

Webutuck Board of Education held the March 12, 2007 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Bernadette Coniglio, President

Joanne Boyd

Dale Culver

Joseph Herald

Susan Lounsbury

Joseph Matteo

John Perotti

Also Present:

Dr. Richard N. Johns, Superintendent

Kevin Geoghan, School Business Administrator

Tracy Trotter, Superintendent's Secretary

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Coniglio called the business meeting of March 12, 2007 to order at 7:36 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

An audience member stated he represented the Northeast Tax Revolt Committee. He questioned if the Head Maintenance position was necessary as his Committee is concerned with rising taxes. Also, he stated that his Committee has found that the area farm land is being assessed incorrectly. He asked if farm land exemptions are taken into account by the State when calculating State Aid to the District. The Superintendent asked the audience member to call him at school to discuss the information with him. Discussion ensued.

An audience member who is an employee of the District stated for the record that when he attends a Board meeting he is a community member.

Another audience member who is an employee of the District stated that there was an appearance in the community of favoritism with regard to the Head Maintenance position appointment.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Policy Committee (Mtg. 2/26) – Mrs. Boyd reported they have requested all Policy binders to be brought up-to-date.

Audit/Finance Committee (Mtg. 3/12) Mr. Matteo reported the focus of their meeting was discussion on the need to decrease the percentages of tax levy, reserves and fund balance. The Committee agreed the percentages should be lowered however; it should be a full Board discussion and decision. Discussion ensued.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. BOARD POLICIES –**

#### **First Reading**

Board members commented on #005 in which a spelling mistake was found and #007 was remanded back to the Board for additional clarification.

The Board will review the following policies as a first reading:

<b>Policy #005</b>	<b>Membership</b>
<b>Policy #006</b>	<b>Meeting Times</b>
<b>Policy #007</b>	<b>Reorganization Meeting</b>
<b>Policy #412</b>	<b>Family Medical Leave Act</b>

#### **Third Reading**

There was no discussion.

The Board will review the following policies on a third reading and act on their approval:

<b>Policy #111</b>	<b>Display of Flags</b>
<b>Policy #201</b>	<b>Students with Disabilities</b>
<b>Policy #411</b>	<b>Conditional Appointment of Employees</b>
<b>Policy #413</b>	<b>Employee Wellness</b>
<b>Policy #905</b>	<b>Freedom of Information Law</b>

### **2. Superintendent's Proposed Budget – Discussion Only**

There was discussion on the 5% to 8% parameter the Board set last year for the Tax Levy increase. A Board member stated the 2007-2008 Projected Levy is within those parameters. There were comments from Board members to look at the Budget to see how we could do things more inexpensively instead of automatically adding on a 5% to 8% increase. It was decided the Board will look at the percentage proposal again. The Board decided they would schedule March 19, 2007 as an additional Board meeting to discuss Budget issues such as using reserves, budgeting for “worst case scenario” on fuel, single-tier bussing and percentage proposal.

## **CONSENT AGENDA VOTE**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. The amendment offered by Mr. Herald called for removing item #2 Head Maintenance Worker under Personnel for further discussion. The following asterisked items can be consent agenda items. 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 seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

### **\*1 Approval of Minutes for February 5 and February 12, 2007 Board meetings.**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded a motion to approve the February 5 and 12, 2007 minutes. The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The

motion carried.

**\*2. Acceptance of Financial Reports as Submitted**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded a motion to accept the Financial Reports as Submitted. The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for the month ending January.

Comprehensive Budget Status Report ending January.

Comprehensive Revenue Status Report ending January.

Warrants # 50-62

**3. Delegations**

There were none.

**4. Non-Staff Communications**

There were none.

**PERSONNEL**

**\*1. Non-Instructional Substitute Appointment**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Non-Instructional Substitute appointment, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Ben Moyer

Effective: February 20, 2007

Substitute Head Bus Mechanic

(temporary replacement for Norman  
Orlowski)

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

**\*2. Non-Instructional Appointment**

The Head Maintenance Worker (only) was pulled from the consent agenda to be discussed further in Executive Session. A Board member was advised by NYSSBA to check with the District's attorney to make sure everything was done properly when creating the position and choosing the candidate. The Business Administrator stated the process followed was as advised by the District's Attorney.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Non-Instructional appointment, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Landon Johns

Effective: March 13, 2007

Head Maintenance Worker

(new position)

Mrs. Lounsbury made and Mr. Herald seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Non-Instructional appointment, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Tracy Ferreri

Effective: February 1, 2007

Teacher Aide

(new position for 1:1 Aide)

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded the following motion:  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following  
Instructional Substitute appointment, as recommended by the Superintendent of  
Schools:

Roy Burdick

Substitute Teacher

Effective: March 7, 2007

Jennifer Gdula

## Long Term Substitute Teacher

Effective: April 9, 2007

(leave replacement for Monica Baker-Bozsik)

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

#### **\*4. Approval of Tenure Recommendations**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded the following motion:  
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby appoint the following teachers to tenure in their respective tenure areas, effective August 31, 2007, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

NAME	TENURE AREA	CERTIFICATION	ESTOPPLE DATE
Nancy Bayersdorfer	Social Worker	Perm. Social Worker	8/31/07
Denise Conway	Childhood Education Gr. 1-6	Perm.-Pre-K, K & Gr. 1-6	8/31/07
Heather Farr-Killmer	Childhood Education Gr. 1-6	Perm. Issued Receipt Pending	8/31/07
Patricia Forbes	Childhood Education Gr. 1-6	Prov. Pre-K, K., & Gr. 1-6 thru 8/08	8/31/07
William Havranek	Social Studies (7-12)	Prov. SS 7-12 thru 1/09	8/31/07
Julia Heenan	Social Studies (7-12)	Perm. SS 7-12	8/31/07
Shawn Hosier	Mathematics (7-12)	Prov. Math 7-12 thru 8/08	8/31/07
Janice McSpiritt	Social Worker	Perm. Social Worker	8/31/07
Vincent Merendino	Guidance Counselor	Perm. School Couns.	8/31/07
Robert Reid	Mathematics (7-12)	Initial Math 7-12 thru 8/09	8/31/07
Peter Stefonowich	Generalist in Middle School Education (Gr.1-6)	Prov. Pre-K, K, & Gr. 1-6 thru 8/07 Must obtain Middle Childhood Ed. Gr. 5-9 by 9/07	8/31/07
Mary Tauber	Language other than English (Spanish)	Prov. Pre-K, K. & Gr. 1-6 thru 1/09 Must obtain Spanish Gr. 7-12 by 9/07	8/31/07

---

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

### **5. Approval of Tenure Recommendation**

A Board member stated the Board was setting a bad precedent in granting tenure to a teacher who treats a student badly as long as he treats the majority well. The Superintendent stated personnel evaluations cannot be done in public and must be done in Executive Session. Discussion ensued.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints the following teacher to tenure in their respective tenure area, effective August 31, 2007, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Stephen Pollak	English Language Art (7-12)	Perm. English 7-12	8/31/07
----------------	--------------------------------	--------------------	---------

The seven Board members present voted. The motion carried.

Bernadette Coniglio	Yes	Susan Lounsbury	Yes
Joanne Boyd	Yes	Joseph Matteo	Yes
Dale Culver	No	John Perotti	No
Joseph Herald	No		

### **BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

#### **\*1. Authorization to increase the 2006-2007 Budget**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby increases the 2006-2007 Budget in the amount of \$3,060 in Budget Code A1621.430 00 00 21 as a result of receipt of insurance funds for damage to offset the cost of repairing the light pole, to be recorded in Revenue Account A2680, with such funds to be expended from A1621.430 00 00 21.

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

#### **\*2. Approval of NYLAF – Municipal Cooperation Agreement (Per the attached resolution)**

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded the motion to approve the NYLAF – Municipal Cooperation Agreement (Per the attached resolution):

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

#### **\*3. Notice of Annual Meeting Authorization**

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

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 7, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2007-2008 School Year and the Annual Meeting, School District election and Vote on the Budget to be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2007.

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

**4. Authorization of Transportation Proposition to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of the qualified voters on May 15, 2007.  
(The Board shall choose one of the options below.)**

**TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE PROPOSITION**

A Board member stated there seemed to be little difference between the two options. Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded motion to vote on Option A. The vote was as follows:

Bernadette Coniglio	Yes	Susan Lounsbury	Yes
Joanne Boyd	Yes	Joseph Matteo	Yes
Dale Culver	Yes	John Perotti	Yes
Joseph Herald	No		

The seven Board members present voted. The motion carried.

**OPTION A**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, be authorized to (1) purchase one 65-passenger school bus at a maximum estimated cost of \$94,000, one 18 passenger school bus equipped for wheelchair transportation at a maximum estimated cost of \$56,000, and 2 cars at a maximum estimated cost of \$35,000 (\$17,500 each) for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$185,000, (2) expend such sum for such purposes, (3) levy the tax necessary therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid received, and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$185,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

**OPTION B**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, be authorized to (1) acquire school buses and vehicles at a cost not to exceed \$185,000, which is estimated to be the maximum cost thereof, (2) expend such sum for such purposes, (3) levy the tax necessary therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid received, and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$185,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**\*1. Committee on Special Education Monthly Report**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Webutuck Board of Education hereby accepts the

Committee on Special Education report for February 2007, prepared by the Webutuck Central School District Committee on Pre-School Education and by the Webutuck Central School District Committee on Special Education, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

**\*2. Adoption of “Social Problems in Today’s World” Course**

A Board member suggested formulating what will be taught next semester as soon as possible so students may be able to make a decision in a timely manner.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Webutuck Board of Education hereby approves the adoption of the “Social Problems in Today’s World” Course as per the proposed guidelines outlined in (Policy #204 Course Weighting), as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**\*1. Adoption of Board Policies**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts the following policy as presented, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

- Policy #111    Display of Flags**
- Policy #201    Students with Disabilities**
- Policy #411    Conditional Appointment of Employees**
- Policy #413    Employee Wellness**
- Policy #905    Freedom of Information Law**

The seven Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

**2. Land Purchase**

The Superintendent asked Board members not to discuss the figure in public session as it could begin a bidding war. The Superintendent spoke about the Long Range Plan of the District and the needs it brought to light. More details will be unveiled in closed session. Discussion ensued.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute an agreement to purchase property from Iron Will Farms as described in the agreement distributed in the Board packet on Friday, March 9, 2007, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A parent in the audience wanted to express concern about a situation that had occurred with her son and the High School Principal. The Board decided to invite them into Executive Session. An audience member who is an employee of the District wanted to address the Board regarding concerns with the High School Principal. The Board decided to invite him in to Executive Session. An audience member asked if there had to be a referendum for land purchase. The answer was yes.

## **BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS**

A Board member questioned if the District sends letters to new tenured teachers. The Superintendent responded yes.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Culver made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:45 pm for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and land acquisition. The seven Board members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Perotti made the following motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the public session at 11:47 pm. The seven Board members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

## **Land Purchase**

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute an agreement to purchase property from Iron Will Farms as described in the agreement distributed in the Board packet on Friday, March 9, 2007, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Bernadette Coniglio	Yes	Susan Lounsbury	Yes
Joanne Boyd	Yes	Joseph Matteo	Yes
Dale Culver	No	John Perotti	Yes
Joseph Herald	No		

The seven Board members present voted. The motion carried.

## **1. Approval of Tenure Recommendations for Principals**

There was no action taken.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby appoint the following principals to tenure in their tenure area effective August 31, 2007, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Kenneth Sauer	High School Principal	Permanent School District Administrator Permanent Math 7-12 Permanent Biology, General Science 7-12
Scott Richards	Middle School Principal	Prov. School Administrator/Supervisor effective 9/03 thru 8/08 Prov. Pre-K, K, Gr. 1-6 effective 9/03 thru 8/08

## **2. Action to be Taken on Denial of Tenure of a Teaching Assistant**

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



BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education denies tenure to the following Teaching Assistant, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Stacy Vitolo

Teaching Assistant

The seven Board members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mrs. Boyd motioned to adjourn the meeting of February 12, 2007 at 11:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Trotter  
District Clerk