

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
April 1, 2013

The Webutuck Board of Education held their April 1, 2013 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Auditorium.

The following Board members were present:

Joanne Boyd
Judy Moran
Kristen Panzer
John Perotti
Judy Westfall

Also Present:

James Gratto Jr., Superintendent
Mary Grden, School Business Manager
Therese Trotter, District Clerk
Claire Markonic
Kenneth Sauer
Faculty and Staff
Students
Community Members

Absent:

William McGhee, President
Robert Trotta

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-President Moran called the business meeting of April 1, 2013 to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Perotti made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 6:31 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

3. RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Perotti made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 7:28 pm.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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4. PRESENTATION

Jeff Budrow: Septic System

Webutuck Wastewater Disposal System -Mr. Budrow reviewed the history of his involvement with the Wastewater Disposal System and his fieldwork study. Mr. Budrow referenced a letter he had written during the capital project time frame which stated the area would be a difficult site to add a wastewater system to and offered several options in the letter. He spoke about the fill that had been added to the wastewater site and displayed a picture of the beds noting which ones were currently failing. He commented that in his opinion the fill seemed to be the problem due to the water not being able to drain properly. An audience member suggested looking at alternatives such as secondary treatment, stating it is a cost effective option. He discussed with the Board the next steps in addressing the problem commenting that the focus moving forward should be to decide the best alternative that would be the most cost-effective for taxpayers. Discussion ensued.

Nate Ancil: New York Power Authority Project (NYPA)

Mr. Ancil partners with NYSERTA and NYSED to help improve energy efficiency in schools. He discussed the energy efficient project and what would be done in each building. NYPA will monitor the bills for three years to ensure Webutuck is getting the savings that were projected by NYPA. It is a self funding project. The original numbers show it will generate \$20,000 for the District for the next fifteen plus years. The project will be submitted to SED after the Board of Education approves the resolution tonight. Discussion ensued.

6. STUDENT REPORT

There was no student report.

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. 2013-2014 Proposed Budget Presentation

Mr. Gratto began his presentation by expelling some rumors that had been floating around during the week that were false. Mr. Gratto reviewed his proposed budget for 2013-2014 with reductions and additions along with other considerations. Mr. Gratto noted that he was notified that Webutuck will potentially receive an increase of approximately \$232,000 in State Aid next year. He asked for input from everyone within the next week on where the additional money would be most effectively used.

B. Bus Proposition Discussion

Mr. Gratto stated the Board needs to decide the number of buses it would like to put up for a proposition on May 21, 2013. Discussion ensued.

C. NECC Summer Meals Program

Mr. Gratto reported that NECC has given the dates for the summer meals program. It will be the same program that was run last year.

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5. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following topics were commented on by the public:

- taking social worker out of school in today's society is wrong; global world needs German
- when German classes went abroad fantastic; scheduling has been a problem to be able to take certain courses
- can't do Guidance Counselor work; concerned about replacing a mental health worker for an educational worker.
- as parent, guidance counselors have helped immensely this year, IEP mandates social worker- concerned his needs will be ignored.
- works closely with social worker, needs of students gr. 4-6 very different from gr. 9-12, students coming in have more that they deal with at home than they ever had, need counseling piece.
- small school, hard times, kids need music and art all the time, teachers give and give beyond the call of duty, primary care physician – mental health in our area stretched thin.
- stated there were increased offerings but questions how we are cutting art and music and maintaining the program.
- expensive process to bus students to where she works at Deveraux, need social workers before they even to get to her school, save the arts program
- need social worker gr. 4-8, trained in clinical and mental health.
- Board is cutting important parts of education; need to provide German, French very important in Europe, worried about taking away social workers.
- took German five years couldn't take it this year because of the combination class.
- at EBIS would like to keep social worker and not fill principal position, don't reduce art or music.
- poster in classrooms they say goal to be highest performing school in Dutchess county but mower won't help with that, German will help; goal should be to educate our students, German, art and music are very important.
- music teacher has been their mentor and made the program strong, spoke passionately about the music teacher and program.
- born in Shreveport, LA the moved to NY to get a better education, art and music are very important to an education.
- art and music had alot of fundraisers to bring culture to its students- we live in a small community. I want my siblings to have the same experience I have had
- without Mr. Stowe I would not have a voice, I know due to Mr. Stowe I want to be a music teacher.
- since I was little I was taught not only learning was important but creativity and expressing oneself and without art and music you are eradicating creativity.
- he is currently in English and home and consumer sciences – a lot of talk about intelligence testing talks about core subjects but other studies focus on creativity. He doesn't know what to do now that the play is over he enjoys it so much.
- the increase ESL she supports, social worker position – social workers see twice as many students than are mandated.
- most senior faculty member, the impact on art has not come out this evening - the structure will be completely different, gr. 4, 5, 6 students will have art or music quarterly, project adventure focuses on all areas of education they write curriculum every six days.

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- support social workers not being cut, older kids get more stressed as more is put on them like common core, the arts is only outlet for students and escape of common core. Her son was inspired by taking German.
- when she was little loved to draw, inspired by Ms. Molloy and Mr. Fitzgerald, need more creativity.
- inspired by the students here tonight, we all have passions in different areas, sad to have to cut.
- need social worker in HS and EBIS, guidance counselor cannot cover an entire school.
- cutting art and chorus has been shown to lower test scores. My children love their music and they need it they are planning on going into music. Music and art are a big part of life.
- listen to your medical staff and nurses, it's a lot of psych: mental health is hugely needed.
- questioned cost of football.
- would rather see football money go towards the kids art and chorus
- schedule has been mentioned as to it being the reason kids can't take certain courses so how can you cut back on a guidance counselor?
- regarding monetary issues that we face, fortunate that state has increased state aid for next year – spent a lot of money on superintendents and superintendent consultants, there is money in reserves, saved money on health insurance each of the last two years, cutting programs is the wrong way to go, should be focusing on how to allocate the money better.
- enrollment numbers are inaccurate my kids wanted to take music but couldn't.
- if we do have cuts to programs this year as a parent ask to see your child's schedule and courses offered before September, if cuts are going to be made would like to see electives being proposed.
- you made decisions to cut certain things due to low enrollment but now it's being shown that students would like to take those courses but can't so maybe you don't need to cut.
- all county was amazing, consulting fee is large if it's true.
- we are talking about a new septic system but have two wet spots and we are talking millions of dollars to fix, we are cutting teachers, maintenance.
- if you cut music in 3rd grade no one will want to do it as they get older reading is the same way, if you don't read when you are young you won't do it when you are older, can't cut art and music, you don't know us and walk among us we need a social worker.
- I want my sister to be able to have someone to talk to if there is a problem, where did the 300,000 go is that why I have so many study halls.
- 3rd grade chorus and instrumental might not see advantage in 3rd grade but notice it by 5th grade, we have had 5th and 6th students in pit, collateral damage is space usage – pre-k was moved into elementary and space is limited huge impact on music and art, consider side effects of any budget reductions.
- perception of Webutuck has changed since Mr. Sauer has been here, he's to be commended.
- a lot of these kids are not wired to do band and chorus but I have a class with two students - those students have IEPs, they could not function in orchestra and drama etc., whoever picks up the cut position will have to pick up courses and will have to cut their lessons back.

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- if you combine German classes, who will suffer?
- with cut to German how is it going to impact French and Spanish?
- starting instrumental in 3rd grade is reason why we have great success in All County, it is vital to have 3rd grade.
- is a principal going to be hired at EBIS, where is the money coming from for the consultant hired to do evaluation can that money be put to different use, you have been hiring part-time people for full-time positions.

Mrs. Panzer excused herself from the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

8. CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion to approve the Consent Agenda (as amended).

A consent agenda is a single vote, which approves all asterisked items. Board policy (#008a) prohibits discussion of consent agenda items. Asterisked* items can be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion by any one Board member.

The amendment called for removing 11A from the consent agenda for further discussion. Board members congratulated the teachers who received tenure.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

9. DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT

***A.** Approval of Minutes for March 11, 2013 Board meeting.

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded a motion to accept the minutes as submitted.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

B. Delegations - None

10. PERSONNEL

***A. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Felice LaPietra, Secondary English Education, from year one to year two, for the 2013-2014 school year.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Jennifer Hengen-Chason, Special Education, from year one to year two, for the 2013-2014 school year.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***C. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

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Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Erik Lynch, Elementary Education, from year one to year two, for the 2013-2014 school year.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***D. Continuation of Probationary Appointment**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the continuation of the probationary appointment of Carrie Caldiero, School Social Worker, from year two to year three, for the 2013-2014 school year.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***E. Approval of Tenure Recommendations for Teacher**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby grant tenure to the following teacher:

Teacher	Tenure Area	Effective Date
Paige Wagner	Early Childhood	August 31, 2013
Ayes 4	Nays 0	The motion carried.

***F. Approval of Tenure Recommendations for Teacher**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby grant tenure to the following teacher:

Teacher	Tenure Area	Effective Date
Sarah Martin	Secondary Spanish	August 31, 2013
Ayes 4	Nays 0	The motion carried.

***G. Substitute Instructional Appointment**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following substitute instructional appointment:

Christina Doherty	Substitute Teacher
Effective: March 19, 2013	Salary: \$90/day
Ayes 4	Nays 0 The motion carried.

***H. Leave of Absence**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following unpaid medical Leave of Absence:

Rita Yale	Food Service Helper
Effective: approximately January 28, 2013- June 30, 2013	
Ayes 4	Nays 0 The motion carried.

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***I. Extra-Curricular Appointments for the 2012-2013 School Year**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following 2012-2013 extra-curricular appointment:

Kathleen Howard	Track Volunteer
Ayes 4	Nays 0
The motion carried.	

11. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. Approval of Course Offerings

This item was removed from consent agenda for further discussion.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the following course offerings for the students of Webutuck School District:

Science

Marine Biology and Local Aquatic Ecosystems	Gr. 10-12	Full Year
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Special Areas:

Vegetarian Cooking	Gr. 9-12	1 Semester
Planning for Life after High School	Gr. 9-12	1 Semester

Social Studies:

Digital History	Gr. 10-12	Full Year
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English:

AP English Language and Composition	Gr. 11	Full Year
Women in Literature	Gr. 10-12	1 Semester
Public Speaking 101	Gr. 12	1 Semester
Honors 9-10	Gr. 9-10	Full Year

Mathematics:

Accelerated Mathematics Gr. 7	Gr. 7	Full Year
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Ms. Moran commented that Mrs. Panzer wanted this removed from the consent agenda to bring attention that the Board of Education has added new courses to Webutuck course offerings.

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the above resolution.

Ayes 4	Nays 0	The motion carried.
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12. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

A. Approval of New York State Power Authority Project

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 155.9, school districts or BOCES are required to assume the role of lead agency for the environmental review of all construction and renovation projects; and

WHEREAS, D.E.C. Regulations 6 NYCRR 617 outlines the SEQR process that is applicable to all school districts, BOCES and other municipal subdivisions; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable statute and regulations, there is classification of projects known as TYPE II Actions that are considered to have no significant environmental impact and that require no further review under SEQR process; and
WHEREAS, the Board of education of Webutuck Central School District has proposed the following:

Energy Conservation Project at Webutuck Central School District

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Webutuck Central School District has received an opinion from New York State Power Authority, it's agent in this project, advising that the above referenced projects are Type II Actions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of Webutuck Central School District has received an opinion from New York State Power Authority, it's agent in this project, advising that the above referenced projects are Type II Actions.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B. Notice of Annual Meeting Authorization**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs the District Clerk to give notice to the qualified voters of the School District of the Annual Public Hearing on the Budget on Monday, May 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2013-2014 School Year and the Annual Meeting, School District Election and Vote on the Budget to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***C. Approval of NECC Summer Lease**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the 2013 Summer Lease between Northeast Community Center and Webutuck Central School District.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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D. Approval of Football Merger with Dover Union Free School District

Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Boyd seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools BE IT RESOLVED the Dover Union Free School District currently provides a football program for its high school students; and WHEREAS, the districts have discussed running one football program for the students of both districts; It is hereby resolved: Subject to receipt of any necessary approvals and an agreement with Dover, the Webutuck Board of Education hereby authorizes the “sharing” of a football program with Dover, effective for the 2013-14 school year.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Mrs. Panzer re-entered the meeting.

E. Acceptance of Internal Audit

Mrs. Westfall made and Mrs. Boyd seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the Internal Audit Report for 2012-2013 as presented.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

***A. Approval of revised Board of Education meeting dates**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves revising the Board meeting date on Monday, May 6, 2013 and moving it to Monday, May 13, 2013.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

B. Committee Reports

1. Policy

The Committee is working on the 6000s, tentative meeting for next week to work on 7000s.

2. Safety

The Committee met this morning and discussed after school safety and making sure we are set for next September.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following topics were commented on by the public:

- schedules are completed for next year, hope students get to see new electives being offered.
- disappointed in Superintendent’s comment on last slide.
- respect to tax levy, how would it effect keeping the cuts in.?

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Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Boyd seconded the following:

The Board of Education will accept the recommendation from the Superintendent and transportation department for the purchase of buses for next year. Discussion ensued.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

The Board discussed what type of buses should be purchased and put up for vote for approval.

15. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Perotti made and Mrs. Westfall seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of April 1, 2013 at 10:37 pm.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter
District Clerk