



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 1, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Albany High School

PRESENT: Barbara Gaffuri, President
Dr. Mark Barth
Rose Brandon
Daniel Egan
Wayne Morris

Dr. Raymond Colucciello
Dr. Tresa Diggs
Bill Hogan
Linda Jackson-Chalmers
Linda Rudnick
Jeff Honeywell (School Counsel)

EXCUSED: Melissa Mackey, Vice President
Judy Doeschate, J.D. Secretary

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

- The District was honored to host Governor Patterson's press conference on H1N1, which took place on August 31, 2009 at Stephen & Harriet Myers Middle School.
- A review of Summer Programs was presented to the Board.
- Staff members attended orientation on Monday and Tuesday, August 31st and September 1, 2009, 17 Teachers and 1 Home School Coordinator. Orientation was conducted by administrators and directors.
- Superintendent Conference Day activities will take place tomorrow, Wednesday, September 2, 2009. Activities will include a welcome from the President of the Board of Education, Presidents of Bargaining Units and Mayor Jerry Jennings.
- A listing of building preparations that have taken place throughout the district was distributed to board members.
- The district is monitoring enrollment at each building and will share this information in the board update.
- To insure student safety, fire drills and lock-down drills will take place in the schools throughout the coming year. Fire Drills /Lock-Down Drills
- The board will be receiving periodic updates on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- A football game between Albany and Schenectady is schedule for Friday evening in Schenectady.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Giffen memorial Elementary School on Saturday, September 12th at 10:00 a.m.
- The district is proud to welcome Kendra Chaires this evening. Ms. Chaires has served as Interim Principal at Eagle Point Elementary School and this evening will be appointed Principal of that school. Congratulations to Ms. Chaires.
- The district is ready to open its schools to students on Tuesday, September 8th.

Mrs. Gaffuri asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include emergency conditional appointments for approval. Ms. Cutting, Clerk of the Board noted there are also two revised items, Hourly Rates for Support Staff Substitutes – SNT/RN @ \$150 per day and Attendance at Conferences listing that removes Dr. Diggs from attendees at the IBO Conference. Mr. Egan made a motion for approval. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The Board voted 5 ayes to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Nolene Smith addressed the board on behalf of Dr. Malerba, asking that the district remains vigilant to insure that all the right people are on the Think Tank. Ms. Smith presented books and news articles for board members to review.
2. Marlin Anderson address the board to extend best wishes for a successful school year, urging the district to focus on the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. Mr. Anderson also called for collaboration between the district and the mayor, focusing on student achievement.

INFORMATION ITEM

Ms. Rudnick introduced Vibetta Sanders, Principal of Pine Hills Elementary School, Dr. Mark Sullivan, President and Dr. Maggie Kirwin, Dean, of the College of St. Rose, along with parents, staff and students who gave a very comprehensive presentation on the partnership between the district and the College of St. Rose providing tutorial services to students at Pine Hills Elementary School and professional development to students at The College of St. Rose. This program has been functioning for three years and has been successful for students at these two schools. The Help Yourself Academy is being offered as an after-school program to the students at Pine Hills.

- What more does this board have to do to insure that this program continues?
Many of the faculty members at Pine Hills are graduates from the College of St. Rose. They have a deep commitment to give back to those new teachers who are coming into the field. The total faculty has embraced it, some more so than others. In terms of where we see this going, it's ongoing. The beauty of the partnership is that relationships have evolved naturally based on common goals. There are some ideas related to expansion based on the needs and how they can be filled and by whom. Dr. Kirwin noted the College of St. Rose is hopeful that the district will provide sanction of this partnership in the form of a formal resolution stating the district's support for the expansion of this program to other schools in the district.

Following discussion relative to support of the board in this endeavor, the board will entertain a resolution at the next meeting affirming its support for the program and its ongoing development. This will be presented as an action item at the September 17, 2009 board meeting.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Routine Consent Items were presented as follows: Proceedings of Meetings, August 4, 2009 and August 20, 2009; Appointments (Administrative Appointment, Interim Appointments; Probationary Appointments, Regular Substitutes, Itinerant Substitute Teachers 2009-2010, Civil Service, Miscellaneous); Transfers; Abolishment of Position, Creation of Positions; Resignations/Retirements; Hourly Substitute Rates; Attendance at Conferences; Treasurer's Report; Revenue Status Report 7/31/09, Appropriation Status Report 07/31/09, Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund; Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000 2008-09, Budget Transfers over \$10,000 2009-10, Real Property Tax Adjustments; Award of Bids; Employee Benefit Reserve Fund Transfer Resolution, Contract for Excellence Public Hearing Resolution; Capital District School Boards Association.

It was noted that Emergency Conditional Appointments are also included under Routine Consent. Motion to amend the agenda to include this item was made by and seconded by

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

Motion passed.

Mrs. Gaffuri set aside Administrative Appointment. Mr. Morris made a motion to approve Routine Consent Items absent the item set aside. Dr. Barth seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Dr. Barth made a motion to approve Administrative Appointment of Kendra Chaires, Principal of Eagle Point Elementary School. Mr. Egan seconded the motion. Mrs. Gaffuri recognized Ms. Chaires, who has been serving as the Interim Principal to the position of Principal at Eagle Point Elementary School.

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

Motion passed.

Mrs. Gaffuri introduced and extended congratulations to Ms. Kendra Chaires, newly appointed Principal of Eagle Point Elementary School.

FACILITIES PROJECT

Action Items Related to the Facilities Project

Approval of Change Orders

Change orders for William S. Hackett Middle School, Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology, Arbor Hill Elementary School and New Scotland Elementary School were presented for approval. Mr. Morris made a motion to approve change orders. Dr. Barth seconded the motion. Mr. McMordie of Armlin, Damon & McMordie noted that Change order #99 for approximately \$152,000 for Giffen was funded through savings by eliminating the bus loop at Giffen. Last month the district accepted a credit of approximately \$180,000 for the bus loop. This is the work that was substituted for the bus loop. This has resulted in a savings of approximately \$18,000.

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

Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the listed resolutions related to the sale of the building at 27 Western Avenue.

- Resolution to Approve the Closing of the Adult Learning Center and the Sale of the Property

APPROVAL TO SELL PROPERTY AT 27 WESTERN AVENUE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Albany City School District Board of Education hereby approves the closing of the Adult Learning Center at its present location at 27 Western Avenue and authorizes the President of the Board to execute any and all documents necessary to sell the real property located at 27 Western Avenue, Albany, NY, for a price not less than \$400,000 plus usual and customary closing costs, subject to voter approval at the General Election on November 3, 2009.

- Resolution to Approve Referendum to Sell Property

SALE OF 27 WESTERN AVENUE PROPERTY REFERENDA

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby authorizes the placement of the following proposition before the voters at the November 3, 2009 general election for the sale of the real property commonly known as the Adult Learning Center (ALC) at 27 Western Avenue, in the City of Albany, for a price of not less than \$400,000.

Shall the Board of Education of the Albany City School District be authorized to sell the real property known as the Adult Learning Center at 27 Western Avenue, in the City of Albany for a price not less than \$400,000.

- Resolution to Approve Voting Locations & Inspectors for the General Election

RESOLUTION FOR SPECIAL MEETING

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany ("Board") has adopted a resolution closing the Adult Learning Center building located at 27 Western Avenue, Albany, New York ("ALC"); and,

WHEREAS, the Board has adopted a resolution authorizing the sale of the ALC subject to the presentation to and approval by the voters of the School District; and,

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to hold a special meeting of the voters at which the proposition to sell this building may be voted upon; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is authorized by various sections of the Education Law to hold such special meetings and votes for the purpose or presenting such a proposition to the voters; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Law Section 2502(9), members of the Board are duly elected at the general election operated by the County Board of Elections in November of each year and the next general election is scheduled for November 3, 2009; and,

WHEREAS, the cost of the School District running a special meeting and vote separate and apart from the general election would be approximately \$40,000; and,

WHEREAS, for the purposes of efficiency and cost savings, it makes most sense to have the special meeting and vote on the proposition for the sale of the ALC concurrently with the general election so as to not unnecessarily waste taxpayer dollars; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Albany and City School District of Albany are coterminous; and,
WHEREAS, the general election and its voting locations and inspectors for the City of Albany are already operated for the conduct of School District business for the election of members of the Board.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED:

1. The Board hereby designates that the special meeting for the purpose of the voters acting upon the proposition to sell the Adult Learning Center building located at 27 Western Avenue, Albany, New York shall be held concurrently with the general election on November 3, 2009.
2. The Board, to whatever extent legally required to do so, hereby adopts the voting locations established by the County Board of Elections for purposes of the general election within the City of Albany as the voting locations for this special meeting and concurrent vote and the same voting hours as are used for the general election..
3. The Board, to whatever extent legally required to do so, hereby adopts and appoints the inspectors appointed by the County Board of Elections for purposes of the general election within the City of Albany as the inspectors for this special meeting and concurrent vote.
4. The Clerk of the Board is authorized and directed to publish the required legal notice for this special meeting and concurrent vote.
5. The Clerk of the Board and/or any other District Official is authorized to take whatever additional steps or actions may be required to affect this resolution.

Mr. Morris made a motion to approve the resolutions as presented. Mr. Egan seconded the motion. 2Mr. Honeywell noted the public hearing related to the closing of the ALC program at 27 Western Avenue was held earlier this evening. No public comments were received.

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

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Superintendent Search

Mrs. Jackson-Chalmers advised that Hazard, Young & Attea Associates, consultants Debora Ross and John O'Rourke had a full slate of focus meetings with board members, cabinet members and various partners on August 26, 2009. On September 14, 2009 consultants will return to conduct a second set of focus meetings and a series of open forums. Notification of the schedule will be distributed to the community and parents inviting them to attend these forums. Hopefully, this schedule will accommodate as many citizens as possible to get input in the process. In addition to the focus groups, there will be a series of discussions will take place with members from the business community, Common Council members, Albany County Legislators who represent the City and other elected officials such as City Court, County Court and Family Court Judges, faith based organizations, youth & recreational partners and CANA. A draft for the advertisement for the position has been formulated. This will be forward to the consultants for their final revisions and will go out by the close of this month. The search is on target with the timeline that was proposed by the board in July. The board will meet the consultants on October 6th and at that time future dates will be developed. The Leadership Profile Survey will be placed on the district website and at each building so that parents can give their input into the process.

Board Member Items

Mr. Egan advised he has been reading about the Malcolm Baldrige Management Award, which is a federal excellence management award given annually to school districts. Many school districts have received that award. The process of getting involved with this award in addition to the possibility of receiving the award is the opportunity to complete a management assessment. This would be an opportunity for to take a very hard look at management practices across the district. Timing is good to get something like this going before the hire of a new superintendent. Mr. Egan will provide information relative to this issue to the superintendent and board members for review and future consideration.

Dr. Barth requested that the board agenda include a regular update on the H1N1 Pandemic as the flu season approaches. It is important that people understand the responsibility of staying at home when you are experiencing flu symptoms. Dr. Barth requested that the district consider reasonable expectations and how that information is communicated to students and parents. Dr. Colucciello noted that technology allows the immediate tracking of the virus. The monitoring part is very important. The district receives communication on a daily basis. The district will be recording absences daily to the County Health Department. Employees will hear Terry Nord, Health Services Coordinator for the district, speak about H1N1. She will be going to each building, working with the nurses. A suggestion was made to develop a tracking system whereby students who have received immunization could be identified. The district would then be able to identify the percentage of students in each school who have been immunized. Dr. Colucciello will be presenting information in the Superintendent's Report at each board meeting.

Mrs. Gaffuri requested a report on safety in our schools relative to procedures that are in place, how those procedures are effective, what are the findings, how does the district respond, possibly a report from the Director of Security. This issue will need additional discussion. The district also needs to look at the Strategic Plan as it relates to safety in our schools.

Adjournment

Mr. Morris made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Brandon seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.