

Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting
November 7, 2011

The Webutuck Board of Education held their November 7, 2011 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Dale Culver, President
Joanne Boyd
William McGhee
Judy Moran
Kristen Panzer
Robert Trotta

Also Present:

James Gratto Jr., Superintendent
Mary Grden, School Business Manager
Therese Trotter, District Clerk
Katy McEnroe, WES Principal
Jay Curtis, EBIS Principal
Brian Christofel, Student Representative
Kelly Lappan: Board President Arlington CSD & Dutchess County School Board Assoc.
Lynn Cruger: Executive Director of Dutchess County School Board Association
Renee Palmer, Lynn Buckley, Susan Harrington Glenn White, Michelle Smith, Paige Wagner, Tammy Nethercott, Kim Coons, Trisha Lawrence, Mig McDonald, Shawwna Cawley, Kristen Lazarus, Community Members

Absent:

John Perotti

CALL TO ORDER

President Culver called the business meeting of November 7, 2011 to order at 7:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Moran made and Mrs. Boyd seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 7:31 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

William McGhee arrived at 7:56 pm

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. McGhee made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 7:56 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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PRESENTATION – Susan Harrington: German Trip

Mrs. Harrington gave a brief description and outline on the school trip to Germany students will be taking in the spring. They will fly into Frankfurt Germany from JFK. They will visit quaint villages, a concentration camp, and castles to name a few sites. Mrs. Harrington explained that they also will visit Venice, Italy and Lucerne, Switzerland. Board members questioned how many students will be going on the trip and how many days of school will students miss. Mrs. Harrington stated that twenty-seven (27) students, two (2) parents, two (2) teachers and an administrator will be going. Students will miss two and a half (2 ½) days of school. Discussion ensued.

Trisha Lawrence and Kim Coon: Senior Class Trip

Ms. Coons gave a brief outline of the senior trip; the date they were leaving, their itinerary and their fund raising efforts. Concerns were raised about the bus company that was chosen and whether they had looked into a local company for transportation. Mrs. Coon stated they did look but the one they chose was the least costly. Discussion ensued.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

Katy McEnroe, Elementary Principal: WES Building Excellence Team

Renee Palmer, Chairperson of the BET, spoke about the goals for their BET this year and noted that they added one goal each in ELA and math. These goals are establishing baseline data using District assessments. In ELA they plan on collecting and using the data for DRA 2 and in math they will use teacher created assessments from the work that was done in the summer 2010. Mrs. Palmer highlighted the Action Plan in ELA and Math. She explained that she has been researching sites to incorporate technology into the subject area such as EXCEL.com. These types of sites support students who are strong as well as weak in a subject area. This site also aligns not only to State Standards but also to the Common Core Standards. These sites would be formative assessments – which are daily or weekly assessments. Mrs. McEnroe pointed out that the New York State Standards and Common Core Standards in are similar. There are differences but they are not huge differences across the board. President Culver questioned about the AIS program and how we are identifying struggling students? Mrs. McEnroe explained one of the things that is happening K-3 in her building is that teachers are able to meet a half day every fourth quarter to review math and ELA assessments. Struggling students at each grade level are identified and given the necessary support. Discussion ensued.

Jay Curtis, Jr., Intermediate Principal

Mr. Curtis explained his building's focus has been on efforts to build a community feeling within the building grades 4-8. He announced an upcoming assembly: on November 22 Jesse Saperstein will speak about Asperger's Syndrome which explains his disabilities and also addresses bullying. On October 29th there was a Halloween social for grades 6-8. The 4-6 grade teachers came to him and wanted to do something for their students. Those students made ghoulish menus and did math activities which are hung in the corridors of their building. Lastly, he announced the upcoming Curriculum Night on November 16 for grades 4-6 and report card pick up for grades 7 and 8 between 4:30 and 6:30.

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Mr. Curtis publicly congratulated the fall athletic teams, they all did very well. Girls' and Boys' soccer teams made it to Sectionals with the boys' winning their first round but lost to Tuxedo in the second round. The girls' field hockey team are the 2011 Sectional champs. Also, Jesse Capallero and Kayla Kohl qualified for the State meet for cross country. Lastly, he announced the Sports' Banquet is Monday, November 14 at 6 pm in the Middle School gym.

The Board President asked how the BET is coming along in Mr. Curtis' building. He stated they will have a presentation by January at the latest.

PUBLIC COMMENT

-An elementary parent brought up the storm drain incident and thanked Administration and the Board for their timely response to the incident.

-Board members from Dutchess County School Board Association thanked the Board for re-joining the Dutchess County School Board Association.

STUDENT REPORT

Brian Christofel

Mr. Christofel announced that TEAM had a field trip on October 22 where they visited Astor Head Start and spent time with preschoolers coloring and reading. On November 21, TEAM will visit Millerton food pantry to make food baskets. He also announced winter sports will begin next Monday. There are 117 students that will be participating in sports for the winter.

CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE

Mr. Trotta made and Ms Moran seconded the following motion to approve the Consent Agenda. 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.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

DISTRICT CLERK'S REPORT

***A.** Acceptance of Minutes for October 17, 2011 Board meeting as submitted.

Mr. Trotta made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to accept the minutes as submitted:

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***B.** Acceptance of Financial Reports as submitted:

Mr. Trotta made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to accept the Financial Reports as submitted:

Treasurers Report for the month ending August and September.

Comprehensive Budget Status Report ending August and September.

Comprehensive Revenue Status Report ending August and September.

Warrants #14-23

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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C. Delegations -None

PERSONNEL

***A. Extra-Curricular Appointments for the 2011-2012 School Year**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following extra-curricular appointments for the 2011-2012 school year:

Timothy McEnroe	Boys' JV Basketball
Julianne Flood	Girls' Modified Basketball
Shawn Hosier	Co-Advisor Class of 2013
<u>Mentors</u>	<u>Mentees</u>
Kathleen McEnroe	Jay Curtis, Jr. (stipend: \$962)
Cindy Dietter-Smith	Gina Tauro (stipend: \$962)
Barbara Riley	Student Data Coordinator
	Stipend: \$1,500 (non-WTA)
Ayes 6 Nays 0	The motion carried.

***B. Substitute Instructional Appointments**

Mr. Trotta made and Ms. Moran 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 appointments:

Monica Ostrander	Substitute Teacher
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$80/day
Julianne Flood	Substitute Teacher
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$85/day
William McKay	Substitute Teacher
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$90/day
Michael Wiegard	Substitute Teacher
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$90/day
Brendan Sheehan	Substitute Teacher
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$90/day
Tara Shoureck	Substitute Teacher
Effective: November 8, 2011	Salary: \$90/day
Carol Sanson-Furey	Substitute Teacher
Effective: November 8, 2011	Salary: \$75/day
Ayes 6 Nays 0	The motion carried.

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***C. Substitute Support Staff Appointments**

Mr. Trotta made and Ms. Moran 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 support staff appointments:

Julianne Flood	Substitute Teacher Aide/Assistant
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$11.96/hour

William McKay	Substitute Teacher Aide/Assistant
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$11.96/hour

Michael Wiegard	Substitute Teacher Aide/Assistant
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$11.96/hour

Brendan Sheehan	Substitute Teacher Aide/Assistant
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$11.96/hour

Margaret Blayney	Substitute Teacher Aide/Assistant
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$11.96/hour

Tara Shoureck	Substitute Teacher Aide/Assistant
Effective: October 31, 2011	Salary: \$11.96/hour

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***D. Support Staff Resignation**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following support staff resignation:

Ann Kain	Teaching Assistant
Effective: October 26, 2011	

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

***E. Substitute Instructional Leave Replacement Appointment**

Mr. Trotta made and Ms. Moran 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 leave replacement appointment:

Justin Duchin	Substitute Leave Replacement
Effective: approximately Nov. 14, 2011 – January 30, 2011	
Salary: Per Policy #402	EBIS & WHS (Kathleen Howard)

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Sign on Route 22

We have budgeted for the sign and we are ready to go. The local sign company declined the offer to help rebuild the sign.

B. Use of Emergency Days

Mr. Gratto pointed out that the school calendar was amended due to the missed school days during the storm. Two days were added back to the calendar.

C. Berkshire-Taconic Foundation proposal for an Educational Enrichment Fund

Jennifer Dowling would like to present at our next Board meeting to talk about establishing a Webutuck fund which will be different from WSFFFE. Ms. Dowling is talking about a more extensive amount of money. It would be a \$250,000 fund with the idea that a certain amount of money a year would be given out to teachers and students. The fundraising would target major donors. She sees this as a two to three year project. Discussion ensued.

D. Donation – Mason's Scholarship

Ms. Grden announced that the Amenia Masonic Lodge would like to donate \$10,000 to our school to be used for scholarships. They would like to use \$500 each year towards a scholarship for a student. The criteria for the scholarship will be determined by the school. Discussion ensued.

E. Mr. Gratto announced that Ski Club is moving forward on the program. They have received good feedback. It will be on the next agenda for approval. Discussion ensued.

F. Big Brother/Big Sister – The contract is in packet and must be approved by Board first. Discussion ensued.

G. During the storm, Jerry Heiser, Mark Lounsbury and Dale Culver - spent a lot of time here during the days there was no electricity trying to minimize damages. A concern came up about tax payers not being able to pay their taxes on time because the tax collector could not use the building due to the power outage after the storm. Mrs. Grden stated she had not heard that and did not think it was the last day to pay taxes. She will look into this issue. Discussion ensued.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

***A. Committee on Special Education Monthly Reports**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Webutuck Board of Education hereby accepts the Committee on Special Education report for October 2011, prepared by the Webutuck Central School District Committee on Pre-School Education and by the Webutuck Central School District Committee Special Education.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

B. Proposal to offer SAT Prep Classes

Mr. Gratto stated that the proposal was in this week's Board packet. The Board will need to decide if and how to move forward with the classes. It was recommended to charge students \$50.00 for the classes. Concerns that were voiced were if there was going to be a student limit? It was discussed and it depends if the District invites other students from other Districts or we allow only our students. If the District allows other students to take the course offered here there could be an increase in the cost to those students. Mrs. Panzers added a concern asking what value the students will be getting by taking the course. Will there be an increase in the student score? Mrs. Boyd responded that results should be seen however there is no guarantee. Discussion ensued.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

***A. Approval of Addition to 403b Vendor List**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education adds the following Tax Sheltered Annuity Company to the 403b eligible vendor list to include: Smart Choice Plan/Benefits Plan.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

***A. Approval of Policy # 5130 Compulsory Attendance Ages**

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the second reading and adoption of Policy #5130 Compulsory Attendance Ages.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

B. First Reading of Board Policies Series 0000: Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives; and Series 1000: Community Relations.

Mrs. Panzer questioned policy wording having to do with Public Comment. It was decided to revise the wording for the section Mrs. Panzer was referring to and bring the policy back to the Board. The process of getting District policies online was discussed. Mrs. Panzer also pointed out that coaches have authority to communicate with the media but the media policy does not state that. President Culver noted that there is a difference between policy, which sets the purview and the Superintendent's regulation which is how the District enforces that policy. Discussion ensued.

C. Amendment to the 2011 – 2012 School Calendar

Mr. Trotta made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves amending the 2011 – 2012 School Calendar to include November 10, 2011 and February 17, 2012 as days where school will be in session for students and staff.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

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D. Appointment of Acting Superintendent

Mr. Trotta made and Mrs. Panzer seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Mary Grden as Acting Superintendent during times that the Superintendent is out of the District.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

E. Dutchess County School Board Association

Mrs. Boyd stated that at their last meeting the Dutchess County School Board Association did speak about everything that their President spoke about tonight during public comment. Mrs. Boyd stated it was suggested that Board members might want to go to December 14 BOCES Board meeting at 7:00 pm to be show Board member faces because their seems to be a disconnect between its members and BOCES. President Culver suggested that our representative, Robert Meade, be asked to come to a future Board meeting to report to the Board. Discussion ensued.

F. Mr. Trotta brought up the idea of televising Board meetings again. He felt there is no methodology set forth for someone who is disrupting a meeting. He suggested additional language in the policy read that a 2/3 vote of the Board approve calling authorities in such a situation. Several Board members disagreed about voting to call authorities; it should just happen if the situation arises. Mr. Trotta asked again if the Board is interested in televising Board meetings. The Board members were in agreement to gather more information on the subject.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Panzer made and Mrs. Boyd seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:44 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Boyd made and Mr. Trotta seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 10:49 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Panzer made and Ms. Moran seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of November 7, 2011 at 10:50 pm.

Ayes 6 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Therese M. Trotter, District Clerk