

Webutuck Board of Education held the February 11, 2008 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Dale Culver, President  
Bernadette Coniglio  
Joseph Herald  
William McGhee  
John Perotti

Also Present:

Dr. Richard N. Johns, Superintendent  
Linda Peters, School Business Administrator  
Therese Trotter District Clerk

Absent:

Andrew Jablonsky  
Susan Lounsbury

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-President Herald called the business meeting of February 11, 2008 to order at 7:30 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Audience members made the following comments:

Agricultural land has been incorrectly assessed. Ag land cannot be assessed at market value but it is being done. How does the State determine the wealth of a District and then determine State Aid? *The School Business Administrator will look into this question.* Discussion ensued.

Is the District going to continue to have weekly meetings on the Budget? *No, the District is hosting two Budget Forums for the public.* Last year there was talk of the budget going up and will continue to go up in future years. The Board does not have the authority to say to teachers there will be no more raises. We need to get that across to Assemblyman Molinaro. Discussion ensued.

### **WHS 2007-2008 GOALS PRESENTATION - JAY POSEPHNEY**

The BET 2007-2008 Building Goals were presented by Mr. Posephney. They were as follows:

#### **Webutuck High School – Mr. Posephney**

Goal #1 – Increase student success on word problems and short and extended answer questions on the NYS Regents and RCT Exams.

Mr. Posephney stated reading comprehension across curriculum will be the main emphasis with this goal. He then outlined the steps he and his staff will take to attain the

goal and evaluate the process as they go along.

Goal #2 – Increase students passing Regents at Mastery Level by 3%.

Mr. Posephney stated more teachers are staying after school to give extra-help. Algebra now is a whole year, parental communication has expanded to include access to each teacher's website for homework. There is discussion about a ninth grade boot camp being instituted for next year to assist those new ninth grade students with transition into high school. Discussion ensued.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Geometry Textbook**

New books are needed because New York State has changed the math sequence. This is more theoretical based math. It has been approved through the Curriculum Council.

### **2. Building Goals**

Board will need to approve all the Building Goals later than usual this year because we have new principals. By approving the goals, the Board is saying through those building goals the vision and mission statements are closer to being met each year.

### **3. CSEA Contract**

We have finally reached a tentative agreement with the CSEA on their contract. There is a retroactive component to it; it begins July 2006 and goes through June 2010. A Board member asked to go into executive session before taking action on the approval of the contract. It was agreed upon by the Board members. It was pointed out that on this agenda under CSEA contract resolution it states July 2006 - June 2011 when in fact it is June 2010. It will be amended. The CSEA members ratified the agreement 54 to 1.

### **4. Contract Negotiations**

The WTA negotiations are at Fact Finding at this point.

## **CLERK'S REPORT**

\*1 Approval of Minutes as amended for January 7 and January 16, 2008 Board meetings.

Mr. Perotti made and Mr. McGhee seconded the approval of minutes as amended. It was pointed out the minutes year showed 2007, it will be amended to show 2008. The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Delegations**

There were none.

### **4. Non-Staff Communications**

There were none.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **1. Extra-Curricular Appointments for the 2007-2008 School Year**

Board members will discuss this in executive session.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Extra-Curricular appointments for the 2007-2008 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Nancy Gagne  
Jay Bradley  
Sean Hosier  
Anthony DiUglio

Choreographer  
Musical Director  
Modified Track Coach  
Varsity Girls Track Coach

## **2. Instructional Substitute Appointment**

Mr. Herald made and Mr. McGhee 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:

John Merwin  
Effective: March 24, 2008

Long Term Substitute Teacher  
(leave replacement for Chris Gillette)

The five Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS**

### **1. Adoption of Bond Resolution**

Ms. Coniglio made and Mr. Herald seconded the following motion:

A Board member questioned how long of a period are we requesting for a ban? The School Business Administrator responded less than a year. A Board member requested a list of how many bans we have. The School Business Administrator will provide it to the Board.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 65-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS AND ONE (1) 18-PASSENGER SCHOOL BUS EQUIPPED FOR WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORTATION AND ONE (1) 28-PASSENGER VAN AND (2) TWO CARS FOR USE BY THE NORTHEAST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, DUTCHESS AND COLUMBIA COUNTIES, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$213,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS AND BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$209,695.05 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.**

**WHEREAS**, at the special meeting of the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, duly called, held and conducted on November 13, 2007, a majority of the duly qualified voters of said School District voting thereat approved a proposition authorizing the purchase of (1) 65-passenger school bus at a cost not to exceed \$85,000.00 and one (1) 18-passenger school bus equipped for wheelchair transportation at a cost not to exceed \$52,000.00 and one (1) 28-passenger van at a cost not to exceed \$39,000.00 and (2) two cars maximum estimated cost of \$37,000 (18,500 each) for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$213,000.00; and providing for the levy of a tax therefore to be collected in installments with obligations of said School District to be issued in anticipation thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, it is now desired to provide for the financing thereof, to set the details and to provide for other matters in connection therewith;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, as follows:

**Section 1.** The purchase of the following vehicles for use by the Northeast Central School District, which are not assessable improvements, is authorized as follows:

One (1) 65-passenger school bus at a cost of \$83,266.28

And

One (1) 18-passenger school bus equipped for wheelchair transportation at a cost of \$51,238.77

And

One (1) 28-passenger van at a cost of \$38,190

And

Two (2) Cars at a cost of (18,500 each) \$37,000

**Section 2.** The specific objects or purposes for which said obligations are to be issued pursuant to this resolution is to finance the cost of the purchase of said passenger vehicles.

**Section 3.** The maximum estimated cost of the aforesaid items is \$213,000.00 and the plan for financing thereof is by the issuance of serial bonds of said School District in the amount of \$209,695.05, hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the Local Finance Law and this resolution. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. Such obligations shall be payable from amounts which shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property in said School District, and the faith and credit of said Northeast Central School District are hereby pledged for the payment of said obligations and the interest thereon.

**Section 4.** It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness applicable to the aforesaid specific classes of objects or purposes is five (5) years, pursuant to subdivision 29 of paragraph (a) of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law. The proposed maturity of the obligations authorized by this resolution will not be in excess of five (5) years.

**Section 5.** Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the serial bonds herein authorized, including renewals of said notes, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, the Chief Fiscal Officer, or to the Vice-President of the Board of Education in the President's absence. Such bond anticipation note and any renewals thereof shall bear interest and be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner as may be prescribed by said President of

the Board of Education, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law. There are presently no outstanding obligations which have been issued in anticipation of the sale of such obligations.

**Section 6.** All other matters, except as provided herein, relating to such bonds shall be determined by the President of the Board of Education, including the power to designate such bonds as “qualified tax exempt obligations” pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, if at the time of such designation, such officer is able to certify that: (i) the School District is, and was as of October 23, 1985, a political subdivision of the State of New York; (ii) it is reasonably anticipated that (a) the amount of “qualified tax-exempt obligations”, within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code which will be issued by the School District during this calendar year shall not exceed \$10,000,000.00 and (b) the bonds do not constitute part of an issue, and are not part of a series of issues issued for a common purpose, exceeding \$3,000,000.00 in the aggregate; and (iii) the sum of principal amount of the bonds and the principal amount of any other obligations heretofore designated by the School District during the current fiscal year does not exceed \$10,000,000.00. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals, in addition to those required by Section 51.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the President of the Board of Education shall determine.

**Section 7.** The validity of such obligations may be contested only if:

- (a) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which such School District is not authorized to expend money; or
- (b) The provisions of law which should be complied with as of the date of publication of this resolution or summary thereof are not substantially complied with and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of such publication; or
- (c) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

**Section 8.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The five Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

### **1. Committee on Special Education Monthly Reports**

Ms. Coniglio made and Mr. Herald seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Webutuck Board of Education hereby accepts the Committee on Special Education report for January 2008, 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 five Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **2. Approval of Textbook – Geometry**

Ms. Coniglio made and Mr. Herald seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following textbook for the Mathematics' curriculum, Geometry; 2008 Amsco Publisher, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The five Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **3. Acceptance of Obsolete Books**

Ms. Coniglio made and Mr. Herald seconded the following motion:

A Board member asked are we accepting the books or disposing of the. They are being accepted as obsolete books. The Superintendent stated if we find someone to take the books the District will give them away, if not we will dispose of them.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby declares the following listed items obsolete, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Letters Plus Communicating on the Job 1992, Applied Business

Mathematics 1985, Basic Letter and Memo Writing 1987

The five Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **4. Approval of BET Building Goals for WHS, EBMS, and AES/WES**

Mr. Herald made and Ms. Coniglio seconded the following motion:

The Board President stated he was encouraged by the academic points that the Board is approving and dovetailing the curriculum together so that weaknesses can be identified as the District moves forward.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Building Excellence Team Building Goals for the 2007-2008 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The five Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **1. Approval of Civil Service Employee Association (CSEA) Contract**

Board members will discuss this in executive session.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the agreement for the successor contract for the CSEA July 2006 – June 2010, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Coniglio made and Mr. Herald seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:29 pm for the purpose of discussing particular personnel issues and contract negotiation. The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Extra-Curricular Appointments for the 2007-2008 School Year**

Mr. Herald made and Ms. Coniglio seconded the following motion as amended:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Extra-Curricular appointments for the 2007-2008 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Nancy Gagne

Choreographer

Jay Bradley

Musical Director

Sean Hosier

Co-Coach Modified Track

Anthony DiUglio

Co-Coach Modified Track

The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **Approval of Civil Service Employee Association (CSEA) Contract**

Mr. Herald made and Ms. Coniglio seconded the following motion as amended:

A Board member thanked the team that finalized the contract negotiations as well as the CSEA representation that worked together to approve it.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the agreement for the successor contract for the CSEA July 2006 – June 2010, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Perotti made and Mr. McGhee seconded the following motion:

A Board member questioned if we were taking away representation from our attorney in negotiating the contract. A Board member stated that negotiations would be under the advisement of our attorneys at all times. The Superintendent and the District's attorney have been the negotiators; the Board has not been involved in the direct process.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education negotiating team and attorneys take over negotiations with the Teachers' contract, under advisement of the District's attorney.

The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following comments were made by audience members"

-Thank the Board, Joe Herald and Dale Culver for getting involved in negotiations and bringing to a quick resolution. Let's do this in the future.

-It is a compliment to the District that retired teachers come back to substitute here.

-Who is coaching Girls Varsity Track? Doug Winslow will coach both boys and girls track and Mr. Hosier and Mr. DiUglio will help.

#### **BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS**

Where are we at with 504 students and the difficulties. Each Building Principal is in charge of 504's. A letter will be sent every semester telling the teacher about the 504 students in their classroom and recommending teaching ideas to help them.. A copy will

go to the parents. Discussion ensued.

The Board needs to review the Policy about passing Regents.

What about the milk machines? Mr. Freer is not interested in the machine because of the mechanical and delivery problems. It will be turned over to Rob and Linda. It was stated that Mr. Rosner is not interested in another machine.

A Board member stated he supported the Amenia community collection of clothing being done by a Christian organization. We do not need a motion to approve this, many organization do this type of event. Is this a conflict with Religion v State issue? The Board member stated he does not want the District to have problems down the road. Discussion ensued.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Perotti made and Mr. Herald seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:01 pm for the purpose of discussing particular personnel issues. The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mr. Perotti made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the public session at 10:22 pm. The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Perotti made a motion to adjourn the meeting of February 11, 2008 at 10:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Trotter  
District Clerk