

## OFFICIAL MINUTES

**Regular Meeting**

**January 11, 2016**

**library conference room**

Members Present: Frascella, Frank, Cizdziel, Fleischman, Kowalski

Absent: Jackson-McCarty, Kazmiercak

Others Present: Lawton, Amodeo, O'Brien, Boberg, Tom, Jordan and John Seltzer, Kim Lewis, Matthew and Stephanie Hansen, Brook Smith, Patty Kowalski, John Zerfas, Susan Nelson, Nathan Nelson, Chelsey Werneski, Cathy and Lou Stagner, Bruce and Jacquie Crandall, Susan Murray, Scott Summers, Michelle Smith, Emily and Andrew Arena, Art and Susan Munson, Kellee Greene, Bill Koch, Jim Boberg, Kathy and Dave Savky, Dennis McCauley, Tim Zerfas, Orlando Perez, Scott VanBuskink, Lesley Duranetto, Josephine Raab, Andrea Mellon, Melinda Mellon, Richard and Cynthia Dayton, Jim and Jenny Wangelin, Ann Ulmer, Dave Spencer, Robert Green, Dave Nottos, Gus Werchowski, Kelly Buckley-Sterner, Jennifer Glatz, Kay Conrad, Charlie Davis, Mychelle McNeil- Wedvik, Kari Klein, John McCarthy, Leanna Pfeffer, George Neudeck, Amy Butler

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Regular Meeting called to order at 7:13 p.m. with Frascella presiding.

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the UNITED STATES FLAG**

### **III. ADOPT AGENDA**

Moved by Frank, Seconded by Kowalski to approve the changed agenda as listed:

Additions: New Business item (I) award contracts

Deletions: none

Changes: order of agenda – (V) Public Comments and (IV)

Correspondence/BOE information switch

5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

### **IV. ~~Correspondence/BOE Information~~ PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mike asked if everyone had the opportunity to sign the sheet that is going around the audience and mark if interested in addressing the board. There are a lot of community members in the audience and the board will change the order of the agenda - public comments section and correspondence/BOE information section will be switched. The board will then have the opportunity to respond to public comments.

John Seltzer commented that he and other community members feel bullied by individuals from the Committee for Educational Opportunities at West Valley. He also feels that the individuals are also bullying the Board of Education into making a quick

decision to go with Ellicottville. They have given the impression that Ellicottville should be the only choice and if the board will not act on it they will. The group is unwilling to listen to any other ideas than what is on their agenda, which is lowering taxes. They are giving misinformation to community members. He hopes that the board would consider having an informational meeting and invite representatives from Ellicottville, Springville and West Valley to discuss the educational and extra-curricular opportunities that are available in the three districts. This would give the opportunity for residents to make an informed decision for our students. After this informational meeting, have a straw vote to see what the majority of the residents of West Valley would like the board to pursue. Kim Lewis made the following four points: (1) "Because of our diminishing student population, an annexation study is a reasonable move that I support". (2) "no major decisions of any sort regarding next year or other future school years should be made until that study is completed, so that true, valid, current, and complete information can be gathered before such decisions are made". (3) "NYS graduation statistics show that we at WVCS are AS competitive AS Ellicottville. 3-8 Common Core test results do not equate with school success and have only limited validity for determining the success of the school in grades 3-8. (4) "The prevailing assumption of why some students who leave WVCS are unprepared/unsuccessful in the "real world" is deceptively incomplete and inaccurate. There is a NATIONAL concern that students in our country are not prepared adequately for the current real world of work and college. That was the basis of the formation of the Common Core Standards. This is not a West Valley problem. This is a national problem. Sending students to any other district is not a magical solution to this (very real) problem".

John Zerfas does not feel the committee is bullying anyone.

Emily Arena shares with the audience her families' long history in West Valley. Her grandfather was one of the original school board members. Her mother was on the school board. She feels that her children are doing much better attending Ellicottville Central School.

Kellee Greene is very happy with her children's progress at WVCS, the teachers are great. She is also getting the impression that the committee only wants to look at Ellicottville. She states that if we need to go to another district - Springville GI would be a better choice because our students would have more opportunities. Springville GI should be given an equal opportunity in having a conversation with WVCS. Ellicottville would give us the lower tax rate, but Springville would give our students more opportunities.

Bill Koch stated that he was disappointed that no BOE members or Administration showed at the last meeting of the Committee for Educational Opportunities at West Valley.

Tim Zerfas stated that he is a 2006 graduate of WVCS. His family has generations of history in the town. He would like to stay in this town and build a house in the district, but feels our taxes are too high. He agrees with the letter that Ed Ahrens put in the Springville Journal. The committee feels that this school will not be sustainable for much longer – it is a geographic problem. Only one district can be asked to do a

merger/annexation study at a time and the committee feels it should be Ellicottville. They have 298 signed petitions that agree that the district should approach Ellicottville. George Neudeck would like to keep the school here as long as you can; it is the center of the community. He does understand that something may have to be done. He likes John Seltzers idea of having an informational meeting on what opportunities are offered at Ellicottville, West Valley and Springville. Then determine what we need to do. Mike Frascella asked the committee if they have a petition could he see it and read it to everyone. It seems that not everyone in the audience had the opportunity to be asked. (He read the introduction part of the petition to the audience.) (The district is unable to provide the exact wording of the petition because Orlando Perez, member of the committee, came up after the meeting to retrieve the completed petitions). Leanna Pfeffer is a resident, employee, parent, tax payer and stated that it would have been nice to see this many people at a school function. If you talk about opportunities come to the school and see everything that we offer. It sounds like a straw vote is in order before anything else. Mike Frascella reiterated that the responsibility of the board of education is to look at all opportunities. The night the board of education and administration were invited to tour the completed renovations of Ellicottville there was no offer from Ellicottville. Steve Kowalski describes the process of an annexation study and that the process is not something that is done quickly. Michelle McNeil-Wedvik states that she was part of the last study and the process is long. She discussed her participation in the study last time.

#### V. ~~Public Comments~~ **Correspondence/BOE Information**

Mike Frascella and the BOE members that were present stated that they will have Eric Lawton contact the Superintendents of Springville and Ellicottville. Set up a separate informal meeting with each district and include no more than 3 BOE members from each district.

#### VI **PRESENTATIONS**

Jerry Young from Young and Wright Architects presented the Building Conditions Survey 2015.

#### VII. **REPORTS**

A. Superintendent, Eric Lawton reported that due to high winds last night two windows broke in the schools classrooms. He reported that our school bus that transports students to BOCES in the AM was in an accident with a semi-truck on Rte. 240 near Rte. 242. There were white out conditions. There was no major personal injury in either vehicle. The side window of the bus

shattered and the bus driver had glass on his face and eyes. He went to the doctor and was cleared. One student was transported by the ambulance to BCH with minor injury and released.

Celebration of the life of Keith Young will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am in the gym. He asked the BOE if anyone had any questions regarding the research report that he prepared from the Rural Schools Website. On the website there is a link to the Cornell Program on Applied Demographics in cooperation with the New York State Center for Rural Schools. The interactive site allows you to perform a rudimentary comparison based on two year old data.

At the December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting the board made motion to send a letter to Ellicottville Central School and Springville-Griffith Institute to gauge the interest for an annexation study. After the meeting he contacted Lynda Quick, CA BOCES District Superintendent about sending the letters to Ellicottville and Springville. She advised him not to do that because it is not in good practice – looks as though the district is shopping around. On her recommendation he did not send a letter.

Alyssa Cizdziel sent a letter to the Administration and Board members of West Valley complimenting the teachers and staff for her education and the opportunities she had at West Valley. She also hopes that the board will enter into a discussion with Springville, not just Ellicottville.

We will need to add a special board meeting to elect a BOCES Board member for Area 8. The date is set for February 9<sup>th</sup> by BOCES. He was wondering if the board would like to hold it right before the future meeting at 5:30pm a quorum is all that is required. The board agreed.

B. Principal, Daniel Amodeo reported that all juniors will be taking their English Regents exam as we have done over the last several years. Pre-Calculus students that have not passed Algebra 2 and Trig will be retaking this exam in January. As we have done in the past Pre-Calculus students will also prepare and take Algebra 2 and Trig in June. The process of scoring January Regents exams will take place at West Valley or with Pioneer High School.

**College Courses** He spoke to the students that have remained in JCC Calculus I through distance learning. These students and other seniors will not be offered JCC Calculus II through distance learning. We will replace JCC Calculus II with JCC Elementary Statistics 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. This is a better fit for our students and will allow us to include more students in a college math course. I spoke with Syracuse University this week and we have been officially approved as a partner school. He met with High School staff after school today. After determining which courses our staff could teach I will talk with the students to determine their interest in specific courses. We will then be able to finalize our college course offerings for the year. Staff members will still need to apply to Syracuse, be accepted and attend a week of summer training at Syracuse.

C. Business Official, Ann O'Brien reported that two major components are needed before she feels comfortable presenting a draft budget to the board, the governor's proposal for state aid and final costs for 16/17 BOCES services. The governor will be giving his state of the state on Wednesday. She went over the analysis of our current year state aid and other revenues. At one of our future meetings there was interest in learning more about our debt service. She presented the board with this information as it is good information for them to have in case a question is asked.

#### VIII. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Moved by Fleischman, Seconded by Cizdziel to approve the unofficial minutes from the December 21, 2015 regular meeting. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

#### IV. **PERSONNEL**

none

#### X. **OLD BUSINESS:**

none

#### XI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Moved by Kowalski, Seconded by Fleischman to approve CSE recommendations. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

B. Moved by Frank. Seconded by Cizdziel to accept the following book donations to the school library from Bonnie Hess, "First Love A Novel", by James Patterson and Emily Raymond and "Confessions The Murder of an Angel", by James Patterson and Maxine Paetro. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

C. Moved by Frank, Seconded by Kowalski to surplus a white AED cabinet number 004051, the item is broken. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

D. Moved by Cizdziel, Seconded by Frank to approve a facility use request by Suzanne Ciminesi and Beth Roy to use the elementary library for students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> to participate in chess club on Mondays ~~or Tuesdays~~ from 2:40pm – 3:45pm, starting January 18<sup>th</sup> and continuing until Spring Break.  
5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

E. Moved by Fleischman, Seconded Cizdziel to approve a facility use request by Jennifer Neumann to use the Auditorium for Girls Scouts of WVY to hold the Court of Awards Ceremony on Friday May 13, 2016 from 6-8pm.  
5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

F. Moved Frank, Seconded by Cizdziel to approve a facility use request by Cheryl Bernhoft to use the cafeteria, kitchen, rest rooms and lobby to hold the WVCS Alumni Banquet on Saturday, July 9, 2016 from 4pm-10pm.  
5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

G. Moved by Frank, Seconded by Fleischman to approve adding a special board of education meeting to the approved schedule of meetings, Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a BOCES Board candidate for Area 8 (Ellicottville and Salamanca) to fill the remainder of a term ending on June 30, 2016. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

H. Moved by Fleischman, Seconded by Kowalski to approve Campus Construction Management Group Inc. as Clerk of the Works for the District Capital Project 2014. 5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

I. Moved by Kowalski, Seconded by Frank to approve the award of the following contracts, based on the December 19, 2015 bid results, for Phase 2 of the Capital Project:

**General Trades Contract: R.B. Mac Construction Company, Inc.**

Base Bid		437,000
Alternate #8	Kitchen Exhaust Fan	9,000
<b>Contract Total</b>		<b>446,000</b>

**Electrical Contract: Ahlstrom Schaeffer Electric Corp.**

Base Bid		382,595
Alternate #6	Replace Generator	58,750
Alternate #8	Kitchen Exhaust Fan	975
<b>Contract Total</b>		<b>442,320</b>

**Plumbing Contract: John W. Danforth Company**

Base Bid		26,600
Alternate #6	Replace Generator	19,000
<b>Contract Total</b>		<b>45,600</b>

**Site Contract: D & H Excavating**

Base Bid		180,575
<b>Contract Total</b>		<b>180,575</b>

**Track Contract: Nagle Athletic Surfaces**

Base Bid		172,000
<b>Contract Total</b>		<b>172,000</b>

XII. Moved by Frank, Seconded by Kowalski to **ADJOURN** the meeting at 9:11pm  
5 ayes, 0 nays, motion accepted

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District Clerk