



City School District of Albany
June 3, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Albany High School

PRESENT: Dan Egan, President
Judy Doesschate, Vice President
Barbara Gaffuri
Melissa Mackey
Wayne Morris

Dr. Raymond Colucciello
Dr. Tresa Diggs
Bill Hogan
Linda Jackson-Chalmers
Linda Rudnick

ABSENT: Rose Brandon, Secretary
Edith Leet

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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Colucciello advised he is pleased to report that pursuant to the voters' approval of Proposition #3 on the May 18, 2010, ballot, the District is moving forward with Phase I of reconstruction work at Albany High School. The District will be transferring \$1,974,000 of available funds from the sale of the property at 27 Western Avenue and the settlement of a lawsuit to the Capital Fund for said purpose. This amount, combined with State Aid, will enable the District to complete approximately \$7.65 million worth of improvements at the high school. Thank you to the voters for making this happen and to the Board for bringing forth the proposition to the community.

Ron Lesko advised that on May 20, 2010, 111 employees of the District participated in the CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge. The team was led by Leslie Buff, Assistant Principal at Myers Middle School, assisted by Kerry Barone, a physical education teacher at Albany High School. This was a 3.5-mile road race open to teams of employees of corporations, businesses, government agencies, educational, non-for-profit corporations, and financial institutions. This year's charity was the Boys and Girls Club of Albany. Ms. Buff presented the Board an award for the second largest educational institution to participate in this event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Marlon Anderson addressed the board regarding the approved budget, encouraging the District to move forward to provide for the education of students with this new spirit in the community and public cooperation. Congratulations.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Ms. Sholanda Addison expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to participate in Board of Education meetings this year as Student Representative. Sholanda noted the experience has allowed her to learn how the various decisions related to our schools come about. She will be taking what she has learned into her future. Students are in the process of taking final exams and attending their proms. Mr. Egan presented Sholanda a Certificate of Recognition and a gift from Board members. Sholanda will be attending college next year.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Approval of Change Orders

Change orders for the following were presented for approval:

Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology
Giffen Memorial Elementary School
Arbor Hill Elementary School

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

The board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

Contract Award

Mr. McMordie presented a contract with Jersen Construction Group LLC for site work at Arbor Hill Elementary. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. This is the contractor currently on site. The contract includes a base bid of \$347,000, and alternate #1 of \$24,000 for work on the secondary sidewalk. Jersen was the only contractor to respond to the RFP. Mr. McMordie advised in consultation with the State Education Department, because this vendor is currently on site, this work can be brought to the Board as a change order when all the paperwork is complete. This project remains within budget.

The board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

High School Reconstruction

Mr. McMordie noted in terms of phase one of the high school reconstruction, the District is planning to start working this summer on replacing corridor floor carpets with tile in the high school. The month of June will include getting SED approval, submitting drawings, obtaining bids for the project. The Board will be asked to approve a bid award on July 1st. Two products currently under consideration will be bid separately, one as a base bid and one as an alternate. That decision can be made at the July meeting. The order for materials will be placed on July 2nd. Depending on the manufacturing schedule, work will start on August 1st. Summer school will take place on the third floor and work will begin on the second floor, with other segments being completed during breaks and next summer. Discussion of tile selection also will take place at the July meeting.

INFORMATION ITEM

Attendance Zones

Mr. Ken Cioffi, Chief Information Officer, gave a presentation on the proposed attendance zones, the attendance zone committee membership, the charge of the committee, and a proposed timeline for establishing the committee in August, a preliminary report in November, and the final report in February 2011. Board discussion also included the membership of the committee, keeping in mind membership numbers.

- I would like two additional parents on the committee and that all areas of the City are represented.
- I appreciate that the middle school is involved in this plan. Swing zones are a good idea to have in every school and that parents are aware of that. I agree with more parent representation.
- Is there a possibility of eliminating one principal from the listing?
- There will be quite a few meetings. More representation might be a good idea, not everyone can make every meeting.
- Is there a need for the person from Central Registration, along with Ms. Ferlazzo and Mr. Cioffi?

That could be eliminated because Ms. Ferlazzo represents Central Registration.

- Would this group continue to look at these issues, i.e., looking at the 6th graders who have been kept in their neighborhood schools?

Once building capacities are certain and zones are clearly defined, the Middle School Enrollment Committee would look at that.

- This committee is looking at the current structure of our schools?

Yes, that is correct.

- Perhaps the middle school principal could be brought in at some point in the future.

Elementary principals have requested input on this.

- We should be cautious about changing the middle school feeder plan.

Board members will receive information when enrollment capacities have been defined in all the schools.

This information will be provided in updates when it is available.

ROUTINE CONSENT

Routine Consent Items were presented as follow: Proceedings of Meetings (May 6, 2010 and May 18, 2010; District Policy Regarding Unemployment Insurance, Appointments (Nurses, Miscellaneous, Stipends, Substitutes); Leaves of Absence; Resignations/Retirements/Terminations; Abolishment of Positions and Creation of Positions; Attendance at Conferences; Field Trips; Treasurer's Report; Budget Transfers under \$10,000; Budget Transfers over \$10,000; Revenue Status Report – 04/30/10; Appropriation Status Report – 04/30/10; Real Property Tax Adjustments; Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund; RFOP – Employee Assistant Program; Authorization to Enter Into Contracts; Membership Dues (New York State Small City School Districts Association - \$4,700 and Council of School Superintendents - \$647.50; Resolutions (Accept Donations for New Scotland Elementary School Playground, Approve Public Hearing for the Mosaic Stone Charter School.

Ms. Mackey made a motion for approval. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Ms. Mackey asked that appointments be set aside. Ms. Doesschate asked that the Resolution to Approve Charter School Public Hearing be set aside.

The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion absent those items set aside.
Motion passed.

Mrs. Brandon made a motion to approve appointments. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Mrs. Brandon asked if the RN appointments are all the School Nurse Teachers. Mrs. Jackson-Chalmers advised the MOA with APSTA required that the School Nurse Teachers apply for the RN positions. They are all the School Nurse Teachers. There are two potential retirements not listed.

The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion.
Motion passed.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the Resolution to Approve the Charter School Public Hearing. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate suggested that the resolution be modified to read that there would be some written record relative to verbal comments made by the public at these meetings. Also, the executive summary of the application could be made available by a link on the District website so the public has an opportunity to review the information. Mr. Honeywell advised the resolution reads “no public record.” The following statement could be included, “However, a summary of speaker comments will be made.” Additionally, the last paragraph will read, “along with a written summary of verbal comments made at the hearing” to be inserted after hearing. The Public Notice will include after K-6 in the first paragraph “A summary of the application may be reviewed by accessing the School Districts website.”

The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the resolution as amended.
Motion passed.

ACTION

Ms. Jackson-Chalmers presented the following policies for approval:

- #2140 Board Member Removal From Office
- #2150 Filling Board Vacancies
- #2220 Board Officers
- #2230 Appointed Board Officials

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve policies as presented. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion.
Motion passed.

DISCUSSION

Bullying Prevention Policy

Ms. Jackson-Chalmers presented policy #0115.1, Bullying Prevention, for review. In response to recent information related to proposed legislation mandating that school districts' adopt an anti-bullying policy, NYSSBA has provided this policy for consideration. Every principal has been provided a copy of this policy. Counsel has also reviewed the policy. A change was made to the policy charging the District Code of Conduct committee with responsibility for providing oversight to a District-wide effort for bullying prevention. The Policy Committee will present this policy for approval, along with the revisions to the Code of Conduct Policy at the next meeting. Ms. Jackson-Chalmers noted that the District could develop a brochure on this policy for distribution to parents, staff, and students.

2010-2013 Technology Plan

Mr. Ken Cioffi reported that the District is required to have a Technology Plan for ERATE funding and policies related to technology in the District. Mr. Cioffi introduced Mark Place, who presented an overview of the Technology Plan. The District Technology Committee consists of over twenty teachers, support staff, administrators, consultants, and technology staff. This plan addressed the direction the District is going over the next three years. Mr. Place spoke about the vision of the Technology Plan, hardware, software, curriculum, and professional development. The District Technology Policy has to be revised to include cyber bullying in order to be eligible for ERATE funding. The revised policy will be presented to the Board for approval.

- Is there a time frame for the revision of the District Technology Policy?

The policy needs to be revised as soon as possible.

- Is the Technology Plan the place to discuss increased student interaction with technology? The Technology Committee is the place where these issues are discussed and worked through. This will be the focus of the Committee moving forward through this year.

Dr. Colucciello noted Mr. Place is working on a pilot program for teachers to participate in virtual learning opportunities. Also, teachers and administrators will be working on how they can move ahead through the use of technology. Board members will be invited to attend a demonstration on Smart Boards. Information will be forthcoming.

- Is there a replacement schedule within the plan?

That will be forthcoming in the future. Currently less than 3% of computers fail on an annual basis. Maintenance will take place within the District, upgrading memory, etc. In order to be progressive, the District will need to increase funding for technology. The Technology Plan will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Social Studies Textbook

Bryan Cartwright, Instructional Supervisor for Social Studies gave a comprehensive presentation on the Pearson/Scott Foresman Series of the K-5 Social Studies textbook being recommended to the Board for adoption. Historical events that have taken place through the past ten years are not included in the current textbooks. Students and teachers deserve the most recent Social Studies editions. Mr. Cartwright reviewed the adoption process, program strengths and notable features, that including an upgraded Grade 4 textbook. Following Board approval, a plan for implementation, professional development, and summer curriculum work will be scheduled with ongoing review of curriculum, materials, and student needs.

The cost of these textbooks is \$160,064.65, below the budget allotted for textbook adoption. In addition, Pearson/Scott Foresman will provide the department with \$535,250.70 worth of ancillary materials free of charge. There is also an on-line version of the books available to students and teachers. Workbooks and supplemental books are also included in the materials.

- What happens to the old textbooks?

They are used in any way possible to supplement instruction. They are not discarded.

- Are new textbooks available to local libraries?

That's a great idea. This possibility will be investigated.

Adoption of these textbooks will be placed on the next Board agenda.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Audit Committee met last week, reviewing the engagement letter for the annual internal audit. Also, the purchase of District vehicles was discussed. Mr. Hogan is investigating funding for these items.

The Alternative Education Committee is working to complete reports to be presented to the Board in mid-June or July.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Mrs. Gaffuri noted the Albany High School Spring Orchestra and Choral group will perform next week.

Ms. Mackey attended the Athletic Banquet for Albany High School. The event was very well planned, and it was a wonderful experience for the student athletes.

Charter School Committee is developing agenda items for next year. Board members can forward their ideas to Mr. Lesko.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Mackey made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cutting