

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 7, 2007

7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: Teneka Frost, President
William Barnette, Vice President
Wayne Morris, Secretary
Dr. Mark Barth
Judy Doesschate
Barbara Gaffuri

Dr. Eva. Joseph
Jeffrey Honeywell
Dr. Joseph Dragone
Kathleen Wetmore
Linda Jackson-Chalmers

ABSENT: Jackie Jenkins-Cox

Call to Order:

Ms. Frost called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Frost welcomed the members of the audience and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph advised the District is making good progress on completing summer curriculum projects as well as other program planning. Dr. Joseph advised a number of staff development opportunities have been ongoing throughout the summer.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Marlon Anderson addressed the board regarding the coming school year.

ACTION ITEM

Contract for Superintendent of Schools

Ms. Frost presented the first of two resolutions related to the Superintendent of Schools.

RESOLUTION

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS SALARY

WHEREAS, Dr. Eva Joseph and the City School District of Albany are parties to an employment agreement; and,

WHEREAS, that agreement does not establish Dr. Joseph's salary for the 2007-2008 school year.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the annual salary for Dr. Joseph for the 2007-2008 school year is established as a 3.95% increase over her 2006-2007 annual salary.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The Board voted 4 ayes and 2 opposed.
Mr. Barnette and Mr. Morris were opposed.
Motion passed.

Ms. Frost presented the second resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS CONTRACT

WHEREAS, Dr. Eva Joseph is currently appointed to a term as Superintendent of Schools which expires on September 30, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education pursuant to the terms of the employment agreement with Dr. Joseph wishes to continue the appointment and employment of Dr. Joseph beyond September 30, 2008 and establish the terms of such continued appointment and employment; and,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

1. The appointment and employment of Dr. Eva Joseph as Superintendent of Schools is extended to September 30, 2010.
2. The terms and conditions of employment for Dr. Joseph shall be amended effective July 1, 2007, to increase contribution towards health insurance to 15% and such other minor changes as discussed with the Board.
3. The new term of appointment 2007-2008 salary and other changes shall be incorporated into a new employment agreement. The President of the Board is hereby authorized to execute the new employment agreement on behalf of the School District.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the resolution. Dr. Barth seconded the motion.

The Board voted 4 ayes and 2 opposed.

Mr. Barnette and Mr. Morris were opposed.

Motion passed.

Ms. Frost extended congratulations to Dr. Joseph. Dr. Joseph thanked the Board of Education and expressed how proud she is to be the Superintendent for the City School District of Albany. Dr. Joseph's comments:

"I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Board. I am so very proud to be the Superintendent of Schools for the City School District of Albany and I am tremendously excited about this great opportunity to continue the hard and very rewarding work that we have undertaken as a school district. As this district's leader for the next three years we face very real challenges as a district. We face very real challenges as a community. Challenges that at times have not served all of our students well. I assure you that we will continue to respond to our challenges as we work together to provide opportunities for achievement and success for all of the children of this City. At the same time we must be careful to not let these challenges obscure the great progress that we have made in recent years; improved student achievement; improved opportunities for success throughout our curriculum; improved schools and notably improved school buildings. The residents of Albany can take pride in the City School District and in its public schools. We are positioned to continue our success. We are fortunate to have strong, able leadership from the Board of Education all through our 18 schools. We are fortunate to have dedicated, talented teachers, administrators and staff and when our facilities project is complete in 2010 we will be fortunate to have one of the finest public education infrastructures in the Capital Region. As we look to the future we will continue to work and seek to engage all stakeholders from throughout our community, every school, every neighborhood, to restructure, redesign our middle school program and our high school programs, hitting a number of our challenges head-on in order to better and more effectively prepare our students for success in today's world. We will continue our efforts to build culturally responsive schools, strengthening

our relationships with the community and encouraging greater engagement between school and home. This is a very exciting time for our district. Nonetheless challenging and I look forward to working together with all of our stakeholders to build strong, secure and successful futures for all of our children. Thank you again, very much.”

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Ms. Frost called for a motion to amend the item to (1) add a resolution to amend the appointment of Terrance White made at the July 7, 2006 board meeting (2) add the appointment of the Assistant Principal and Home School Administrator at Hackett Middle School and (3) table the Budget Transfers on the agenda this evening. Motion made by Mr. Barnette and seconded by Ms. Doesschate.

The Board voted unanimously to amend the item.

Ms. Frost presented the Routine Consent Items, including Proceedings of Meetings, July 10, 2007; Resignations, Abolish Positions, Creation of Positions, Transfers, Leave of Absences, Appointments (Administrative Appointments, Interim Administrative Appointments, Acting Administrative Appointments, Probationary Appointments, Regular Substitute, Part-time Teachers, Itinerant Substitutes, Certified Substitutes, Itinerant Substitute Hall Monitors, Miscellaneous, Civil Service, Civil Service Permanent); Treasurer’s Report, Budget Status Report – 6/30/07, Central Treasurer’s Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund, Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000, Bid Awards, Property Tax Adjustments; Membership Dues (Albany-Colonie Chamber of Commerce, Capital District School Boards Association) Committee on Special Education, Subcommittee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-School Special Education Contract for Grants and Special Projects (College of St. Rose). Mr. Barnette made a motion for approval. Dr. Barth seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked to set aside the Acting Administrative Appointment. Mr. Barnette set aside the Budget Status Report and the membership dues to the Capital District School Boards Association.

The Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the routine consent items absent those items set aside.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the Acting Administrative Appointment. Motion seconded by Mrs. Gaffuri.

The Board voted 5 ayes and 1 opposed (5-1). Mr. Morris was opposed.
Motion passed.

Ms. Frost presented the Budget Status Report for approval. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Mr. Barnette questioned the available amount of \$8.5 million. Following discussion, Dr. Joseph advised a full explanation of close out figures would be available at the next meeting. Information will be included with the update.

The board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

Ms. Frost presented the Capital District School Board Association dues for approval. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Dr. Barth seconded the motion. Dr. Joseph advised this organization has special meetings and special seminars. Meeting conflict with Board of Education meeting schedule. However, board members have taken advantage of informational seminars and training.

The Board voted 5 ayes and 1 abstention to approve the motion. Mr. Barnette abstained.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Action Items

Approval of Change Orders

Ms. Frost presented a resolution for approval of change orders for Hackett Middle School and Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology. Motion made by Mrs. Gaffuri and seconded by Dr. Barth.

The Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

Contract Documents Resolution

Ms. Frost presented a resolution to approve contract documents for Giffen Memorial Elementary School and Philip Livingston Magnet Academy. Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Mr. Gifford advised the plan as presented at the last meeting remains the same. Mr. Gifford presented photos clarifying the question related to staff parking at the Giffen site. Mr. Gifford noted the school bus drop off loop would remain the same as previously presented.

The board voted 5 ayes and 1 opposed to approve the motion.

Mr. Morris was opposed.

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Comprehensive Education Plans (CEPs)

Dr. Joseph welcomed the principals and building leadership teams from Hackett Middle School and Philip Livingston Magnet Academy. Dr. Joseph noted a tremendous amount of work and team effort has gone into developing the Comprehensive Education Plans, which are required to be submitted to the State Education Department following Board approval. Dr. Joseph noted discussion is scheduled for this evening, with approval expected at the next Board meeting. Dr. Joseph Dragone introduced the members of the group involved in developing the plans. The group includes building teams, school wide planning teams, creating stakeholder investment in the process. Ultimately, the goal is to develop building level organizational capacities. The second part is investing human capital. Dr. Joseph advised human workforce is critical in order to achieve continued progress and movement in the work that is getting done in the buildings. The cornerstones, the Danielson Framework, which the district has been doing for some years, training new teachers, the National Urban Alliance training with coaches and teacher instructional leadership is critical. Also, building assessment and data literacy are also critical along with high quality teaching in the classroom everyday, with shared ownership, shared responsibility and shared accountability. Members of the group presented a very comprehensive review of the plans. Following a lengthy discussion, Ms. Frost advised these plans would be presented at the next meeting for approval. Additional questions or comments should be directed to Dr. Joseph.

ACTION ITEM

2006-2009 Professional Development Plan

Ms. Frost presented the 2006-2009 Professional Development Plan for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the plan. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Dr. Joseph advised she was reminded earlier this evening that it was anticipated that specific financial information would be presented to the board prior to approval this evening. Dr. Joseph advised that in terms of approval this if the board preference is to delay action on this plan pending additional information the administration would be forwarding that information prior to the next meeting. Mr. Barnette advised would prefer budget documents represent the resources specifically identified to support the activities of professional development. Dr. Joseph this information would be forwarded to the board prior to the next meeting. Mrs. Gaffuri withdrew the motion. Mr. Barnette made a motion to table this item until the August 23rd meeting. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Doesschate advised she, along with Ms. Frost, Dr. Barth and Dr. Joseph met with Mr. Biggerstaff, Executive Director of the Small City School Boards Association to discuss concerns expressed relative to continuing to pay dues to this organization based on the District's frustration over the lack of support from this organization for the District related to the charter school situation in Albany. Ms. Doesschate advised she would be providing Mr. Biggerstaff with information on charter schools in advance of a meeting of their board in September. Ms. Doesschate advised her recommendation is that the board reconsider payment of dues following feedback from their board as to what level of priority they place on the charter school situation. Ms. Doesschate advised she would be providing updates to the board on this matter.

Dr. Barth advised the board ad hoc committee to review voting locations has met to take inventory on information available and information to be obtained in looking at this matter. The committee will reconvene with a district committee and eventually work into a meeting with representatives from the public to review this issue. Dr. Barth will be reporting back to the board with future updated information.

Mrs. Gaffuri advised the Audit Committee met at the end of July in executive session to discuss information on the internal audit report, which is confidential. Cusack & Company attended the meeting to discuss the 2006-2007 external audit. The completed audit will be presented in October for approval. The Committee will be meeting again next week.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

None

Adjournment

Dr. Barth made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board