

March 22, 2011

The Board of Education meeting was held in the High School Library and was called to order at 6:34 by the president of the Board, John Wapner. Board members in attendance were Michael Clark; Francis Iaconetti; James Marks; David O'Connor; Melony Spock and James Toteno. Vice President, Elizabeth Macfarlane, and Gail Day were absent.

CALL TO ORDER

Other in attendance were John Thorsen HS Principal; Gordon Fitting, MS Principal; Larry Burud, MS Assistant Principal; Kristen Reno, Elementary Principal; Jean Scheriff, Director of Pupil Services; Luisa Sabin-Kildiss, Public Library Director; Chuck Snyder, Interim Business Administrator; Adam Charbonneau, Communications Specialist; Emilia Teasdale, Columbia Paper and about 25 community members including several Middle School staff and students.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the Board addressed the following business:

Motion by James Toteno, seconded by Francis Iaconetti to approve the present agenda as written or amended.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

During public comment David Stickles, community member, asked the Superintendent if there were any projected cuts for the district next year. The Superintendent stated that are a few cuts in staffing but not in programming and they would later discuss this in the budget proposal part of the Board meeting. Will Fahey asked if the cuts would affect programming and the Superintendent again reiterated it would not but would explain it later in the meeting.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

##### **CMS Character Ed Achievement and Recognition**

The Chatham Middle School has been named School of Character Education by the NYS Academy for Character Education through 2014. The Chatham Middle School has been selected into the finalist for the National School of Character Education. The Board recognized this great achievement by presenting a plaque to Camille Freedner, MS Character Education Advisor, and students of the Middle School. The National Review Committee will be visiting the school on April 8 to review the program at CMS. The Board also recognized Mr. Gordon Fitting, Principal, and Larry Burud, Assistant Principal, for their leadership role. The Board presented each with a Character Education Leadership plaque.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

##### **NYS School Report Card**

Superintendent Nuciforo summarized the achievement on the NYS School Report Card. Our accountability status is in good standing according to this report by the state. The District did not meet standards in certain areas in which strategies are being developed.

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The issues under consideration are students receiving a 3 and 4 score; raising mathematics for students; writing achievement and students with disabilities in ELA and Math.

Superintendent Cheryl Nuciforo commented on the Professional Development day for the district's staff on March 21, 2011. There was a keynote speaker on Preparing Students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The feedback from staff was very positive.

#### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Committee-Michael Clark reported the committee met on March 8 and are continuing to develop the draft of policies #1050 Annual District Meeting and Election and #1051 Voter Proposition. They are getting them ready for the second reading at the next Board meeting.

Audit Committee- David O'Connor reported the committee reviewed the external audit reports and stated the district is in compliance. There were two discrepancies found in the report however the Business Administrator has made recommendations to the Superintendent and the Superintendent will submit those recommendations by the April 1 deadline.

Library Committee-Luisa Sabin-Kildiss, Public Library Director, presented the proposed library budget developed by the Library Committee Advisory Board. This included expenditure increases by budget code, the largest increase being contractual. Due to state budget cuts to the Mid Hudson Library System these additional costs have been passed on to them. Other cost would include a new telephone and internet system separate from the school, tech support and warranty for the system, conference and travel, and extra staffing hours.

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Taylor Wenk reported the High School is in the process of looking for a good candidate to replace her seat on the Board since she will graduate. The Superintendent pointed out that the student representative's seat on the board will be a referendum vote on the ballot this May. This is to be voted on every 2 years. Taylor also stated there has been discussion on the Chatham Fair booth.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

Budget-The Superintendent reviewed the items of the proposed budget in a PowerPoint presentation. She reviewed the Program Initiatives; Enrollment Projections; HS School Master Schedules; Guiding Principles and Proposed Reductions in staff which includes a MS Assistant Principal; 1 elementary teacher; 1 Social Studies teacher; .5 Art teacher; .2 Family and Consumer Science teacher and .2 Music teacher. She also discussed the strategies such as transition to zero-based budgeting, the focus on efficiency and using Reserves to preserve program and lower taxes. Chuck Snyder Interim Business Administrator explained using the districts reserves to reduce the budget line items and reduce the tax levy. Discussion among the Board members on using the reserves to offset and lower taxes.

#### BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

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#### BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS

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#### INSTRUCTION

Motion by James Toteno, seconded by Melony Spock that the Board of Education accept **R.96** as follows **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accept the February 10, 2011 recommendations of the Committee on Special Education.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

#### CONSENSUS AGENDA

Motion by Dave O'Connor, seconded by James Toteno that the Board of Education accept **R.97** as follows **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accept the Consensus Agenda of the March 22, 2011 Board meeting, as written.

Dave O'Connor inquired about the Claim Auditor's warrant #98 on the change in Main Care Fuel.

Fran Iaconetti questioned J.2d why an employee would receive a raise during the probation period.

Motion by Michael Clark, seconded by James Marks that the Board of Education table J.2d to appoint Bonne Pflagl as full-time probationary Bookkeeper, effective March 23, 2011 through March 22, 2012, on step 8, at the pay rate of \$18.67 per hour until after executive session. Roll call required. James Marks, yes; Melony Spock, yes; James Toteno, yes; David O'Connor, no; Michael Clark, yes; Francis Iaconetti, no and John Wapner, yes.

**Motion Carried 5-2**

#### CONSENSUS AGENDA

The Consensus Agenda consists of:

#### PERSONNEL

That the Board of Education appoint Celeen Lawrence to provide interim clerical training, effective April 1, 2011 through April 29, 2011, at the pay rate of \$19.18 per hour.

APPOINTED CELEEN LAWRENCE- PROVIDE  
INTERIM CLERICAL TRAINING

That the Board of Education appoint Karen Hess as part-time teacher's aide (1.0 hour per day) effective March 14, 2011, at the step one pay rate of \$13.09 per hour.

APPOINTED KAREN HESS-PT  
TEACHER'S AIDE

That the Board of Education appoint Christopher Vanderbeck as boys' Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach Volunteer for the 2010-2011 sports season.

APPOINTED VANDERBECK-BOYS'  
VARSITY BASEBALL ASSISTANT  
COACH

#### BUSINESS/FINANCE

That the Board of Education amend the 2010-2011 school calendar as follows:

- Amend February 7, 2011 to an Early Dismissal/Superintendent's Conference Day
- Amend March 21, 2011 Early Dismissal time to 12:10 p.m.
- Amend April 1, 2011 to an Early Dismissal day with a 12:10 p.m. dismissal time

APPROVED CALENDAR ADMENDMENT  
2010-2011

That the Board of Education accept the report on the Federal

ACCEPTED -FERDERAL COMPLIANCE

March 22, 2011

Compliance Audit dated June 30, 2010.

That the Board of Education approve Application #9 for payment to The Pike Co., Inc. in the amount of \$12,941.00.

That the Board of Education accept donations from the Hudson River Bank & Trust Foundation in the amounts of \$5,000 for Chatham Public Library and \$5,000 for the Canaan Branch Library, and increase the budget by the same amounts.

That the Board of Education accept the miscellaneous donations to the Chatham Public Library totaling \$96.90, and increase the 2010-2011 budget by the same amount.

That the Board of Education accept the donation from Stewart's Holiday Match in the amount of \$500 to be used to produce the Chatham High School newspaper, and increase the budget by the same amount.

That the Board of Education approve the budget transfers dated February 28 and March 1, 2011.

That the Board of Education approve the Claims Auditor's report for the month of February, 2011.

That the Board of Education accept the budget comprehensive status and revenue status reports for the General Fund, School Lunch Fund, Federal Fund, Capital Fund, and Treasurer's Report for the month of February, 2011.

#### ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Pay increase for employees on probation prior to the end of probation or without evaluation.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Dave O'Connor, seconded by Francis Iaconetti to appoint Cheryl Nuciforo as District Clerk Pro-temp for the remainder of the meeting.

**Motion Carried 7-0**



Deborah Pottenburgh  
District Clerk

Motion by David O'Connor, seconded by Melony Spock to enter executive session. Time: 8:14

**Motion Carried 7-0**

Motion by James Toteno, seconded by Melony Spock to return to Open Session. Time: 9:35

**Motion Carried 7-0**

Motion by Dave O'Connor, seconded by James Toteno that the

#### AUDIT

APPROVED PAYMENT-PIKE COMPANY APPLICATION #9

ACCEPTED DONATION-HUDSON RIVER BANK & TRUST FOUNDATION

ACCEPTED-CHATHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY DONATIONS

ACCEPTED-DONATION-STEWART'S HOLIDAY MATCH

APPROVED BUDGET TRANSFERS

APPROVED CLAIM'S AUDITOR'S REPORT

ACCEPTED-BUDGET COMPREHENSIVE AND REVENUE STATUS REPORTS

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

CHERYL NUCIFORO-DISTRICT CLERK PRO-TEMP EXECUTIVE SESSION

OPEN SESSION

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Board of Education approve **R.98** as follows **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education appoint Bonnie Pflagl as full-time probationary Bookkeeper, effective March 23, 2011 through March 22, 2012, on step 8, at the pay rate of \$18.67 per hour. Roll call required. Melony Spock, yes; James Toteno, yes; James Marks, yes; Dave O'Connor, yes; Michael Clark, yes; Francis Iaconetti, no; and John Wapner, yes.

**Motion Carried 6-1**

Motion by Melony Spock, seconded by James Toteno to adjourn meeting. Time 9:37

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion Carried 7-0**



Cheryl Nuciforo  
District Clerk Pro-temp