

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
June 3, 2013

The Webutuck Board of Education held their June 3, 2013 meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

William McGhee, President

Joanne Boyd

Judy Moran

Kristen Panzer

John Perotti

Judy Westfall

Also Present:

James Gratto Jr., Superintendent

Therese Trotter, District Clerk

Absent:

Robert Trotta

WES Staff

Chris Mayville

SBDI Representatives

Al Barros

1. CALL TO ORDER

President McGhee called the business meeting of June 3, 2013 to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. made and Mrs. seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 7:33 pm.

Ayes 6 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 7:35 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

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5. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. PreK concern with December 1 Admission Cut-Off

Mr. Gratto reported that parents had recently requested that their child be allowed to enroll in PreK early. The child turns five shortly after the December 1st cut off. Ms. Moran questioned if the child had gone through pre-screening. Board members were not in favor of having the child enter at an early age. It was mentioned that this topic would have to be revisited for that child's kindergarten year also because the child would be too young. Board members cited Board policy that stated entrance age for school. Mr. Gratto will call the parents and let them know the Board would not allow the child to enter the school system citing that Webutuck has a Board policy stating the entrance age for students into Webutuck School system.

B. Amenia Bus Stop Concern

Mr. Gratto reported that he had written a letter to the Town Planning Board, New York State Department of Transportation and Stanley Whitehead, Amenia Highway Superintendent regarding the bus stop. President McGhee stated that the Planning Board and Mr. Whitehead have had the same concern over the stop in question. Mrs. Panzer suggested a letter be sent to the parents explaining the situation. Mr. Gratto agreed and will follow through. President McGhee commented on ideas of a temporary solution. Discussion ensued.

C. NECC Request for Office Use

A NECC letter was handed out to Board members stating a request for additional office space in Millerton Elementary School (MES). Mrs. Westfall asked for clarification on how many rooms were needed as it was not stated in the letter. Ms. Moran did not agree with allowing NECC access to extra rooms because she felt the District may need them in the future for office space. Ms. Moran commented that the internet connection was not needed in the MES building and it should be turned off. Mr. Gratto will find out the number of rooms needed and report back to the Board. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Moran made and Mrs. Westfall seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves that the MES playground be dismantled, removed and declared surplus.

Mrs. Panzer abstained from the vote.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

D. WES Space Issue

Mr. Gratto stated Ms. McEnroe has had discussion with staff regarding space for the third grade next year at WES. He commented that the CSEA Office could move out of WES and relocate to the back of the High School Library and move PreK into that space. However, after speaking with Mr. Lounsbury about the air conditioning and heat issues, Mr. Gratto stated it was possible for the third grade to move to the Special Education office and leave PreK where it currently is. The issue of where AIS Services would be located was raised. AIS could be moved into a classroom that would be shared space with Ms. Austin moving to the library.

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Ms. Holderlin voiced concern over the number of students she sees and interrupting the shared classroom when students would be coming in and out. Ms. Garrard commented they were appreciative that the Board was listening to their concerns and ideas. Several ideas about the space and relocating were discussed along with the pros and cons of the ideas. Ms. Moran commented that there had been discussion of portables as an idea. Mr. Gratto will look into the portable classrooms and report to the Board. A staff member reminded everyone that this was a one year situation and another suggested looking further down the road when planning these moves. Considerable discussion was had about mold in one of the rooms. Mr. Gratto will have it tested as soon as possible. Mr. Gratto will report back to the Board on the portables and mold so a decision may be made on the space issue for next year. Discussion ensued.

6. PERSONNEL

A. Leave of Absence

Ms. Moran 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 approves the following paid Leave of Absence for the purpose of FMLA:

Jamie Quaranto

Elementary School Teacher

Effective: June 3, 2013-June 21, 2013

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

7. CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

A. Preliminary 2011-2012 New York State School Report Card and English/Language Arts discussion. R. Hamm, J. Gratto

Mr. Gratto summarized the NYS Report Card for the 2011- 2012 school year. He commented that the report was concerning given that the District not making Adequate Yearly Progress in several areas.

Mrs. Hamm reported that Becky Green, from Dutchess BOCES came out and presented an overview on ELA modules on Engaging New York. Educators from high performing schools created the modules which are evaluated by a Tri-State rubric between NY, RI and MA. As they are evaluated and deemed to be appropriately aligned with the Common Core Learning Standards, they are put online. Mrs. Hamm explained that results from a survey given by the Instructional Council established that teachers were not feeling confident about implementing Common Core Standards. The Instructional Council agreed to pilot the modules for a year as an ongoing assessment. When the modules are complete, this should allow a K through 12 ELA alignment. Teachers at the K – 2 grade levels had several concerns about the modules at their level while Mr. White felt the modules were helpful at the 3 – 5 grade level. Mr. Gratto reminded the Board that the ELA programs are scattered all over, not just at Webutuck. The survey results conveyed that teachers wanted and needed direction. There is inconsistency with teaching methods and the District is trying to get direction for the ELA program. The State is providing this option to consider which is aligned with the Common Core. Discussion ensued.

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8. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

A. Approval of Agreement with CBIZ

Mrs. Westfall 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 Agreement with CBIZ for electronic Update Service for Fixed Asset Inventory.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

9. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Discussion: Vacant Administrative Position

Mr. Gratto would like the Board to decide on the direction for EBIS whether it be a Lead Teacher position or principal position. Ms. Moran stated she was not in favor of continuing the Lead Teacher. She thinks a principal position is the model necessary at this time. She would be fine with a 4 -8 administrator or K – 8 administrator. Mrs. Westfall agreed. Mrs. Panzer thanked Mrs. Murphy for the job she has taken on this past semester as Dean of Students at EBIS. Board members added their preferences.

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves continuing the Lead Teacher position at EBIS for one additional year.

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following amendment:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves advertising for a Lead Teacher at EBIS.

William McGhee	Aye	Kristen Panzer	Aye
Joanne Boyd	Aye	John Perotti	Aye
Judy Moran	Aye	Judy Westfall	Aye
Ayes 6		Nays 0 The motion carried.	

Ms. Moran made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves advertising for a Lead Teacher at EBIS.

William McGhee	Nay	Kristen Panzer	Nay
Joanne Boyd	Nay	John Perotti	Yea
Judy Moran	Nay	Judy Westfall	Yea
Ayes 2		Nays 4 The motion failed.	

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Ms. Moran made and Mrs. Boyd seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED approves advertising for principal for the 4 -8 building Eugene Brooks Intermediate School; if an appropriate candidate is not found, the Board of Education will revisit this in August.

William McGhee Aye Kristen Panzer Aye

Joanne Boyd Aye John Perotti Aye

Judy Moran Aye Judy Westfall Aye

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

B. Technology Plan

Ms. Moran reported she had spoken with Bob Powell, Technology Supervisor at Hotchkiss School and he advised her they should move slowly towards purchasing a system. She stated that there is a need of an assessment of the grounds and facilities to understand what we have before buying a system and that a system needs to be reviewed beforehand. She has been looking at a company that Indian Mountain School uses. She suggested that Board members review the website and additional information on the company will be in an upcoming Board packet. Discussion ensued

C. Revised Sanitary System Feasibility Study Proposal (received May 30, 2013 Weston and Simpson).

Mr. Gratto reported that the proposal is the same as the previous document submitted excluding the fees for historical research.

Board members agreed something is not correct with the diagnosis of septic fields, there continues to be water there even though water has been cut off. Ms. Moran would like Webutuck to look into it more before hiring a company and spending money. Mr. McGhee would like our maintenance crew to dig up the pipes in front of the transfer site to see if anything is broken there. If nothing is broken then someone else should come in to do more intense field work. Representatives from SBDI stated that their proposal was very specific and cost less than the proposal that was submitted. Ms. Moran stated the other company had not submitted a proposal. Board members agreed that both companies should appear at the next meeting, June 17th to discuss their proposal. Ms. Moran stated that the District needs three quotes from three different companies. Mr. Gratto will research a third vendor. Discussion ensued.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Perotti made a motion to adjourn the meeting of June 3, 2013 at 9:40 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter

District Clerk