



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 16, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology

PRESENT: Dan Egan, President
Rose Brandon, Vice President
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary
Felicia Green
Edith Leet
Melissa Mackey
Alexandra Streznewski
Dr. Raymond Colucciello
Bill Hogan
Dr. Tresa Diggs
Linda Rudnick
Linda Jackson-Chalmers

ABSENT\EXCUSED:

Ken Cioffi

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:20 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 made a motion to amend the agenda to include a resolution related to the District's Article 78 litigation and a contract with Matrix Communication for cabling at Abrookin Vo-Tech to routine consent. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Arnelle Ullrich recognized Andre Odlum on the occasion of his last official Board of Education meeting as a full-time District employee. Ms. Ullrich mentioned that in 26 years with the District, Andre only missed two Board meetings. She also mentioned a number of instances attesting to his kindness and integrity.

Ms. Savino introduced Molly Whalen an art teacher in the District, along with her students Isaiah Stoddard, Sally Zhou, and Umayah Chaney. These students won the poster award for the Crop Walk fund raising event against hunger. Also present was Kitt Jackson, Administrative Director of the Capital Area Council of Churches, who spoke about the Crop Walk that has taken place over the past 30 years.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers included John Taylor, Jr., Principal of Green Tech Charter School, along with students, Coralynn Terry, Xavier Miller, Thomas Steele, Lance Wilson, Julius Kornegey, Nasier Brace, Aaron Cassidy, Joshua Fowler, Que'Shawn Van-Tull, and Anthony Ballou. Each speaker spoke about their positive experiences at Green Tech, urging the District to pay withheld funds to the charter schools. Additional speakers who spoke about their experiences with charter schools and charter school funding were Fidelia Rodriguez, Norma Chapman, Marilyn Springer, Shateek Merrit, Abar King, and Ron Bailey. Ashley Gomez and Kashawn Caldwell spoke about teacher transfers, urging the District to reconsider the transfer of a teacher in the District.

FACILITIES PROJECT

Action

Albany High School Site Work Contract

Mr. Egan presented a resolution to award Mercer Construction Company, LLC for the Albany High School site work. Mr. Peckham of CS Arch reviewed the award. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion for approval. Ms. Streznewski seconded the motion.

The Board voted 6 ayes – 0 nays and 1 abstention. Ms. Green abstained.

Motion passed.

INFORMATION

Curriculum Committee

Melissa Mackey and Linda Rudnick gave a comprehensive update on the Curriculum Committee, including the role and responsibilities, structure and membership, training, supports, professional affiliations, areas of focus, sub-committee reports (program review of Pre-K and Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle School and High School), planned next steps. The presentation concluded with a request for comments and advisement from the Board.

- How do you make this consistent throughout the District?

A teacher's binder will be created with materials and information. Professional development will take place in August. Site visits will take place in the schools. District-wide pacing maps will be developed.

- Is there room for individual variation in how teachers teach?

The District recognizes the importance of creativity and flexibility in teaching. There will be cross curriculum ties, parallel history and project based learning.

- How will this be implemented?

There is further investigation and work to be done prior to implementation. There will be some work prepared for opening day. Teachers will be instructed in rigorous support for students, diagnostic assessment, target instruction, track support and determine effectiveness.

ROUTINE CONSENT

Routine Consent Items were presented as follow: Proceedings: May 2, 2011, May 5, 2011, May 17, 2011 Canvass of Votes, May 19, 2011 and June 2, 2011; Appointments (Probationary, Miscellaneous, Stipends, Civil Service, Summer School); Transfers; Leaves of Absence; Resignations/Retirements; Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers Over \$10,000; Bid Awards (307/309/319); Resolution to Approve Charter School Hearing; Authorization to Enter Into Contracts. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve routine consent. Dr. Brandon seconded the motion. Ms. Streznewski asked that the proceedings of May 5, 2011 be set aside.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion absent the item set aside.

Motion passed.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve Proceedings of May 5, 2011. Ms. Streznewski seconded the motion. Ms. Streznewski advised under the Budget Hearing item, the time line for enrollment increase should be 9/08 – 9/10.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the proceedings as amended.

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION

Alternative Education

Dr. Diggs advised the members of the Alternative Education Think Tank members are seeking guidance from the Board regarding the next steps in order to revitalize and continue the work of the committee. Dr. Diggs advised the Board has been provided a copy of the revised Alternative Education Program Opportunities chart. The chart was originally created in March of 2009 for the Board and reflected data collected through January 30, 2009. The 2009-2010 data was collected through June 24, 2010. Due to a change of personnel, some information from the last school year was unavailable. The 2010-2011 data was collected through June 8, 2011. The data was collected through building principals, program staff, PowerSchool, and the Pupil Personnel Office.

Dr. Diggs also noted that the original membership of the committee needs to be polled to determine their desire to remain on the committee, including the leader, as Mr. Shimmer advised he would not be continuing as the Chair of the committee. There is a meeting scheduled for July 12, 2011. Discussion followed relative to the 12 recommendations that were presented by the committee. Following the July 11, 2011 meeting the Board will prioritize the recommendations, particularly the Personalized Education Plan.

Policy Review

Mr. Egan presented the following policies for review:

4750	Promotion and Retention of Students	6600	Fiscal Accounting and Reporting
6110	Budget Planning	5300	Code of Conduct
6110R	Budget Planning Regulations	6256	Fund Balance

6110 Budget Planning – This policy was presented previously to the Board. Suggested changes are indicated in bold. Mrs. Leet questioned whether or not key information should be defined in the policy. Mr. Egan recommended that information this specific does not allow for flexibility. Policies are developed to provide guidance. The more specific the language in policies, the less flexibility the District has in carrying out the policies.

6256 Fund Balance Policy

in Accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54

Mr. Hogan noted this is a new policy recommended by the District's accountant. The policy supersedes all previous regulations regarding the District's fund balance and reserve policies. It breaks up the fund balance from two categories to four categories, which is the way it will be for every public school in the state.

4750 Promotion and Retention of Students

The policy was originally initiated by NYSSBA and has been reviewed by the Assistant Superintendents for Elementary and Secondary Education. The policy has been revised to meet the District's requirements. The Curriculum Committee has also reviewed the policy, followed by the full cabinet review and the Policy Committee. The policy provides guidelines governing student progression. Mrs. Leet offered several editing changes.

5300 Code of Conduct

This policy is reviewed every by a committee consisting of more than 20 people. The members of the review committee are prepared to follow the guidelines set out in this policy to be consistent throughout the District. The completed policy will need to be printed and available to students at the beginning of school in September. The review included four additions areas, including a statement relative to cyber-bullying in the Bullying Prevention Policy, which was included in this policy last year.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Facilities Committee met with a group from TOAST to discuss fund raising for a pavilion at that site.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Ms. Mackey noted the WMCA held its annual banquet, honoring two high school students in the District.

Mrs. Gaffuri noted during the music performance last week, former students of Mr. Reynolds providing a musical recognition to Mr. Reynolds by playing a song on instruments they learned to play under the direction of Mr. Reynolds.

Mrs. Leet noted the food served to Board members this evening was purchased in support of the high school IBO Program. Mrs. Leet suggested that this type of support continue in the future.

Dr. Brandon noted the Abrookin Hair Show was a great demonstration of the unique talents of our students. It was a beautiful program.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mrs. Leet made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.