

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 15, 2005
North Albany Academy
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Edward Brown, President
Susan Kushner, Vice President
Teneka Frost, Secretary
William Barnette
Judy Doesschate
Patricia Fahy
Barbara Gaffuri

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

ABSENT: None

Call to Order:

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Students from the Dual Language Program sang the pledge in Spanish. Mr. Brown welcomed the members of the audience and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Mr. Brown presented Patricia Fahy with a plaque recognizing her service to the District for the past four years. Mr. Brown thanked Ms. Fahy the guidance she has given him over the years. Mr. Brown noted Ms. Fahy has been a dynamo on the Board and everybody knows that when she decides on something, she is going make sure it happens and you better get out of her way. Mr. Brown noted Ms. Fahy would be missed by the members of the Board. Mr. Brown read the plaque. "In appreciation of your dedication and service to the City School District of Albany the Albany Board of Education presents to Patricia Fahy, Member of the Board of Education 2002-2005. President 2003."

Students from the Dual Language Program presented Ms. Fahy flowers in appreciation for her dedication to the program.

Board Members individually expressed their gratitude and appreciation to Ms. Fahy for her contribution to the school district.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph also recognized Ms. Fahy's contribution to the district.

Dr. Joseph advised the District cut a ribbon at Eagle Point Elementary School today. It is the sixth school in a year and a half that the District has opened, either new or newly renovated. Dr. Joseph noted the City of Albany should be very proud of the commitment it has made to its children because the best part of the schools is that they are child focused and they are learning centered and focused on enhancing education for our kids.

Dr. Joseph advised she met the leadership of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education, along with cabinet and a number of principals earlier this week in an effort to establish a partnership with an organization who will continue to help the District to improve the quality of instruction, the connective ness we have with our students and enhance our student's aspirational capacity to know that the sky is the limit. We help them get there, set high sights and learning through setting high expectations, rather than getting mired down in the remedial things that are so often attributable to NCLB. It was a very invigorating meeting. They are enthusiastically embracing Albany Schools as a place where they see things really happening.

Dr. Joseph advised that she, along with Mr. White and Ms. Getto met with the General Electric Manager for Global Communications and Public Relations. Also in attendance was Lynn Taylor, President of the Chamber of Commerce and members of her staff. The purpose of the meeting was to talk about a new partnership with GE and the Albany Schools. The program will be piloted here at North Albany Academy, which will be the incubator sight. Dr. Joseph noted Mayor Jennings was also involved in assisting this effort. The program focuses on a high interest and a love for Science and Mathematics in the primary grades.

Dr. Joseph noted Channel 6 at the 11 o'clock news program this evening will have a featured segment on improved graduation, focusing on Albany High School. Dr. Joseph noted Mr. Dragone has advised this is very positive in terms of some of the things we have done.

Dr. Joseph noted a holiday concert schedule has been put together, starting with December 16th. Dr. Joseph noted these dates are on the school calendar and they are also posted on the website. Dr. Joseph invited everyone to attend these great holiday celebrations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kathleen Neiffer gave testimony to Ms. Fahy relative to her contribution to the District.
2. Gulcan Yalniz addressed the Board relative to the Dual Language Program.
3. Susan Bradley addressed the Board relative to the Dual Language Program.
4. Anna Marie Lippitt addressed the Board relative to the Dual Language Program.
5. Leo Levy addressed the Board relative to the accomplishments of the Board, the administration and the facilities team. Mr. Levy also expressed gratitude to Ms. Fahy for her contribution to the District.
6. Bill Ritchie addressed the Board relative to the Ms. Fahy's contribution to the District.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Discussion Item

Emminent Domain

Dr. Joseph advised this discussion and possible action emanates from the District's development of an Athletic Master Plan. Dr. Joseph noted the District has a Draft Athletic Master Plan, which is still in the discussion stage. One piece of the draft is Bleeker Stadium and the review of that with the City to determine to what extent the District can participate in that continued usage. Another is the development of Athletic properties around the Philip Livingston Magnet Academy School.

By way of background information, Dr. Joseph noted the Athletic Master Plan included the procurement of property along the driveway, or Manning Boulevard, for the Athletic Master Plan, specifically for developing a baseball field, which the District does not presently have available. Also, the development of property surrounding PLMA as part of the Athletic Master Plan really rounded out the availability of sports venues for a number of athletic events. The District has an option to purchase four parcels of land on North Manning Boulevard, along the driveway at PLMA. The option to buy expired and at this point in time, in order to insure that that property is available to the District, Dr. Joseph noted she has asked the Board to consider acquiring the property via eminent domain so that it is available to the District for the Athletic Master Plan.

Ms. Kushner made a motion to approve the following resolution:

**ALBANY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION
EMMINENT DOMAIN**

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools and School Counsel be directed to examine the procedures necessary for the School District to pursue eminent domain of No. 600, 604, 608 and 612 Manning Boulevard in the City of Albany and to report back to the Board concerning such procedures. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Discussion followed relative the purpose of the resolution. Dr. Joseph advised this equate to similar times when the Board has authorized the superintendent to pursue options to get a lease for a piece of property. Dr. Joseph noted she would feel more confident in moving forward in, in terms of a process with the authorization of the Board of Education. Following additional discussion, Mr. Brown called the vote.

The Board voted 6 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstained. Mr. Barnette abstained.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Discussion Item Related to the Facilities Project

Budget Reconciliations

Dr. Joseph noted Board Members have been provided information pertaining to each of the individual project budgets for the facilities plan. Dr. Joseph noted that in discussion and in terms of insuring that the District is maintaining proper documentation, the State Education Department requires that the District have final authorized budgets approved by the Board of Education for each project. Dr. Joseph noted that this document reflects change orders and use of contingency budget that may have modified budgets. Dr. Joseph further noted that in order to insure that the District is in compliance, Mr. Gifford and his team have identified what the final budget figures were for a number of projects for Board review this evening. Dr. Joseph noted the District continues to look at the entire budget, working toward identifying the balance that will assist the District in future conversations regarding projects that still need to be addressed. Following discussion, Mr. Gifford advised the Board, through previous resolutions, has approved budgets for the various projects. The decision the Board is being asked at this point in time is approval of re-allocation of funds in Phases E & F to cover those earlier decisions. Mr. Gifford noted that the Board is verifying in one way that approvals have been given. More importantly, the Board is being asked at this point as a holding pattern and as a way to submit the budget to allocate 50% of the need of the funding from Giffen and 50% from TOAST, \$7.6 million total, reducing those budgets at this time. Following discussion, Mr. Brown advised this item would be on the next agenda for approval.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Board Committee and School Liaison Assignments

Dr. Joseph advised information about Board Committees and School Liaisons has been forwarded to Board Members for their consideration. Dr. Joseph advised the purpose for discussion this evening was in the hope that between this meeting and January 3, the District would have membership finalized including Ms. Jenkins-Cox, along with school liaisons. Dr. Joseph advised Ms. Cutting would be contacting Board Members prior to January 3. Dr. Joseph noted Board Members also have the option of emailing their preference directly to Ms. Cutting for both committees and school liaison. The District will work with Mr. Brown to resolve any conflicts resulting from more than three Board Members having an interest for the same committee/school. Dr. Joseph advised the Policy Committee has been asked to develop protocols/role for the school liaisons. Discussion followed relative to the function of the school liaison, which will be referred to the Policy Committee for definition. Mr. Brown noted that Board Members could state their preference.

INFORMATION ITEM

Health Programs and Initiatives

Dr. Joseph noted as the District moves forward in the budget process, information is being provided to the Board so there is a greater sense of familiarity with program and services. Dr. Joseph noted one of the goals is to sustain health program services, part of which is the nutritional program. Dr. Joseph introduced Ms. Terry Nord, Health Coordinator and J.W. Gayle, Food Services Director who gave a comprehensive presentation on health programs and initiatives in the District, including development of a wellness policy involving parents, students, food services, the school board, school administration and the public; nutrition education; action to support implementation of the Health Education Curriculum; health services; Child Health Plus Initiatives; community partnerships; health assessment tools; participation in the breakfast, lunch and snacks; new products that will be offered through food services; new approaches to good nutrition; long term goals; staffing needs and school based health centers.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Intergovernmental Committee

Ms. Kushner advised the Intergovernmental Committee met to discuss a rally in protest of charter schools. Ms. Kushner advised there was some news coverage of the event, primarily on the local level.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Ms. Fahy spoke about actions taken by government agencies relative to charter schools. Ms. Fahy spoke about legislative changes necessary to address the charter school presence in Albany. Ms. Fahy urged the Board to consider school uniforms and volunteer recognition.

Mr. Brown thanked the Board Members and the public for their support during his leadership on the Board.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Fahy made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board