

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 1, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: Edward Brown, President
Teneka Frost, Vice President
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary
William Barnette (left at 10:15 p.m.)
Judy Doeschate
Susan Kushner

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

Absent: Jackie Jenkins-Cox

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 informed the board of a collaborative effort in cooperation with Mayor Jennings and the City of Albany to utilize school buildings to provide a respite for people experiencing the intense heat based on the weather.

Dr. Joseph introduced Ms. Maxine Fantroy Ford, whose appointment as Interim Principal at Albany High School for the 2006-2007 school year would be presented to the board for approval this evening. Dr. Joseph advised the district would proceed with a comprehensive search for a permanent appointment of principal. Dr. Joseph also introduced Mr. Ken Cioffi, whose appointment as Chief Information Officer would also be presented to the board for approval this evening.

Dr. Joseph advised her attendance at the Superintendent's Conference at Harvard was very informative and resulted in the identification of a number of resources available to the district relative to improved educational opportunities. Dr. Joseph advised she would be sharing this information with the board at a later date.

Mr. Barnette requested an update on the SALE program at SUNY, which took place during the later part of the 2005-2006 school year. Mr. Barnette also requested information relative to the enrollment of 9th grade students at Harriet Gibbons High School. Dr. Joseph advised this information would be forthcoming.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

1. Larry Frank addressed the board relative to informing parents of school opening activities throughout the district.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Brown presented the following routine consent items for approval: Proceedings of Meeting (June 16, 2006, July 5, 2006); Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Creation of Position, Appointments (Probationary, Regular Substitutes, Itinerant Substitute Teachers, Civil Service Permanent, Tenure Appointments, Interim Administrative Appointment, Administrative Appointment, Management Confidential Contracts, Attendance at Conferences, Treasurer's Report, Extra Classroom Activity Fund, Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000 Budget Status Report, Bid Awards, Committee on Special Education, Subcommittee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-K Special Education, Contracts for Grants and Special Projects, Special Education Contract (Bethlehem Central School District & Shenendehowa Central Schools).

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve routine consent items. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Dr. Joseph noted that a revised Treasurer's Report was distributed to board members this evening, along with the current budget status report. The board asked that the budget status report presented this evening be tabled until the next board meeting. Mr. Barnette set aside Creation of Position, Management Confidential Contracts, Interim Administrative Appointment, Administrative Appointment and Contracts for Grants and Special Projects.

The board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve Routine Consent Items,
absent items set aside.

Mr. Brown presented Itinerant Substitute Teacher Appointments for approval. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Ms. Frost seconded the motion. Following additional discussion, Mr. Brown called the question.

The board voted 4 ayes – 1 opposed and 1 abstention.
Mr. Barnette was opposed and Mrs. Gaffuri abstained.

Following discussion, Mr. Brown informed the board that the time allotted for this item had expired. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to extend the time for additional discussion by 10 minutes. Ms. Kushner seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Mr. Brown presented Creation of Position for approval. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Ms. Kushner seconded the motion. Dr. Joseph noted the district is creating a title, Director of Safe Schools and Violence Prevention. Dr. Joseph noted the position exists in the district as Director of Security, which was vacated in the late spring. Dr. Joseph advised in the process of recruiting candidates for the position the district is finding that a number of candidates who present excellent credentials are not captured under the civil services title Director of Security. Creating this title allows the district to expand capacity to include additional candidates for the position. Dr. Joseph advised both titles are now approved by civil service.

The board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

Mr. Brown presented Management Confidential Contracts for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion for approval. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion.

The Board voted 5 ayes, 1 opposed. Mr. Barnette was opposed.

Mr. Brown presented the Interim Administrative Appointment for approval. Ms. Frost made a motion for approval. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Dr. Joseph presented Ms. Maxine Fantroy-Ford as the Interim Principal of Albany High School, effective August 14, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

The board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

Mr. Brown presented the Administrative Appointment for approval. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Ms. Kushner seconded the motion. Dr. Joseph presented Mr. Ken Cioffi as the Chief Information Officer effective August 14, 2006.

The board voted 5 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention.

Mr. Barnette abstained.

Mr. Brown presented Contracts for Grants and Special Projects, for the City of Albany to fund the transfer of students to be transported back to school after being picked up by the Truancy Abatement Staff. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion for approval. Mr. Barnette seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Action Items Related to the Facilities Project

Approval of Change Orders

Mr. Gifford presented change orders for School 18, Stephen & Harriet Myers Middle School and Pine Hills Elementary School (School 16). Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve change orders. Mr. Barnette seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion

Discussion Items Related to the Facilities Project

MWBE Report

In Mr. Gray's absence Mr. Gifford reviewed the MWBE participation figures submitted by Mr. Gray indicating the achieved goal for Equal Employment Opportunity is 17.64% with a total goal of 20%. The figure for Minority Business Enterprises/Women Business Enterprises is 16.89% with the total goal of 20%. Mr. Gifford advised the district remains on target with some increased participation in the Giffen roof award and the award of the Hackett renovation project.

Follow-up on Giffen Roof Replacement Bids

Mr. Gifford advised the district took bids on the Giffen roof replacement. The project is presently well under way. Mr. Gifford reviewed the bid awards. The total of all the bids was \$1,411,537 compared to a budget figure of \$1,700,000. Mr. Gifford advised \$288,463,000 would be brought back into savings. Staging of the project is planned to be the least disruptive to students, staff and faculty.

Facilities Improvement Plan – Phase II

Dr. Joseph presented a review of the Facilities Improvement Plan. Dr. Joseph advised the district has been very deliberate in calling this the Facilities Improvement Plan, Phase II because the district has accomplished so much with the Facilities Master Plan to this point in time. Dr. Joseph advised and when the district met with the Facilities Committee the discussion centered on preparing for Phase II. Dr. Joseph noted for some time, with various elements, while they have not been clearly identified as the second phase of a master plan, they did fall into the first phase. Still, there is a second round of very deliberated decisions to make on a number of elements.

Dr. Joseph advised in discussion with board officers it was determined that a workshop would be scheduled to allow for discussion of how the district will proceed with the plan in terms of Arbor Hill Elementary School, the Athletic Master Plan, the Operations Master Plan and the Restructuring of Albany High School. Dr. Joseph encouraged board members to forward questions related to this discussion so that information could be provide in that conversation.

Mr. Brown suggested the date of September 16, 2006. The session is anticipated to be a full day session. Following discussion of the format of the workshop it was determined that the session would be a public meeting. However, public input would not take place at that time. Mr. Brown asked that board members advise the district office of their availability on that date.

ACTION ITEMS

Middle School Restructuring Plan

Dr. Joseph presented the middle school restructuring plan presented to the board at the June meeting. Mr. Dragone advised the draft was forwarded to the State Education Department and returned as presented. Mr. Dragone advised the district would be moving forward with the plan in September. Mr. Barnette made a motion to approve the plan. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

Real Property Law Section 485-E

Ms. Wolverton of Girvin & Ferlazzo presented the following resolution related to the district partnering with the City of Albany in the Real Property Law §485-E to support an Empire Zone.

RESOLUTION 485-E Empire Zone

Be it Resolved, that the City of Albany School District supports the City of Albany Empire Zone as well as the tax abatement program associated with Section 485-e of the Real Property Tax Law of New York State and that real property constructed, altered, installed and improved in such areas shall be exempted from additional school taxes levied by the Albany School District, pursuant to Section 485-e of the Real Property Tax Law for a period of ten (10) years, with the exemption decreasing by 25% in the eighth, ninth and tenth years so that by the end of the tenth year, the property is fully taxable at its current assessment.

Mr. Barnette made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Following discussion, Mr. Brown called the question.

The board voted 5 ayes and 1 opposed. Ms. Kushner was opposed.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Policy Review

Policy 1000 Community Relations Goal – discussion postponed.

Policy 5300 Code of Conduct – Mrs. Jackson-Chalmers advised this is the plain language booklet version of the Student Code of Conduct that is distributed to students at the start of the school year. The booklet incorporates required VADIR information. Following a lengthy discussion, Mr. Barnette made a motion to approve the plain language version of the policy. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Policy Review (Cont'd)

Policy 5405 Wellness Policy – following discussion the board requested that this policy be brought back to the Wellness Committee for additional consideration.

Policy 8430 – Charge Policy for Food Service – following discussion the board recommended changes to the policy prior to approval.

Naming of School 18

Dr. Joseph presented the recommended names for the new School 18, scheduled to open in January. The naming committee, which included school staff, community members and parents, brought forward three names for consideration by the district administration. Dr. Joseph advised the district is recommending the name of the Delaware Community School for board consideration. A lengthy discussion followed

Adjournment

Ms. Frost made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board