

The Webutuck Board of Education held their November 1, 2010 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Dale Culver, President

Joseph Herald arrived at 7:45 pm

William McGhee

John Perotti

Casey Swift

Also Present:

Steven D. Schoonmaker, Superintendent

Mary Grden, School Business Manager

Therese Trotter, District Clerk

Absent:

Joanne Boyd

Joseph Matteo

CALL TO ORDER

President Culver called the business meeting of November 1, 2010 to order at 7:37 p.m.

Presentation by Jeff Zimar: Propane Gas Powered School Busses

Mr. Zimar is a consultant with New York Bus Sales. He spoke about the pros and cons of Propane School Buses. He listed websites up on a Power Point presentation for anyone who wants to learn more information about propane school buses. He explained that LP is not compressed natural gas. It is a byproduct of the refining of natural gas domestically produced. It is very clean fuel. The key to this system is that the propane is liquid from the fuel tank all the way to the gas tank. They have eliminated the mixture of air and gas and eliminated cold air and moisture problems. Safety has been a misunderstanding or misconception because people think a propane school bus would be a bomb read to blow up. He stated that a gas bus is more dangerous on the road than a propane bus. The tanks on a propane bus cannot be split open but because of the size of the tank he noted that they are limited to seventy-two gallon tanks. The average mileage is four to six and it has a two hundred and forty mile range on a tank. He noted the advantages: due to of the shape of the tank, salt and dirt could not sit on the tank because they are cylindrical and diesel is the least ignitable, then gasoline then propane. Mr. Zimar reported that the pad and power for the propane bus would be what the school is responsible for. He also went over fuel cost comparison noting that the Vtech credit for 2011 is tied up in Congress. Lastly Mr. Zimar summarized the pros over diesel buses which are: less expensive, cleaner burning, greenest of the green, and does not require particulate filters or traps. The cons are: filling takes longer and filters should be checked depends on how clean your fuel is. The Board President stated that they most likely would not look at purchasing a propane bus for at least a couple of years due to the economic condition we are currently in.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following topics were commented on by audience members:

-student questioned Board about education at the school

DISCUSSION

1. Board Goals

The Board President asked for any further changes for the Board goals. A Board member stated the goals should be succinct and concise and #1 thing is the need for addressing difficulties and maintaining excellence in this District. The Board President spoke about the fiscal focus for the District in the next several years and he added that there should be a goal that emphasizes fiscal restraint due to the economic state of New York State and the local economy. Discussion ensued.

2. Wall Mural

The Superintendent spoke about the program in Grades 4-6 called Reading Around the World that will begin in the first of the year. The students will begin in Armenia and each class will travel to different countries based on the number of pages they read as a class. The program includes using math, geography, topography, culture etc. The music department will provide music and the gourmet foods class will make foods from the different cultures and countries the classes visit. The bonus of this program is students will be reading more. A mural of the world will be painted across from the High School library on the wall by the art class.

The German class would also like to paint a mural in the German Class room. The Board approved of both murals.

CONSENSUS AGENDA VOTE

Mrs. Swift made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion to approve the consent agenda as amended.

The amendment by the Superintendent called for removing #1 (only Boys Modified Basketball) under Personnel for further discussion in Executive Session. 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 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT

1. Delegations - None
2. Non-Staff Communications - None

PERSONNEL

***1. Extra-Curricular Appointments for the 2010-2011 School Year**

Mrs. Swift made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following extra-curricular appointments for the

2010-2011 school year:

Dana Scarpa

Girls' JV Basketball

Ayes 5

Nays 0

The motion carried.

***2. Substitute Support Staff Appointments**

Mrs. Swift made and Mr. Perotti 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:

Ronald Piper

Substitute Bus Driver

Effective: November 2, 2010

\$16.80/hour

Joseph Murtaugh

Substitute Bus Driver

Effective: November 2, 2010

\$16.80/hour

Kathleen Sullivan

Substitute Monitor

Effective: November 2, 2010

\$11.29/hour

Ayes 5

Nays 0

The motion carried.

***3. Revised Leave of Absence**

Mrs. Swift made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the following revised unpaid Leave of Absence

Jennifer Jaffe

Elementary Education

Effective: September 1, 2010- November 10, 2010

(Original Effective dates: September 1, 2010 – October 8, 2010)

Ayes 5

Nays 0

The motion carried.

***4. Support Staff Resignation**

Mrs. Swift made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following Support Staff Resignation:

Gladys Chapman

Custodial Worker

Effective: November 5, 2010

Ayes 5

Nays 0

The motion carried.

***5. Support Staff Resignation**

Mrs. Swift made and Mr. Perotti seconded the following motion:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby accepts the following Support Staff Resignation for the purpose of retirement:

Doris Ostrander

Custodian

Effective: December 30, 2010

Ayes 5

Nays 0

The motion carried.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

1. Approval of Budget Transfers

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

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the attached budget transfer schedule #4 and #5 over five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per Board resolution dated 7/6/10 .

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

2. Approval of Surplus Equipment

Mrs. Swift made and Mr. McGhee seconded the following motion:

The President of the Board asked that the language in the resolution add “to be put out to bid”

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the following surplus computer equipment (see attached) to be put out to bid:

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

3. A Board Member reported that Marilyn Najeck had contacted her and asked to use the Millerton School building for approximately ten days in December for Adopt a Family program. They could use the space to collect things for the families. They will have to fill out a Building Use Form and make sure they have insurance.

4. The Board President and School Business Manager toured through WES and will continue with the different buildings to develop a punch list and bring to the Facilities Committee. discuss in the

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

The Superintendent reported on the boys and girls sectional playoff results. He also explained that there was a break in computer line to WES, they were down for two days but we are back up currently. Other topics he mentioned:

- The PreK playground is being installed at WES.
- There is an ongoing water problem at the school; there was no water this afternoon after 2:45 pm, however at this point it is fixed.
- Art in Education is doing a fruit fundraiser that was in the Superintendent’s last district and was always very successful.
- RTTT was re-configured; we now have eight dollars more.

A Board member spoke about the Fresh Town program that allows businesses to collect points by purchasing items; other people can donate their points to businesses also. The District has 4 million points at Fresh Town. School Business Manager has received an email from Fresh Town with a contact name. She will touch base with the contact to understand the program better.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. McGhee made and Mrs. Swift seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:14 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person or persons and the item pulled off the consent agenda.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs. Swift made and Mr. Herald seconded a motion to adjourn the executive session and to reconvene the public session at 10:14 pm.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mrs. Swift made and Mr. McGhee seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting of November 1, 2010 at 10:15 pm.

Ayes 5 Nays 0 The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Therese M. Trotter
District Clerk