# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

## *M I N U T E S*

**SPECIAL MEETING**
**Tuesday, February 7, 2006**
**Phoenicia Elementary School**
**6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER** Trustee Patterson called the **REGULAR MEETING** to order at approximately 6:01 p.m.

**TOBACCO POLICY STATEMENT**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRESENT** Trustees Patterson, Vanacore, D'Orazio, Rosenfeld, Bernholz, O'Connor

**NOT PRESENT** Trustee Flournoy

**ALSO PRESENT** Superintendent, Justine Winters; School Business Administrator, Victoria McLaren; and approximately 0 visitors

**MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** Trustee D'Orazio moved to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION at approximately 6:05 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular individual and, if time permits, a student.
Trustee Bernholz seconded the Motion.
6 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

**MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION** Trustee Vanacore moved to return to REGULAR SESSION at approximately 7:10 p.m.
Trustee Patterson seconded the Motion.
6 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

Regular session called to order at approximately 7:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Trustee Bernholz moved to approve the following RESOLUTION:
**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held on January 31, 2006, are hereby approved as submitted.
Trustee D'Orazio seconded the Motion.
*Trustee O'Connor requested that the details of the update she gave on the Policy Committee be included in the minutes under Reports/Presentations*.
6 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

**WELCOME TO PHOENICIA ELEMENTARY** Phoenicia Elementary School Principal Linda Sella welcomed everyone to Phoenicia Elementary School and led the Board to visit the Head Start building for a tour conducted by Director Lynn O'Brophy. Upon their return

**SCHOOL**

Principal Sella remarked that Head Start is a great program, they are full and have a waiting list. The challenge is on for them to provide services for the greater Onteora School District.

She provided Board members with a packet containing the Phoenicia Elementary School's "Formula for Success".

**DISTRICT NEWS**

Superintendent Winters announced that:

- There is an art show of students' work at Ulster County Community College for the next few weeks The following are some of the students with work on display: Brianna Keller, Mason Duran, Aja Sherard, Emmie O'Connor, and Alex Wiltsie.
- There is an exciting staff development opportunity coming up that Deborah Fox has been working on with the principals. Deborah Fox reported that last summer we sent a team of 4 teachers to Columbia to the Teachers' College Reading and Writing Project and they came back so enthusiastic that they started a study group here in Phoenicia and approximately 14 teachers participated in a Fall study group. She was very excited to announce that a team of 16 teachers will be going to the February Institute and the hope is that they will come back just as enthusiastic and share all of the professional development that they get there. This was funded through a grant.
- Thank you to Phoenicia Elementary School, Kathy Neal and others for doing such a wonderful job for their hospitality and making the Board feel welcome.

**REPORT FROM 2005-2006 STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**

No Student Representative report was given in the absence of Louis Jargow.

**STUDENT COMMENT**

No student comment was made at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lisa Valvo spoke about the lawsuit against the District that was recently settled, her feelings about it, the Board's function as to policies, and her hopes that Cindy O'Connor's work and research will keep students safe in the future and provide them with the best learning environment they can have.

**REPORTS/ PRESENTATIONS**

- Audit Committee Report – Trustee Bernholz reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 7, at 8:30 a.m. with a snow date of March 14th.

- Communications Committee – Chairman Kathy Hochman introduced the committee members who were present and spoke about the newsletters sent out last year which received awards from New York Schools Public Relations Association:
  - An award of merit for overall graphics and design

- An award of excellence for the Community Newsletter – Spring Newsletter April 2005
- An award of excellence in writing for the article on our music program in the May 2005 newsletter

This year the Committee is looking at a communications program that will encompass how the District presents itself in all areas and how the various stakeholder groups receive the message from that presentation.

Some of the input gathered is included in the 5 broad areas which are included in the report:

1) Broadening the lines of communication with stakeholders
2) How the Board responds to communications they receive
   - How to make the public feel that they have been heard, that they are acknowledged and that what they said was important to the Board.
   - Acknowledging communications received on the next agenda
   - Commenting at next Board meeting which letters received some action
   - Creating a handout to be available at Board meetings that gives the public information on how we should communicate with the Board, the Principal or how to determine who is the correct person to contact
   - A flow chart of how to communicate with the Board was created and included in a newsletter last year and should be reissued each year
   - Improve communication with parents. Parents would like to have more opportunities to have orientations in the buildings and understand how the flow works in those buildings and also have the opportunity to meet with administrators so that they could put a face with the job.
3) Customer service – how we do business and what our business looks like to the outside world. There is a long list there, some as easy as consistency in how we answer our phones, to a logo with a tagline that we would use on our newsletter and all of our stationary.
4) We do have a District brochure which is very helpful for new families and local realtors.
5) Maximizing BOCES for projects so that we get 55.9% of the expenditure back.

The Committee would like to see Community events and to see the student events advertised more.

Trustee Patterson would like to have the Communications Committee return and make this an agenda item for discussion on February 28.

Trustee O'Connor brought up the need to include any of these ideas that it is decided to implement in the budget planning.

- Facilities Committee – Trustee Patterson reported that the first meeting was held February 6 and the history of the committee was discussed as well as where the committee wants to go and how they want to interact with the architects and construction manager. The next meeting is February 21 at 4:30 p.m. and the architects were invited to attend.

- Future of the District Commission – Trustee Vanacore reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2006.

- Policy Committee – Trustees O'Connor and Patterson reported that they will be scheduling the next meeting soon.

- Technology Committee – Trustee Vanacore reported that the next meeting will be February 27 at 3:45 p.m. in Central Administration. The committee is working on what will be happening after the budget presentation.

Trustee Flournoy arrived at approximately 7:55 p.m.

- Master Plan Update – Scott Hillje and Armand Quadrini, KSQ Architects
  - Current 2006-2006 School District Population
  - Historical Documentation of Past 10 Year Student Population
  - Design Population for Year 2011
  - Base-Line Plan: Year 2011 Pupil Distribution based on Current Grade Configuration
  - Onteora Enrollment Compared to Neighboring School Districts
  - Comparison of Neighboring School District Organization Methods
  - Observations of District Comparison Data
  - Overarching District "Values" …from Focus Group Meetings
  - Consider Alternative District Grade Configurations
  - Master Plan "A": Attributes and Concerns
  - Master Plan "B": Attributes and Concerns
  - Master Plan "C": Attributes and Concerns
  - Master Plans "D-F": Attributes and Concerns (Variations of the Princeton Plan)
  - Master Plans "G-H": Attributes and Concerns
  - Master Plan "I": Attributes and Concerns
  - Recommendations and Next Steps…
  - Discussion Schedule –
    - June 2006 Bond Referendum
    - November 2006 Bond Referendum
  - District-Wide Campus Site Plans
  - Base-Line Plan: Year 2011 Pupil Distribution based on Current Grade Configuration
  - Onteora Enrollment Compared to Neighboring School Districts
  - Comparison of Neighboring School District Organization Methods

- Consider Alternative District Grade Configurations
- June 2006 Bond Referendum
- November 2006 Bond Referendum

After many questions and much discussion, the Board reached consensus that the architects should proceed with their preliminary recommendation, Plan A, which was made concurrently with the administration.

PUBLIC COMMENT — Carol LaMonda, Middle School teacher and member of the Middle School Steering Committee, spoke about the Middle School Steering Committee's recommendations, which had been made previously, and which the Committee feels are crucial to the configuration that would best educate Middle School students and all students, pre-K through senior year at Onteora.

Trustee Patterson called for a five-minute break at approximately 9:40 p.m.

- BUDGET PRESENTATION – Victoria McLaren
  - Cafeteria (Food Service Department)
    - Current Staffing
    - How Many We Serve…
    - Proposed Equipment Purchase 2006-2007
    - Projected Sales Budget
    - Projected Expenditure Budget
  - Vending Machine – In response to a question about the status of the vending machine, Business Administrator Victoria McLaren reported that a life skills teacher volunteered to stock the machine in conjunction with the kitchen staff and that items to be in the machine will be decided on soon.

## DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2005-2006 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM OF THE ULSTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

Trustee Patterson moved to approve the following RESOLUTION:

- BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District adopt the 2005-2006 Legislative Program of the Ulster County School Boards Association. Specifically, we support:
  #1. Phasing out reliance on local property tax to provide a "sound basic education" state-wide in favor of a broader state-wide taxing system including income tax.
  #2. Achieving a timely plan to implement the recent Court of Appeals decision requiring all school districts to provide a sound basic education to all children in the State.
  #3. Revision of the Contingency Budget law to exclude increases in Special Education, energy expenses, and health costs for staff and retirees from the formula.
  #4. Continue and enhance BOCES Aid.
  #5. Wicks Law Reform

#6. Full funding of mandates.
#7. Legislation that provides full funding and supports legal reforms (including Triborough Amendment Reform) for the State's public schools to eliminate the need to fund Charter School initiatives.

Trustee Bernholz seconded the Motion.
*Discussion. John Hurld, Onteora's elected representative to BOCES was present and had attended the Ulster County School Boards Association meeting where this Legislative Program was discussed and adopted and he offered to provide any information he could. Trustee Rosenfeld had concerns about #7. He believes we should fund Charter School initiatives. Trustee Vanacore does not support how each of these issues are being addressed and she has concerns about #3 and #7. She would support the Contingency Budget to exclude energy expenses, but not anything else. She supports Charter School initiatives. Trustee Bernholz's understanding is that the vote is to support the Ulster County School Boards Association's taking action and sending responses to the legislators; not supporting the specific issues. Trustee Patterson noted that the Board supports these items with noted concerns and would like more information.*
Vote on each item individually:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #1. | 7 Yes | 0 No | |
| #2. | 7 Yes | 0 No | |
| #3. | 6 Yes | 0 No | Trustee Vanacore abstained. |
| #4. | 7 Yes | 0 No | |
| #5. | 7 Yes | 0 No | |
| #6. | 7 Yes | 0 NO | |
| #7. | 5 Yes | 2 No | Trustees Vanacore and Rosenfeld voted against #7. |

***CARRIED***

**PERSONNEL**

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE: INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULE Q #02/06**

Trustee Rosenfeld moved to approve the following RESOLUTION:
**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 request for LEAVE OF ABSENCE (Instructional) for the period indicated:

| EMPLOYEE NUMBER | EFFECTIVE DATE FROM – TO | REASON |
|---|---|---|
| #1643 | 1/18/06 – 2/6/06 | Medical – Paid; Family Medical Leave |

Trustee Bernholz seconded the Motion.
*Discussion.*
7 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

**APPOINTMENT(S): INSTRUCTIONAL SCHEDULE N #02/06**

**D. PER DIEM SUBSTITUTE**

Trustee Rosenfeld moved to approve the following RESOLUTION:

**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 INSTRUCTIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

**D. PER DIEM SUBSTITUTE(S)**

| NAME | CERTIFICATION | SALARY |
|---|---|---|
| Bruck, Mary | Uncertified Substitute Teacher | $85/day |

Trustee Bernholz seconded the Motion.
7 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

**BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

**MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BOCES CONTRACT WITH TIME WARNER FOR THE PROVISION OF A WIDE AREA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

Trustee Rosenfeld moved to approve the following RESOLUTION:
**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District hereby approves the following RESOLUTION:

**WHEREAS**, the Ulster County Board of Cooperative Educational Services received bids from various contractors to provide a wide area communications network among school districts and BOCES in Ulster County; and

**WHEREAS**, Time Warner Cable has been selected as the Contractor to provide the wide area communications network in accordance with the pricing schedule attached hereto; and

**WHEREAS**, a wide area communications network will provide the School district with faster, more efficient internet access, voice and data transmission enabling the District to better serve its students; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to participate in the project with Ulster County BOCES and other participating school districts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

1. That the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District participate in the contract between Ulster County BOCES and Contractor for the provision of a wide area communications network among BOCES and other participating component school districts in Ulster County.

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Onteora Central School District.
Trustee Bernholz seconded the Motion.
7 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was introduced at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Trustee Vanacore asked if the press releases should be discussed with the Communications Committee and asked if it would be possible that our newsletter or a newspaper column include more detail about bullet items like the possibility of the football team not having a varsity team.

**BOARD MEMBERS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

Trustee Flournoy inquired as to the band width on the Time Warner contract.

Trustee Bernholz would like a quarterly report on the CDEP staff development after the February 17 staff development day.

Trustee Patterson wants the same opportunity for access for each child at each level of the school as far as the technology report and the budget process.

Trustee Rosenfeld would like to have a discussion on how technology will be used in teaching and learning. He will send around to the Board an article about constructivist learning and technology for a future agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Friedel asked when the hearing is going to be held on the football program that was tabled last time. Trustee D'Orazio requested that if the administration is going to recommend the temporary abolishment of the varsity program that it should be made separately from it being eliminated as a line item in the athletic budget so that people who are concerned about it could be heard. Superintendent Winters suggested that this be put on the agenda for the February 28th Board meeting.

Frank Nazzaro, President of the local "Heart of the Catskills" Chamber of Commerce, commented on tax increases and the negative impact on local businesses.

Trustee D'Orazio read questions from Maxanne Resnick, who was unable to stay for Public Comment. She questioned Plan A as it relates to class sizes and the maximum number of students per class and per grade in all buildings. She also questioned how the Board can consider the varied plans without considering any financial implications.

**MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Trustee Vanacore moved to enter into EXECUTIVE SESSION at approximately 10:36 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular person.
Trustee Bernholz seconded the Motion.
7 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

**MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

Trustee Patterson moved to return to REGULAR SESSION at approximately 11:00 p.m.
Trustee Vanacore seconded the Motion.
7 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

**ADJOURNMENT** Trustee Patterson moved to adjourn at approximately 11:01 p.m.
Trustee Bernholz seconded the Motion.
7 Yes 0 No
***CARRIED***

Recorded by: _____
Justine C. Winters
Clerk Pro Tem

Recorded by: _____
Jeanne Shultis
District Clerk