

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WEBB UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013
LIBRARY
6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patricia Josephson, Kathy Nahor, George Hildebrant, Sharon Evans, Joseph Phaneuf and Colin Criss– Student Representative

ALSO PRESENT: Rex Germer, John Swick, Jennifer Dunn and Diane Kull

OTHERS PRESENT: Tim Leach, Bob McCoy

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by President, Kathy Nahor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kathy Nahor expressed condolences to Brendon McGrath and his family on his father’s passing; acknowledged receipt of three letters, Peter Monaco requesting support for the Jeff-Lewis Board of Education, William Miller requesting support as NYSSBA Area 5 Director, NY Library Association in support of certified library teachers and library programs and a letter of resignation for retirement that would be voted on during the meeting.

SPECIAL TOPIC: The Board discussed the Property Tax Report Card.

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 regular meeting.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by S. Evans, the Board voted to accept warrants and claims:

WARRANTS & CLAIMS

- #27 Fund A with 49 checks written for a total of \$134,474.85
- #16 Fund C with 4 checks written for a total of \$4,314.97
- #5 Fund F with 1 check written for a total of \$32.00
- #17 Fund TA with 36 checks written for a total of \$468,679.63
- #20 Fund TA with 1 check written for a total of \$24,364.88

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by P. Josephson, the board voted to approve the property tax report card for 2013- 2014.

PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

Vote: Yes - 5 No – 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by S. Evans, seconded by P. Josephson, the Board voted to approve school holidays on Thursday, May 23, Friday, May 24, and Monday, June 24, 2013 using three unused emergency closing days, unless needed earlier. If an emergency day is needed before May 23rd, we would have school on that day.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

POSTPONED APPROVAL: On a motion by P. Josephson, seconded by J. Phaneuf, the Board voted to postpone the approval of a request from Girls Scouts NYPENN Pathways, Inc. for bus usage until the April 24, 2013 meeting pending clarification regarding a certificate of insurance.

USE OF SCHOOL

The Board of Education understands that this is benefitting the Girl Scouts.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL:
USE OF SCHOOL

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, the Board voted to approve the request from the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce for the use of two (2) buses and drivers to transport visitors from Thendara Train Station to Thendara Golf Course on Friday, August 23, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. and return to the Train Station at 4:30 p.m. for the Golf Outing. The Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce bearing all related costs and upon provision of a certificate of insurance naming the school district as an additional insured and pending driver availability. It is understood that no golf bags will be transported on the school buses, only passengers.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

ACCEPTANCE:
RESIGNATION FOR
RETIREMENT

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by P. Josephson, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to accept the resignation for retirement of Barbara Borwick, Elementary teacher, with regret and appreciation for her years of service, effective June 30, 2013.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL:
COOPERATIVE BIDDING
COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, the Board voted to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS and the MADISON-ONEIDA BOCES (the “BOCES”) during the 2013-2014 school year to bid jointly for the purchase of various types of computers and technology commodities (the “Commodities”); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Webb Union Free School District (“the school District”) is desirous of participating in the joint bidding of the Commodities, as authorized by General Municipal Law, Article 5-G; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received and reviewed the Cooperative Bidding Procedures (“the Procedures”) governing its right and responsibilities should it elect to participate in cooperative bidding of commodities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Cooperative Bid Procedures the Board of Education agrees to award bid purchase item purchases according to the recommendation of the BOCES if such award is in the best interest of the school district.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPOINTMENT:
COACHES

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by P. Josephson, seconded by J. Phaneuf, the Board voted to approve Mark Johnston as 2012-2013 Volunteer to assist the softball and baseball coaches:

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: John Swick, Principal reviewed the following:

- Thank you to Val Gaudin for organizing a trip for students and community members to travel to NYC for a Broadway Musical.
- Thank you to Jed Kinney for organizing Student Council’s festivities involving Spirit Week. The 7th grade’s efforts throughout the week’s activities were strong but the Senior Class 2013 took Hall Decorations and earned points at the events during the Spirit Assembly to achieve an overall win! The entire week was a success including the assembly on Friday before Spring Break.
- Thank you again to Key Club and Kayla Yuckel for organizing Spirit Week activities for the elementary grades.
- The Herkimer County Teen Assistance Program survey took place for all students in grades 7, 9 and 11 today. This voluntary, confidential and anonymous survey helps the County to gather information about the behaviors, perceptions, concerns and conditions of our youth.
- Faculty and parents have been reminded to prepare their students for the upcoming NYS ELA and Math tests in grades 3-8. We are encouraging and reminding students to get a good night’s rest along with a healthy breakfast in preparation for these tests.
- ELA testing for grades 3-8 will occur April 16-18 & Math testing for grades 3-8 will occur April 24-26.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS: Rex Germer, Superintendent reviewed with the Board of Education:

- After a few glitches and a weekend where it didn't exist at all our refreshed website officially went live Monday morning. It will be going through some changes as we get used to it and discover items that may have not transitioned well or at all.
- The State approved budget had significant changes for the district. The tax aid was fully restored and the district received more money back in Gap Elimination Adjustment than had originally been seen. The original proposal by the Governor was a 16% loss with the approved budget we realized an aid increase of 13%. The Board approved our "spending plan" at the 4/19/13 meeting which is not impacted by this news as we were not looking to make any cuts in that plan. The impact will be in terms of the amount we need to ask the tax payers to allow us to raise through our tax levy and the actual budget vote. The formula based state Levy Limit remains the same and the levy will be proposed at our allowable limit.
- The Operations & Maintenance Committee will need to formalize a plan to go out to bid on a replacement plow truck.
- State testing is scheduled to begin next week. The 3-8 assessments in both Math and ELA (English Language Arts) are going to be more rigorous to meet the new standards and core. This is the first year the scores will be used to help determine scores for both the teachers and the principal as part of their new evaluation plans. As we have seen in the past when the tests have changed, we are being told to anticipate a significant decrease in the proficiency levels of our students and students across the state.
- Chris Stanley came in third place in the regional Tech-Mech Rodeo. He will now be competing in the state convention in July.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Mr. Germer reminded the Liaison Committee Members that the Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, April 16.

CLERK PRO TEMP: Motion to appoint R. Germer as Clerk Pro Temp made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by P. Josephson.

Vote: Yes –5 No – 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, to enter into executive session at 7:33 p.m. to discuss collective negotiations related to the TOWTA Contract; an issue regarding student health and safety; litigation related to a former employee; employment histories of two particular individuals, and a discussion regarding of the Superintendent's contract.

Vote: Yes -5 No – 0

Collective negotiations related to the TOWTA Contract; an issue regarding student health and safety; litigation related to a former employee; employment histories of two particular individuals, and a discussion regarding of the Superintendent's contract were discussed, no action was taken.

REGULAR SESSION: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by P. Josephson, to return to regular session at 8:33 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 5 No – 0

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by S. Evans, seconded by G. Hildebrant, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 5 No – 0

Clerk Pro Temp

District Clerk