ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.
Phoenicia Elementary School

Call To Order President Legnini called meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Tobacco Policy Statement - read

Pledge of Allegiance - led

Board Members Present Trustees Ralph Legnini (President), Donna Flayhan Michelle Friedel, Ann McGillicuddy, Maxanne Resnick, and Richard Wolff

Late Arrivals Laurie Osmond (Vice President) – 6:43 p.m.

Administration Present Superintendent of Schools Leslie G. Ford; Assistant Superintendent Victoria McLaren; District Clerk Laurel Herdman

Administration Absent Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum

Others Present Student Board Representative William Melvin, Videographer David Padusnak (Mr. Epstein's TV Production class), and approximately 13 visitors

AGENDA ADDENDUM

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District that the Addendum to the Agenda be accepted.

Motion: Friedel
Second: Resnick
No Discussion
Carried: 6-0

WELCOME

Phoenicia Elementary School Principal Linda Sella welcomed everyone and introduced the Phoenicia Quartet (Orchestra Chamber Ensemble). Under the direction of Ms. Erica Blum, they played *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*. After the performance Ms. Sella continued with announcements about all the efforts by community members, staff and students to raise donations for are families and children (coat drive, mitten tree, holiday boutique, etc.).

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District that the minutes of the Work Session of the Board of Education held on October 7, 2008, are hereby accepted as submitted.

Motion: Friedel Second: Resnick
No Discussion Carried: 6-0

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District that the minutes of the Work Session of the Board of Education held on November 3, 2008, are hereby accepted as submitted.

Motion: Friedel
Second: Resnick
No Discussion
Carried: 6-0

DISTRICT NEWS

Bennett also received a grade A from the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) for their recycling program; Middle School Students of Week were announced; Woodstock Peer Mediation training began and the Student Council is up and running.

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative William Melvin is curious about Spanish Club item listed under Discussion. Introduced a student member who would like to request a Snowboarding Club. Dr. Ford explained that the budget could not provide for the creation of a Spanish Club. Need to look for other means of funding. Board does not know of funds for next year. Trustee Flayhan asked if the $300,000 allotted to the lockers could be looked at as a funding source. Trustee McGillicuddy wanted to know what is a usual stipend? Assistant Superintendent for Business was not sure. Trustee McGillicuddy thought it would be about $1500. President Legnini suggested finding out the amount and prorate it from January to June. Trustee Resnick asked if there was a faculty person identified. Yes.

STUDENT COMMENT

Maxwell Storms representing the proposed snowboard club. Understands that BOE does not want to fund any new clubs. Why is a non-school funded club not able to be approved?

PUBLIC BE HEARD

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to **Enter into Executive Session** (6:29 p.m.) to discuss negotiations.

Motion: Friedel
Second: Flayhan
Carried: 6-0

Motion to **Return from Executive Session** (7:28 p.m.).

Motion: Friedel
Second: Resnick
Carried: 7-0

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

BOCES Superintendent, Martin Ruglis
Mr. Ruglis delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining BOCES' history and role in relation to area school districts, as governed by New York State. He gladly announced that BOCES' aid is not due to be cut. Our tuition deadline 1/5/09; the contract must be signed by 5/1/09. There is a possibility that Sullivan and Ulster services may merge. All but 9 of 698 NYS schools participate in BOCES. Currently serving 27,000 students in Ulster County. Our District will be voting for BOCES Board Members and administrative budget.
Mr. Ruglis explained that BOCES is governed by Co-Ser (cooperative service) structure, whereby all services must be shared. An overview of all available services was provided. All programs are approved by NYS Education Department. Academics have been integrated into Career & Technical programs where education becomes relevant and applicable. Multiple secondary institutions provide Advanced Credit. Special Education programs are driven by IEPs developed at students' home schools. Multiple related services are provided. General Instruction includes, alternative ed, GED, distance learning, talented & gifted education and Arts in Education.

Trustee Osmond asked if there was an effort to purchase more locally-grown foods? Mr. Ruglis explained that they have a committee, they do not determine. He also wanted to make it clear that he never stated that our back office is over staffed. While BOCES has been asked to help make that determination, they leave it up to each individual school. Trustee Flayhan clarified her statement from a previous Board meeting to mean consolidating duplicated back office services. She agreed that while it is something to look at, it is not for BOCES to decide.

Trustee Osmond then asked if there were going to be more opportunities for distance learning in order to save transportation costs. Mr. Ruglis described current uses, and said that they are trying to expand.

KSQ Building Condition Review
A company representative updated the Board on the current projects (paving, auditorium, technology upgrade, re-roofing). The auditorium is out to bid; 5-6 contractors picked up for each bid, which should result in very competitive pricing. They will advise us on how to interview and hire a Contract Manager. Trustee McGillicuddy asked if they were considering using more sustainable products for auditorium. Absolutely; seating specs were changed to known recycled content. Trustee Resnick wanted to know if the current seats are going to be recycled. The idea is to recycle instead of sending to a landfill. It would cost more to have to take them away after removal--trying to prevent that. Bids will be opened next week. Construction will start mid-January. Auditorium will need to be cleared. Constituents in the community would have to come forward to claim the seats. President Legnini asked if they ensure that every contractor is economically sound. It is incumbent upon the entire team to call all references and ensure that subs are solvent.

The top five (5) needs that must be determined: 1) Aging Building Infrastructure (ours are extremely well maintained); Demographic Enrollment (is changing, will get updated figures); MS Grade Configuration (the Master Plan will address this); 21st Century School (hardest goal to articulate); Sustainable Living (OCSD is the most active school district taking on this issue). The bond is being put together taking this into consideration.

Trustee McGillicuddy asked how HVAC would accommodate geothermal/solar thermal. The primary equipment would have to be retooled or replaced. There would be a cost associated with changing out equipment that is due to be installed this summer. Dr. Ford reminded everyone that the auditorium project has already been approved. Trustee Flayhan didn't see barriers for these

changes. Trustee Resnick pointed out that the auditorium project was approved two (2) years ago, with drawings not using geothermal, and was placed out for bid. Including geothermal would mean changing the whole process. In the future, for other projects, we may be able to retrofit. The current project does not have a spec for geothermal.

Also discussed enrollment, pros/cons of improving West Hurley campus for alternative uses. Trustee Friedel is very worried about the MS enrollment; programs could disappear. Trustee Wolff wanted to know if Excel aid is available. Ms. McLaren said that what is signed up for is still there, but no more. More discussion continued about potential uses for West Hurley. President Legnini stated that any decision would be a board decision. "If were going to explore alternative uses, we would first need to know the condition of the building we were offering." Trustee Friedel suggested using the facility for a conference center and board meetings to avoid transportation of meeting equipment to the various schools. There's also a lot of acreage useful for sports. Trustee Flayhan mentioned that non-profit institutes look for space to rent (archives, private education, performance). Trustee Osmond wanted to know if state aid would be affected. Ms. McLaren explained that she could not answer without a project and plans to present. KSQ rep said that State aid is only for student instruction purposes.

President Legnini directed the Board to think about ideas. Will have to decide as a board how to use this building and what repairs would need to be done. We need to make decisions ASAP. Acknowledging his firm's years of involvement and knowledge gained, Ralph thanked the KSQ rep for his presentation.

Woody Biomass Presentation
Collin Miller, CF Wood Products Utilization and Marketing Specialist, of the Watershed Agricultural Council (WAC) gave his presentation, defining woody biomass as low-grade waste material from forestry and wood products, manufacturing or short rotation willow crops. It is renewable, potentially carbon neutral, relatively inexpensive and abundant. The Catskills provides an underutilized resource. Sources: sawmills, tree trunks, pellet manufacturers, land-clearing contractors, publicly and privately managed forests.

A facility in Darby, MT, converted from #2 oil to 750 tons/yr. @ a 2-week delivery schedule, and saved $90,000/yr. Heating costs for a school facility in Bennington, VT, went from $275K/yr. to 75K/yr. During his visit he saw no smoke emitted. Systems are super-efficient and clean. Cost factors: automated vs. semi-handling system; boiler type/output; conversion technology; chip storage facility construction; emissions control equipment; funding incentives & cost-sharing; asbestos removal; engineering/architectural plan.

A preliminary feasibility study will provide our school with a business plan and the ability to find grants. How much: $2/gallon for fuel oil vs. $50 ton for wood chips = 75% reduction. Sustainable/efficient/local/fair (SELF) – Conversion and use could be incorporated with education programs. Local labor could earn a livable wage. Would like to find a market and maintain the forests. Their consultant will meet with school officials in January/February, then prepare a draft report by March, with a BOE presentation in April/May.

Trustee Wolff wanted to know if the system could be supplemental. No, would need a retrofit. Trustee Osmond inquired about the wood quality. Older but sound wood. Optimum efficiency requires uniform, solid wood chip. Trustee Flayhan thanked the Greening Committee for going for grant and wanted to know if methane emission from wood chips wood be a concern? Mr. Miller said no.

President Legnini asked if the facility in Bennington was the same as our school and would the system require manpower. Mr. Miller knew that there were two (2) buildings being heated in Bennington, and that, no, an auger would deliver the chips from storage.

Strategic Planning Update
Trustee Maxanne Resnick outlined results from the 12/8 meeting. Topics covered were: civility procedures; key learning principles. The four (4) task forces (Special Ed; K-12 Curriculum; Graduation; Culture and Climate) outlined their charges and goals. Since implementation will take longer than 2013, a question about integrating a systemic change was raised. A prioritization process will be developed. The Board's interest and support of the strategic plan was also questioned. Publicizing efforts to date was suggested. Dr. Ford indicated that as we go along, goals would broaden and have more depth.

CONSENT AGENDA

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District hereby approve the following CONSENT AGENDA MOTIONS:

Personnel

Appointments (Instructional)

Extra Duty Stipends

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Vagle, Patricia	Math Club Advisor (MS)	$1,026

Per Diem Substitutes

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Ulrich, James	Home Tutor	$32/hr

Leave Of Absence (Non-Instructional)

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM – TO	REASON
#1250	10/16/08 – 6/1/09	Medical – Paid Leave
#1494	11/10/08 – 1/28/09	Medical – Paid Family Medical Leave

Permanent Status (Non-Instructional)

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	PROBATIONARY DATE	PERMANENT DATE	SALARY
Berryann, Cheryl	Account Clerk/Typist (Central Receptionist)	6/24/08	12/24/08	$29,000

Final NYSED Clearance - Received

NAME	POSITION
Liberati, Guido	Football – J.V. – Assistant Coach

Final NYSED Clearance - Not Yet Received

NAME	POSITION
Benjamin, Amanda	Summer Substitute Custodial Worker
Bergenn, Brandon	Baseball – J.V. – Head Coach
Cservak, Jacob	Summer Substitute Custodial Worker
Herdman, Laurel	Substitute Clerical & District Clerk
Kiersted, Amanda	Summer Substitute Custodial Worker
O'Connor, Cindy	Senior Class Co-Advisor; Uncertified Substitute Teacher; Uncertified Substitute Teaching Assistant
Roberts, Joan	Certified Substitute Teacher
Rogers, Connie	School Monitor – PH
Trimboli, Johanna	Uncertified Substitute Teacher
Weir, Linda	PT School Monitor – BN

Instruction

The Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) Recommendations, Schedule U, #012/08 A-121608, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Donna Flayhan.

Donations

The acceptance of the following donation(s) to the Onteora Central School District is with sincere thanks and appreciation for these generous donations to be used by students and staff in the District.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District accept the donation from Steven & Robin Murphy of the following equipment to be used by the MS/HS music department::

Atlantic Tech Surround Speakers #04782, #04781, #22959, and #22958;
Monitor Audio Center Channel Speaker 12i #3559;
Parasound HCA-2200 Power Amp #170351;
Yamaha RX-V2095 Stereo Amp #N028888WY;
VonSchweikert Research VR-4 Speakers #100322, #100323

Motion: Resnick
Second: Friedel
Discussion: None
Carried: 7-0

Business And Finance

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District declare the items on **Schedule D** as surplus and authorize the sale or disposal of these items.

Motion: Resnick
Second: Friedel
Discussion: None
Carried: 7-0

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District ("Board") previously awarded three separate yearly transportation contracts to James C. Hoyt, Inc., for 1) Summer; 2) Field & Sports Trips; and 3) Home to School effective July 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, said transportation contracts were duly assigned by the Board to Arthur F. Mulligan, Inc. ("Mulligan") by resolution dated September 25, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mulligan has advised the Board that it has entered into an agreement to sell its corporate stock to Birnie Bus Services, Inc. ("Birnie") and now requests the Board assign its three separate yearly transportation contracts for 1) Summer; 2) Field & Sports Trips; and 3) Home to School to Birnie;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board assign its three separate yearly transportation contracts for 1) Summer; 2) Field & Sports Trips; and 3) Home to School to Birnie; effective January 1, 2009; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorize the President and Superintendent of Schools to execute all documents in furtherance of this resolution.

Discussion: Trustee Osmond would like to see language in this resolution that would indicate a specific end to the transportation contract. Ms. McLaren verified that it is a yearly contract that does end June 2009, and June of every year. Trustee Flayhan indicated that no one is trying to block the sale.

Motion: Resnick
Second: Friedel
Carried: 7-0

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has promulgated revisions to the regulations on Employee, 403(b) Tax Sheltered Annuity Plans, which requires, among other things that employers adopt a plan document that contains all of the material terms and conditions regarding 403(b) plans, including employee eligibility, limitations and benefits that the employee may be entitled to.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District hereby adopts the 403 (b) Retirement Plan Document attached to this document as Appendix "A."

Motion: Resnick
Second: Friedel
Discussion: None
Carried: 7-0

WHEREAS, the Onteora Central School District ("District") is a member/participant in the Dutchess Educational Health Insurance Consortium ("DEHIC"), which provides group heath insurance coverage for District employees; and

WHEREAS, membership in and the operations of DEHIC are controlled in accordance with DEHIC By-Laws and the terms and conditions of the DEHIC Trust Agreement between the member/participant's in DEHIC, including the District; and

WHEREAS, the Trust Agreement was recently amended to address issues of continuity of operations between the operational documents of DEHIC (the Trust Agreement and By-Laws) and to clarify various clauses contained in the Trust Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District hereby approves the Dutchess Educational Health Insurance Consortium Amended Trust Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the DEHIC Amended Trust Agreement.

Discussion: While Trustee Flayhan will vote yes for all of these items, she would like to request that important issues be presented separately from the Consent Agenda, and to place only routine agenda items on the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Resnick
Second: Friedel
Carried: 7-0

(End Of Consent Agenda)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee
Trustee Donna Flayhan reported on the Correction Action and Land Value memos. Trustee Flayhan also spoke about the bus run bids. President Legnini asked if the bus information was part of the Audit Committee report. After a lively discussion, President Legnini ordered a five-minute break (9:55 p.m.). The meeting convened again at 10:00 p.m. and continued with the following motions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to **Enter into Executive Session** (10:00 p.m.) to discuss personnel, student, contract issues, and Board of Education self-evaluation.

Motion: McGillicuddy
Second: Resnick
No discussion
Carried: 7-0

Motion to **Return from Executive Session** (11:20 p.m.)

Motion: Friedel
Second: Resnick
No discussion
Carried: 7-0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to **Adjourn** the meeting (11:21 p.m.)

Motion: Friedel
Second: Osmond
No discussion
Carried: 7-0

The following Agenda items were postponed due to bad weather:

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- Onteora Interim Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction, Sherry Sharpe
    - Math Appraisal, CDEP Update

Committees

- Communications Committee – Michelle Friedel
- Facilities Committee – Richard Wolff
- Green Committee – Laurie Osmond
- Policy Committee – Ann McGillicuddy
- Technology Committee – Maxanne Resnick

DISCUSSION

- Board Goals completion- Dr. Ford/ Board President Legnini
- Superintendent Mid-Year Evaluation Conference- Dr. Ford
- Pyramid Report – West Hurley Elementary School- Victoria McLaren
- Middle School- Trustee Resnick
- Budget- Board President Legnini
- Use of Onteora Central Schools for Emergency- Trustee Osmond
- Commitment to being thrifty- Trustee McGillicuddy
- Paper Recycling for Central Administration Offices- Trustee Osmond
- Speaker Series-Trustee Osmond
- Board Docs vs Google Docs – Trustee Osmond
- Elementary & Middle School/High School Dress Codes Update- Trustee Osmond
- Timeline for the replacement of the water tank and greensand filtration system- Trustee Osmond
- CSE/CPSE Chairpersons

POLICY RESOLUTIONS

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District hereby approve the Second Reading and Adoption of the following policies:

- #4212 ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

- #5621 ACCOUNTING OF FIXED ASSETS

OLD BUSINESS

Construction Manager for Auditorium Project
Audit Committee Recommendations

NEW BUSINESS

GOALS UPDATE

Complete Board Goals

BOARD MEMBER REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Superintendent's Cabinet Agenda
Seasonal Sports
Performance Contracts
Architectural Services
Infinite Campus
Special Education
Enrollment
KSQ Explanation of Needed Repairs

Minutes Recorded by: _____

Laurel Herdman
District Clerk