

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 20, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Montessori Magnet School

PRESENT:

William Barnette, Vice President	Dr. Eva. Joseph
Wayne Morris, Secretary	Kathy Ann Wolverton
Barbara Gaffuri	Dr. Joseph Dragone
Jackie Jenkins-Cox	Terrance Schruers
Judy Doesschate	Linda Jackson-Chalmers

ABSENT: Teneka Frost, President
Dr. Mark Barth

Call to Order:

Mr. Barnette advised Teneka Frost is unable to attend the meeting. In her absence, Mr. Barnette called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph acknowledged newly tenured administrators, teachers, and teaching assistants recognized at reception earlier this evening. Dr. Joseph noted the agenda this evening includes continued discussion on the Code of Conduct for student athletes. Dr. Joseph noted the Times Union highlighted an Albany High athlete, Josh Gordon, who stands as an exemplary model of what the district wants for all students. Dr. Joseph introduced Theodore Cook, who is to be appointed the Director of Safe Schools and Violence Prevention. Dr. Joseph thanked Harry Corbitt, who will be leaving that position on October 5, 2007.

Dr. Joseph noted recent incidents involving our young people in the community have truly been unfortunate and tragic events for the district. Dr. Joseph advised those events have served to heighten the district's already strong attention to maintaining an orderly environment in our schools. Dr. Joseph noted staff is vigilant and committed and disruptive behavior in schools will not be tolerated. The district will not accept inappropriate behavior in schools and rules will be enforced strictly, appropriately and consistently. The district takes very seriously it's responsibility to make sure that the vast majority of the students in this city who come to school everyday eager for an education have access to excellent academic programs in a safe, secure environment.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Michelle Flynn addressed the board regarding the dress code.
2. Nolene Smith addressed the board regarding the athletic policy.
3. Melissa Mackey addressed the board regarding recent events in the community.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Mr. Barnette presented routine consent items including Creation of Positions, Appointments - Interim Administrative Appointments (Interim Principal at Delaware Community School and Interim School Business Administrator); Miscellaneous (Director of Safe Schools & Violence Prevention, Interim Extra Classroom Treasurer & Interim Internal Claims Auditor) and Resignation. Ms. Jenkins-Cox made a motion for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEM

Attendance Policy

Ms. Ferlazzo, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, gave a comprehensive presentation on the attendance policy of the district, including manuals that serve as a plan for district wide consistent implementation. Services are provided to students from kindergarten through high school. Ms. Ferlazzo presented an overview of staff and their responsibilities and the objectives of the attendance programs, attendance reporting, attendance rates and ongoing interventions and incentives. Ms. Ferlazzo advised more quantitative and qualitative data would be forthcoming for board review.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Dr. Joseph noted that Mr. Gifford would be retiring before the next board meeting. Mr. Gifford will be working with the district from a different capacity. Dr. Joseph acknowledged Mr. Gifford's retirement and extended congratulations

Discussion Item

SEQRA Resolutions for TOAST and Giffen Memorial

Mr. Gifford advised as drawings were submitted to the State Education Department for TOAST and Giffen, the district was reminded that the SEQRA for the original master plan were over five years old. As such the district is required to update the SEQRA process on the remaining projects in Phases E & F. Mr. Gifford advised these projects are known as type II projects, which are projects that do not have to go any further in the examination process. These are existing buildings that are being renovated. There is no change to the function of the building. These resolutions will be placed on the October 2, 2007 board agenda for action.

ACTION ITEM

Professional Development Plan

Mr. Barnette presented the 2006-2009 Professional Development Plan for action. Dr. Joseph advised a significant amount work has gone into the plan since the last meeting, based on input from board members. Dr. Dragone advised the document has been reformatted and refined. Ms. Rudnick reviewed the changes to the document, including the establishment of the 2007-2008 membership team, the change in format, which improves readability, identification of new membership and the strengthening of the alignment with CDEP goals. Also, the section identifying additional professional development structures and supports has been removed and is being considered as an appendix. Also attached to the document is a listing of the anticipated general budget and grant fund expenditures for 2007-2008 that will support district wide professional development activities. Dr. Dragone reviewed the information available on line for the plan whereby staff members will be able to access the plan and track their own professional development.

Mr. Morris noted the time for this item expired. Ms. Doesschate made a motion to extend the time for 10 minutes. Ms. Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed

Discussion followed including the data that becomes available through the electronic tracking system through a program on the district website. Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the 2006-2009 Professional Development Plan as presented this evening. Ms. Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Policy Review

Mr. Barnette presented policy #5280 Interscholastic Athletics for continued discussion. Dr. Joseph advised this policy went back to the Policy Committee for consideration of questions and comments presented by board members at the last meeting. It was determined by the members of the Policy Committee that the policy should come back to the board for discussion. Ms. Jackson-Chalmers advised Kathy Ryan, Director of Athletic would give a brief presentation on the need for this policy, followed by discussion with Kathy Wolverton regarding the change in format and legal ramifications of this policy.

Mr. Barnette noted the time for this item has expired. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to extend the time for this item by 15 minutes. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Following continued discussion, Mr. Morris made a motion to extend the time for this item once again for another 10 minutes. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The board voted 4 ayes, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

Motion passed.

Following a second lengthy discussion relative to the possibility of extending the policy to extracurricular activities, the board agreed to bring this policy forward for action at the next meeting with the understanding that a second policy indicating the same consequences for inappropriate behavior to members of extracurricular clubs be submitted to the board before the end of the year.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Mr. Barnette applauded the Times Union article referring to Mr. Lesko. Mr. Barnette requested board discussion relative to opening up Y5 bands at the school for public use during certain hours. Ms. Doesschate offered support for this as a future agenda item. Mr. Morris also expressed support.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board