

Eden Central School

TO: ALL STAFF
FROM: RONALD K. BUGGS, SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: MARCH 3, 2008
RE: “Highlights” of the February 13th, 2008 Board of Education Meeting



1. From Administration & Staff and Delegates

- ◆ **Employee of the Month Awards:**
 - Mr. Schaefer presented an Employee of the Month Award to Mary Ann Mandiak.
 - Mrs. Carter presented an Employee of the Month Award to Tiffany Kwas.
- ◆ **Mr. Preischel presented 2008-09 transportation replacement requests:**
 - Two 16-passenger gas engine buses at an estimated cost of \$32,784 each = \$65,568
 - Three 66-passenger buses estimated at \$98,886 each = \$296,658
- ◆ **Mrs. Biastre presented a Curriculum and Staff Development Update.**
 - The District brought a nationally known speaker, Linda Tilton, in for staff development. The cost for the program was deferred by both BOCES aid and participation by three other district representatives. Several workshops were developed with money from six grants. The district has participated in workshops in order to meet the learning styles of our students.
 - A Professional Development Plan has been developed. It is available on our web-site. Future plans include posting our curriculum on-line.
 - The University of Albany has chosen Eden Central School District to be one of fifteen schools to participate in a study being conducted by the University at Albany, the State Education Department and the Business Council of New York State. The district was chosen because we are typically achieving or highly achieving.

2. Appointed the following:

- ◆ Danielle Gabel, Bus Driver, full-time
- ◆ Darlene Noecker, Tenure appointment – Special Education Teacher
- ◆ Amy Strawbrich, Substitute Clerk Typist
- ◆ Katherine O’Gorman, Substitute K-12 Teacher
- ◆ Allyson Roth, Substitute K-12 Teacher
- ◆ Sara Schelling, Substitute K-12 Teacher
- ◆ Christie Waterman, Substitute K-12 Teacher and Teacher Aide
- ◆ Sharon MacAllister, Substitute Monitor
- ◆ Jeffrey Piersanti, Substitute Pre-K-12 Teacher
- ◆ Rebecca Altherr, Substitute PK-6
- ◆ Kara Karstedt, Musical Make Up

3. Approved Leave of Absence for Heather Pietro effective approximately September 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

4. Approved Policies:

- ◆ #2320 Attendance by Board Members at Conferences, Conventions and Workshops
- ◆ #3170 Anti-Harassment in the School District
- ◆ #5110 Budget Planning and Development--revised
- ◆ #6170 Fingerprinting of Prospective School Employees
- ◆ #7242 Military Recruiters Access to High School Students and Information on Students
- ◆ #7243 Student Directory Information
- ◆ #7631 Appointment and Training of Committee on Special Education (CSE)/Subcommittee on Special Education Members
- ◆ #7632 Appointment and Training of Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Members

- ◆ #7650 Identification and Register of Children with Disabilities (Child Find)
- ◆ #7651 Additional Procedures for Identifying Students with Learning Disabilities
- ◆ #8130 Equal Education Opportunities

5. Approved Superintendent's Contract through June 30, 2011.

6. Approved Change in Hours:

- ◆ Kathy Funke from 4.75 to 5.25 hours per day.
- ◆ Mike Best from 4.5 to 4.75 hours per day.
- ◆ Barb Caffery from 5.25 to 6.75 hours per day.

7. Approved Change in Start Dates:

- ◆ Carol Toepper – Begin January 14, 2008
- ◆ Jennifer Keller – Begin January 22, 2008

8. Approved Unpaid Medical Leave for Judy Miller January 24, 30 and 31, 2008.

9. Approved Creation of Teacher Aide Position.

10. Approved Resolution for Joint Bid for Custodial Items.

11. Approved Legal Fees in the Amount of \$34,915.

12. Approved Internal Audit Report from Bahgat & Laurito-Bahgat.

13. Approved District Staff Development Plan.

14. Awarded Bid #1013 for Rotary Screw Compressor in the Amount of \$5,300 to Ingersoll-Rand.

15. Awarded Bid #1014 for Classroom Furniture and Equipment as Follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| ◆ Kurtz Bros. | \$1,260.00 |
| ◆ School Specialty | \$1,676.30 |
| ◆ Satco Supply | \$1,277.72 |
| ◆ Threads of Time | \$3,990.00 |

16. Awarded Bid #1015 for Pool Cover in the Amount of \$7,118 to Alta Enterprises, Inc.

17. Increased the 2007-2008 Budget by \$693.46 to \$23,806,213.15 to account for increased revenues – The District received \$18.36 from Abitibi for Eden Elementary; \$675.10 from Boxtops for Education for GLP.

18. Comments:

- ◆ Tim Walker, parent, spoke in favor of the Parent Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program.
- ◆ Michael Byrnes wanted to know if the Board was going to answer his question from the prior month's meeting. He also complained that he thought the soap had bubbles in it and smelled when he attended school here several years ago.
- ◆ Debbie Biastre, parent and employee stated she was offended by the money Mrs. Schenk has wasted on her soap issues.
- ◆ Andrea Drumm made several comments regarding the Parent Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program.

19. Business Report:

- ◆ Our first draft of the budget will be presented to the District Shared Decision Making Committee on February 28. Board budget work sessions are scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th, Wednesday, March 12th, Wednesday, March 26th and Wednesday, April 2nd at 6:30. The budget needs to be adopted by April 9th.
- ◆ Nominating Petitions will be available on March 3rd for candidates seeking election to the Board of Education. We have 4 at large positions on the Board to be filled. Mr. Clark, Mrs. Gardner, Mr. Armbrust

and Mrs. Walker's terms of office will expire at the end of the year. Completed petitions need to be signed by at least 25 qualified voters and are due to the Business Office by April 21, 2008.

20. Superintendent's Report:

- ◆ Mr. Buggs reviewed first readings of policies:
 - #6550 Leaves of Absence
 - #7121 Diagnostic Screening of Students
 - #7313 Suspension of Students
 - #7611 Children with Disabilities
 - #7612 Grouping by Similarity of Needs
 - #7614 Preschool Special Education Program
 - #7615 Least Restrictive Environment
 - #7620 Students with Disabilities Participating in School District Programs
 - #7640 Student Individualized Education Program (IEP)
 - #7660 Parent Involvement for Children with Disabilities
 - #7670 Impartial Due Process Hearings/Selection of Impartial Hearing Officers– revised
 - #8280 Instruction for English Language Learners or Students with Limited English Proficiency
- ◆ Mr. Buggs reported that the Community Involvement Awards winners are:
 - School District Committees – Kate Riedel
 - Sports –Charles and Debbie Dias and Eugene Gates
 - Music – Nanette Kappus
 - Volunteer – Neil Kelsey
 - Business/Agency – Ron Maggs, Town of Eden Highway Department
 - Student as a Community Contributor – Mark Gardner
- ◆ Dr. Joseph Mylotte, former Chief of Infectious Diseases at ECMC will present an information session on MRSA on March 3, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Elementary Auditorium.
- ◆ Mr. Buggs, Mr. Graff and Mr. Gannon will be meeting with Dr. Billitiere February 14, 2008 to review procedures.
- ◆ BOCES has invited our Board to their meeting on February 27, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carrier Center in Angola.
- ◆ The Drug and Alcohol Parent Awareness Program was held tonight in the Auditorium. There will be two more sessions this year. About 150 parents attended. This program was based on the program offered at Lake Shore Central School. Western New York United Against Alcohol & Drug Abuse worked with the Eden Police Department and the Jr./Sr. High School Health Department Staff to present this program. Lackawanna and Williamsville also offered the program. Next year, ten additional districts will be offering this program. The Principal's Association and the Erie County Association of School Boards fully endorsed the program. ECASB will be presenting the program on February 28, 2008. The District hopes that the program will have a positive impact and possibly save some lives. It was very well done.
- ◆ The District conducted a thorough investigation of Mrs. Schenk's allegations about soap. Our soap is safe to use. Attached to a press release are a number of documents from the district, including the questions from the report and the summary of the report. If anyone would like a full report, it is available. You are more than welcome to stop and pick one up, as well as a memo from Joanna Duncan, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Education, clarifying the use of hand soap in our lavatories and our classrooms and the use of alcohol based sanitizers.

21. Vice President's Report:

- ◆ Mr. Clark encouraged people to understand the full story before they criticize the Board. The Board tries to do the best job they can.
- ◆ Mr. Howard made a statement that he agrees with Mrs. Gardner that the soap is a dead issue. He said we should focus on positive things, such as Mrs. Biastre's report about our school being selected to participate in a program through SUNY Albany because of our high achieving status.
- ◆ Samantha DeMarco, student representative, stated that we have a good district, and many of the students are tired of all the negative media attention the district has been getting. She encouraged everyone to not just pick a side, but pick up the reports and learn the full story. She stated that the District is doing the best job that they can.

22. **Future Dates:**

- ◆ The next Board of Education Meeting is Wednesday, **March 19, 2008** at 7:30 p.m. in the Jr.Sr. High 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.*

