

**Beekmantown Central School District
Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Minutes

Place: MS/HS Library

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Time: 5:30 pm

Agenda

1. Call to Order

at: 5:33 pm

By: Kathleen Grinberg-Funes

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

Karen Armstrong

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes

George Palmer

Jane Donahue

Frank Hay

Holly Sims

Marilyn Dwyer

Stan Kourofsky

Steve Trombley

Emily Dyer, Ex-Officio, Student Board Member

C. Other

1. Resolved, that the Board of Education acknowledges Holly Sims resignation as a Board Member of the Beekmantown Central School District (term expires 2008) effective January 4, 2006.

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes informed the public that the board can appoint a new board member, and that this item will be discussed under additional items later in this meeting.

2. Resolved that the Board of Education rescind the appointment of James Christie as the District Clerk of the Board of Education effective January 10, 2006.

Motion: F.H. Seconded: K.A. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

NOTE: Kathleen Grinberg-Funes informed everyone that James Christie is available on a per diem basis if the district needs and that he has obtained a position at another school district in Long Island.

3. Clerk of the Board

Resolved that the Board of Education appoint Jennifer Hicks to serve as the District Clerk of the Board of Education during the 2005-2006 fiscal year for an annual stipend of \$4,866 with an indemnity amount of \$100,000 effective January 10, 2006.

Motion: S.T. Seconded: G.P. Yes: 7 No: 1 (S.K.) Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

NOTE: Stan Kourofsky questioned if this was an interim position and who approached Jennifer Hicks in regards to this position, and Superintendent Sposato commented that Jennifer Hicks was approached by him in regards to helping out at least through the end of the school 05-06 year and that Jennifer Hicks agreed.

4. Administration of Oath

Joseph Lavorando, School Attorney, administers Oath of Faithful Performance in Office to Jennifer Hicks, District Clerk.

5. Records Access Officer

- a. Resolved that the Board of Education rescind the appointment of James Christie as Records Access Officer effective January 10, 2006.

Motion: F.H. Seconded: K.A. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

- b. Resolved that the Board of Education appoint Jennifer Hicks as Records Access Officer of this District during the 2005-2006 fiscal year effective January 10, 2006 at no additional salary.

Motion: F.H. Seconded: G.P. Yes: 7 No: 1 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

NOTE: Joe Lavorando left the meeting at 6:12 pm

D. Attendees

Also Present:

Mark Sposato Elizabeth Brasacchio
Sue Coonrod Leonard King
Sandra Gardner Patience Landry
Dan Hobbs Robert King
Don Strong Chari Racine
Garth Frechette John Quilliam
Doug Rogers Marlene Rollier
Jeannine Kerr Lucy Giroux
Kevin Hebert Jennifer Hicks

Visitors:

Laura Fountain Claribell Lapier Jerry Deno
Susan King Cindy Brean Gail Giroux
John Trombley Esther Baker Linda Wicikowski
Ronald Howard Carlton Kelley Debbie Mesec
Sharon Nephew Terry Hicks James Chauvin
Dennis Seymour Carole Provost Doris Seymour
Renee Wooster Kathy Hay Patty Gallagher
Judy Paquette Richard LaVigne Karen LaVarnway-Ales
Gary Lambert Joe Lavorando

E. Executive Session (To discuss a particular person or person's employment history.)

In: 5:44 PM Motion: K.A. Seconded: S.K. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Out: 6:14 PM Motion: M.D. Seconded: F.H. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

F. Board of Education Open Forum

6:15 pm – 6:45 pm

During this forum, the public is invited to discuss any topic with the Board of Education based upon ground rules provided.

A letter from Sandra Gardner RE: the death of Ryan Sears was read by Kathleen Grinberg-Funes. She asked to lower the flag at half mast, and held a moment of silence.

The Board President gave the guidelines on how to hold open forum. It was reiterated by Marilyn Dwyer.

- Marilyn Dwyer started by handing out guidelines for the open forum. As of the next open forum session there will be index cards for individuals to put their names, addresses, phone number and questions and comments on for easier follow up.
- Community member Dan Drown asked if there wasn't a school physician in the district.
- Kathleen Grinberg-Funes addressed this question and answered that there are school nurses on site and that a physician was being appointed at tonight's board meeting.
- Community member Dan Drown asked if the defaults in the track were fixed and if it had been fully paid for. He referenced specifically the dip in the number three turn that needed repair.
- Kathleen Grinberg-Funes and Dr. Mark Sposato both addressed this question. It was indicated that the track is paid for and that it has had repairs. The dip in the number three turn had not been fully repaired, and that in order to complete that repair the district may have to wait for better weather conditions to do so. Information in regards to this would be sought from the Superintendent of Building and Grounds, Don Strong.
- Community member Dan Drown addressed the issue of transportation of students to and from sporting activities, specifically that they were only being transported to the event, not returning by bus.
- Kathleen Grinberg Funes addressed this topic. The Superintendent, Dr. Mark Sposato would be addressing this at tonight's board meeting due to it being an issue that has been brought up at previous board meetings. Some of the reasons that the choice had been made to transport students to the events, but not to return them were the cost savings, and our retirement rates are going up again. There was only one known complaint made by parents in regards to this so far. The issue of rising fuel costs and the impact on spring events, the district is trying to save now. Another factor of saving costs was that bus drivers would not be retained on site during the event and paying them an hourly rate to do so.

- Community member Dan Drown asked if there was no Athletic Director on staff, where was the money for this salary going. He also asked why the money wasn't going to the athletic department.
- Kathleen Grinberg-Funes acknowledged the importance of sports in education and indicated that it cost the district nearly \$2,000,000.00 a year for athletics. Kathleen noted that a teacher on special assignment is filling the position on an interim basis, but that the search for this position is ongoing. Karen Armstrong commented on transferring monies from salary code to salary code is acceptable. Karen commented that she would need to check to see if transferring of monies from salary to actual costs for transportation is legal, but believes it is not legal.
- Marilyn Dwyer asked if we could follow up with Head Bus Driver, Dan Hobbs, at another time in regards to the transportation issue so that others could have floor time.
- Community Member Jerry Deno commented that he was not in favor of leaving students at the sporting events.
- Kathleen Grinberg-Funes responded that the coaches were keeping an eye on the situation and reporting to the acting Athletic Director, Greg Myers, so that these issues could be addressed and solved.
- Community Member Jerry Deno asked why the buses drive around back instead of letting all out front, to save on gas and prevent students from being late for first period.
- Kathleen Grinberg-Funes responded that Jerry was not the first person to comment about this and that this issue is being looked at.
- Community Member Jerry Deno asked about the West Chazy Library and if it was owned by the district and if it was being heated and if there were any ways to improve upon that.
- Superintendent of Building and Grounds Don Strong responded that the building has separate zones, that the library is being heated, and there is low heat in the building to keep the pipes from freezing. Kathleen Grinberg-Funes asked Don Strong if he could follow up with Jerry at a later time to address the rest of his questions in regards to the West Chazy Building.
- Community member Richard LaVignee asked if there was a specific number to call if there was a complaint about athletics.
- Kathleen Grinberg-Funes responded that the coach is to be notified first, and if not satisfied with that to contact Greg Myers.
- Community member Richard Lavigne commented that he did not believe the board has enough knowledge of what is going on inside of the buildings. He said he believes that the board is the only one that should be making decisions.
- Kathleen Grinberg-Funes thanked him for his comment.

Recess: 5 minutes at 6:55pm

2. Presentation

Retirement Plaques

Presenter: Kathleen Grinberg-Funes

Name	Area	Total Years of Service
Gengenbach, Donna	School Nurse Teacher	14
Marx, Lorna	School Counselor	19
Defayette, Arlene	Cook-Manager	22

Donna Genenbach was unable to attend, worked for the district for 14 yrs.

Lorna Marx, worked for the district for 19 years, was able to attend and accepted her plaque.

Arlene Defayette was unable to attend, worked for the district for 22 years.

3. Spotlight on Education

Topic: Reauthorization of IDEA

Presenter: Karen Glushko

All board members were given copies of the Powerpoint presentation and the NYSED info on VESID. These materials are in the backup folder to this board meeting. Presenter Karen Glushko reviewed the reauthorized IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) changes in NYS regulations, and focused specifically on learning disabilities. Karen also offered information on how a learning disability is determined. The broad implications of this act are to apply research based criteria prior to classifying children.

(20 Minute Discussion)

4. Public Comment (5 minutes)

Bob Fuller president of Beekmantown Music Alliance, commented that an additional amount of \$2000 to \$5000 be budgeted annually for costs not able to be met by parents for instruments, risers, and grant applications. Bob Fuller asked that the Board Members value the significance of music for the students. Kathleen Grinberg-Funes received the request from the Beekmantown Music Association and stated that it would be forwarded for consideration during the budget propositions.

5. Reports/Presentations

A. Superintendent's Report – Dr. Mark A. Sposato

Former Business Administrator is available on an as needed basis. He has obtained a position in Long Island. We are currently interviewing and hoping to have a recommendation by February.

Mr. Hobbs and building administrators are looking at the process of dropping off and picking up the students in the parking lot.

Budget process and procedures for purchasing with requisition forms have been reviewed. The software package, Finance Manager is being utilized to approximately 90% of capacity.

Dodge Library: There were questions in regards to the documentation received including its Charter; legal advice is being sought, in anticipation of releasing budgeted funds to the library before the February 2006 board of education meeting.

Karen Armstrong asked about whether or not we would be utilizing Finance Manager for the purchasing and requisitions, and Superintendent Sposato commented that Finance Manager modules for this function are being implemented.

B. Business Administrator's Report – Dr. Mark A. Sposato

None at this time

C. Board Committee Reports

1. Finance Committee Report – Kathleen Grinberg-Funes and Frank Hay

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes reported that policies, procedures and comptroller rules have been reviewed with respect to Extra Curricular Accounts. Patience Landry provided the committee with status of operations, and needs were reported to the superintendent.

2. Policy Committee Report – Stan Kourofsky

New start for naming the facilities, meeting on 1/9/06 was cancelled not yet rescheduled.

3. Public Relations Committee – Marilyn Dwyer and Steve Trombley

Marilyn Dwyer had new attendees at last meeting held on 1/9/06. Discussed the guidelines for the open forum. Full circle recognition program, looking to make a recommendation on this. Would like to have an open house to show off our new facilities. Would like to do it the first week in May, and will need a separate committee to do this. Possibly set up guided tours to highlight some of our areas. The goal is to get community members inside our facility. Will further discuss this with Superintendent Sposato and Administrators to develop a date to have this. No one has offered to chair the alumni association.

4. Ex-Officio – Student Board Member – Emily Dyer

Not present.

6. Minutes

- A. Resolved that the Board of Education does hereby approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education held on:

December 13, 2005 (Regular Meeting)

Motion: K.A. Seconded: J.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

- B. Resolved, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the following subcommittee minutes as indicated:

Finance Committee	Policy Committee	PR Committee
11/29/05	12/12/05	11/28/05
Motion: M.D. Seconded: J.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (<u>Accept</u> Reject Table)		

7. Unfinished Business

Transportation issues and athletic events. Superintendent Sposato read a letter from Greg Myers that parents were pleased with his action to be proactive in his response to their problems. At last board meeting Karen Armstrong, made it known she is not in approval of the practice of the students being left at sporting events. Karen commented on the need to make the budget transfers to cover the necessary costs to stop this practice. Karen feels that the district is putting the children at risk with this practice. This practice was not approved by the board. Stan Kourofsky also addressed that this practice is not acceptable with him as well. Prior to this practice the coaches used to ride the bus, but now do not. It was understood that the students must ride the bus to the event. Frank Hay stated that the coach should be meeting the team where the students are loading the bus, and follow the bus to the event. Stan Kourofsky wants to know if this is a trial practice, if so when will it end? Stan is looking into further information as to the students being at risk. This topic will need to be reported to Greg Myers immediately and specifics will need to be submitted. This item will also be addressed at the BOE annual retreat on 1/18/06. George Palmer asked would it now be a policy that students must ride the bus back and students be picked up at the school, and that sometimes when the buses return to the school the bus return empty with sometimes no more than the coaches on board? Kathleen Grinberg-Funes said that if we need to transport students to and from we must include hockey, and Marilyn Dwyer commented that this should also include musical events. Dr. Sposato suggested that we consulted with our insurance company and stated that doing this practice was acceptable. Changes in current practice will be investigated.

8. New Business

A. CSE Recommendations

Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the approval of the CSE recommendations dated 1/10/06.

Motion: J.D. Seconded: M.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

B. Personnel

1. Resignations

Resolved, that the Superintendent of School recommends to the Board of Education to accept the following resignation on the date indicated.

Name	Position	Effective Date
Justin Burke	Computer Lab Assistant	1/20/06
Motion: M.D. Seconded: J.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (<u>Accept</u> Reject Table)		

The District is looking into filling this position with Civil Service.

2. Appointments

- a. Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the following substitute appointment beginning on the date indicated:

Name	Substitute	Effective Date
Nichols, Michael	Custodial Worker	1/11/06

Motion: J.D. Seconded: M.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

- b. Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to appoint the following Civil Service probationary appointments as indicated:

Name	Title	Probationary Period	Salary	Contract
*Ferris, Jo Ann	Custodial Worker	1/11/06 -7/10/06	\$14,062	12 months
*Hewson, James	Custodial Worker	1/11/06 -7/10/06	\$14,062	12 months

* Pending Fingerprinting Clearance

Motion: M.D. Seconded: J.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

- c. Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to change the appointments of Sue King and Betty Glennon as provisional school lunch cashiers effective 9/6/05 (pending civil service competitive exam) from the Board meeting dated 8/31/05 to that of a Food Service Helper effective 12/22/05 with no change in hourly rate.

Motion: S.T. Seconded: F.H. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Jane Donahue questioned why this date is going back to 12/22/05? Superintendent Sposato explained that this was a civil service issue. Jeannine Kerr commented that this was a request by the employees.

- d. Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to appoint the following civil service positions effective 12/22/05 as indicated with no change in hourly rate:

Name	Hours Per Day		Total Hours
	*School Lunch Cashiers	Food Service Helpers	
*Garsow, Debra	2	3	5
*Brean, Cindy	4	2	6
*LaBier, Susan	3	3	6
*Beshon, Robin	2	3.5	5.5
*Winterbottom, Anne	2	3.5	5.5
Lester, Colleen	3.5	0.5	4

* Provisional appointment pending civil service competitive exam.

Motion: G.P. Seconded: F.H. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

3. Unpaid Leave (None at this time.)
4. Termination (None at this time.)
5. Intent to Retire (None at this time.)
6. Child Rearing Leave (None at this time.)
7. Tenure (None at this time.)

8. Elimination of Position (None at this time.)

C. **Policy** (None at this time.)

D. **Miscellaneous**

Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to appoint Roger E. Patnode, M.D., of Plattsburgh Primary Care Health Partners (159 Margaret St., Suite 103, Plattsburgh) as the School Physician for the 2005-2006 school year for a monthly stipend of \$1,000 for on-call availability and telephone consultation services and a charge of \$100 per hour for any on-site school services effective January 11, 2006.

Motion: F.H. Seconded: M.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Jane Donahue asked who would be present at football games, and Superintendent Sposato answered that the physician would not be there. There are trainers present at games that are certified. This is a cost savings over prior physicians by approximately \$15,000. Marilyn Dwyer asked if the physicians' practice would be willing to come back for next year also, and Superintendent Sposato stated that they have expressed an interest to continue on after the end of this year. Stan Kourofsky wanted to know why the board is not signing off on the Physicians contract. The Superintendent reminded Board of Education that in the past there was no contract for the school physician, it was just a written agreement. Amend the motion to accept the changes as the final documentation as reviewed by school attorney and presented at this BOE meeting.

Motion: F.H. Seconded: M.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Financial

A. Resolved, that the Board of Education accepts the following reports:

Appropriation Status Report – (None at this time.)

Treasurer's Revenue Report – (None at this time.)

Treasurer's Monthly Report – (None at this time.)

Trial Balance – (None at this time.)

Warrant Report – (None at this time.)

Extra-Curricular Activities Account – (None at this time.)

B. Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to approve the payment for health service fees to the Plattsburgh City School District for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount of \$25,067.84 for 62 students @ \$404.32 per pupil.

Motion: J.D. Seconded: M.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

NOTE: Jane Donahue asked what the increase is from last year for this.

10. **Capital Project** (None at this time.)

11. **Additional Items to Discuss**

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes stated that a collection is being taken for Mary Fogarty, a long time election inspector for the district. The monies will be given to the charity designated for the estate.

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes gave all board members the School Business Management Evaluation Checklist and information on the open meetings law.

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes stated a decision needs to be made about filling the vacancy of Holly Simms. Kathleen handed out material in reference to the appointment of the vacancy. It was decided to go further with the discussion of what to do about the vacancy. Frank Hay suggested we run an ad for this vacancy. At the end of the school year there will be two vacancies, one will be Holly's seat and the other is Marilyn Dwyer. It was decided that the issue would be tabled for further discussion at the Board retreat scheduled for January 17, 2006.

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes also stated that it needs to be decided if our Board of Education should go to two meetings a month with full board as other school districts do to get all of the work done. It was suggested that one meeting would be used to address the public issues and the other would be used for strictly business.

George Palmer presented the idea of sending Holly Simms a plaque as well as a letter for her board service.

12. Public Comment (5 minutes)
None made

13. Executive Session (If needed.)

In: 9:08 pm Motion: M.D. Seconded: F.H. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Out: 11:15 pm Motion: G.P. Seconded: M.D. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

14. Adjournment: 11:16 pm

Motion: S.T. Seconded: F.H. Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

DATE: _____

ATTEST: _____
DISTRICT CLERK