



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 2, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: William Barnette, President
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary
Dr. Mark Barth
Judy Doesschate
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 7:10 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Convocation took place this morning at Albany High School for all staff members. Board members Bill Barnette and Wayne Morris were in attendance. The keynote speaker was Dr. Janice Jackson.
- Special thanks go to administrators and staff members who worked through a number of very important projects this summer in order to be prepared for students to start school tomorrow. Special thanks to Tony Catalfamo and the Operations & Maintenance crews. The work they have done is outstanding. Special acknowledgement to our principals, faculty and staff members, and also parents who assisted in the number of moves, expected and unexpected, that we had this summer. Moving out of school into swing space and, as in the case of Hackett Middle School, moving from swing space back into a beautiful newly renovated school.
- There were a number of unanticipated problems relate to the runs for the high school schedules last week. All the other schools in the district are successfully scheduled. Students are ready there. The result of these issues is that Albany High School students will be getting their schedules late.
- Families and parents have been equipped with the back to school newsletter as well as the 2008-09 calendar. Information related to school personnel is included in both of those documents in case parents need any assistance.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Edith Leet addressed the board relative to Hackett Middle School ribbon cutting ceremony and community resources for students utilizing the food pantry in the Center Square Neighborhood.

INFORMATION ITEM

Title I Program

Ms. Linda Rudnick, Director of Instruction, gave a very comprehensive presentation on Title I, including the history, background, intent, funding and programmatic implementation for the district. Allocation of the funding is determined by the graduation and poverty rates of the district. Target areas are Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies. Districts are required to fund students who attend private and parochial schools and public institutions. Due to decreased student enrollment, Title I funding for the district has been reduced by \$1,130,889. Title I no longer supports Summer School, the Columbia Writing Project, Summer Institutes and Travel and Conferences. Ongoing challenges include Charter Schools, School performance status and increasing staffing and operational costs.

- What is the role of the Home School Coordinator? The position of Home School Coordinator supports the school in the general operation. They have credentials that are equitable to teaching assistants. They serve as the liaison between the school and the home. In the elementary schools where there is no assistant principal they assist the principal in monitoring student attendance and student performance. They make home visits. They engage the parents within the community. They plan extra curricular activities with the students and family type events and activities.
- The amount of \$5,000 for homeless students seems low. That amount is a supplement to the monies that Pupil Personnel gets. Most of these monies are used for resources to support the students. Originally the monies were spent for things like bags and books. Most recently funds have been spent on transportation, tokens for families to be able to come into school.
- How many homeless students does the district serve? We will check with Pupil Personnel for that information.
- Is the district allocation based on totally on the number of students on free or reduced lunch? The SED formula is based on how many students there are in the district, school status and the poverty rate in the district. The more students who completed the free and reduced lunch applications, the more accurate the poverty rate of the district. Currently there is one application for each family, rather than a separate application for each student.
- Enrollment in general in the district is stable, given the number of students in charter schools. How does reduced enrollment effect funding? Charter schools are not included in the enrollment figures for this funding. They receive their own Title I funding.
- How do we know what impact services provided by this funding has on those targeted students? When you think about instructional support teams and building leadership teams in the schools and also formal assessment such as the state tests. Those students are the ones receiving the targeted instruction from qualified teachers who are skilled in the area of literacy and math as well.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Routine Consent Items were presented for approval as follows:

Abolishment of Position, Creation of Positions, Resignations, Transfers, Appointments (Interim Administrative Appointment, Civil Service, Coaching/ Fall 2008-09, Itinerant Substitutes, Miscellaneous, Part-time Teachers, Probationary, Regular Substitutes, Summer School 2008, Tutors- Title I and Emergency Conditional Appointments); Treasurer's Report, Budget Transfers under \$10,000 – 2007-08, Budget Transfers over \$10,000 – 2007-08, Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000, Budget Appropriation Status Report 2007-08, Revenue Status Report 2007-08, Budget Appropriation Report 7/2008, Revenue Status Report 7/2008,

Real Property Tax Adjustments, Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund, Bid Award, Membership Dues (Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce); Contracts for Grants & Special Projects (Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany and NYS Higher Education Services Contracts (Gear-Up); Contracts (Dr. Margaret McLane – Professional Development, Four Winds – Saratoga – Tutorial Services, The Center for Disability Services – Summer Educational Services, St. Catherine's Center Day Treatment Program – Summer Educational Services, Dr. Janice Jackson – Professional Services, Bethlehem School District – Health Services Contract, NERIC Agreement, Learning Technology Visions Contracts) and Disposal of Equipment. Ms. Mackey made a motion to approve the Routine Consent Items. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Mr. Morris asked that Contracts be set aside.

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

Motion passed.

Mr. Barnette made a motion to approve Contracts. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Mr. Morris noted that the contract for Dr. Janice Jackson is being presented to the board after contracted services have been provided. Mr. Honeywell noted this was acceptable based on time constraints.

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

Motion passed

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Action Item Related to the Facilities Project

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. Dr. Barth made a motion to approve the change orders. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Information Item Related to the Facilities Project

Minority & Women Business Enterprises (MWBE Report)

Mr. Wendell Gray reviewed a summary of the MWBE Report dated August 2008. The figures do not include the TOAST and Giffen projects. Figures will not be available until pay applications come in. The goals are 10% minority workers and 10% women workers. The average total as of August 2008 is 15.09% minority workers, 5.09% over the projected figure. Work continues in reaching the 10% goals for women workers with the figure at 2.75%. The combined total amount is 17.84% against the targeted 20% combined goal. Numbers for TOAST and Giffen are expected to be high. The Minority Business Enterprises/Women Business Enterprises figures indicate 13.46% participation in Minority Business Enterprises and 6.84% Women Business Enterprises, exceeding the combined goal figure of 20% at 20.30%. We continue to work with the Youth Construction Initiative Program. Students have received instruction and have obtained summer jobs. Construction firms are hiring graduates from the district.

- Given the success of the districts Can you advise how the district could go forward in soliciting MWBE participation in the district's purchasing of supplies, etc, not related to the facilities plan.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Mrs. Gaffuri asked that the district investigate the possibility of having virtual tours of the new and renovated school buildings on the district website.

Dr. Barth noted he attended the School Safety Committee at Albany High School. The meeting was impressive in terms of scope and details presented. The meeting was very positive.

Dr. Barth advised he has been involved in the Public Access Television. With the renewal of the Time Warner Contract, public meetings can be video taped or broadcast live. PEG Public Education and Government. There is a meeting of the ad hoc committee on cable access at the Common Council on September 11, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Doesschate advised she previously suggested that the website be updated where it talks about the facilities plan with pictures of the exterior and interior of each of the renovated schools. Also, the possibility of schools having individual web pages webpage where photos could be posted.

Ms. Doesschate asked that board members be kept apprised of the situation with the high school schedules during the next several days.

Ms. Mackey advised she was able to help with the installation of the playground at Pine Hills Elementary School. It was a great opportunity as a board member and a community member in supporting our schools. Also there was a welcome back barbecue that was held at Delaware Community School. Both of these opportunity reinforced how engaged parents are in their schools. The district needs to think about how that atmosphere can be brought into the schools in terms of parental involvement.

Mr. Barnette commented as the district goes forward with ribbon cutting ceremonies that the program include an opportunity to highlight the former graduates who attend the particular school and the distance attendees have traveled to be present for the event. There was a graduate from the 1940's and another who traveled from Los Angeles for the Hackett Middle School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony last week.

Mr. Barnette suggested that graduates of district schools indicate on letterhead, business cards, identification badges, etc. the phrase "Proud Albany Graduate" as an inspiration to students to see staff members who have been through the Albany School system.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.