

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

July 5, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: Edward Brown, President
Teneka Frost, Vice President
Jackie Jenkins-Cox
Judy Doesschate

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

Absent/Excused:

William Barnette
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary
Susan Kushner

Call to Order:

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Brown welcomed the members of the audience and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph noted July 1 is the official start of the 2006-2007 year, the district has the summer to gear up for the start of school and the district looks forward to strengthened focus on achievement and school safety as the district moves toward September. Dr. Joseph noted summer school started today in the district. Dr. Joseph noted there are new structures in place to provide a stronger summer program and learning opportunity for the students who are enrolled.

Dr. Joseph noted the agenda this evening includes the appointment of Maria Vitillo as Principal of School 18. Dr. Joseph extended Ms. Vitillo on her appointment.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

There were no speakers.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Brown presented Routine Consent Items including Proceedings of Meetings for May 18, 2006; June 6, 2006 and the June 20, 2006 Canvass of Vote, Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Transfers, Creation of Positions, Abolish of Position, Appointments (Administrative Appointment (Principal – School 18, Extension of Interim Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education), Summer School, Civil Service, Attendance at Conferences, Treasurer's Report, Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund, Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000, Budget Status Report, Award of Bids, Committee on

Special Education, Subcommittee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-K Special Education, Associations Dues 2006-2007 (Capital Area School Development Association, NYS Association of Small City School Districts, National School Boards Association, Purchase of Student Management System and New Covenant Charter School Payment. Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox made a motion to approve the routine consent items as presented. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

INFORMATION ITEM

Dr. Joseph advised by way of introduction, at the last meeting, the board reviewed the middle school restructuring plan for both Hackett Middle School and Philip Livingston, a plan that needs to be approved by the board and submitted to the State Education Department. Another piece of the accountability process for school that are in corrective action is that they develop a comprehensive education plan, which is a separate portion of the process that provides the board with an opportunity for feedback. Mr. Ken Newman, along with faculty from Hackett Middle School (Roberta Greenberg, Jane Greaves, Corey Lustig and Nancy Viall) gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Educational Plan for Hackett Middle School. The presentation included information developed by the School Leadership Team. Members defined steps that would be followed to maximize academic achievement, a safe and orderly environment in the building, communication between staff, students and families and community involvement.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Action Items Related to the Facilities Project

Approval of Change Orders

Mr. Gifford presented change orders for School 18 and Stephen & Harriet Myers Middle School for approval. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox.

The Board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

Approval of Contracts for Hackett Middle School Renovations

Mr. Gifford presented the following resolution for approval of contracts with Albany Environmental Consultants, LLC and Atlantic Testing Laboratories for asbestos removal as part of the Hackett Middle School renovation.

Board Resolution Hackett Middle School Alterations Award of Air Monitoring Testing

WHEREAS, the City School District of Albany received requests for proposals for air monitoring for asbestos abatement the Hackett Middle School Alteration Project (SED # 01-01-00-01-0-044-011) on May 17, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the most responsible unit price bid, came from:

Albany Environmental

WHEREAS, the Director of Facilities and Architect have recommended award of the contract to the above professional services

THEREFORE Be It Resolved that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby award the following contract and authorizes Edward H. Brown Jr., Board President, to execute contract between the District and the above contractor for the Hackett

Middle School (SED # 01-01-00-01-0-044-011) alterations on the recommendation of the Facilities Project Office and the Superintendent:

Be it further resolved that the school district administration, architect, and legal counsel are directed to draft and execute necessary documents to commence the project.

Board Resolution
Hackett Middle School Alterations
Award of Special Construction and Material Testing

WHEREAS, the City School District of Albany requested proposals for special construction and material testing for the Hackett Middle School Alteration Project (SED # 01-01-00-01-0-044-011) on May 17, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the most responsible proposal, came from:

Atlantic Testing Laboratories \$28,955.00,

WHEREAS, the Director of Facilities and Architect have recommended award of the contract to the above professional services

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby award the following contract and authorizes Edward H. Brown Jr., Board President, to execute contract between the District and the above contractor for the Hackett Middle School (SED # 01-01-00-01-0-044-011) alterations on the recommendation of the Facilities Project Office and the Superintendent:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school district administration, architect, and legal counsel are directed to draft and execute necessary documents to commence the project.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the resolutions. Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion. Discussion followed relative to the contracts specifying that the testing lab is a New York State certified laboratory. Mr. Gifford advised he would obtain certification of the laboratories, which will be filed in the facilities office.

The board voted unanimously (4 – 0) to approve the motion.

**Resolution to Approve Maximum Award Dollars for the TOAST
and Giffen Renovation Projects**

Mr. Gifford presented the following resolution to award contracts for the Giffen roof replacement and the TOAST drainage improvement projects, the maximum amount not to exceed the budgeted figure for these projects.

Board Resolution
**Giffen Roof Replacement Project and
TOAST Drainage Improvement Project**
Award of Contracts

WHEREAS, the City School District of Albany will seek bids for the removal and replacement of the roof at Giffen Elementary School (SED # 01-01-00-01-0-046-005) and the TOAST Elementary School Drainage Improvement project (SED # 01-01-00-01-0-024-005) and bids are to be received on July 6, 2006; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany will not meet until August 1, 2006; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to delegate the review, determination and award of the contract to the lowest responsible bidder in order to expedite performance for the work pursuant to these bids to Superintendent Joseph so long as such bids do not exceed \$ _____ for the Giffen Roof Replacement project and \$ _____ for the TOAST Drainage Improvement project.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education shall confirm the award of such contract at its August 1, 2006 board meeting.

THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby delegates the determination of the lowest responsible bidder and award of contract to Superintendent Joseph, and authorizes Edward Brown, Board President, to execute contracts between the District and the contractors for the removal and replacement of the roof at Giffen Elementary School (SED # 01-01-00-01-0-046-005) and the TOAST Elementary School Drainage Improvement project (SED # 01-01-00-01-0-024-005) on the recommendation of the Facilities Project Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school district administration, architect, and legal counsel are directed to draft and execute necessary documents to commence the project.

Mr. Gifford advised this resolution is being presented for approval at this time to facilitate the commencement of the projects before the next board meeting. Mr. Gifford noted the bids on these projects are scheduled to be opened within the next week and rather than wait until the August board meeting for approval, the resolution is being presented for approval this evening. Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox made a motion for approval. Ms. Frost seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Real Property Law Section 485-E

Mr. Honeywell advised the board discussed this item briefly at the June 6 board meeting. Mr. Honeywell advised there were questions raised at that time which he felt would be better answered by the City of Albany Development Office. Mr. Honeywell introduced Ms. Megan Daly from that office. Ms. Daly presented a map indicating the boundaries of the Empire Zone defined by the City of Albany. The Empire Zone is an economic development project that was based on distressed or targeted areas within the City of Albany. Ms. Daly advised the 485-E is one of the only locally adopted programs that the City can opt into. Others are New York State tax incentives. Ms. Daly advised the 485-E tax incentive is for businesses that are going to make significant improvements to their properties, whether it is to construct a new building or make improvement to an existing building that would then generate an increase in tax assessment. This provides for tax abatement on the increased value only. Ms. Daly noted the 485-E was enacted in 1994 and expired in 2004. This would be a re-authorization of that tax incentive. The period of the incentive would be a ten-year period for each property owner. The program calls for a seven-year tax abatement of 100% on the increase and then it reduces down 25% per year for the duration of the incentive program. Ms. Daly advised the program provides an incentive for businesses to stay in the City of Albany and also provides for the expansion of businesses and increased jobs in this area. Following discussion Mr. Brown advised this item would be presented at the August board meeting for action.

ACTION ITEMS

Worker's Compensation Consulting Contract Extension

Dr. Joseph advised this is an action item in follow-up to discussion related to this item at the last meeting. Ms. Wetmore advised this represents a one-year extension to the worker's compensation contract between the district and RMSCO at an annual fee of \$33,280, a 4% increase in administrative fees. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion. Ms. Wetmore noted the district would conduct competitive bidding on this item for next year.

The board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

Naming of School 16

Dr. Joseph presented the recommendation of the Pine Hills Elementary School. Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the renaming of School 16 as the Pine Hills Elementary School. Ms. Frost seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

Final Vote Canvass

Dr. Joseph presented the Final Vote Canvass of June 20, 2006 for approval. Dr. Joseph and Mr. Brown expressed their gratitude to those groups who worked toward the success of the budget presented to the public on June 20th. Ms. Frost made a motion to approve the final vote canvass. Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion.

Policies

Ms. Jackson-Chalmers presented the following policies for approval:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| #0300 – Accountability | #1050 – Annual District Budget Vote |
| #0310 – Board Self-Evaluation | #1120 – School District Records |
| #0320 – Evaluation of Superintendent | #5450.1 – Sex Offender Notification |

Ms. Jackson-Chalmers advised that two policies presented at the last meeting have been returned to the Policy Committee for additional consideration based on suggestions made by board members at that meeting. These policies are expected to be on the August agenda. Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the policies listed above. Ms. Frost seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously (4-0) to approve the motion.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Brown advised the board officers, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Gaffuri and Dr. Joseph, met with Marjorie Rush to discuss a workshop for board members to develop the board mission, vision and values. Ms. Rush presented a strategy for customizing a workshop to accomplish these items. Dr. Joseph noted that Ms. Rush indicated that perhaps the district would not have to go through the entire process of developing a new strategic plan. Ms. Frost advised community involvement is crucial to the success of any new or revised strategic plan. Mr. Brown advised he would like to move ahead in scheduling this workshop. With no objection, Dr. Joseph advised she would proceed in determining a date for the workshop.

Mr. Brown also presented information relative to board officers training. The New York State School Boards Association is offering a professional development opportunity for board officers. Mr. Brown noted he has always encouraged board members to take advantage of various educational opportunities.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Ms. Frost advised she would be attending the School Law Conference on July 21st. Ms. Frost will also attend a one-day Fiscal Training Workshop in August. Ms. Frost advised she has been contacted by Tim Kremer of NYSSBA to participate in a video for new board members.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Doesschate made a motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss particular personnel. Ms. Frost seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Brown advised the Board would not be reconvening in public session.

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board