

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 1, 2005

7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: Edward H. Brown, Jr., President
Susan Kushner, Vice President
Teneka Frost, Secretary
William Barnette
Patricia Fahy
Barbara Gaffuri

Dr. Eva Joseph
Jeffrey Honeywell
Terrance White
Joseph Dragone
Kathleen Wetmore
Linda Jackson-Chalmers

Absent: None

Call to Order:

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Brown invited the audience to participate in a moment of silence in memory of Rosa Parks, the civil rights leader and Dominic Young, a former student in the District who passed away this past week. Mr. Brown welcomed the members of the audience and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Mr. Brown noted Ms. Kushner would be leaving the meeting at 8:00 p.m. for personal reasons. Mr. Brown also noted that he was invited to attend a celebration sponsored by ARISE, where he accepted a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the District for achieving goals for minority and women hiring in the facilities project.

Mr. Brown advised there is an addendum to the agenda under Routine Consent Items, including Compensation for Impartial Hearing Officers, New York Power Authority resolution to replace a boiler at Academy Park and an Administrator Probationary Period Extension.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph advised flags at all schools in the District would be flown at half mast in honor of Rosa Parks. Dr. Joseph noted direction has also been provided to the principals within the schools to insure that students are engaged in activities where they truly have a high-end appreciation for her significant stand for justice.

Dr. Joseph noted last week she had the pleasure, along with several Board Members, to attend the City Council PTA's Principals and President's Dinner that was held at Myers Middle School. Dr. Joseph thanked Mr. Frank and Mr. Mishler, Co-Presidents, for hosting the event that had an excellent turnout and an excellent program. Dr. Joseph noted those present were taken to another level of knowledge regarding the impact of Stephen and Harriett Myers in the community, through a presentation by Paul and Mary Stewart.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Brown noted Mr. Lee was absent and therefore, there would be no student report this evening.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

1. Bernie Mulligan addressed the Board relative to events that are planned for Thanksgiving Weekend. One is a celebration honoring five graduates from the Class of 2001 who have graduated this year from college. These students have played intercollegiate sports for the past four years. This event will take place on November 26 at Albany High School. Also, Mr. Mulligan invited everyone present to the CDPHP Invitational, which will take place at the Pepsi Arena on Sunday, November 27.
2. John Amidon addressed the Board relative to the "Do You Know Enough to Enlist" brochure, which is a simple brochure about full disclosure recruitment that would give kids in school full information about what it means to join the military he passed on to the District for distribution in the high school.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Brown presented Routine Consent Items including Proceedings of Meetings for October 6, 2005 and October 20, 2005, Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Transfers, Appointments (Probationary Appointments, Miscellaneous, Coaching, Continuing Education, AHS Clubs and Advisors 2005-2006, Civil Service, Tenure), Attendance at Conferences, Treasurer's Report, Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund, Award of Bid, 2005-06 Budget Transfers under \$10,000, 2005-06 Budget Transfers over \$10,000, Budget Status Report 7/1/05 – 6/30/06, Real Property Tax Adjustments, Compensation for Impartial Hearing Officers, New York Power Authority Resolution and Administrator – Probationary Period Extension, Contracts for Grants and Special Projects (The Research Foundation of SUNY, University of Albany) and The Reading Writing Project Network LLC; Recommendations of the Committee on Special Education, the Subcommittee on Special Education and the Committee on Pre-School Education and Appointments to Special Education Committees and Emergency Conditional Appointments. Mr. Barnette made a motion to approve Routine Consent Items. Ms. Frost seconded the motion.

Mr. Barnette requested that The Research Foundation of SUNY, University of Albany contract be set aside.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mr. Barnette requested additional information relative to The Research Foundation of SUNY, University of Albany contract. Dr. Joseph advised this contract is part of a larger project. Dr. Joseph noted the District partnered with the University of Albany. Mr. White advised a collaborative effort involving the District, the University of Albany, and the Schenectady School District, working with Math instructors from grades 1 – 8 is working toward improved math instruction. The University of Albany is assisting with professional development and evaluation. This is a three-year grant and this particular item is the evaluation piece. Mr. Barnette made a motion to approve The Research Foundation of SUNY, University of Albany contract. Ms. Kushner seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Action Item Related to the Facilities Project

Approval of Change Orders

Dr. Joseph presented change orders for Schuyler Achievement Academy, Myers Middle School, Montessori Magnet Academy, North Albany Academy, Eagle Point Elementary School, School 18, and Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology. Following discussion, Ms. Fahy made a motion to approve the change orders. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Schuyler Achievement Academy Tile Bid

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the tile bid for Schuyler Achievement Academy. Mr. Barnette seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

ACTION ITEM

2004-2005 Financial Statements

Mr. Brown presented the 2004-2005 Financial Statement previously discussed by the Board at the last meeting. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion for approval. Mr. Barnette seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

INFORMATION ITEM

Draft Budget Calendar

Ms. Wetmore advised the budget calendar from last year was amended to reflect the process that occurred last year. Taking that into consideration, the District consulted with SED regulations to insure that the District is complying with SED regulations as well as any legal requirements. Ms. Wetmore noted the last page of information distributed with the agenda lists the SED deadlines. Ms. Wetmore advised the calendar is constructed to meet those deadlines. Ms. Wetmore reviewed the dates and steps involved in the process. Ms. Wetmore advised the first draft budget is scheduled to be presented to the Board at the March 7, 2006 Board Meeting. The final draft budget and Board adoption is scheduled for April 4, 2006, which allows for the possibility that the State may pass their budget on time, providing more definitive numbers to go forward with the budget. Additional dates coincide with the SED deadlines with the budget vote scheduled on May 16, 2006.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

None

Adjournment

Mr. Barnette made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board