



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 20, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Pine Hills Elementary School

PRESENT: Dan Egan, President
Judy Doeschate, Vice President
Rose Brandon, Secretary
Barbara Gaffuri
Edith Leet
Melissa Mackey
Wayne Morris
Dr. Raymond Colucciello
Dr. Tresa Diggs
Bill Hogan
Linda Jackson-Chalmers
Linda Rudnick

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.
- The Mission Statement was read.

Mr. Egan noted voters approved the three propositions the District had on the ballot. The School District is participating in the CDPHP Corporate Run taking place this evening. The team consists of 111 members. The District won an award for the second largest educational organization participating. Mrs. Gaffuri is the proud grandmother of twins, a boy and a girl. Congratulations to all.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

High School Scheduling

Dr. Colucciello introduced Dr. Diggs, Mr. Harper, and Ms. Hamlin, who gave a very comprehensive update of the scheduling for Albany High School for the 2010-2011 school year. The presentation included a chronological time line through August, course highlights, the bell schedule, and classes that are presently enrolled with under 15 students. Information was also provided relative to recommendations to cancel classes, recommendations to co-seat classes, and recommendations to maintain classes. Non-summer school schedules will be run and mailed on July 28th. Schedules for students who attended summer school will be mailed on August 23rd. All students' schedules will be delivered to House Offices on August 30th for the first day of school.

- Concerns were expressed relative to offering a 4th level of foreign language.
A pilot program has been developed in collaboration with Bethlehem School District for shared classes at the beginning of the day and the end of the day to provide this level of foreign language to Albany students and Nano-Scale classes to Bethlehem.

- If students in the IBO program can be provided on-line gym classes, these classes should be made available to all students.

This will be investigated.

- Will there be testing of the system.

Once the physical board is complete, testing will be ongoing as information is brought into the electronic program.

Student Recognition

Dr. McCalla introduced Clinton Mathai, a senior at Albany High, who has been chosen as one of the "13 Kids Who Care". Mathai was chosen for his volunteer work with 15-Love, an Albany nonprofit that gives free tennis lessons to inner-city youth. "13 Kids Who Care" is a project of WNYT, St. Peter's Hospital, and the *Times Union*. Its goal is to reward youth for volunteer work that improves the lives of people in the community -- particularly the disadvantaged or disabled or fellow teens who are at risk.

Clinton will attend Rensselaer in the fall and has been accepted into that school's prestigious joint medical-school program with Albany Medical College, a seven-year advanced program. He has received more than \$40,000 in scholarships. He is a top player on the Albany High tennis team, having won the Big 10 Singles Championship in Tennis and served as Captain for the AHS Varsity Tennis Team that won the Big 10 Championship. Clinton got his start on the courts at 15-Love when he was 7 -- the same age as many of the kids he coaches now. He told Channel 13 that 15-Love taught him much more than the game of tennis, and said he hopes he's able to pass on those important lessons to his students today.

Additionally, Clinton was recognized as an outstanding student in the *Times Union's* 2010 Scholars' Recognition Program. He was nominated for his academic accomplishments and more: for the seven advanced-placement (AP) classes he has taken, for his National AP scholar recognition, and for the array of his extracurricular activities including clubs, sports and volunteer work. Clinton addressed the Board relative to his experiences in the 15-Love Program.

ARRA Grant

Mr. Ken Cioffi advised the District learned today that it has been awarded a \$500,000 professional development grant to establish Student-Centered, Active Learning Environment, (SCALE) classrooms at Albany High, Giffen, Hackett and North Albany Academy. These state-of-the-art classrooms will be linked to extensive technology professional development.

Attendance Zones

Mr. Ken Cioffi gave a brief update on Attendance Zones. Floor plans have been gathered for school buildings to study room availability and confirm capacity levels. Estimates for enrollments and SED submission for building capacity are adequate for increased enrollment. Software to facilitate plotting student residences has been investigated. A recommendation is Microsoft MapPoint. The cost is minimal at \$35 per license with the School Agreement licensing. A suggested Attendance Zone Committee is being recommended. Mr. Cioffi reviewed the recommended membership make-up of the committee, along with the mission of the committee. The Board will be provided additional information at a future board meeting.

Energy Projects

Mr. Hogan noted that he, in cooperation with Mr. Catalfamo, have been seeking funding for energy conservation projects. The District has received \$250,000 from NYSERDA for a new air conditioning unit at Hackett Middle School and \$825,000 from NYPA for Albany School of Humanities for a new cooling tower.

Charter Schools

Dr. Colucciello noted that the District held a public hearing earlier this evening on a charter extension for the Henry Johnson Charter School, bringing the total to twelve charter schools in Albany. Dr. Colucciello will be preparing a letter to go to the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Board of Regents and Legislative representatives relative to the non-compliance of the fourth criteria by charter schools which state that an application for a charter school shall not be approved unless the charter entity finds that in a school district with a total enrollment of resident students attending, charter schools in the base year

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no speakers.

ROUTINE CONSENT

Mr. Egan presented the following routine consent items for approval: Appointments (Civil Service, Miscellaneous and Tenure); Leaves of Absence, Resolution to Approve Educational Expert. Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve routine consent items as presented. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Elementary School Quality

Ms. Rudnick, along with Ms. Bridgewater and Ms. Wilson gave a comprehensive presentation on Shared Accountability for Student Achievement Results. The presentation included strategies to improve school success, a review of what is happening in the field that makes this exercise critically important, an explanation of School Quality Review (SQR), collection, analysis, and utilization of data.

- What programs is the District planning to have in place in September for elementary students to change student progress and reduce intervention.

The District has an Academic Intervention Plan in each building.

- At what point would there be an Individual Education Plan for a student?

A screening tool needs to be developed to identify those students who need intervention. This would be an ongoing documented plan. Also, a data management system will identify student's progress in particular areas, the interventions that have been used with a particular student and the outcome of each intervention.

High School Plan

Dr. McCalla and Ms. Pastecki gave a presentation on the various grants the District has applied for, particularly those that impact the high school. Ms. Pastecki further reviewed grant proposals under consideration and preparation. Ms. Pastecki noted that with guidance from the Superintendent, the Grants Office will seek foundation funding to support the restructuring of Albany High School.

- The District is guaranteed \$630,000 for next year. What happens if the District does not receive any additional funds? What is the plan at the high school?

The School Improvement Grant is looking at some of the same things such as social, emotional growth and academic rigor. These things would be the same. However, they would be expanded with additional funds from future grant awards.

Dr. McCalla advised the Restructuring Committee has added the Facilities Subcommittee, the Attendance Policy Review Committee, the Curriculum Review Committee and the CTE Subcommittee. The District is now in the second phase of planning. The plan will be submitted to the Board in January. The Joint Intervention Team from the State has been in the school interviewing students and staff. The report should coincide with the School Improvement Grant.

ACTION

Certified Vote Canvass

The final certified Canvass of Vote for the School District Vote on May 19, 2009 was presented for approval. Ms. Mackey made a motion for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Policies

The following policies were presented for approval:

- #2000 Board Operational Goals
- #2100 School Board Legal Status
- #2110.1 School Board Access to Information and Reports
- #2111.1 Board Member School Visits
- #2120 School Board Elections
- #2120.1 School Board Candidates
- #2130 Board Member Resignation
- #2210 Board Organizational Meeting

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve policies as presented. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION

2010-1011 Budget

This item was placed on the agenda pending the outcome of the school vote. With voter approval of the budget, there is no need for further discussion at this time.

Policy Review

The following policies were presented for discussion:

#2140 Board Member Removal From Office

#2150 Filling Board Vacancies

#2220 Board Officers

#2320 Appointed Board Officials

- What is the status of the District's request for legislative action to change the date of the election of Board members from the November General election to the school vote in May? This will be discussed with counsel.

Policies will be brought forward for action at the June meeting.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Alternative Education Committee Report will present a report to the Board of Education in June.

There were no other reports.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Ms. Leet advised she enjoyed reading to 2nd graders.

Mrs. Gaffuri requested information relative to the high school building. A Building & Grounds Committee is under consideration for this purpose.

Mrs. Brandon asked for information on the middle school element in terms of the Strategic Plan.

The event previously announced for June 16, 2010, at the Wilburn Temple has been temporarily postponed. It is expected to be rescheduled.

Comprehensive building assessment has been taking place this past week.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Morris made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.