

Webutuck Board of Education held the May 5, 2009 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Dale Culver, President

Andrew Jablonsky

Joseph Herald

Susan Lounsbury

William McGhee arrived 8:44 pm

John Perotti

Also Present:

Dr. Richard N. Johns, Superintendent

Therese Trotter District Clerk

Linda Peters, School Business Administrator

Absent:

Joseph Matteo

CALL TO ORDER

President Culver called the business meeting of May 5, 2009 to order at 7:37 p.m.

Presentations:

Summary 2007-2008 District Performance: Katy McEnroe

Board members had questions about the 2007-2008 District Summary found in the Budget packet that was given out to the public. Mrs. McEnroe stated they are using a guided reading series in second and third grades which is an approach to reading. It teaches reading strategies using books on their instructional level. It is research based practices. They are also using a writing workshop, where you are modeling the writing, it's a best practice that has shown good results. She stated they are using Data Point Assessments in writing, reading, and math to drive instruction as well as using it as daily assessments. She explained the use of ELA and Math prep classes after school. They were held for six weeks. We have an ELA 90 minutes language arts block that addresses many language arts issues. We push into classrooms with speech or reading teachers. Lynn Buckley spoke about the last Superintendent's Day and how the K-5 teachers got together to discuss research about the 90/90 study – which is a study that showed what was effective for our school.

One School One Book and PARP -Lynn Buckley

Beth Murphy, AES Librarian, gave a history of the PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) program and showed a slide presentation of this year's PARP program at Amenia. Lynn Buckley spoke about the 200 books that were donated to AES, every child received one. She then applied for a grant and received 200 more books. Each child received two hard cover books. All the students read the books and discussed them during the school day. She explained how this was tied into their BET goals.

It was Teacher Appreciation Week this week; Renee Palmer ordered tee shirts to raise money for the playground. Staff and faculty chipped in and bought each Board member a tee shirt.

2009-2010 PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Mr. Perotti made and Mr. Herald seconded a motion to open the Public Budget Hearing. The six Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

The Superintendent gave a brief overview of the budget planning the Board and he did thus far. The budget when first proposed had huge cuts and over the next six weeks it was unclear what would happen in the State budget. Eventually, it became clearer that the money would come to the New York Schools. The Board did fund some things that originally had been cut. He spoke about the contingency budget having to be lower than the school budget. He stated that it is not that clear. This budget is one of the lowest budgets in years.

The Board President stated that this budget is the best budget they could present. Voting this budget down will not help this school district this year or next.

An audience member stated he would like to commend the Board on everything that has been thrown at them and yet they still came in with a good budget.

Mr. Herald made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded a motion to close the Public Budget Hearing.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were made by audience members:

-Please read the letter that was given to you at the beginning of the meeting. The Board President asked the audience member to read it because it was his letter.

-The Executive Session fell apart at a previous meeting. There were no answers to the truck and pizza oven. We will communicate with you by letter going forward.

-Are we meeting in Exec Session to go over the letter we received this past Saturday?
Yes.

-How many track coaches do we need?

-Looked at obsolete items; one Lord of the Flies tape and film. I hope the security system doesn't become the proverbial Lord of the Flies.

DISCUSSION

1. District Alert System

This has been before the Board several times, this system will notify parents when there is a change in status at school or an important topic comes up. It does email and phone calls.

Who will put this system together and keep it up to date. That will fall under technology. Who will develop the message to put out? Ultimately it will fall to Superintendent. A Regulation will be developed. Discussion ensued.

1. Insurance

All the monies that the District has paid out regarding the oil spill NYSED will reimburse us. We should look at all of our insurance costs. Discussion ensued.

2. 504 Special Education

At the end of the year the Board President would like a report to review the changes that were made last year with the Principals being the 504 administrators.

3. Bus Garage

We will have a walk through and discussion to decide the scope. The Facility Committee Chair and the Board President will set up a walk through. A Board member asked if the starting point was the efficiencies discussed in the Transportation Study. Yes the Study sited not enough space and there are things that can be done without major renovations to help that problem. Discussion ensued.

4. Girls Soccer Summer Training Camp & Parent/Child Weekend Sports Camp

The District has different sports camps during the summer. The Board discussed who the coaches will be for the Parent/Child Sports Camp. The Superintendent will find out and report back.

5. Chemical Abuse Counselor (CAPE)

We have a task force of guidance counselors, nurses, principals and social workers that met with CAPE to help shore up efforts with issues such as chemical abuse problems, harassment and bullying. The District seems to have had more of these problems this year. Elaine Trumpetto, from CAPE, came to a meeting to speak about providing resources to address these problems. Financial cost aspects were discussed. Discussion ensued.

7. Weekend Incident at the Amenia Basketball Court

There was an incident that occurred at the Amenia Basketball Court this weekend. The Board President would like the Superintendent to talk to the Sheriff's Department Police and the Director of Facility about finishing the fence around the Basketball Court area. People in that neighborhood are going to start a neighborhood watch and they would like the school to put a sign that says this area is under surveillance. Discussion ensued.

CLERK'S REPORT

1. Approval of Minutes for March 4, March 9, March 16, and March 30, 2009 Board meetings as Submitted.

Mr. Herald made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded a motion to accept the minutes as submitted.

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

2. Acceptance of Financial Reports as Submitted

Warrants 65-71

Mr. Herald made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded a motion to accept the Financial Reports as submitted.

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

3. Delegations -NONE

4. Non-Staff Communications- NONE

PERSONNEL

1. Creation of Positions

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

The coach's aide positions were discussed whether they were volunteer or salaried. The figure will be 80% of what the coach's salary in that particular sport is. The aides will be coaches that will be under the direction of the track coach. The number of students on the track teams was discussed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the creation of two (2) Coach's Aide positions, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

Dale Culver	Yes	Susan Lounsbury	Yes
Andrew Jablonsky	Yes	William McGhee	Yes
Joseph Herald	No	John Perotti	Yes

2. Approval of Job Description

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

The Board members questioned if the aides were working under the Varsity Track Coach? They will be. A Board member discussed some of the job descriptions that he felt should be the responsibility of the Head Coach. Board members would like wording on certification in the job description.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the Coach's Aide job description as amended, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools

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

2. Extra-Curricular Appointment for the 2008-2009 School Year

Mr. Lounsbury made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded the following motion:

The question was asked if the people who are not certified on the list below intentions are to pursue certification and become coaches. It was stated they were. Discussion took place whether action should be taken to remove Mr. Riddle from his Assistant Baseball Coach position and appoint him as Assistant Track Coach. It was agreed that action should take place on the removal of Mr. Riddle from Baseball.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following Extra-Curricular appointment for the 2008-2009 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

Steven Connely	Coach's Aide Track
Brittany Kain	Coach's Aide Track
Michael Riddle	Assistant Track Coach (within his general contract)

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

Dale Culver	Yes	Susan Lounsbury	Yes
Andrew Jablonsky	Yes	William McGhee	No
Joseph Herald	Yes	John Perotti	No

Mr. Herald made a motion to remove Mike Riddle as Assistant Baseball coach.
The six Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

1. Acceptance of Obsolete Equipment

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

The Board questions how these items will be disposed of. Discussion took place.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following list of obsolete equipment, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools:

- 1 3M sound recorder
- 3 Murdoch boxes (multiple head set connection box)
- 5 Avid Boxes (same style as above)
- 1 Lord of the Flies cassette and film
- 1 Animal Farm cassette and film
- 2 Panasonic cassette players
- 2 Bell and Howell language master (hearing test equipment)
- 1 Singer Auto Mate cassette player
- 2 Bell and Howell cassette players
- 1 Head demagnetizer
- 22 head phones
- 2 head phone carrying case

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

2. Approval of Surplus Vehicle Bids

Mr. Lounsbury made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded the following motion:

A Board member suggested rejecting the bid on Vehicle #2, 1) because the tires are worth more than \$150. Is there any viability of replacing the engine? A Board member said that it cannot be replaced, even for a new or used engine the DOT would not pass it. Discussion ensued.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby awards the acceptable highest bid for surplus vehicles presented, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Cheryl & Sons, Vehicle #93, 2000 International Bus 65 passenger - \$6,821

Cheryl & Sons, Vehicle #96, 2000 International Bus 65 passenger - \$6,021

Brown Bus Sales Inc., Vehicle #02, 1999 Ford Taurus Station Wagon 5 passenger - \$150

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

3. Acceptance of Plan for EXCEL Project

Mr. Lounsbury made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded the following motion:

A Board member asked for clarification on what the scope is again. Mr. Jablonsky listed the items. They are the water pump, the roof and the security system. Are we using the Performance contract for the roof? The District will not know until after the bidding on May 26. Discussion ensued.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the plans and specifications drawn up by Rhinebeck Architecture for the EXCEL Project not to exceed \$705,000 and set the bid opening date of May 26, 2009, **as** recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

4. A Board member questioned why the seasonal workers are not on this. We do not have any definite names yet. The Board asked how Mark Lounsbury is going to deploy and oversee them. He also was looking into the price of a moving company for the Board.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

1. Committee on Special Education Monthly Reports

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Webutuck Board of Education hereby accepts the Committee on Special Education report for March 2009, 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 six Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried.

2. Approval of Textbooks

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following textbooks for Science Curriculum – Science Explorer Physical Science, Prentice Hall 2009, Science Explorer Life Science, Prentice Hall 2009 and Guided Flight Discovery Private, Jeppesem 2007, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

3. Donation of Textbooks

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

A Board member questions if there will be a letter of thanks that goes out. The District will send one out.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby accepts, with thanks, the donation of 200 books titled, Snake and Lizard by Jan Cowley for the purpose of implementing the One School, One Book project at AES, in addition the Board of Education accepts with thanks 200 books titled Rainforest, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

4. Approval of Trip to France and Trip to Costa Rica

Mr. Lounsbury made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded the following motion as amended These dates are incorrect.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the trip to France scheduled for 2009-2010 school year and the trip to Costa Rica scheduled for 2009-2010

school year as school field trips the Board reserves the right to look at this as amended, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

Dale Culver	Yes	Susan Lounsbury	Yes
Andrew Jablonsky	Yes	William McGhee	Yes
Joseph Herald	Yes	John Perotti	No

5. Donation for Workout Room

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts, with thanks, the donation of a leg press machine for the workout room, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

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

The Board asked for an update on the workout room and what machines the District has. The Superintendent explained that they moved a lot of equipment around and got rid of things that did not work properly. He stated that the room area is safer now. The spacing is ergonomically correct. The Board would like a list of what needs to be fixed. Also, the Board members asked if they can get a list of coaches and the courses they have taken and who has received their certification. Discussion ensued.

Discussion took place about the status of District vending machines. A organic company was presented that would like to sell products in the machines. A Board member asked if the company is certified by NOFA? They are misrepresented as organic if they are not certified. We should look at local organic farms. Discussion ensued.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Organic Vending Company

This Organic Vending Company came to the Wellness Committee Meeting that was held. Some parents were looking for healthy alternatives for the students. The Company presented their program; they would take over the vending program we have here and they would stock them. The District would choose from the company what to stock the machines with. Discussion ensued.

A Board member wanted to commend Mike Riddle for the increased communication.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were made by audience members:

-Disappointed on what happened in the transportation department today and disappointed on how administration handled it this past month.

-The cafeteria workers have been moving building to building for the past month.

Everyone hates it. Everyone was suppose to be moved but not everyone is. Can we go back to the way it was?

-Hoping to have a survey done by CAPE and NECC about drug use if the school approves the surveys to be handed out.

-Is there anything new on the grade configurations for next year? Not at this time.

-What is the monthly Special Education report you just approved? The Superintendent

explained.

-How do the trips get funded by the District operating budget? The trips are paid for through fundraising and their own money.

-Would like to see the workout room updated and anything fixed.

-Did the Board receive information in their packets about the tractor pull? The Board knows the tractor pull is not going to happen. Now you are talking about pulling the vending machines from the FFA. The Organic Company will have no affect on the FFA.

-When are we going to see the District Office and the other classes move? It won't be until summer.

-There has been talk about closing the Millerton building. Yes, but the Pre-K class will be there this year.

-If they need a freezer at AES I have a freezer.

-The freezer belongs to the ice cream company we use. It has been non-functional for about a week and a half. They are looking into replacing it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Lounsbury made and Mr. Jablonsky seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:55pm for the purpose of discussing particular personnel matters. The six Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Lounsbury made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the public session at 10:50 pm. The six Board members present voted. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Perotti made a motion to adjourn the meeting of May 5, 2009 at 10:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter
District Clerk