and more communication. She also hopes to see more community members in attendance at Board meetings and thanked everyone for their hard work. President Legnini responded in kind.

Trustee Wolff reported that this was National School Bus Safety Week. Dr. Ford reported a very smooth opening of the year, saying that all scheduling issues that normally occur at the beginning of the year have been addressed and we are moving forward very well. While there are matters that will be discussed later, she thanked ALL of the Transportation Department for the work they do EVERY day for being on top of children's safety. Reminder: no handing out Halloween candy for the kids on the buses.

**Reports/
Presentations**

Superintendent's Report – Sherry Sharpe, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, was scheduled to provide a report on the BEDS & VADIR process (quite involved and very important work), however, since Sherry is out sick, the presentation needs to be tabled until the next meeting.

As outdated text of Board Committee Charges was inadvertently included in this meeting's Agenda, President Legnini entertained a motion to strike the text and related discussion from the first discussion from the Agenda and the Minutes. The second presentation of Committee Reports was retained as follows:

*Motion: Flayhan
Second: Osmond
Carried: 7-0*

Audit Committee (Donna Flayhan) – No report.

Communications Committee (Michelle Friedel) – No report; next meeting is scheduled for Monday 10/27 @ 6:00 p.m.

Discussion: Trustee McGillicuddy announced that she brought NYSSBA Convention literature. She also suggested that all Board Member email addresses be posted on the OCSD website. Trustee Flayhan inquired about set-up of such email accounts and asked that cost and distribution of annual school calendars be re-evaluated as many are being discarded. Report accepted.

Facilities Committee (Richard Wolff) – Met on 10/14; the Woody BioMass grant application was submitted by Curry Rinzler on 10/15; other projects include: Woodstock paving bids; HS auditorium rehabilitation; HS/MS roofing & wiring.

Green Committee (Laurie Osmond) – Trustee McGillicuddy suggested saving money with wind & solar. Trustee Flayhan suggested changing the committee name to Eco-Science; Dr. Ford will research installation of free wind turbines; Trustee Osmond said 12 students attended the Committee meeting. Even though recycling is a NYS law, the students expressed frustration at how difficult it is to enact a recycling program at the HS/MS; Trustee McGillicuddy suggested asking the Buildings & Grounds (B&G) department to become part of the Green Committee; Dr. Ford offered to research. Report accepted.

Policy Committee (Ann McGillicuddy) – No report; next meeting is scheduled for Monday 11/3 @ 9:00 a.m.

Technology Committee (Maxanne Resnick) – No meeting yet this school year; Questionnaire reinitiated to determine level of technical knowledge possessed by staff & students. Trustee Osmond suggested exploring cutting edge technology and checking out other school districts.

NYSSBA Conference - President Legnini reported a great experience for the four (4) attendees; Trustee Osmond learned about starting 501.C.3 (not-for-profit) foundations, how another school with a student population of 700 is teaching Mandarin, and important to monitor & lower energy use. Trustee McGillicuddy, expressed her desire to discuss the budget.

**Discussion &
Possible Action**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve a field trip for the Onteora High School German Students to Singen, Germany from Monday, June 29 through Tuesday, July 21, 2009. The participants will fund this trip.

Discussion:

Trustee Flayhan spoke in favor of relocating field trips to the *Consent Agenda*, noting that they are non-controversial issues and that the Trustees will still vote for field trips when they vote on accepting the Consent Agenda. President Legnini asked Dr. Ford if there are any policy considerations. She said, "We do that to record a separate vote for that, so you have a polled out vote and although the *Consent Agenda* is a vote, we have typically put a separate record on that. That's why we have it."

Trustee Flayhan expressed surprise at seeing minutes where for the first time the Consent Agenda was listed as a polled out vote, whereby many negative votes were recorded for multiple items, instead of one vote for one item. To Donna, this made it seem as though she had voted no on every item (even especially good ones), when in fact she was voting against the Consent Agenda as a whole in order to pull out the Assistant Superintendent position (a failed motion of hers).

President Legnini explained that it was hard to differentiate as the Consent Agenda is voted as any entity, so if you vote no, you do so for the entire thing. The issue is how a negative vote is recorded when a particular item is not pulled out. "We are at the point discussing whether, as far as policy, or any other consideration with not having this be in the Consent Agenda."

Trustee Friedel, though unsure, thought there was a liability factor regarding field trips being located in the Consent Agenda. She "doesn't know the education law, but it has always been a separate entity, even in other school districts." During New Business, Michelle would like to look at "why it is or isn't under the Consent Agenda." Not knowing the legal situation, she is not comfortable voting on this at this time.

President Legnini suggested getting a legal interpretation of this discussion from our attorneys. Trustee Flayhan encouraged the Board to access "free" legal services available through NYSSBA.

Trustee McGillicuddy stated that the field trip to Germany is “a wonderful tradition and I’m very happy for the students who can go.”

Motion: Resnick
Second: Flayhan
Carried: 7-0

Draft Sustainability Policy - read by President Legnini.

No items were raised for discussion. A second reading will occur at the next Board meeting. Dr. Ford suggested emailing any thoughts to her so that they may be brought up collectively at the next meeting.

Discussion

Special Education Update - Joyce Long, Director, Pupil Personnel Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion:

Trustee Friedel inquired about Response To Intervention (RTI). Is it going to help to reduce the number of referrals (from 19% to 12%)? Worried that we might miss getting services to someone in need. Ms. Long expressed the same concern, as does the Special Education staff. “For a long time, throughout New York State, Special Education has been the only game in town—if you need help, you go to Special Education” and obtain Resource Room, Consulting Teacher services, etc., but the student had to be classified. RTI is a Regular Education movement where more Academic Intervention Services will have to be made available. She is looking forward to that happening, because “if you don’t receive those services, you now, by law, cannot come to Special Ed—you have to prove the scientifically based interventions.” That will help us tremendously in helping the struggling learners. Even those who do not meet the criterion, but who clearly have “something going on,” need support.

Trustee Friedel then asked if she and the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum are looking into the co-teaching aspect of professional development. Ms. Long is working together with Ms. Sharpe and other District administrators. Some procedures are already being implemented within the buildings. “It’s not just co-teaching, but teaching Regular Ed how to think about modifications, changing your curriculum, teaching to the multi-modality...a whole training movement” to utilize in Regular and Special Education to meet the needs of all the learners, including the Gifted children as sometimes they are missed. She and Ms. Sharpe are “looking forward to that movement as a whole for the District.”

Trustee Flayhan recalled meeting one of the co-teachers at Woodstock Elementary last year who mentioned a “really great” one-day co-teaching professional development workshop that she found to be very valuable, as the information was concrete and immediately useful. Ms. Long agreed, saying, however, that staff has asked her to not bring in someone delivering just one day of training, but to carry through with follow-up and classroom observation and to help out with “real-life action.” According to Ms. Long, everyone is thrilled with what Jim Wright started two years ago, but they want the movement to “go forward” with classroom implementation and program evaluation.

Trustee McGillicuddy mentioned that she attended a Special Education Update Workshop at the NYSSBA Convention this past weekend and that she had information she received from the Director to pass along to Ms. Long. From what Ann learned, it seems it will be easier to “get the percentage down” with RTIs and scientifically based programs. Ms. Long agreed and explained that research is required to document the need, which might frustrate some parents who see their child struggling, but “if we do our job, it will be very easy to let the children in the door who need” such services. Plus “it will be very easy to explain that it’s really not necessary to hang that label on your child this time without proving they cannot grow with regular academic services.”

Dr. Ford commended Ms. Long as someone who has “hit the ground running,” down a lot of work with the staff, visited every site and been in classrooms observing. She was recognized for doing “a really tremendous job in her first month.”

Goal Setting

Dr. Ford reviewed and edited Parameters and Objectives text with Trustees.

CONSENT AGENDA

PERSONNEL

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District that the following be approved:

Leave of Absence (Instructional)

INSTRUCTIONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE (FROM – TO)	REASON
#1275	9/2/08 - 10/2/08*	Medical – Paid Family Medical Leave
#1275	10/3/08 - 10/20/08*	Medical – Unpaid Family Medical Leave
#1275	10/21/08 - 11/25/08*	Medical – Paid Family Medical Leave

*Amended dates & sick bank days granted

Appointments (Instructional)

PROBATIONARY INSTRUCTIONAL APPOINTMENTS

NAME	CERTIFICATION	TENURE AREA	PROBATIONARY DATES	SALARY STEP	REMARKS
Dornan, Mark*	Provisional – Special Education	Special Education	10/27/08 -10/26/11**	5MA	Replaces M. Mistler
VanKleeck, Deborah	Level 1	Teaching Assistant	9/11/08 - 9/10/2011	2	Replaces B. Wright

*Pending pre-employment processing

**Amended dates

INSTRUCTIONAL EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Castle, Mark	School Newspaper - HS	\$1,108
Hodder, Marjorie	Future Homemakers	\$921
McGuire-Milo, Kimberly	A.I.S./Earth Science (After School)	\$1,734
Tinti, Sylvia	Freshman Class Advisor	\$762
Tinti, Sylvia	Sophomore Class Advisor	\$762
Whitlow, Edward	Math Club Advisor - SHS	\$1,519

**Leave of Absence
(Non-Instructional)**

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL LEAVES OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM – TO	REASON
#1675	9/29/08 - 10/10/08	Medical – Paid Family Medical Leave
#2265	9/15/08 - 10/10/08*	Medical – Paid Family Medical Leave
*Amended Date		

Motion: Wolff
Second: Flayhan
Carried: 6-0

**Appointments
(Non-Instructional)**

WHEREAS, the following employees have been fingerprinted, the fingerprints have been submitted to the New York State Education Department (SED) for processing and the District has not received clearance for such employees as of the date of this meeting;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board hereby appoints the following non-instructional employees on an emergency conditional basis:

PROBATIONARY

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	PROBATIONARY DATES	SALARY/ STEP	REMARKS
Ampel, Marguerite	Typist – HS	10/27/08 - 4/27/09	1	Replaces F.Hollander

PART-TIME

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	SALARY/ STEP	REMARKS
Dougherty, Donna	Part-time Custodial Worker	10/22/08	Step 1	Replaces D. VanLeuvan
Herdman, Laurel	District Clerk	10/22/08	\$25/hour	Replaces D. Palmerini
Kelder, Patricia	School Monitor - BN	10/22/08	12	New position – 2 hrs/day

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such emergency conditional appointments shall become conditional appointments upon receipt of State Clearance from SED.

PER DIEM SUBSTITUTES

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Amster, Fern	Substitute Clerical	\$9.50/hr
Herdman, Laurel*	Substitute Clerical	\$9.50/hr
Karolys, Rachel	Un-certified Substitute Teaching Assistant & School Monitor	\$9/hr
*Pending pre-employment processing		

PERMANENT STATUS

The following named NON-INSTRUCTIONAL personnel have served a probationary status and are recommended to a PERMANENT STATUS consistent with the applicable laws and regulations of the State of New York:

NAME	POSITION	PROVISIONAL DATE	PERMANENT DATE	SALARY/STEP
Walkowiak, Pamela	School District Database Program Specialist	3/10/08	9/22/08	9

**Final NYSED
Clearance – Received**

NAME	POSITION
Perry, Frederick	Track – Cross Country – Assistant

**Final NYSED
Clearance –
NOT Yet Received**

NAME	POSITION
Ampel, Marguerite	Typist - HS
Benjamin, Amanda	Summer Substitute Custodial Worker
Bergenn, Brandon	Baseball - JV - Head Coach
Cservak, Jacob	Summer Substitute Custodial Worker
Heidelberg, Mark	Uncertified Substitute Teacher
Herdman, Laurel	Substitute Clerical
Kerwin, Michelina	Uncertified Substitute Teaching Assistant
Kiersted, Amanda	Summer Substitute Custodial Worker
Lejeune, Deborah	Certified Substitute School Nurse
Liberati, Guido	Football - JV - Assistant Coach
Mallett, Jacquelynn	Certified Substitute School Nurse
O'Connor, Cindy	Senior Class Co-Advisor; Uncertified Substitute Teacher; Uncertified Substitute Teaching Assistant
Rogers, Connie	School Monitor – PH
Trimboli, Johanna	Uncertified Substitute Teacher

Motion: Wolff
Second: Flayhan
Carried: 6-0

INSTRUCTION

**Approval of CSE/CPSE
Recommendations**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District that the Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) Recommendations (Schedule U, #10/08 A-102108, Confidential) as reviewed by Trustee Osmond, be approved.

Motion: Wolff
Second: Flayhan
Carried: 6-0

**Award Bid for Paving
Project at Woodstock
Elementary School**

WHEREAS, the Onteora Central School District Board of Education issued bid specifications on October 8, 2008, for a paving project at the Woodstock Elementary School, which required bidders to submit a base bid and unit prices for any additional "overlay asphalt paving" with each of their respective bids; and

WHEREAS, at the time of the bid opening on October 15, 2008, the low bidder, Arold Construction Co., Inc., ("Arold"), inadvertently failed to include a non-collusion statement with its bid; and

WHEREAS, once advised of the error, Arold filed its non-collusion statement with the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onteora Central School District Board of Education ("Board") awards the paving contract to Arold Construction Co., Inc., for the base bid in the amount of \$17,660 and the add alternate in the amount of \$15.11 per square yard.

Motion: Wolff
Second: Flayhan
Carried: 6-0

Donation Acceptance

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District to accept the donation of a photocopier, valued at \$125, from Tamara Lang, for the sole purpose of providing enlarged copies for a particular student.

Discussion: Trustee Flayhan requested that student names be excluded from future Agendas. All agreed.

Motion: Wolff
Second: Flayhan
Carried: 6-0

(end of Consent Agenda)

Old Business

Student Board Meeting - Dr. Ford will provide a copy of the proposed agenda in the next Friday Memo. Trustee Osmond suggested we devote as much time as possible to student interaction. Dr. Ford will send a formal memo. President Legnini asked for agenda item ideas. Trustee McGillicuddy suggested picking a topic that relates directly to them. Dr. Ford discouraged selecting lockers as a topic as that would lead into an even longer discussion on financing them, which would not involve the students. Trustee Flayhan suggested including the water system plans if we have them. Since it is anticipated that the students will present "hard questions", she is suggesting adding substantive items on the agenda. Dr. Ford suggested that the Trustees email additional ideas to President Legnini and they together would develop the Agenda as they normally do.

Trustee McGillicuddy asked if business was going to be conducted as if it were a "true Board meeting." Yes. She also asked about discussing budget planning. Dr. Ford explained that the "behind the scenes" effort (reviewing enrollment, looking at programs, initial work with all the site budgets) starts in November. Although no one sees this work until we get into the District budget,

it would be great to get input from the students, “particularly given what we are looking at in terms of the financial climate.”

Trustee McGillicuddy agreed, as that is what was stressed at the conference—how important it is to inform the community early on about upcoming budget constraints and not to wait until Spring, as “things are going to be really tight.” Dr. Ford explained that some of the information is going to be set in an interesting way. We’ve said there’s going to be some financial difficulty that we’re going to face as a State. You’re aware we have fund balance accounts for specific items and they’re calculated in a specific way. The Commissioner just came out with a report on fund balances. What he said doesn’t relate to every district. We don’t calculate the way it was stated in his article—we calculate very tightly based on actual days worked/sick. It is very important that we be clear on how we budget, making it as close to actuals as we can.

Trustee Osmond asked Dr. Ford if she was referring to the NYSSBA email received today that mentioned the districts that were being audited. Trustee McGillicuddy asked if she knew when the list of 21 school districts that were going to be notified about their fund balances was going to be released. Dr. Ford said no, that the notice doesn’t state which ones, only that they will be notified.

Bringing the discussion back to the Student Board Meeting, President Legnini asked if the Board agreed to develop the student meeting agenda as a group. All agreed.

The Student Board Meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2008 @ 1:40 P.M.

Strategic Planning – Per Dr. Ford, Trustees Osmond and Flayhan will be attending on the October 27th. She requested that everyone email Linda with a response. President Legnini offered to be a “stand-by” attendee over the next few weeks, should anyone need to cancel at the last minute. Trustee McGillicuddy asked if it was OK to attend on a moment’s notice. Dr. Ford said yes and to just let her know.

Dress Code Responsibilities

Trustee Osmond wasn’t sure that the word “responsibilities” was included in her communication. However, she recalled previous discussion at two (2) levels: elementary and high school. At the elementary level, several parents from two (2) schools have approached the Board (individually and as a whole), “very upset at the provision that will allow students to be reprimanded before parents are brought in.” About three (3) weeks ago, Laurie also received an email from a Woodstock parent who requested that it be circulated. Not sure if that had happened, President Legnini assured her that, in fact, it had.

Citing examples of high school students being singled out for hair/nail polish colors and jewelry, Laurie’s ongoing concern is that enforcement might prove to be too restrictive. If only responding to isolated incidents, (i.e., not have a blanket approach to enforcement), then that could be considered selective enforcement. “Why have a policy if you’re only going to enforce it selectively?” Unclear about the intent, she wondered if others heard any feedback and if maybe there is no concern among the high school students themselves. Found it strange to go from a broad to a rather specific dress code, leaving a lot open to interpretation that, in turn, makes her uncomfortable.

Trustee Wolff asked if Trustee Osmond had heard from a parent regarding the dress code. No, not regarding the high school. "Unfortunately, I'm not as in touch with high school students as I am with elementary parents." Richard noted that when comparing the 1995-96 Handbook with this year's version, it was almost the same. Trustee Flayhan offered that because these policies have not been uniformly enforced over the years, it would be best to take them out of the Handbook.

Referring to the letter (see attached) from Dan Pettigrew, the District lawyer, Dr. Ford read the following: "If there are questions concerning the effectiveness of provisions in the District's code of conduct or the fairness of consistency in its administration, then the Board is entrusted with the responsibility to annually review and update these provisions. State Law authorizes the School Board to establish committees." Since a group of parents and students already reviewed of the Code of Conduct this year, Dr. Ford suggested that it might be helpful to have additional feedback from those parents.

Having conducted online research, Trustee Osmond said that she found that other school districts had committees of parents that not only reviewed the Dress Code, but that also participated in wording them. In addition, "they were only enacted by consensus of the ENTIRE group." While she, too, is curious about the possible reaction of our parents and students, her greatest concern is about the selective enforcement: "We have a group of administrators that has no problem with blue hair, but you get somebody else in and three years from now...there it is on the books...it's getting too specific and too narrow."

Dr. Ford again suggested getting input from that group that had that discussion. Trustee Osmond agreed saying that the upcoming High School Board Meeting would be "a great opportunity to ask input of the students" on this topic. Trustee McGillicuddy agreed that that meeting would be "a great forum to hear what the students feel and want," especially when we will have so many students in one place to listen to.

Communication List - Dr. Ford directed everyone to their packets for an updated version of her grid for the purpose of keeping the communication clear and tracking everything that has been asked of her thus far by the Board. Currently the list contains about 33 items that are categorized as either "Former Status" or "Final Status." When requests are made, "you will get it, but it is not implicit you will get it the next meeting. You will get it as soon as I can get it to you, and I can't get everything at once, sometimes." If there are any corrections to be made, Dr. Ford asked the Trustees to call her "and we'll work on it."

Agenda Preparation - President Legnini continued by mentioning agenda items that are submitted for the agenda meeting. He referred to them as "tricky" and not easy to fit into the agenda, because they are not that clear, too broad and are in need of more specifics. Ralph stated that, "it is on us too to call you up and clarify it a little more," that is unless these items come in at that last minute. "We'll work on all that together..."

Citing mistakes made in the past and the absence of a District Clerk, Ralph commended Linda Wood "for doing a good job with the agenda." Ralph said that after the last meeting, he sat down with Linda, shared his comments and suggested she discuss unclear items with Leslie for clarification. Ralph

continued by saying, "I think that helped get us all on the same page and keep some mistakes from happening."

Non-Enrolled Family Survey - Dr. Ford wanted Trustee Osmond to know that she checked with Pam Walkowiak (Database Administrator/Registrar) who checked the survey and said that "there are several lists of kids that go into that survey, but the main list is cleared up enough that she felt she could trust the addresses in the list." Dr. Ford told Laurie that if she tells her which board members will be making the phone calls, she'll "get things ready" and let a list from Pam. Trustee Osmond raised the discussion about who would be making the survey phone calls. She recalled feedback from the attorneys indicating that "first people (would) be sent surveys to find out if they wanted to participate in the survey, rather than being telephoned," wanting to know if that was correct. Dr. Ford said we had to have postcards or phone calls indicating that the participant agrees to be part of the survey.

Phone Lines - Regarding phone lines, Dr. Ford informed the Board that Jim O'Neill (Director, B&G) is ready to provide them with either a) an individual phone line (a "ghost" extension) for each Trustee; or b) a "Board" line to receive messages. Whichever way the Board would like it, they would have to let Dr. Ford know. It would either be one (1) line or seven (7) lines (or message boxes). Trustee McGillicuddy asked if the message boxes were for the community to call into and leave messages for the Board. Dr. Ford said yes. Trustee Osmond stated that New Paltz has one (1) voicemail line for comments to the whole Board. Those comments were either transcribed or past on to the whole Board. Dr. Ford clarified by saying that one (1) box could be accessed by everyone with the same code. Although it was suggested that such messages could be transcribed and provided with the weekly packet, Dr. Ford explained that she did not have staff to perform such a task. President Legnini pointed out that listening to messages allowed for hearing a person's tone—something that would be lost in transcription. Others suggested taking turns or listening to the messages at Board meetings, but it was agreed that some callers might not want their calls made public.

Athletic Director Position – Trustee Flayhan discussed how the hiring document was specific as to the number of applicants in the past year and the follow-up with those applicants. Dr. Ford explained that she "left that into the Assistant Superintendent piece." Donna pointed out that while the Assistant Superintendent discussion is to occur in Executive Session, the Athletic Director position discussion does not. Leslie assured Donna that she had the information ready for this evening's meeting.

Dr. Ford described the screening/interviewing process and how she redirected the procedure for responding to applicants. Remaining questions were to be addressed in Executive Session.

Variance – Trustee Flayhan recalled how last summer Vice President Osmond had requested specific information on the number of students who are "varianced" and the number who are "force-varianced." Dr. Ford pointed out that that information had already been shared at a Board meeting, and that there were no involuntary variances. While Donna referred to Kindergarten parents who have spoken to her about this, Leslie reiterated that according to the updated list she reviewed today, there were none. To further clarify, Donna asked if there were any students who are zoned to Woodstock who have been

assigned to Bennett without requesting to do so. Leslie said no Kindergartners.

Lockers – President Legnini told of meeting a vendor at the NYSSBA Conference who refurbishes lockers. He will pass around the literature for administration to consider calling them for an informational visit. The cost seemed reasonable.

Meeting Start Time – President confirmed that all are in agreement with starting all future meetings at 6:00 p.m.

KSQ Architects – They are currently involved with refurbishing of the Auditorium, replacing the boiler at Woodstock Elementary and initiating the Master Plan. Now there is a decision to be made as to whether or not to have them return to address the Board. Dr. Ford explained that there is not a “shared memory” among the members of this Board about the initial needs associated with a Master Plan. KSQ conducted those studies and have that information. “Without a grade configuration...emphasizing looking at how you got to looking at the thought of having a Master Plan and perhaps looking at renovation.” They are prepared to return and present ALL that basic information, which the District has paid for based on the studies they have done. While it doesn’t “make a statement of continuing in any way, I know that’s been up for discussion before, but it does assure that THIS sitting Board has the SAME information that the previous Board has had and that SOME of the Board members have, because you don’t have consistent information as Board members right now.”

Trustee Flayhan expressed her desire to only obtain the reports that were given to the previous Board as she had attended all their planning meetings, seeing their presentations and attending community forums. She felt that obtaining and reading KSQ’s written summaries from their presentations on each building (including the various plans) would be most useful. Dr. Ford pointed out that those reports are already part of the 5-Year Plan, which everyone has. Trustee Wolff indicated that there would be no cost involved in KSQ giving an overview presentation. Ralph saw that as Leslie’s point, that there would be no commitment to hire them, just to be brought “up to speed.” He met with them briefly before the Auditorium presentation when they made that same offer, and while he could have, as President, schedule that presentation, he felt it was a Board decision.

Vice President Osmond indicated that the Board has the 5-Year report outlining the necessary repairs and estimating costs, and they have the various plans “that we could all study.” While she and others have questions, “Is KSQ the company we ultimately want to work with, and do we want to continue to create that impression? Or do we want to read the reports that they’ve already generated and discuss that as a Board, rather than have them come and take us through another PowerPoint presentation?”

Trustee Flayhan again expressed that she would rather not have them here for a presentation, but to just work off their information. While the invitation could be perceived as a commitment to a future relationship, it could also be a “confirmation of past good work.” She reminded everyone that these were the architects overseeing the Woodstock boiler plan, we had the money but they did not move on it. They were so busy managing the Grades 5-8 and Auditorium projects that they weren’t managing the one project they were supposed to be

managing.

Given that two Trustees had to leave early, President Legnini suggested that this decision should be tabled while everyone reviews their reports over the next two (2) weeks. All agreed.

New Business

Building Use Survey – Trustee Wolff believed this discussion related to the Facilities discussion. Dr. Ford said she talked about how a Building Use Surveys could have different purposes, so the purpose needs to be decided first. She agreed with Trustee Resnick's idea to obtain a couple of different examples to see why other districts did it the way they did, and then develop our own reasons why.

Senior Appreciation Event – President Legnini suggested an event to recognize seniors who pay school taxes, yet who do not have children attending school. Such an event would allow students to get to know the elders of their community and to hear their stories of days past. Trustee Flayhan suggested "piggy-backing" on community events already occurring. Trustee McGillicuddy mentioned that the Thanksgiving community meals at each school would provide such an opportunity. Ralph would like contact lists compiled. Further discussion at next meeting.

Board Email Addresses - Trustee Wolff asked if these would also become available. Dr. Ford said yes.

Next Meeting: Due to Election Day, the meeting is moved to Monday, November 3, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. at the Phoenicia Elementary School.

Board Members' Request for Information

Trustee Flayhan reiterated her request for information on hiring for the Athletic Position and another matter to be discussed during Executive Session.

Public Comment

Christina Humberger – Christine Downs does ask for PTA donations for the Thanksgiving meals. She has an ongoing list of attendees, approximately 65 people attend and they all carpool. Mr. Laks coordinates entertainment, 5th and 6th Graders serve. There is room for "piggy-backing" and "adding more is great." Regarding the dress code, Mrs. Humberger feels there is something missing in that the parents aren't called first, which in June was "a huge issue"—reflecting ineffectiveness and confusion. She read the policy and saw there wasn't a big change, or anything about parents being alerted first. She believes it will come up again unless it is written in a more succinct way.

Executive Session

President Legnini asked for a motion to Enter into Executive Session to discuss evaluations and negotiations. Trustee Flayhan pointed out that the Athletic Director discussion does not need to be part of Executive Session, only the discussion about the selection process for the Assistant Superintendent position. Dr. Ford reported that 16 individuals applied for the position of Director of Athletics, PE, Health and Dean of Students. Of those five (5) were interviewed by the Shared Decision-making Committee on January 31st. One (1) was recommended to the Superintendent and the candidate's references were supportive. An attempt to set up another round of interviews was made in August 2008. Of the two (2) possible candidates, both withdrew their applications. There are presently no new applications on file for

this position.

Trustee Flayhan asked if those who applied for the position and have not heard back from the District, should they reapply? Dr. Ford said there are certification and degree qualifications and not everyone who applied had any or all of those. Trustee Flayhan suggested sending notices of receipt of applications. Dr. Ford pointed out that while the District receives hundreds of applications per year for teaching positions, and those are not responded to, there should have been responses to the Athletic Director position. The new staff member responsible is now aware.

Trustee McGillicuddy asked about recent qualification changes. Dr. Ford explained that previously, the Athletic Director position was a stipend position in the Teacher's Contract. Previous to that, the position (held by Joe DiGiovanni until his retirement) was combined as Head of the PE Department, Athletic Director and Dean of Students. After Mr. DiGiovanni's retirement, when they tried filling it part-time, it was very difficult. Then a new mandate from the State required the hiring of a Director of PE. With a LOT of students involved in sports, we also have a great need for a consistent Athletic Director—the reason for combining both positions. So, as the position stands now it requires: a) a degree in PE; b) Administrative Certification; and c) though not requiring a degree, the ability to oversee Health (Health requirements are also be addressed with other staff). To clarify, Trustee McGillicuddy asked if administrative qualifications are mandated now. Dr. Ford said yes.

Trustee Flayhan recounted Victoria McLaren's presentation about the budget crisis, saying the State, in response, will take away some of the mandates. Could we check to see if this might be one of the mandates to be removed? Dr. Ford's response was "we'll have our eye on EVERY mandate they're going to check off."

A motion was entertained to enter into Executive Session for evaluation purposes and negotiations at 11:10 p.m. No discussion.

Motion: Flayhan
Second: Wolff
Carried: 5-0

Return to Regular Session

Motion to Return to Regular Session (12:16 p.m.)

Motion: McGillicuddy
Second: Flayhan
Carried: 5-0

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn (12:16 p.m.)

Motion: Wolff
Second: McGillicuddy
Carried: 5-0

REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 2008
Phoenicia Elementary School

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Minutes Recorded
by:

Laurel Herdman
District Clerk