Eden Central School

TO: ALL STAFF

FROM: RONALD K. BUGGS, SUPERINTENDENT

DATE: APRIL 11, 2008

RE: ***"Highlights"* of the April 2nd Special Board of Education Meeting and April 9th, 2008 Regular Board of Education Meeting**

1. From Administration & Staff and Delegates

- **Character Education Awards:**
  - Mrs. Johnson introduced Mrs. Vaccaro, who presented a Character Award to Alexandra Crowe.
  - Mrs. Johnson introduced Mrs. Thompson who presented a Character Award to Stephanie Clark.

- **Employee of the Month Awards:**
  - Mr. Graff presented an Employee of the Month Award to Music Teacher, Jennifer Tylock.
  - Mrs. Johnson presented an Employee of the Month Award to Teacher Aide, Sharon Wright.
  - Mrs. Johnson presented an Employee of the Month Award to Long-term Substitute Teacher, Marie Wutz.

- **Mr. Stevan Jones gave a presentation on the Donnie Smith Chopper Challenge project.**
  - Mr. Jones thanked all the people he worked with, the community, the students and the parents for their hours of dedication and commitment in the project. Both semesters of his "World of Technology", an engineering based class, were involved in the making of the chopper. He thanked the businesses who made donations and listed the vendors' names on the web-site. The students started with basically nothing and created the chopper that won first place in the Donnie Smith Chopper Challenge in St. Paul, MN. Mr. Jones showed a slide show of the progress in putting the bike together. He then introduced the crew who attended the contest in Minnesota – Matt VanKoughnett, Tom Gallman, Brad Schreiber, Aaron Brind'Amour, Phil Marble, Cody Longbine and Reggie Sovereign.

2. Approved Policies:

- #1321 Duties of the President of the Board of Education
- #1337 Duties of the School Attorney
- #2110 Orienting New Board Members

3. Accepted Resignations from:

- Barbara Pope, Teacher Aide
- Randall Perison, Publicity Advisor – HS Musical
- Beverly Cole – Costumes Advisor – HS Musical
- Diane Schwanz – Bus Driver

4. Appointed the following:

- Susan Schnaufer, Publicity Advisor – HS Musical
- Sarah Alexander, Adult Musician – HS Musical
- Ashley Cinelli, Adult Musician – HS Musical
- Steve Henry, Adult Musician – HS Musical
- LucyAnne Georger, Adult Musician – HS Musical
- Margaret Cuddihy, Tenure Appointment – Elementary Teacher
- Marisa Fallacaro, Tenure Appointment – Physical Education Teacher
- Tammy Finnerty, Tenure Appointment – School Counselor
- Lisa Geraci, Tenure Appointment – Elementary Teacher
- Lucinda Karstedt, Tenure Appointment – Director of Information Technology
- Beth Levakoff, Tenure Appointment – Elementary Teacher

- Amy McConeghy, Tenure Appointment – Art Teacher
- Dianne McKale, Tenure Appointment – Family and Consumer Science Teacher
- Jeffrey Meister, Tenure Appointment – Spanish Teacher
- Sandy Sheffield, Tenure Appointment – Speech and Hearing Handicapped Teacher
- Johanna Soule, Tenure Appointment – Elementary Teacher
- Lisa Almasi, Tenure Appointment – Director of Finance
- Diane Zimmer, Permanent Appointment – Bus Attendant
- Sandra Pintabona, Teaching Assistant
- Gregory Koudounas, Extended Leave Substitute Special Education Teacher
- Kerri Wilson, Extended Leave Substitute Special Education Teacher

5. **Approved SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review).**

6. **Approved Legal Fees as Presented Through February 29, 2008 in the Amount of $48,572.**

7. **Designated Surplus Vehicle #152.**

8. **Approved Authorization of Sale of Bus #152.**

9. **Approved Excessing of Old Computer Equipment.**

10. **Increased the 2007-2008 Budget by $388.44 to $23,806,707.71 to account for increased revenues –** The *District received $357.22 from Target for the Elementary School; $15.37 from Abitibi for GLP; and $15.85 from Abitibi for the Elementary School*.

11. **Appointed Election Inspectors:** Mrs. Edith Brusehaber, Head Inspector, Mrs. Diane Wood, Mrs. Christine Blasz, Mrs. Constance Newton, Mrs. Rita Brockman and Mrs. Marilyn Antos.

12. **Comments:**
    - Mr. Roistacher read a statement regarding the audit, the district's response to the audit and the comptroller's response to the district's response. He asked that his statement be read into the meeting minutes.
    - Mr. Drumm made a statement regarding the mandatory Parent Drug and Alcohol Awareness program. He stated that he received a memo from Mr. Cooper regarding the fundraising for seniors that somewhat cleared up his concerns, but it raised a problem in the way fundraising is carried out. He also stated that he would discuss that with Mr. Cooper directly. He stated that because Thursday is the last drug & alcohol awareness training session for this year, if the district has not decided at this point to make it mandatory, they consider not making it mandatory this year, in deference to the parents who raised concerns about the program, so the children not be penalized.
    - Mr. Schenk addressed the board by stating that he understood that they do the best of their ability in taking on the responsibilities for the decisions they make, that they are upstanding citizens, including a deacon, a police chief, a judge's wife, but he found it difficult to understand why they felt it necessary to hold his wife, Patti, against her will, and lock her up for two hours, assault his wife and physically take the phone away from her at the March board meeting. He was really disappointed that she was verbally abused and harassed. He stated that they didn't seem to care, and that was not how normal people should be acting. He said they should know better than to act that way and be more interested in telling the truth and treating people the right way.
    - Shawna Dosser commented that she feels the Drug and Alcohol Awareness program is great. There is a big drug problem among the youth out there. She deals with a lot of schools with her business, and many of them are running programs like this. She thanked the Board.

13. **Business Report:**

    - Nominating Petitions are still available for candidates seeking election to the Board of Education. Completed petitions need to be signed by at least 25 qualified voters and are due to the Business Office by April 21, 2008. There are four at large positions to be filled. Mr. Clark and Mrs. Gardner's terms of office will expire at the end of the year, while the terms of Mr. Armbrust and Mrs. Walker will expire May 20th.
    - On April 2nd, the Board unanimously approved the 2008-09 budget in the amount of $24,880,647. This represents a 5.23% increase in expenditures over the 2007-08 budget and an estimated increase of 4.9%, or $1.14 per thousand, in the tax levy. Major changes include increases in legal, special education, employee benefits and debt service expenses.

- Proposition #2 is for the purchase of three – 66 passenger buses and two – 16 passenger buses at an amount not to exceed $362,226. Passing this proposition will allow the district to keep our children safe by continuing to replace buses that have reached the end of their useful life.
- If the budget is defeated and the board adopts a contingency budget, cuts in the amount of $188,842 will need to be made. Areas in which the board may consider cutting include pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, art, music, enrichment, computer instruction, guidance, interscholastic athletics, extra curricular activities, library, health services, and transportation.
- Reminder that the annual district meeting and budget vote will be held on Tuesday, May 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Junior Senior High School.

14. Superintendent's Report:

- Utica National awarded Eden Central School District with a safety award on April 3, 2008. This award is a direct result of the District's diligence and based on our continuing safety record.
- The District will receive a dividend from Utica National of about $5,000. Ms. Almasi stated that the check was received.
- In response to Mr. Drumm regarding the Drug & Alcohol Awareness program, this is a high school program, not a board policy. There is some confusion in regards to the board's adopting or approval of the program. A year ago, the board asked the high school to look at the program that Lake Shore was doing. At the January 16th meeting, the Board of Education fully supported this program. It is not a school board policy. The area responsible is the Jr./Sr. High School administration. If you have any questions, please see Mr. Graff, Miss Menkiena or Mr. Cooper.
- Regarding the comptroller's audit, a corrective action plan is being worked on. It must be submitted to the State Education Department within 90 days.
- On April 23rd at 6 pm, there will be a special board meeting for the BOCES vote. A quorum will be needed.
- The next board meeting will be May 21st, thanks to Mr. Armbrust for his time served on the Board and his dedication to the students.

15. Board President's Report:

- Mr. Gannon thanked Mr. Jones, the students and community who supported and helped with the chopper challenge project.
- Mr. Howard addressed Mr. Drumm's comments from the previous meeting regarding Officer Bishop justifying the Drug & Alcohol Awareness Program and his accusation that Officer Bishop lied about students pleading guilty to charges after they were arrested for underage drinking. Mr. Howard stated that Officer Bishop was not trying to justify the program. His comment that all the students involved plead guilty was verified by the court twice. After Mr. Drumm's statement, he went back to the court a third time. He was told that all the students accepted a plea. All were fined and assigned community service. The police officer's job is to make the arrests. Mr. Howard felt that whether or not they plead guilty is a play on words.

16. Future Dates:

- BOCES Component Vote Date Thursday, April 23, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.
- Budget Hearing – Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High Auditorium.
- Budget Vote – Tuesday, May 20, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Jr./Sr. HS Foyer
- Board of Education Meeting – Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria.

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- *NOTE: **Any item** for a Board of Education Meeting Agenda must be submitted a **minimum** of ten days prior to the board meeting. This will allow the necessary time for the publishing and distribution of the agenda to the Board of Education Members, Administrative Staff, and the news media.*