

Beekmantown Central School District

Board of Education Meeting

Place: **MS/HS Library**

April 21, 2009

Minutes

Call to Order

President Stan Kourofsky called the meeting to order at 6:16 pm and George Palmer led the pledge of allegiance.

Members Present

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guy Falcon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathan Bull, Ex-Officio, Student Board Member | | |

Others Present

Present

Absent

Scott Amo, Superintendent
Ron Clamser, Business Manager
Joanne Menard, District Clerk

Visitors

Visitors

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Ed Marin | Marissa Hoogkamp | Sheila Bull |
| Robert King | Carole Race | Jane Donahue |
| Paul Wnuk | Patty Gallagher | Tracy Downey |
| Ricki Marin | Lucy Giroux | Kathleen Hay |
| Constance Sullivan | Jackie Wnuk | Renee Wooster |
| Sharon Roraback | Susan King | Cathy Buckley |
| Richelle Beach | Simone Lutz | Paula Brockway |

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Richard LaVigne, seconded by Kathleen Grinberg-Funes and unanimously carried that the Board of Education approve the agenda.

Public Comment

Public Comment

Jane Donahue addressed the Board and expressed her dissatisfaction over the newspaper accounts of the tenure and resignation events of elementary principal Sandra Gardner. She also expressed her concerns regarding Board attendance at conferences and its reliance on a core group of individuals in making a tenure consideration.

Paul Wnuk explained to the Board that as a parent of two children attending Beekmantown Elementary School, he believed the elementary principal was doing an excellent job teaching children to read. He questioned why Mrs. Gardner's resignation would be accepted and stated that doing so would be bullying and Board members should resign. He also stated his opinion that the district would be better off without the Superintendent and Board.

Patrick Sullivan said he has three children, two of them in the elementary building. He stated the public presentation the Superintendent and Business Manager gave at the last meeting was quite well done. He indicated that School Board members are elected but that a recall vote can have them removed. He asked that the school be run without secrets from the public.

Ricki Marin addressed the Board as a parent and community member requesting a voice vote on Sandra Gardner's resignation.

Rachelle Beach addressed the Board as a parent and community member. She expressed that if her children had a teacher who went above and beyond and challenged them, made them think hard, praised their work, she would praise the teacher. Yet, someone was asked to resign instead. She also commented on her children having witnessed adult role models bullying, and using abusive power and intimidation.

Spotlight on Education

Topic: Revised District Website

Presenters: Gary Lambert,
Educational Technology Coordinator

Spotlight on
Education
Revised District
Website

Supt. Amo introduced Gary Lambert, Educational Technology Coordinator. Mr. Lambert gave a PowerPoint presentation and showed the new District website which was launched on April 9, 2009.

Mr. Lambert informed the Board the first website was launched in 1998 and now we are at version 4.0. The reasons for the change was better tools for managing the website, tools district-wide for teachers which allowed features teachers requested but the district couldn't provide, end of 3-year cycle with School Center who hosted teacher pages, and an opportunity to see if the money could be used in better ways.

The District has over 1,000 District and school pages, 630 faculty pages and the website grows 25-30 pages each month. The District-Wide looked at decentralization, consistency and cost effectiveness. The cost for School Center was \$5,300, which only hosted teacher pages. For \$300 more, teachers and staff pages are hosted which now includes more features.

Features to the site are unlimited pages for the calendar, slideshows, rich text editor, message board, online polls, homework, form maker, news, web resources, email center, quiz maker, puzzle maker & word searches, and 79 great designs. The timetable used was evaluation, design approval, conversion of district and faculty pages, presentations to staff on changes, training of staff during staff development and launching the new site on 4/9/09.

Goals were easier navigation, design consistency, expanded content, and enhanced communications.

Mr. Lambert showed the new website.

Reports

Reports

Scott Amo, Superintendent of Schools reported that the book entitled *Pine Tree Art Collection*, which was published in Burlington, NC features entries by students in the district.

Ron Clamser, Business Manger reported that the financial reports are behind schedule due to the hiring of a new treasurer; therefore, there was no Audit Committee this month.

Nathan Bull, Ex-Officio, Student Board Member reported the election results for the senior class officers for 2009-2010 school year:

- President – Brent Palmer
- Vice-President – Brittany Lapham
- Secretary – Matthew Durocher
- Treasurer – Ben Smith
- At Large – Kelsey Barnes

Brent Palmer will replace Nathan Bull as the Ex-Officio, Student Board Member effective 7/1/09.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes

It was moved by Richard LaVigne, seconded by Kathleen Grinberg-Funes and unanimously carried, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education held on:

4/7/09 Board of Education Meeting

CSE Recommendations

New Business
CSE Recommendations

It was moved by Richard LaVigne, seconded by Steve Trombley, and unanimously carried that the Board of Education approves the CSE recommendations dated 4/21/09.

Resignations

Personnel

Resignation

It was moved by Kathleen Grinberg-Funes, seconded by Frank Hay and unanimously carried, that the two resignations be separated with a roll-call vote on each.

It was moved by Richard LaVigne, seconded by Steve Trombley and roll-call voted that the Board of Education accept the following resignation on the date indicated:

Bouchard, Susan

Name	Position	Effective Date
Bouchard, Susan	Typist (10 month)	4/24/09

The roll call vote was as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guy Falcon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky |

Dr. Palmer expressed thanks to the elementary principal for a number of accomplishments that he read and wished her success.

Frank Hay expressed his regrets and stated Mrs. Gardner was an outstanding principal.

Gardner, Sandra

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes stated she would support Mrs. Gardner's decision to resign and read a prepared statement.

Name	Position	Effective Date
Gardner, Sandra	Principal	7/01/09

The roll call vote was as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guy Falcon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky |

*Appointments
Permanent Civil
Service
Beshon, Michael*

Appointments

It was moved by Richard LaVigne, seconded by Leonard King and unanimously carried, that the Board of Education approve the following *permanent Civil Service* appointment as indicate

Name	Civil Service Title	Probationary Period	Initial Board Meeting	Permanent Date
Beshon, Michael	Bus Driver	10/29/08 – 5/04/09	10/28/08	5/05/09

Election Inspectors

It was moved by Richard LaVigne, seconded by Karen Armstrong and unanimously carried, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the following appointments for the May 19, 2009 Annual Meeting:

Name	Appointment	Rate
Bailey, Kim	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.
Bull, Sheila	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.
Carriere, Dora	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.
Deming, Cynthia	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.
Gonyo, Bonnie	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.
Hicks, Jennifer	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.
Jennette, Barbara	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.
Lushia, Evelyn	Election Inspector	-0-
Pelkey, Danelle	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.
Watts, Farole	Election Inspector	\$12.00/hr.

*Substitute
Appointments*

It was moved by Richard LaVigne, seconded by Steve Trombley and unanimously carried, that the Board of Education approve the following *substitute* appointments beginning on the date indicated:

Name	Substitute	Effective Date
Buckman, David	Non-Instructional	4/27/09
Bailey, Todd	Instructional	4/27/09
Rascoe, Theresa	Instructional & Non-Instructional	4/27/09
Wisowaty, Toni	Instructional	4/27/09

Miscellaneous

Proposition
Board of Education
Election
(Petitions)

It was moved by Steve Trombley, seconded by Leonard King and roll-call voted, that the Board of Education recommends to the voters of the District at the Annual District Meeting on May 19, 2009 the following proposition:

Proposition – Board of Education Election

Acceptance of five (5) petitions as listed below to fill two (2) expired five-year terms (7/1/09 to 6/30/14) and one unexpired term from 5/19/09 to 6/30/12 on the Board of Education.

*Ed Marin
Joe Lavorando, Sr.
Carole Race
Cathy Buckley
Pauline Stone*

The roll call vote was as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guy Falcon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky |

Carole Race, Cathy Buckley, and Ed Marin were present at the meeting and introduced themselves.

Policies

Policies

It was moved by Richard LaVigne, seconded by Leonard King and unanimously carried, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the following policies:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Policy #</u>
Relations with Parents’ Organizations	1221 (Final)
Relationship with Booster Organizations	1222 (Final)
Relationship with NonPublic Schools	1740 (Final)
Communication Among Individual Board Members	2710 (Final)
Disclosure of Wrongful Conduct	9645 (Final)

Financial

Donation

It was moved by Leonard King, seconded by Richard LaVigne, and roll-call voted, that the Board of Education accept the following donation and approve amending the District budget to be increased in the amount of \$868.

From	For	Amount
Cumberland Head PTO	Musical Instruments	\$868

The roll call vote was as follows:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley
<input type="checkbox"/> Guy Falcon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky

It was moved by Steve Trombley, seconded by Frank Hay and roll-call voted, that the Board of Education recommends to the voters of the District at the Annual District Meeting on May 19, 2009 the following proposition:

*Adoption of
2009-2010 Budget*

Adoption of the 2009-2010 Budget

Resolved, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed 2009-2010 school budget in the amount of \$37,055,620.

The roll call vote was as follows:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley
<input type="checkbox"/> Guy Falcon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky

Additional Items to Discuss

*CVES Tentative
Administrative
Budget & Board
Candidates*

- *CVES Tentative Administrative Budget and Board Candidates*

The Board President reminded the Board that a meeting is scheduled on 4/23/09 @ 7:00 pm in the Superintendent's Office to Vote on CVES tentative administrative budget and Board Candidates

Advisory Solutions

- *Advisory Solutions – Demographics/Enrollment Projection, Facilities Capacity Study & Analysis Report*

The District is waiting for more information before deciding on Advisory Solutions Proposal – Demographics/Enrollment Projection, Facilities Capacity Study & Analysis Report.

Budget Vote

- *Budget Vote*

New time for voting on 5/19/09 is 11:00 am to 8:00 pm.

Media Policy

- *Media Policy*

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes requested the Board review the Media Policy with respect to things which appeared in the newspaper. Said policy to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Prom

- *Prom May 16, 2009*

Discussion next followed on the Junior Prom and who will be attending. Names were given to the District Clerk.

Public Comment

Public Comment

Jackie Wnuk, President of the BE FSO as well as a substitute employee addressed the Board. She brought a flyer to the Boards attention, which was passed out to staff on Friday, which stated: *Faculty & Staff Get Together, It's time to bring fun back to BES. Lets all get together for a fun evening of conversations, laughs and a few cocktails. Get ready to party.* See questioned what the celebration was about.

Constance Sullivan parent and substitute teacher aide addressed the Board why problems perceived between the faculty and principal have not been worked out. She stated she was shunned at work by some teachers due to her statement about the elementary principal. The elementary principal was directly involved in solving a problem with her son. She believes the elementary principal walks a fine line of professionalism and being personable. She expressed disappointment in herself for not getting involved and indicated she will be now.

Jane Donahue again addressed the Board and stated the year before she left the Board of Education, the New York State School Boards gave a workshop on the responsibility of being a Board member. The majority of the Board did not want NYSSBA to come back.

Patrick Sullivan again addressed the Board and commented directly to the Superintendent and Business Manger echoing the statement that they are doing an excellent job with challenges facing the District and the financial landscape. As we entertain new members on the Board, the Superintendent and Business Manager will function a lot more successfully. Need to look at public at large. He commented that this is a democracy, that's why there are so many opinions.

Sherry Kourofsky, a teacher not in the district, expressed concerns that the FSO President would have the opinion stated earlier. She encouraged the FSO to represent the school and work with the teachers. She also commented that information in the flyers made no reference to the elementary principal. She stated she was impressed by the presentation on the website as being one of the best ones she has ever seen. She believes the school is going in right, positive direction.

Ricki Marin thanked the Board for the roll-call vote on the resignation as it demonstrated everyone was not on the same page. The elementary principal is being railroad and the Board acknowledge everything we believed was true. She also commented on being told the FSO is not part of the school. It is a separate organization representing parents and what they believe. Also, we cannot use Beekmantown Elementary School in anything we do.

Adjournment

It was moved by Leonard King, seconded by Frank Hay and unanimously carried, that the meeting be adjourned. Time 7:39 pm.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted
Joanne Menard, District Clerk