

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
410 West Sullivan Street
Olean, NY 14760

Special Meeting
February 16, 2012

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the City School District of Olean, NY was held on Thursday, February 16, 2012, at 7:32 p.m. at the Olean High School Auditorium, located at 410 West Sullivan Street, Olean, NY. The meeting was called to order by Eric Garvin, President of Board, with a moment of silent prayer or a moment of personal reflection. Dan Harris led the Board of Education in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENT: Eric Garvin, President
Ira Katzenstein, Vice President
John Bartimole
Laurie Branch
Gordon E. Cross
Dan Harris
Paul Knieser
Michael Martello
James Padlo

ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools
Kathleen Elser, Business Administrator
Vicki Zaleski-Irizarry, District Clerk

OTHERS: See attached sign in list

Moved by L. Branch, seconded by I. Katzenstein, to approve the proposed Meeting Agenda.

Agenda Approval

Ayes 7

Nays 0

Motion Carried

Public Comments:

Public Comments

Ted Grau, 231 N. 3rd Street – questioned where the Business Administrator got her projected declining enrollment figures. From the research he has conducted, enrollment has remained steady. Pre kindergarten enrollment is increasing and teen pregnancy is on the rise which means enrollment will be increasing. Based on the cost to education per student (IJN is \$9,120, WW is \$8,746, EV is \$11,215, and BV is \$11,114), Mr. Grau does not see any reason to close an efficient school such as IJN. He encouraged the District to bring in more revenue, examine state aid, the Governor's executive budget and ask for an aid increase.

Pam Neary, 427 2nd Avenue – noted the community is facing budget deficits and will be "touched" in some way – each will lose "something" that is held near and dear to our hearts. Neighborhood schools have been a second home for some staff and parents and generations of students. People will lose their jobs and will affect the economy of our community. Olean's ability to provide a stellar education could be diminished. The OTA kept the economy and budget in mind during last negotiations by a less costly prescription plan which resulted in considerable savings to the District and froze their salary schedule to help reduce costs. The budget crisis cannot be solved by concessions from the three unions represented by teachers, administrators, and support personnel. Albany needs to change the funding formula for education. Public outcry should be directed at the governor and legislature of NYS who are inadequately funding public education for political gain. OTA's commitment is and always will be what is best for the students and families of the community. Mrs. Neary urged everyone to call our legislator and tell them to stop playing games with our children's future.

Richard Frost, 211 W. Water Street – there will be a \$3,400,000 budget deficit for the 2012-2013 school year. Questioned how much the deficit will be over the next two years? President Garvin noted that the issue will be addressed in Kathy Elser's presentation later in the meeting.

Communication, Commendations:

Communications Commendations

- a. The Olean Lions Club pays for the National Association of School Nurses membership for District nurses. The membership enables the nurses to offer gift certificates for free eye exams and glasses for the uninsured and underinsured in our district. 13 Olean students have received certificates for free eye exams this year. The Lions Club support is greatly appreciated.
- b. Olean High School has two SECTION VI wrestling champions and three wrestlers headed to the NYS championships in Albany. Congratulations to the following: Senior, Jake Baer, SECTION VI champion state representative; Sophomore, Drew Marra, SECTION VI champion state representative; and Senior, Marcus Dwailebee, SECTION VI runner-up state representative. Congratulations to the entire OHS wrestling team and Coach Mike O'Connor and Assistant Coach Jeff Gabler on this outstanding Achievement!
- c. Sachita Barua, OMS student, has qualified for the Buffalo Spelling Bee.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent's Report

- a. Cafeteria Breakfast Café Style Program
- b. NYS Governor and NYSUT agreement on teacher evaluation system

Moved by L. Branch, seconded by J. Bartimole, upon the recommendation of Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools, to adopt the following Consent Agenda items:

Consent Agenda

- a. Upon the recommendation of Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools, that the January 31, 2012 Treasurer's Report be accepted and placed on file.

- b. Upon the recommendation of Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools, that the Warrant Report for January 2012 be accepted and placed on file.
- c. January 2012 Intra-fund Transfer listing in the amount of \$257,775.41 be accepted/approved and placed on file.
- d. Upon the recommendation of Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools, that the Internal Claims Auditor Exception Report for the period covering month ending January 31, 2012 be accepted and placed on file.
- e. Upon the recommendation of Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools, to approve the part time, 900 hour, appointment of Daryl Johnson, assigned to Community Schools through the AmeriCorps Program from February 27, 2012 through December 31, 2012.
- f. Upon the recommendation of Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools, to approve the Partnership Agreement between the Olean City School District and Canisius College effective February 15, 2012 through August 31, 2012.
- g. Upon the recommendation of Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools, to accept a \$1,000.00 donation from the NFL Ventures LP to be used for health and wellness initiatives at East View Elementary School.

Committee Reports:

- a. Operations Committee Meeting – February 7th – given by John Bartimole
- b. School Health Team Committee Meeting – February 8th – given by Colleen Taggerty

Committee Reports

Discussion Items:

- a. Budget: long-term plan presentation – Kathy Elser and Colleen Taggerty

Discussion Items

Committee Reports:

- a. Finance Committee Meeting – February 13th – given by Mike Martello – the Committee's recommendation to the Board of Education:
 - Close two schools at the end of the 2011-2012 school year (before the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year)
 - Take back of BOCES classrooms
 - Need to pursue concessions, pay freezes, furloughs, more health insurance premium contributions from staff
 - Prepare to go to one campus in three years
 - Revisit feasibility study recommendations that will not adversely impact students
 - Review programs

Committee Report

Board comments:

Ira Katzenstein – the topic of school closures is not new to the Board of Education. It has happened several times over the years. The Board has examined all the evidence, looked under every stone to look for savings. This is an opportunity to create Olean schools for the future. Mr. Katzenstein was not in favor of closing North Hill in 2006 and at that time requested a master plan which has been created. In 2006 he urged to have two elementary schools – Washington West and East View and this is where the District ended up today. We need to embark on the new tomorrow and need to implement the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

Mike Martello – the decision to close schools has not been easy. The decision affects real people, in our community, that we all know. It has been a very tough decision.

Laurie Branch – noted that the Finance Committee has spent countless hours trying to find a way out of the deficit. Her son attended Boardmanville and does not want to close the school, however, as a board member, she has an obligation to the community which is to keep the District solvent. Ms. Branch thanked everyone that has submitted recommendations which has resulted in thousands of dollars in savings.

John Bartimole – though he has only lived in Olean since 1985, his children have attended IJN. The budget deficit is an impossible situation which is severely diluting the quality education of our students. Bricks and mortar are not as important as the offering of quality programs. Mr. Bartimole looks at this as an opportunity for the District.

Jim Padlo – commented that he was against the closing of North Hill. He applauds the Finance Committee for their efforts and encourage people to start lobbying Albany and fight for our community because it has become a victim of New York State. While he is in favor of closing two elementary schools, he is not in favor of going to a single campus should be a “last resort” and feels that decision should be up to the voters.

Gordon Cross – the Olean City School District does not stand alone – other school districts are experiencing the same financial crisis. Other states are in the same financial position New York State is in. Mr. Cross thanked Mrs. Neary for her statement regarding contacting our elected politicians regarding educational funding – we need to do something and need everyone’s help.

Paul Knieser – noted that the decision to close schools is a very difficult one to have to make. He extended a sincere “thank you” to all District employees.

Dan Harris – thanked the Board of Education, the Finance Committee, and others for all their efforts. Mr. Harris noted that the Olean community is in need of drastic changes – it needs to focus on economic development, bringing in new business and creating jobs – focusing on events like Rally in the Valley and Gus Macker is not the solution. Dan is not in favor of closing schools as he is in favor of neighborhood schools.

Eric Garvin – noted that the population of Olean has decreased over the years. As noted by the feasibility study consultant, the District’s enrollment has declined. The Board of Education has seen the budget deficit coming as noted in the numerous budget presentations to the staff and community over the past three years and cost savings and reductions have been implemented. The Board opted to do something about it as it could no longer sit back and wait and hope for more state aid nor could it wait for more businesses to open up or relocate to Olean to increase the tax base. The Board cannot keep coming back year after year with a financial crisis. Mr. Garvin noted that “Olean”, as a whole, is our neighborhood. In regard to the amount of money that has been invested on renovations to the school buildings, in particular the local share for the current capital project equates to: the owner of a home valued at \$100,000 will pay less than \$5 per year for the next 15 years. The decision to close schools has not been an easy decision

Based on the long-term budget plan presentation and the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the following resolution was recommended by Ira Katzenstein, Vice President:

Moved by I. Katzenstein, seconded by L. Branch, to authorize and direct the Superintendent of Schools to close four elementary schools with the closing of Boardmanville and Ivers J. Norton as of June 30, 2012. Furthermore, the Superintendent is authorized and directed to prepare plans to close the remaining two elementary schools, Washington West and East View, within three years in order to move to a single-campus, contingent upon voter approval of a capital project.

Superintendent of Schools Authorized and Directed to Close Boardmanville and Ivers J. Norton Elementary and Prepare Plans to Close Washington West and East View Within Three Years in Order to Move to Single Campus Contingent Upon Voter Approval of a Capital Project

ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION:

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
John Bartimole	VOTING	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Laurie Branch	VOTING	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Gordon Cross	VOTING	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Eric Garvin	VOTING	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Daniel Harris	VOTING	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
Ira Katzenstein	VOTING	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Paul Knieser	VOTING	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
Michael Martello	VOTING	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
James Padlo	VOTING	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>

Ayes 7

Nays 2

Motion Carried

Information Items:

a. BOCES Budget Adjustments

Information Items

Moved by L. Branch, seconded by I. Katzenstein, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Adjournment

Ayes 9

Nays 0

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 20, 2012

Victoria L. Zaleski-Irizarry
District Clerk

List of Attendees:

Larry	Abbott	Scottie	Kemp
Gigi	Abdo	Judy	Kemp
Kim	Ackerman	Tammy	Ketchner
Jamie	Anastasia	Barb	Klingbeil
Allen	Backer	Kathy	Kwiatkowski
Angie	Bello	Celeste	Lamb
Liz	Bello	Kimberly	LaMendola
Amanda	Bess	Colleen	Deibler
Linda	Bess	Judy	Lewis
Heather	Billings	Barb	Lias
Ted	Branch	Ed	Lias
Suzy	Broadbent	Rachel	Linderman
Danny	Brooks	Jennifer	Mahar
Dee	Bunk-Hatch	Bernadette	Martin
Laurie	Bushnell	Mike	Marvin
Tim	Bushnell	Jennifer	Mathieson
Helen	Button	Derric	McElheney
Harry	Button	Patti	Metler
Katie	Camp	Bruce	Metler
Chris	Chapman	Suzanne	Monroe
Tracie	Clayson	Diane	Moses
Lyn	Dempsey	Mike	Moses
Pamela	Devling	Pamela	Neary
Christina	Devling	Jean	Nickel
Mary	Domboski	Linda	Nottingham
Kathy	Eggert	Joyce	Nudd
Katie	Estes	Kellie	O'Brien
Kait	Farrington	Juanita	Olson
Sabrina	Gibbons	Dave	Olson
Keathleen	Grandusky	Matthew	Perry
Ted	Grau	Nick	Pircio
Karen	Griffith	Jan	Rhody
Michael	Griffith	Michelle	Robinson
Sue	Grosso	Ron	Shoup
Rose	Harenda	Eileen	Skrobacz
Tony	Harenda	Brian	Snyder
Jeff N.	Harvey	Sandra	Snyder
Jeff J.	Harvey	Tracey	Spears
Teresa	Heinz	Pauline	Stanford
Jennifer	Hendrickson	Elaine	Stephan
Paul	Hessney	Pam	Stephens
Patricia	Howden	Jerry	Trietley

Kim	Hund	Jason	Wells
Ted	Isaac	Teresa	Wells
Sheila	Jackson	Rychelle	Weseman
Whitney	Kasper	Joel	Whitcher
Danielle	Keis	John	White
		Cso	Woodworth
		Channel 4	
		YNN	