

CORTLAND ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting – Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Randall Elementary School, 31 Randall Street, Cortland NY

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at the Randall Elementary School, 31 Randall Street, Cortland, New York.

Present: Mr. Donald Colongeli, Ms. Melissa Davis-Howard, Ms. Judith Murphy, Mr. John Natoli, Mr. Daniel Sidebottom and Ms. Alane Van Donsel

Absent: Ms. Janet Griffin

Also Present: Mr. Michael Hoose, Superintendent; Ms. Judi Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services; Ms. Kristie Bliss, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Brian Freeman, Director Business Services; School and Community Representatives; and Ms. Margaret Baccaro, Clerk

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. – Board Budget Workshop

1. **CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Davis-Howard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Ms. Davis-Howard called for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Mrs. Louise Gath, retired Cortland Jr.-Sr. High School secretary.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS and RECOGNITION:**

a. Kudos Korner

- 1.) Alex Reynolds – 2013 NYSSMA All-State Mixed Chorus

The Board recognized Alex Reynolds who was selected to represent the Cortland Enlarged City School District during the annual NYSSMA Winter Conference. Alex, a vocalist in 11th grade was selected for the mixed chorus and has been performing at the Jr.-Sr. High School for the past five years. He is a member of the Concert Choir, Mixed Chorus, Dynamic Paws and Chamber Orchestra where he plays cello. Alex was present to accept the Board's congratulations and certificate of extraordinary achievement.

- 2.) Tess Engst-Mansilla – Post-Standard/WCNY Spelling Bee Finalist

The Board recognized Tess Engst-Mansilla, a 7th grader at Cortland Jr.-Sr. High School. Tess was one of three local finalists to participate in the 2014 Post-Standard/WCNY written spelling contest. As a result of the written test, Tess qualified to join thirty-four of the top scorers (from districts throughout Central New York) to compete in the February 1 Oral Spelling Bee. The oral spell down took place at the WCNY Studios and was televised. This was Tess' second year competing in the oral spell down, and was one of four contestants remaining in the 9th round. Tess was present to accept the Board's congratulations and certificate of extraordinary achievement.

- b. Audience Participation – on items related to the Agenda. There were no requests to address the Board.

c. Board Member Reports:

- 1.) The next meeting of the BOE Audit Committee is scheduled for March 13, 2014
2.) The next meeting of the Policy Committee is scheduled for February 18, 2014
3.) The next meeting of the Facilities Committee is scheduled for February 13, 2014

3. **PRESENTATIONS:**

a. Randall West African Drum Ensemble

Mr. Cliff Kostuk, Randall School Principal, welcomed members of the Board and community to Randall School. He introduced Ms. Nancy Thompson and Ms. Heidi Shelley who would lead a presentation by the Randall Drum Ensemble. Ensemble members explained that they had become interested in West African drumming after a school visit from Ghanaian drumming and dance master Sulley Imoro who teaches African culture through music. Students learned that children must pay for their education in Ghana, and many cannot afford it. That prompted a student fundraising campaign for Ghanaian children. Randall students are making and selling bracelets, and have raised enough money to sponsor two children (\$180/child/year.) Fundraising efforts will continue in hopes of sponsoring another child. Members of the Board and administration were invited to join the students in their drum circle. After the guests received brief instructions on playing the drums and shakers the audience was entertained with a lively performance by the group.

b. Budget Overview to Date

Mr. Brian Freeman, Director of Business Services, presented an overview of the proposed 14-15 budget. During his PowerPoint presentation he reviewed revenues and provided a table comparing the 13-14 state aid that was actually received to Governor Cuomo's 2014-15 executive budget which shows an overall decrease of approximately 3% in aid to Cortland. Mr. Hoose added that the Governor's purported 3-4% increase in aid will actually cost Cortland \$86,000. There is a lobbying effort by various organizations to counter the governor's proposal by asking for a greater reduction in the GEA. After reviewing budget projections Mr. Freeman shared that, due to the Governor's disappointing proposal, the next step will be gathering savings ideas.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

a. Minutes of January 28, 2014 Regular Meeting

b. CSE/CPSE (Committee on Special Education/Committee on Pre-school Special Education)

Recommendations

607001274, 610353315, 610340630, 607000608, 610284886, 610316631, 607000899, 607000147, 607000164, 610322118, 610373462, 607000612, 607000977, 610385319, 610348027, 610273192, 607001004, 610365373, 610308249, 610375506, 607000525, 610385234, 610345016, 610308412, 607001276, 610329392, 610285127, 610323632, 610297528, 610284793, 610352675, 607000965, 607001272, 607001087, 607001113, 610252432, 610313195

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Consent Items as presented.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Ms. Van Donsel.

Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 1 (Colongeli), Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

a. Financial Reports: Treasurer's Report, Trial Balance, Revenues, Intrafund Transfers, Appropriations, Warrant, Claims Monthly Report – November 2013

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve Financial Reports dated November, 2013 as presented.

Moved by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Sidebottom. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0, Abstain – 1 (Colongeli). Motion Carried.

b. Financial Reports: Treasurer's Report, Trial Balance, Revenues, Intrafund Transfers, Appropriations, Warrant, Claims Monthly Report, and Extra Classroom Activity Fund Quarterly Reports – December 2013

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve Financial Reports dated December, 2013 as presented.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Ms. Van Donsel. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0, Abstain – 1 (Colongeli). Motion Carried.

c. Approve Use of EBALR (Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve) Fund

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the use of EBALR (Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve) funds for a mid-year retirement as presented.

Moved by Mr. Sidebottom, seconded by Ms. Van Donsel. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 1 (Colongeli), Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

d. Extended Field Trip Planning Approval – JSHS Trip to Europe – April 1-11, 2015

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the planning for a field trip to Europe April 1-11, 2015, as presented, with the understanding that the final plans will be brought before the Board 60 days in advance of departure for final approval.

Moved by Mr. Colongeli, seconded by Mr. Sidebottom. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

e. Approval/Appointment of Board of Registration and Election Inspectors as Presented for the Budget Vote and Election May 20, 2014

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointment of the Board of Registration and election inspectors for the Budget Vote and Election May 20, 2014 as presented.

Moved by Ms. Van Donsel, seconded by Mr. Natoli. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

- f. Approval of Increase in Board of Registration and Election Inspector Rate

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve an increase in Board of Registration/Election Inspector rate to \$10.00 per hour as presented.

Moved by Mr. Colongeli, seconded by Ms. Van Donsel. Under discussion it was noted that this was a \$1/hour increase and aligns with the County's inspector rate.

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

7. PERSONNEL ACTION:

- a. Approval of Personnel Resignations and Leaves

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the Resignations and Leaves as presented on Resignations and Leaves Schedule 11.24.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Mr. Sidebottom. Under discussion Dr. Vorce's retirement was accepted with regret.

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

- b. Approval of Non-Instructional Personnel Appointments

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointments for Non-Instructional Personnel as presented on Schedules of Appointment 1108 and 1109.

Moved by Ms. Van Donsel, seconded by Ms. Murphy. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0, Abstain – 1 (Colongeli). Motion Carried.

- c. Approval of Administrative and Instructional Personnel Appointments

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the appointments for Instructional Personnel as presented on Schedules of Appointment 2277, 2278 and 2279.

Moved by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Sidebottom. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

8. LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- a. Director of Business Operations

1.) Veterans Exemption – Mr. Freeman shared that school boards around the state are wrestling with the new state law that allows districts to offer veterans a partial break on their school taxes. He would like to see more information about the impact the veteran's exemption on property taxes will have on the district and non-veteran taxpayers before making a recommendation as it would be left to non-veteran taxpayers to shoulder more of the tax burden. He will keep the board apprised as he gathers more information.

- b. Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services

1.) UPK Site Visits – Ms. Riley shared that an associate from the Office of Early Learning has been in the district over the past two days visiting kindergarten classrooms and UPK sites. It was an opportunity for our district to walk through our programs with her lens and expertise. Ms. Riley will share a full report at a later date.

- c. Director of Curriculum and Instruction

1.) New Course Proposals – Ms. Bliss shared that we have three new course proposals and added that no additional staff will be required to offer them. The proposed courses are :

- a. Science in our World – This is a chemistry course that would offer a second or third science credit and focus on three areas: alternative energy, extreme weather and chemistry of water.
- b. Global Environment – This would be an upper level science course that would provide an opportunity for dual credit with SUNY-ESF (three credits). Students would pay for the credits (\$0-\$200) on a sliding scale depending upon income.
- c. Rock Guitar 1 – Ms. Bliss explained that students are learning guitar basics in 7th grade general music, and this course would offer an opportunity for those not performing in band, chorus and orchestra to participate in music.

- d. Superintendent

1.) Update on Special Education Review – Mr. Hoose reported that he has scheduled a meeting with Ms. Murphy and Mrs. Riley to review a list of suggestions Ms. Murphy has presented regarding a special education review. Mr. Hoose has contacted one consultant and received the names of two

potential consultants that he will be contacting. The next step will be to determine the scope of the study and then obtain bids from the consultants based upon that.

- 2.) Draft Calendar 2014-15 – The 14-15 draft calendar was shared. The calendar follows the OCM BOCES calendar and is final with the exception of whether or not the September 26 professional development half-day will become a full day. Dr. Bill Daggett, Founder and Chairman, International Center for Leadership in Education, Inc., has been secured as a shared presenter with Homer and Mr. Hoose and Ms. Ruscio are still working through the logistics.
- 3.) Capital Project Change Order Summary – Mr. Hoose provided a review of change order SC-001, a \$250 credit relating to the Capital Project.
- 4.) Title I / II Review – Mr. Hoose shared that the District has been undergoing a Title I and II review over the past two days. The review is being conducted to meet the requirements and compliance monitoring and to assist staff in identifying strengths and needs in the Title programs.
- 5.) Regents Adjustment to Common Core Implementation – Mr. Hoose distributed several handouts pertaining to the recently announced adjustments in the Common Core implementation. He provided an overview of the Regents’ report including the nineteen recommended changes that will delay the impact of the Common Core. Those recommendations were divided into six subsections: Common Core Standards, Professional Development, State Assessments, Local Assessments, Teacher and Principal Evaluation, and Curriculum.

9. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: (Individuals are requested to keep their comments to two-minutes per speaker). There were no requests to address the Board.

10. NEXT MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

- Approval of New Course Proposals
- Update on Veteran’s Exemption if more information is available.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Public Officer’s Law Section 96, Subdivision 1, Ms. Davis-Howard called for an Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law with no action to follow.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Ms. Van Donsel. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0, Abstain – 1 (Colongeli). Motion Carried.

The Executive Session adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Colongeli, seconded by Mr. Natoli. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0. Motion Carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Davis-Howard asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Ms. Van Donsel. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0. Motion Carried.

Ms. Margaret Baccaro, Clerk