



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**January 4, 2010**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Albany High School**

**PRESENT:** Dr. Mark Barth  
Mrs. Rose Brandon  
Ms. Judy Doesschate  
Mr. Dan Egan  
Mrs. Barbara Gaffuri  
Ms. Melissa Mackey  
Mr. Wayne Morris  
Dr. Raymond Colucciello  
Mr. Jeffrey Honeywell  
Dr. Tresa Diggs  
Mr. William F. Hogan  
Ms. Linda Jackson-Chalmers  
Ms. Linda Rudnick

**ABSENT:** None

**Call to Order:**

Board Counsel, Jeffrey Honeywell, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Selection of Chair Pro-Tem**

Mr. Honeywell called for a motion to appoint the board counsel as the Chair Pro-Tem for the meeting. Upon motion by Mr. Morris and second by Ms. Doesschate, the board voted unanimously (7-0) to appoint Mr. Honeywell Chair Pro-Tem.

**Board of Education Elections**

Mr. Honeywell announced that at the general meeting held on November 4, 2009, Judy Doesschate and Barbara Gaffuri were each re-elected to a four-year term from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2013.

**Administration of the Oath of Office to newly elected Board Member**

Mr. Honeywell proceeded to administer the Oath of Office to Mrs. Gaffuri. Judge Thomas Keefe administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Doesschate.

**Election of Officers for the 2010 Calendar Year**

Mr. Honeywell called for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Mrs. Brandon nominated Mr. Egan for the office of President. Mr. Egan accepted the nomination. Mr. Morris nominated Ms. Mackey for the office of President. Ms. Mackey accepted the nomination. Nominations were declared closed.

The Board voted 4 votes for Mr. Egan and 3 votes for Ms. Mackey.  
Mr. Honeywell declared Mr. Egan, President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Egan called for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Dr. Barth nominated Mrs. Brandon for the office of Vice President. Mrs. Brandon declined the nomination. Ms. Mackey nominated Mrs. Gaffuri for the office of Vice President. Mrs. Gaffuri accepted the nomination. Mr. Egan nominated Mrs. Doesschate for office of Vice President. Ms. Doesschate accepted the nomination.

The Board voted 4 votes for Ms. Doesschate and 3 votes for Mrs. Gaffuri.  
Mr. Egan declared Ms. Doesschate, Vice President of the Board of Education.

Mr. Egan called for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Mrs. Gaffuri nominated Mr. Morris for the office of Secretary. Mr. Morris declined the nomination. Ms. Doesschate nominated Mrs. Brandon for the office of Secretary. Mrs. Brandon accepted the nomination.

The Board voted 5 votes for Mrs. Brandon, with 2 abstentions.  
Mr. Egan declared Mrs. Brandon, Secretary of the Board of Education.

### **Board Member Statements**

Each board member presented comments related to their gratitude to staff and the community for the work they have been able to accomplish this past year, looking forward to the future in terms of offering programs to students and working with each other in achieving the goals of the district. Board members also noted this is the same board for a second year. Board accomplishments were noted including the completion of a self evaluation and developing a procedural manual for board members. Board members noted the addition of Dr. Colucciello as Interim Superintendent and his contribution in moving the district forward. The collaboration between the district and the community through participation in the Gun Violence Task Force and the Alternative Education Think Tank was also presented.

### **Agenda Addendum**

Dr. Barth made a motion to amend the agenda to include an action item to accept a resignation, and a discussion item to discuss a board vacancy. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

### **Resolution to Accept Resignation**

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to accept the resignation of Dr. Mark Barth, effective January 31, 2010. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Honeywell noted Dr. Barth previously mentioned his intent to resign from the Board of Education. He delivered a letter of resignation to the Clerk of the Board indicating that he would resign, effective January 31, 2010. That will create a vacancy commencing on February 1, 2010. Dr. Barth was in the last year of his term. The board is obligated to pursue in a good faith manner to appoint someone to fill the vacancy to serve to the end of the term on December 31, 2010. There is no specific procedure in place or specific timeline. The appointment will not be made until Dr. Barth vacates his office. The board can start that process in anticipation of the known vacancy February 1, 2010.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to open the process of accepting applications to fill the board vacancy with a deadline of February 1, 2010. Mrs. Brandon seconded the motion. Ms. Mackey suggested that further public discussion of this item take place at the January 21, 2010 meeting. This information will also be placed on the district website so that people are aware that the board is accepting applications. This will be placed on the January 21, 2010 agenda.

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

Motion passed.

Mr. Egan presented the following items for approval and asked if these could be acted on as one item. Dr. Barth asked that Item 1 under appointment of Officers be set aside.

### **Appointment of Officers**

1. Clerk of the Board – Catherine Cutting
2. District Treasurer – Tishawn Terry-Garcia
3. Tax Collector – Christine DeWitt
4. Extra Classroom Treasurer – Christine DeWitt
5. Internal Claims Auditor – Joseph Ferrandino
6. Internal Auditor - Questar III BOCES

### **Other Appointments**

1. Purchasing Agent – William F. Hogan
2. Records Access Officer – William F. Hogan
3. Asbestos Local Education Agency (LEA) Designee – Barry Becker
4. Independent Auditing Firm – The Bonadio Group
5. Board Counsel – Girvin & Ferlazzo
6. District Physician – Jay Kravitz, M.D.

### **Designations**

1. Official Bank Depository – Key Bank, N.A.
2. Official Newspapers – Times Union & Daily Gazette

### **Authorizations**

1. The Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, to certify employee payrolls.
2. The Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, to approve conferences, conventions and workshop attendance for the 2010 calendar year.
3. The Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, to approve property tax refunds and tax roll adjustments up to \$2,500 either mandated by court order or directed by the County of Albany Real Property Tax Service. (The Board of Education will be notified of all refunds and adjustments approved during the preceding month pursuant to this authorization at each regular Board meeting.)

4. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, to approve budget transfers up to \$10,000. (The Board of Education will be given a report of all such transfers pursuant to this authorization at each regular Board meeting. Transfers over \$10,000 will require Board approval.)
5. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and, as necessary, the President of the Board of Education to execute grant applications.
6. The Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board to approve all overnight, out of state and out of country field trips.
7. The Board of Education authorizes the reimbursement of pre-approved transportation expenses for the 2010 calendar year at the current allowable IRS mileage reimbursement rate through December 30, 2010.
8. The Board of Education authorizes the District Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, and the Central Treasurer of the Extra Classroom Activity Fund as individuals designated to sign checks.
9. The Board of Education authorizes the use of corporate credit cards for the following individuals:

William F. Hogan – Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs

**Bondings**

The Board of Education approves the blanket bond in the amount of \$1,000,000 for all District employees.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the previously listed items, absent the appointment of the Clerk of the Board. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Dr. Barth noted the clerk of the board is the one that the board has the closest relationship to. This has been pro forma that the board votes on this appointment. Dr. Barth suggested that the board have a discussion relative to the role of the clerk of the board in terms of working with both the superintendent and board members.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the appointment of the Clerk of the Board with the recognition that the board will discuss the role at a future meeting. Dr. Barth seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Colucciello thanked the members of the board for their comments, noting that leading is only possible when people work together. Shalonda Addison, the Student Representative was welcomed to the meeting.

Dr. Colucciello recognized the leadership of the President of APSTA, Cathy Corbo. She has been a promoter for the Nationally Certified Teachers in the district. Currently, the district has seven. Two recently certified teachers are Melissa Hurt and Deb Cronin. Five other nationally certified teachers in the district are Rita Floess, Maggie Fuller, Betsy Tanenhaus and Nigro Cushing. Congratulations to all. The district continues to encourage teachers to seek this certification.

Winners of the Martin Luther King Essay Contest, Rachel Britt-Busler – 1<sup>st</sup> place, A'Montay Giddings-Watson – 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Jefferson Pintado – 3<sup>rd</sup> place were recognized. A review of the process was also presented to the board. The Martin Luther King Celebration this year will take place on January 18, 2010 at Hackett Middle School at 10:00 a.m.

Dr. Maxine Fantroy Ford and Rosalind Gaines Harrell will provide information to the board regarding the Harlem Children's Zone. The district has developed a pilot program for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is the result of successful collaboration between the district and the community.

The district is currently working on a number of grants. Dr. McCalla talked about the Smart Scholars Grant. Students in the Academy of Engineering will be able to take up to 30 credits at HVCC. Over the period of the next three-four years the district estimates that approximately 200 students will take advantage of this opportunity.

The High School Magnet School Grant committee continues to encourage community members to participate in the development meetings. The group meets every Tuesday. This week the meeting will take place at the College of St. Rose. A presentation is expected to be made to the board later this month. Ms. Pastecki noted this grant application addresses Strategy #3 of the District's Strategic Plan, to close the achievement gap by creating smaller learning communities at the high school.

Race To The Top (RTTT) is a grant application that the New York State Education Department is applying to the federal government for. This was President Obama's nationwide educational plan to address educational reform. It is a \$700 million grant opportunity that focuses on four different areas, adopting standards in assessments to get kids ready for college and the workplace, building data systems, recruiting, developing, rewarding effective teachers and principals, especially where they are most needed. It is also about turning around the lowest performing schools. All school districts in New York State are being asked to sign off on this grant application. If this awarded it will take place in April with a 90 day turn around. The district will be working with the teacher's association. The district is positioned well for a sizable grant award. The district's work in "A Vision for Tomorrow" is very helpful to the district in this endeavor. In order to be eligible the State must remove the cap from charter schools. Charter schools have also been invited to apply for this grant.

Dr. Colucciello spoke about the challenges of Charter Schools in the City of Albany related to the approval and renewal of applications and the over abundance of seats in Albany schools, including charter schools. A full presentation will be made later on this agenda.

Dr. Colucciello recognized Tim Fowler, Principal of Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology. Mr. Fowler noted that students and teachers completed their first day back in their renovated school in Lincoln Park. Students were happy and ready to learn. Teachers shared their appreciation to be back in the building and parental feedback has been positive. Mr. Fowler thanked the members of the board for their support during these past months while the school was in swing space.

Board members Dr. Mark Barth and Judy Doesschate were presented with certificates from the New York State School Boards Association for completing Level I: Developmental Achievement by completing 40 points at NYSSBA developmental events and trainings.

#### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Sholanda Addison advised the board that student attendance in school has been heavily stressed. Interim reports have been sent home. A senior meeting has been held and seniors have been told they will lose senior privileges if they are failing. Junior Class Officer election was held. Basketball and winter sports have started.

#### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Bert Malerba addressed the board regarding the district Pre-K Program and the inequity related to transportation to magnet schools and not others. The district needs to reallocate resources to provide transportation for all Pre-K programs for equality, to provide Pre-K to those most in need and most at risk.
2. Sara Dallas addressed the board regarding the Health Career Exploration Program. Ms. Dallas noted the Health Career Exploration Program helped her son when he was at Albany High School. He is currently in his first year of med-school. The district needs to do all it can to keep this program. Ms. Dallas also thanked the high school for holding a meeting on athletics prior to the holiday to inform parents and students about the program.

#### **FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT**

##### **Action Item Related to the Facilities Project**

##### **Change Order – Arbor Hill Elementary School**

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the change orders. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### Harlem Children's Zone

Ms. Jackson Chalmers provided background information related to the district developing a proposal for one of the components of the Harlem Children's Zone, which is the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Institute. Dr. Maxine Fantroy-Ford, Principal of Giffen Elementary School and Rosalind Gaines Harrell, Principal of Arbor Hill Elementary School, along with Nolene Smith, community representative, provided information related to the program. The program will provide a bridge for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders as they enter middle school and high school. The program has been developed in collaboration with the Family Education Alliance (FEA). This will be an extended day program from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., focused on literacy. Funding will be provided through to the Comprehensive Education Plan and the Community Schools Grant. Transportation for Arbor Hill is built in because they are in swing space. FEA has secured funds for Giffen students. There will be two teachers per building and 20 students per teacher. The program will be focused on young adult novels related to multi cultural and social justice issues. The program will run from February 1, 2010 to May 6, 2010. Additional enrichment is also planned. Parents will also be involved in the program. It has been noted that with parental involvement other members of the family also become involved. Information will be provided to parents and students with the selections to take place later this month. There is also a parent component, serving the reading behaviors of parents, along with the students. Parents will also receive a certificate, along with their child. The program will encourage the use of libraries for reading materials. Expectations are that students will be prepared for middle school, high school and college. This program is separate from a tutoring program or a homework program.

- Who is involved in developing the curriculum?

Meetings have taken place with the literacy coaches and the teachers who will be teaching the program. The program will be in line with the Harcourt Reading Program.

- Hopefully, there will be sufficient flexibility in the variety of reading materials to engage
- Is the Family Education Alliance a foundation?

The FES is a community organization that spearheaded the Harlem Children's Zone project in Albany. The FEA is in the process of filing a 501-c. There are 5 people involved in the organization. Some will step off when the 5-1-c is completed.

- Is there a coordinator?

There is no specified coordinator. Those involved in the formation of this program will remain part of the selection process for teachers, etc. Those selected will be excited about this program and creative in their approach to teaching.

- Are volunteers involved?

Volunteers will be solicited to work in this program. Currently there are volunteers in the school. A formal application process will be used in the volunteer selection process.

Mr. Egan complimented the members of the FEA and staff members in putting this program together. Also, the pre and post testing related to evaluating the program is a great model.

**Charter School Update**

Members of the Charter School Committee, formed in October, presented an update on Charter Schools. Ms. Doesschate reviewed a consensus on goals developed by the committee, along with the membership of the committee. The group agreed the district needs to compete with charter schools; develop key messages; collect data to support messages; outreach to charters; comment on pending applications; discussion of the need for legislative relief; outreach for Albany specific relief. The group discussed the next steps, focusing on the understanding that there is a need to work together with charter schools to ensure that every student in Albany is attending a quality school. Legislative relief would be very helpful to the district in a way of having a limitation so that there is not a continuing approval of charter schools which creates an unpredictable and unsustainable situation.

The committee will continue to meet and discuss strategies. This is a prime opportunity for the district to make its case that there needs to be relief specific to Albany. Ms. Doesschate provided information for board consideration, including a draft board statement on the proposal to lift the cap in New York State in charter schools for review by the board. Discussion followed relative to approval of the statement and the procedure to be followed in terms of the agenda based on the timing of this issue. Discussion also included concerns relative to accountability of charter schools. Concern was also expressed regarding district resources and how they are prioritized in terms of providing information and data for students in the district and those in charter schools. Discussion also included the lack of community representation during a meeting held regarding the schools. Concerns were expressed regarding #3 in the statement, focusing more on the accountability issue.

Following discussion, Ms. Doesschate made a motion to move this item from information to action. Dr Barth seconded the motion.

The board voted 6 ayes and 1 nay (Mr. Morris) to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the statement include the first two paragraphs and items 1 and 2 of the statement.

**Statement of the  
City School District of Albany Board of Education  
on the  
Proposal to Lift New York State's Cap on Charter Schools  
January 4, 2010**

The City School District of Albany Board of Education (“the Board”) recognizes that the State of New York may lift the cap on charter schools in New York State in order to be able to compete effectively for federal Race To The Top funds. The Board also recognizes that some districts in New York State may want to increase the number of charter schools in their district. The Board is not opposed to lifting the cap to realize the benefits across New York State of the improved chance to compete for Race To The Top funds.

At the same time, the Board agrees with the issues outlined in the New York State School Boards Association's (NYSSBA) December 21, 2009 letter to Commissioner Steiner and Chancellor Tisch and wholeheartedly endorses the positions taken by NYSSBA in that letter. However, the Board also implores the New York State Legislature and Governor Paterson to recognize the devastating impact the oversaturation of charters is having on the City School

District of Albany, its students and its taxpayers, and asks the Legislature and the Governor to ensure that any legislation lifting the cap on charter schools in New York State provides specific and immediate relief for Albany's unique charter school situation.

Specifically, the Board asks that any such legislation:

1. Impose a specific limit on the enrollment of students in Albany's charter schools unless such schools have been endorsed by the Board to ensure that charter-school approvals in Albany are at a predictable and sustainable level. The limit should recognize that the charter schools currently approved to operate in Albany have been unable to meet their approved enrollment targets and that this excess capacity is adversely affecting the district's ability to plan efficiently and effectively in the best interests of our students, and substantially increases the local taxpayer burden; and
2. Provide specific and substantial fiscal relief to appropriately compensate the district and Albany taxpayers for the costs associated with the oversaturation of charter schools in the City of Albany.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the revised statement. Ms. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The board voted 6 ayes – 0 nays and 1 abstention (Mr. Morris)  
Motion passed.

#### **ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Egan presented Routine Consent Items for approval, including Proceedings of Meetings, December 1, 2009; Appointments (Probationary Appointments, Civil Service, Reassignment, Tenure Appointments); Stipends, Leave of Absences, Transfers, Resignations; Termination; Abolish Position; Creation of Position; Correction, Appointments to Committee on Special Education, Attendance at Conferences, Treasurer's Report; Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000, Budget Status Report - November, Revenue Status Report, Extra Classroom Activity Report; Tax Collector's Report; Field Trip; Authorization to Enter Into Contracts; Resolution to Approve Appraisal Services for the PLMA Building; Resolution to Approve Easement – Pedestrian Bridge/Arbor Drive & Manning Blvd.; Resolution to Accept the District's Medicare/Medicaid Compliance Plan.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve routine consent absent those set aside. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Ms Mackey set aside tenure appointments; Dr. Barth set aside contracts and Ms. Brandon set aside the resolution to approve appraisal services for the PLMA building.

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

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve Tenure Appointments. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Ms. Mackey noted Malcolm Gandy who is being presented for tenure as a Teaching Assistant is a relative.

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

Dr. Barth made a motion to approve contracts. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Dr. Barth asked for clarification of flow thru funds. These are funds that come to the district from the state and are then disbursed by the district through contracts.

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

Motion passed.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the Resolution to Approve Appraisal Services for the PLMA building. Dr. Barth seconded the motion. Ms. Brandon expressed concern that the timing for this issue this would not sit well with the Livingston community. Ms. Brandon suggested that this be held until after Arbor Hill is reopened. Following discussion it was suggested that this item be held until after the board does a walk through of the building on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms.

Doesschate made a motion to table this item. Dr. Barth seconded.

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

Motion passed.

### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

#### **Policy Review**

Ms. Jackson-Chalmers reviewed the eight policies presented for discussion. These policies were reviewed by the Policy Committee on 12-08-09. Changes were made where they deemed necessary.

**1000 Community Relation Goals** - Replaces #0020 adopted 10-03-06 - addition of #4 – Strive to develop other effective communications to ensure input from all district stakeholders about matters affecting the well-being of students.

**1050 Annual District Budget Vote** – Adopted 07-05-06 - no changes.

**1050.1 Voting Procedures** – New - this comes directly from Education Law.

**1130 News Media Relations** – Adopted 02-07-07 – language changes that clarify the role of the board president as a spokesperson for the board and the superintendent who is the spokesperson for the district.

**1230 Public Participation at Board Meetings** – Adopted 2/07/07 - clarifying language was included which does not change the policy. Mr. Egan noted the policy states that we call upon speakers who are addressing agenda items first. If there is a significant number of people signed up to speak the board president follows this format.

**1400 Public Complaints** – New –Minor changes, last paragraph, “All matters specifically referred to the superintendent and/or the board shall be in writing, or recorded by staff.”

**1420 Complaints About Instructional Materials** – New - original title was Complaints About Curricula and Instructional Materials. Because there was no reference in the policy to Curricula, that word was deleted from the title.

**1420R Complaints About Instructional Materials Regulations** – New – document outlines procedures for filing complaints.

Policies will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

**Board Committee Reports**

Ms. Mackey advised the Gun Violence Task Force Implementation Team will meet on Tuesday, January 12, 2010. The Alt Ed Think Tank Meeting will be on Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Audit Committee meets January 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Board Member Items**

Meeting with judges met in December and will meet again in February. They will work with the district to develop a parent center at Albany High School. Mrs. Gaffuri suggested the board consider parent centers for each school. With approval of board members this will be a future agenda item. Mrs. Gaffuri asked that she be allowed to continue with this endeavor. Ms. Mackey noted the Gun Violence Task is working around issues of truancy. This might be a place to interface between the Gun Violence Task Force and the Family Court Judges.

Ms. Mackey asked that the district's attendance zone be brought forward as a future agenda item for board consideration and approval as the district moves forward the Pre-K enrollment. With four board members in agreement, this item will be brought forward.

Ms. Mackey noted her concerns about information on the Pre-K lottery process and the communication to the community. What are the ramifications of pushing back the pre-k lottery? Is there consideration of having a Pre-K Center? This would alleviate issues of school choice, sibling preference and neighborhood choice. With approval of four board members this item will go forward as an agenda item.

What is the status of the volunteer coordinator position? Screening is now taking place. The position is expected to be filled by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Mackey made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. The board adjourned at 11:05 p.m.