



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 5, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: William Barnette, President
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary
Dr. Mark Barth
Judy Doesschate
Dan Egan
Melissa Mackey
Wayne Morris
Dr. Eva Joseph
Dr. Tresa Diggs
Bill Hogan
Linda Jackson-Chalmers

ABSENT: None

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Members of the audience were welcomed and thanked for taking the time to attend the meeting.
- Mission Statement was read.

Board of Education Election

Mr. Barnette announced that at the general election held on November 4, 2008, Dan Egan was elected to fill the remaining term vacated by Teneka Frost until December 31, 2008. Mr. Egan will then serve a four-year term from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012. Rose Brandon was elected to a term of four years commencing on January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2012. New board members will be sworn in at the January 5, 2009 board meeting.

Mr. Barnette also congratulated Edith Leet and Daniel McGinn for their efforts to continue to serve the children and families of Albany through voluntary efforts on the school board.

Mr. Barnette made a motion to appoint Dan Egan to fill the current vacant seat on the school board through December 31, 2008. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Administration of the Oath of Office to newly elected Board Member

Mr. Honeywell proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to Mr. Egan.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Congratulations to Mr. Egan and Ms. Brandon.
- Ocasio Willson, a senior at Albany High School was introduced to the board. Ocasio will be serving as the alternate Student Representative for the school board. Mr. Willson was featured in the latest edition of Capital Education relative to his achievements while at Albany High School.

This evening the board will be acting on a recommendation to approve the Strategic Plan for the school district. Dr. Joseph took the opportunity to thank each of the action team members and the 25 members of the Strategic Planning Team for their excellent work. The presentations to the board at the October 16th meeting were outstanding. The better part of that meeting was devoted to hearing about plans for progress within our school district in seven vital areas identified in collaboration with our community; engaging parents, emotional and physical safety of our students, redesigning all aspects of our high school to insure high student performance, improving our middle school programs to achieve academic rigor and student success at all schools, effective communication, accountability for our results and insuring access for all students to all educational and extracurricular activities.

This body of work constitutes the first comprehensive strategic plan that has been developed in the district since 1990. Approximately 75 parents, community members, faculty and staff, a student and Board of Education members participated in the work. The district is very proud of the results. On behalf of everyone involved, Dr. Joseph noted tremendous appreciation for the steadfast involvement and contributions of each of the participants in this process that began actually about one year ago this month. Tomorrow, the administration will be spending a full day with the consultants, Marilyn Gounaris and Rocco Rainone, to begin developing an implementation plan to reach the intended results. We look forward to the commitment of the board and the school district and the educational community at large to the progressive direction that has been put forth in the plan and the success the district will be able to derive from it.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Marilyn Bernard addressed the board relative to the swing space for Arbor Hill and TOAST.
2. Alex Streznewski addressed the board relative to the swing space for Arbor Hill and TOAST.
3. Edith Leet addressed the board relative to the board member election.
4. Ebony Mackey addressed the board relative to the presidential election.
5. Marlin Anderson addressed the board relative to Philip Livingston Magnet Academy.
6. James Lembo addressed the board relative to the management issues in the district.
7. Anne Pope addressed the board relative to Philip Livingston Magnet Academy.
8. Raymond Lee addressed the board relative to the future of students in the district.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Ocasio Willson addressed the board relative to a number of issues at Albany High School. Ocasio spoke about the enthusiasm and exuberance of the students relative to the Presidential Election. Mr. Willson noted that gym classes have just started in the high school. This situation has caused a number of issues with students skipping classes and doing non-productive things. The recent incident with the fire alarms being set off three times in one day was very disruptive and the fact that the surveillance cameras were not functioning contributed to the fact that the students who were pulling the alarms were not caught for a considerable amount of time. Mr. Willson also expressed concerns about the length of time it takes for students to go through the metal detectors and asked that perhaps something could be done for the seniors to allow them to move quickly through the detectors.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Routine Consent Items were presented for approval as follow: Proceedings of Meetings (September 10, 2008, September 18, 2008, October 7, 2008, and October 16, 2008); Resignations, Retirement, Leave of Absence, Appointments (Administrator, Civil Service, Coaching 2008-09, Itinerant Substitute Teachers 2008-09, Miscellaneous, Probationary Appointments, Tutors 2008, Emergency Conditional Appointments; Attendance at Conferences; Treasurer's Report, Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000, Budget Appropriation Status Report, Revenue Status Report, Real Property Tax Adjustments, Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund, Bid Award for New Scotland Elementary School Technical Services; Charter School Public Hearing Resolution, Membership Dues (New York State School Boards Association; Contracts for Grants and Special Projects; Universal Pre-K (Children's Corner Day Care Center, Inc.) Supplemental Educational Services (Alternatives Unlimited Tutoring; Educate Online; Learner First; NAACP – Albany Branch); NYGEARUP Grants (Capital Region Sponsor-A-Scholar, Inc., The College of St. Rose, Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, The Research Foundation, SUNY (Liberty Partnership), Siena College (Urban Scholars Program); Professional Development (Families Together in New York State, Parsons Child and Family, Research Foundation of SUNY (Center on English Learning & Achievement) 11/08-5/09, Research Foundation of SUNY (Center on English Learning & Achievement) 11/08-4/09); Special Education Instructional & Tutorial Contractual Services (Center for Disability Services, Inc., Parsons SATRI, Recovery Center, Vanderheyden Hall; Drama Productions at Albany High School (Peter Leue – Set Design, Peter Leue – Set Supervision & Implementation, Greg Marsh – Choreography, Fiona Thompson – Costume Design); Miscellaneous (William Saffady, Information Management Specialist Research Foundation of SUNY – Project Evaluation, University at Albany – Parent Resource Center @ ALC & WSHMS); Committee on Special Education, Subcommittee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education.

Routine consent items were presented for approval. It was noted that this item included emergency conditional appointments and an addendum to the agenda of a settlement between the district and Joan Schwaber dated October 27, 2008. It was also noted that the resignation of Lisa Connell listed for approval has been withdrawn.

Dr. Barth made a motion to approve the routine consent items as amended. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate requested that the proceedings of September 10, 2008, and the contracts for Children's Corner Day Care Center, Inc., Families Together in New York State, Parsons Child & Family and the Research Foundation be set aside.

The board voted 6 ayes, 0 opposed, 1 abstention to approve the motion
absent those items set aside.

Mr. Egan abstained.

Motion passed.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the proceedings of September 10, 2008. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate advised she was not present at this meeting and therefore would be abstaining on this vote.

The board voted 6 ayes, 0 opposed and 1 abstention. Ms. Doesschate abstained.

Motion passed.

Mr. Barnette presented the Children's Corner Day Care Center, Inc. contracts previously set aside for approval. Mr. Morris made a motion for approval. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate noted there was no fee per pupil noted on the contract. Ms. Doesschate made a motion to amend the contract by including an additional bullet as follows: Paid at a rate of \$3,000 per student pro-rated annually. Dr. Barth seconded the motion. Dr. Joseph advised these adjustments would be added to the contract and final review by Mr. Honeywell will precede signature.

The board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

Mr. Barnette presented the following contracts for approval: Families Together in New York State, Parsons Child & Family and the Research Foundation. Ms. Doesschate noted these contracts relate to the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant. Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the contracts. Dr. Barth seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate noted the information presented to board members did not include a work plan. Ms. Doesschate requested that kind of information be presented for board discussion. Dr. Joseph noted that the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant is something the district has applied for a number of times in the past. During that time there were numerous discussions related to the grant. The district is locked into the requirements of the grant and there has been a very rigorous process. The district committed to the project that was submitted to the federal government and that the obligation the district is living up to in these contracts. Dr. Diggs, Ronnie Pastecki and Leslie Jimpson attended a conference in Washington, D.C. related to the specific requirements of the grant. Discussion followed relative to continuity of the board and the process necessary for additional discussion to fully inform board members as the membership on the board changes. Mr. Barnette offered a friendly amendment based on discussion to the motion to approve all three items Mrs. Gaffuri advised she would be abstaining on this item based on the fact that she is employed by a service provider for youth.

The board voted 4 ayes, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Ms. Doesschate, Mrs. Gaffuri and Mr. Egan abstained.

Motion passed.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Action Item Related to the Facilities Project

Resolution for Phase I Asbestos Abatement at Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology (TOAST)

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology

Phase I Emergency Asbestos Abatement

WHEREAS, the City School District of Albany has received information through its school district administration, architect and construction manager regarding a change order for the for Emergency Asbestos Abatement and

WHEREAS, proposals under consideration are pending final review by the Director of Facilities Planning, Construction Manager and Architect:

During removals of the existing window systems, found conditions of the existing suspended lath & plaster ceiling system were discovered:

- Condition 1 - The construction of the ceiling system contained within it asbestos containing materials subsequently tested with results shown to be positive.
- Condition 2 – Materials were found in the corridor ceilings under the rim of existing light fixtures subsequently tested with results shown to be positive.
- Condition 3 – These conditions did cause for the building to be shutdown under DOL direction for emergency asbestos abatement to be completed by the contractor on site LVI Services, Inc., in accordance with the approved DOL plan and under the monitoring of ATC Associates.

Proposals are currently under review for scope and pricing by the Director of Facilities Planning, Construction Manager and Architect. Work associated in this proposal was essential to the critical path of the construction schedule and has been completed. Final negotiation with the contractor is underway as the work proceeded under a Time and Materials Agreement with a Not to Exceed amount determined.

WHEREAS, the Director of Facilities Planning, Construction Manager and Architect have recommended an approval of a spending authorization NTE (Not to Exceed) \$1,807,900.00.

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby approves the above spending authorization and authorizes Mr. William Barnette, Board President, to execute a change order between the District and the contractor for the TOAST Renovation (Project No. 01-01-00-01-0-024-006) on the recommendation of the Facilities Project Office and the Superintendent:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school district administration, architect and construction manager are directed to draft and execute necessary documents to commence negotiation of the change order for the Project.

Ms. Mackey made a motion for approval. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

Approval of Change Orders

Change orders for Hackett Middle School and New Scotland Elementary School (School 19), Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology and Giffen Memorial Elementary School were presented for approval. Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the change orders. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The board voted 6 ayes, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

Mr. Egan abstained.

Mr. Barnette presented the Resolution for Contract Approval for Professional Design Review Services for Arbor Hill Elementary School following resolution for approval.

PROPOSED CONTRACT AWARD RESOLUTION

Professional Design Review

WHEREAS, the City School District of Albany solicited proposals for professional design review services for the Arbor Hill Elementary School Renovation and Window Replacement Project (Project No. 01-01-00-01-0-047-006); and

WHEREAS, the responsible proposer on the contract is

Design Professional

Stohl Environmental, LLC
4169 Allendale Parkway
Suite 100
Blasdell, NY 14219

WHEREAS, the Director of Facilities Planning has recommended award of the contracts to the above design professional.

THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby awards the above contract and authorizes Mr. William Barnette, Board President, to execute contracts between the District and the above design professional for the Arbor Hill Elementary School Renovation and Window Replacement Project (Project No. 01-01-00-01-0-047-006); on the recommendation of the Facilities Project Office and the Superintendent.

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Mr. Honeywell noted in the proposal there is an expected range of \$10,000 to \$15,000. That number is not included in the resolution. Mr. McMordie noted that this range is defined by the consultant, pending review of the scope of the work. This range is based on the general scope of the project. Mr. Honeywell suggested a "Not to exceed clause" in the resolution. Mr. Barnette asked if the person who made the motion was agreeable to an amendment to the motion based on a recommendation from council "Not to exceed \$15,000". Mr. Morris accepted and Mrs. Gaffuri, who seconded the motion also accepted.

The board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion as amended.

Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM

2009-2010 Budget Development Calendar

Mr. Barnette presented the 2009-2010 Budget Development Calendar for approval. Ms. Mackey made a motion for approval. Dr. Barth seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate suggested adding in the schedule around January board discussion of the implementation issues for the strategic plan.

Discussion followed regarding programs and initiatives that are discussed during the budget development process. Just as the district has talked about program development and then it is related to the budget. The same is true with strategic planning. Dr. Joseph advised additional information relative to implementation would be more clearly defined following the meeting with the consultants scheduled for tomorrow. A request was made that the board be advised of the implications of the governor's budget.

The board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Policy Development, Adoption, Implementation and Review (2410)

Mr. Barnette presented the policy for discussion. Ms. Jackson-Chalmers advised that policy making is one of the most important aspects of a school board. Therefore, it is wise to have a policy in place to guide the process of policy development, etc. This policy addressed guidelines under which policies are developed, who, how and what issues rise to a policy making level and what considerations must be vetted before a policy is recommended for adoption by the board. Policy 2410 outlines the steps that the board should take in adopting and implementing a policy and how often a policy should be reviewed. Discussion followed relative to the process of presenting items for discussion and then for approval. The use of the word discussion becomes limiting. This policy uses language the language "first reading". There was also discussion related to the length of time that a policy could be up for review prior to being presented for approval to allow a greater opportunity for review by the public. Mr. Honeywell advised the language in the policy clearly says the presumption is the policy is on for what is routinely called the first reading, whether it is discussion or information, it won't be acted upon until the next meeting unless a majority of the board decides it needs to be acted on. Mr. Honeywell advised in his opinion the language of the policy is acceptable.

In response to a request for information related to a policy manual, accessible to the board and public, Mr. Barnette advised Policy Committee has been involved in the process of updating the policy manual. The policies are in electronic files and it is the intention that these policies will be posted to the website so that they are available to everyone.

ACTION ITEM

Strategic Plan

Mr. Barnette presented the district's Strategic Plan. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion for approval. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Ms. Mackey clarified that participation as a co-leaders does not impact her ability to vote on the plan. Mr. Barnette noted the board has been part of the entire process. Mr. Honeywell noted board members participation in any with the development of the Strategic Plan does not restrict the board from acting of this item.

The board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

Mr. Barnette expressed appreciation for not only the consultants who are here this evening, the district staff and the thirty plus community members that were part of this very labor-intensive process that resulted in what is considered a great document.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Audit Committee has met with the auditors to review the 2007-08 financial statements. The documents have been shared with the members of the board. The board will be acting on this item at the next board meeting.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Mr. Morris asked if there is any possibility of changing the time when school board members presented to the public for election. Could the date be changed to May, when school board members are elected to other districts? Mr. Honeywell advised that Albany has its own statutory provision that sets the election for November. Any change would require a legislative amendment. Discussion included the possibility of sending a letter on behalf of the board to local legislators requesting consideration of this change in legislation. Mr. Honeywell advised this item should appear on a future agenda for discussion item. If the board is in favor of pursuing this matter, a preliminary conversation with legislators should precede any formal request for legislative consideration.

Mrs. Gaffuri asked if there has been any consideration of a virtual tour of the new and renovated school buildings on the district website and the possibility of providing the public a bus so they can be transported to these school, perhaps three times a year. Dr. Joseph noted there was some discussion when this item was previously presented. This item will again be put back on the agenda.

Dr. Barth asked if board members could receive an update on the implementation of recommendations based on the report of the American School Councils Association for guidance staff.

Ms. Doesschate suggested as part of the agenda packets, board members receive a listing of all the items that have been requested until they are fulfilled in terms of member items, when they were requested, by whom, as a reminder. Dr. Joseph advised there is a master list. Decisions about agenda items are made at the agenda setting meetings with board officers. Dr. Joseph noted that there are times when requests from board members are answered through the update or directly to a particular board member and in some cases the board member is referred to a particular staff member for clarification of an issue. Dr. Joseph advised the list would be shared with board members.

Mr. Barnette suggested that once the vote count is certified the board member elect be included in the orientation by the superintendent, receive an agenda packet and that person would be invited to meetings of the board and the executive sessions, not as a voting member, as an observer. Mr. Barnette advised the purpose of this suggestion is to welcome new board members and to assist new board members to be part of the process. Board members expressed their agreement with this suggestion. Mr. Honeywell noted this is acceptable.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to adjourn into executive session of the purpose discussion of a particular contract matter. Mr. Barnette noted the board would not be reconvening in public this evening. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.