

Webutuck Board of Education held the June 18, 2008 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Dale Culver, President

Joseph Herald

Andrew Jablonsky

Susan Lounsbury

William McGhee

Joseph Matteo

John Perotti

Also Present:

Dr. Richard N. Johns, Superintendent

Therese Trotter District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

President Culver called the business meeting of June 18, 2008 to order at 7:35 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were made by audience members:

- spoke about the recent approval of summer workers recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. The positions were not advertised and there are two siblings of a Board member on the summer worker list. Would like the Board to move quickly to see if this was done legally.
- Three students spoke in support of keeping the football program. They stated why it was a great sport and asked the Board to consider not cutting it.
- Question was asked about Ms. Coniglio's resignation and why the Board did not vote on it.
- What is going to be done to raise the morale of the ninth grade class for next year?
- Will there be any other classes being offered over the summer to help the 9th grade class move forward?
- Is the eighth grade class going to be discussed when you speak about the failings of the ninth grade class?
- This class has had a reputation for the last three or more years as having difficulty. Part of the problem is responsibility of homework and study habits.
- If it is a non-union job do we need to advertise?

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – Peter McCaffrey

Mr. McCaffrey gave a presentation on the Athletic Committee's review of the Athletic Program at Webutuck School District. He stressed athletics are an important part of the Webutuck experience. The purpose of athletics is to promote teamwork, participation and pride in the Webutuck School District. The mission is to field varsity teams that are competitive with all opponents. He reviewed the basic principals of the athletic program which are: delimiters and precepts, description of varsity coaches, becoming competitive

and program health check. Discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION

1. Summer Workers

A Board member suggested waiting until Mr. Lounsbury was present to discuss this issue because he has the necessary information. The Board President felt discussion could take place to find out if indeed the position was posted and advertised. There were questions as to if the students were interviewed for the position. It was also questioned why the District did not use NECC workers because they pick up some of the salary and it is of educational value to those students. A Board member asked is that limiting the kids from Amenia? Most students in that program are from Millerton. It was decided more information was needed and the information will be sent to the Board. It was decided the Superintendent would get a legal rendering of the process the District used in hiring the summer workers. The Board will be advised of the outcome. Discussion ensued.

2. French Trip

The Board did not receive the information it requested with regards to the minute-by-minute itinerary. How are the kids going to be supervised at night and all throughout the trip? The fifth grade put together a similar itinerary for the Canada trip. It was suggested the Superintendent and/or Mr. Posephney meet with the chaperones to present what is to be expected from them. The Superintendent will get the information for the Board. Discussion ensued.

3. Sports Reductions

The Superintendent stated the budget set forth by the Board and voted on by the taxpayers of the District eliminates two sports, one boys' fall sport and one girls' fall sport. The Board is looking at sports cost and sports participation etc. in making their decision. The Superintendent's recommendation is to eliminate football and volleyball. However, the Board, after looking at the participation and grade levels thought it was possible that the District could have a varsity volleyball team and jv field hockey team. A Board member also suggested the money be used from Senator Leibell to field both sports. The Board asked for more information on the Middle School Football signees. This item will appear on the next Board agenda. Discussion ensued.

4. Set Substitute Rates

A new policy that was established this year stated substitute rates would be set apart from unions to clarify rates and benefits etc. They will be set at the reorganizational meeting each year. The Superintendent suggested a 4 to 5.6% increase for substitutes. The substitute rates in the past have increased at the same rate as the union rates. Several Board members felt that was too big of an increase. It was suggested by a Board member to inquire what area schools' rates are and to provide the Board with that information. Discussion ensued.

5. Long-Term Itinerant Substitute Contract

The District is looking to hire a second long-term itinerant substitute. However, the contract states the employee has to wait twenty days before paying \$200 per day. The Superintendent stated the difficulty in getting substitutes to come to the District and by

having a long-term substitute the District benefits in immediately being able to put that employee to work. The Superintendent recommends paying a long-term itinerant substitute \$200 per day starting on day one. Discussion ensued.

6. 08-09 Staffing

The budget approved by the taxpayers call for a reduction of four teaching positions. The Board will discuss where staff will be placed next year. The cuts are as follows: a sixth grade teacher, the ACE program, the Science program and the High School AIS program. The Superintendent discussed the plans for each reduction in each area. It was suggested going forward to look for teacher applicants who are dual certified. A Board member asked if eliminating the AIS position and assigning it to current staff, if that affects a sixth period assignment. The Superintendent stated yes. Discussion ensued.

7. 08-09 Academic Policies

An audience member asked if there was going to be policies in place for ninth graders going into tenth grade. The Board President stated that it was not only Earth Science that was a problem for the ninth graders, it was other subjects also. The High School Principal outlined several things that the District realizes now about the weaknesses of the ninth grade and what the High School is planning to do next year such as the realizing the high school was not ready for this class, re-emphasizing study skills, time management, note taking, prioritizing, and planners will be distributed for homework etc. Also there will be summer school for Earth Science and there will be a boot camp for incoming ninth graders. Discussion ensued.

CLERK'S REPORT

1. Delegations

None

2. Non-Staff Communications

None

PERSONNEL

1. 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:

Tom Kelly

Effective: June 10, 2008

Long Term Substitute Teacher

(leave replacement for David Pearson)

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

2. Approval of Itinerant Substitute Contract Template

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

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Daily Itinerant Substitute Teacher contract template starting at \$200/day, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

1. Authorization to increase the 2007-2008 Budget

This item was removed from the agenda so further information could be provided to the Board. It will be moved to the next meeting agenda.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby increases the 2007-2008 Budget in the amount of \$75,000.00, in Budget Code A2630.200.05 as a result of a grant from Senator Leibell, to be recorded in Revenue Account Code A3289, with such funds to be expended from A2630.200 05.

2. Authorization to increase the 2007-2008 Budget

Ms. Lounsbury made and Mr. McGhee seconded the following motion:

A Board member stated thank you to WFFEE, Class of 2001 and to the Berlinghoff family.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby increases the 2007-2008 Budget in the amount of \$5,979.90, in Budget Code A2855.200.00 01 20 as a result of a donation from WFFEE for the purchase of a one (1) soccer scoreboard in the memory of Thomas Berlinghoff, to be recorded in Revenue Account Code A2770 with such funds to be expended from A2855.200.00 01 20.

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

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

1. Authorization of Sport Program Reductions

This item was removed from the agenda so further information could be provided to the Board. It will be moved to the next meeting agenda.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Webutuck Board of Education hereby authorizes the elimination of the following athletic programs: _____ and _____ in conjunction with the Board's proposed budget and the election results of May 20, 2008.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Approval of French Trip to Europe

This item was removed from the agenda so further information could be provided to the Board. It will be moved to the next meeting agenda.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Europe Trip scheduled for April 5 – April 15, 2009 as a school field trip, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

2. Ms. Lounsbury made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded a motion to set a special Business

meeting on June 23, 2008 at 7:30 pm.

A Board member requested the meeting be restricted to agenda items only and to restrict public comment. The Board President stated he would not restrict public comment.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were made by audience members:

-Is the Tuesday through Saturday position going to be posted? Are we filling that?

-An audience member commented about a Board member stated in the meeting that there should be no public comment at the next Board meeting. The audience member was upset with the comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Herald made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 10:20 pm for the purpose of discussing staffing issues. The seven Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of June 18, 2008 adjourned at 1:15 am.