

CORTLAND ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting – Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
Kaufman Center, 1 Valley View Drive, Cortland NY

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at the Kaufman Center, 1 Valley View Drive, Cortland, New York.

Present: Mr. Donald Colongeli, Ms. Melissa Davis-Howard, Ms. Janet Griffin, Ms. Judith Murphy, and Mr. John Natoli

Absent: Mr. Daniel Sidebottom and Ms. Alane Van Donsel

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; Cortland Standard Representative; 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 7:02 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **COMMUNICATIONS and RECOGNITION:**
 - a. Kudos Korner
 - 1.) Ithaca College Mathematical Exploration Day – Math Contest Team
The Board recognized Jr.-Sr. High School math teacher Mr. Paul Drexler who recruited and organized a group of students to attend a field trip to Ithaca College to compete in the Ithaca College Math Exploration Day. The Cortland team of Brooke Campbell, David Kalytyuk, Danielle Lynch and Nisarga Paul tied for First Place in the Math Contest among the ten schools that attended and more than fifteen teams of students. Also with them Austin Perelka, Lyuda Levitskaya, and Chelsea Breed who attended a computer exploration: "Playing Games on Unusual Surfaces". After the competition there were several small presentations on a variety of math topics. Mr. Drexler was presented with the Board's Certificate of Extraordinary Achievement and accepted certificates for the students who were unable to attend.
 - b. Audience Participation – There were no requests to address the Board on items related to the Agenda.
 - c. Board Member Reports:
 - 1.) BOE Audit Committee – Next Meeting April 14, 2014
 - 2.) BOE Policy Committee – Mr. Natoli reported that the committee had met on March 27 and April 1, noting that they are making steady progress on Section 1000 By-Laws and Section 3000 Community Relations.
 - 3.) BOE Facilities Committee – Next Meeting April 10, 2014
 - 4.) OCM BOCES Annual Meeting – Mr. Colongeli reported that he had attended the annual meeting on April 2, where the 2014-15 OCM BOCES budget was presented. Mr. Colongeli provided copies of the Annual Meeting booklet, and praised the OCM BOCES culinary arts and pastry arts program students for the excellent meal they prepared.
 - 5.) Reminders: Ms. Davis-Howard reminded members of the following upcoming events
 - a. April 21, 2014 (**Monday**) – Regular Meeting
 - b. April 30, 2014 – Board Candidate Petitions are due to the Board Clerk by 5:00 PM
 - c. May 6, 2014 – Registration Day 3:00-8:00 PM, Kaufman Center
 - d. May 6, 2014 – Public Budget Hearing 7:00 PM, JSHS Auditorium
 - e. May 12, 2014 – Meet the Candidates 7:00 PM, JSHS Auditorium
 - 6.) Proposed Summer Meeting Schedule: Ms. Davis-Howard asked members to review the proposed summer meeting dates and notify Ms. Baccaro of any conflicts.
 - a. Tuesday, July 1 – Organizational and Regular Meeting
 - b. Tuesday, August 5 – Regular Meeting (*first Tuesday*)
 - c. Tuesday, August 19 – Regular Meeting (*third Tuesday*)
3. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - a. Barry Playground Committee
Mr. Peter Reyes, Barry Elementary Principal, reported on the plans for improvements to the Barry School playground. A school parent group has been working for the past several years to raise funds to build a new inclusive/accessible play area. They have raised funds through fundraising, grant writing efforts and private donations. Most recently they held a Teachers vs. Parents Basketball Game fundraiser were \$1378 was raised. Mr. Reyes shared that one piece of new equipment, the Gaga Pit, has already been installed and is a favorite among the students. The design of the playground allows for additions to the equipment as future funds are available. The committee is currently working closely with Parkitects, the playground designers, and the district's insurance carrier to coordinate a "community build" to install

two pieces of new equipment. In addition, the committee is working together with Seven Valleys Health Coalition to incorporate a walking path around the Barry athletic fields. Mr. Reyes and Board members acknowledged the awesome work of the Barry School Community on this project.

b. Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Commencement Credential

Mrs. Kathy Reynolds, Mr. Joe Mack, and Mrs. Michele Hughes provided a PowerPoint presentation on the NYS Board of Regents newly approved regulations that establish an exiting credential for students with disabilities. Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, students with disabilities will be able to earn a NYS CDOS Commencement Credential. This credential will recognize each individual student's preparation and skills for post-school employment. Where in the past, many students graduated with an individualized education program (IEP) diploma, this credential provides a more meaningful substitute for these students. For students with disabilities it provides them with the opportunity to exit school with a credential that also recognizes the students' work readiness skills. The presenters emphasized that the credential is not a diploma and is not acceptable as a diploma for application to college, military or trade school; however, students are eligible to continue attending school and working toward a diploma until age twenty-one.

c. 2014-15 Proposed Budget – Mr. Brian Freeman

Mr. Freeman presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing the proposed 2014-15 Budget. The budget is scheduled for Board approval on April 21 and goes before the public for vote on May 20. He reviewed the three factors that influenced the budget: (1) increases in benefit costs, (2) an increase in debt service costs and (3) increases on instructional program. Mr. Freeman explained that there are three components that make up the budget: program (75.6%), administrative (8.2%), and capital (16.2%), and provided a breakdown of each. He provided an overview of the revenue budget with \$16,631,392 in property taxes, \$150,000 payments in lieu of taxes, \$1,439,038 miscellaneous revenues, \$4,500,000 reserves, \$500,000 appropriated fund balance and \$24,283,899 in projected state aid. The Board is proposing putting a total budget of ~~\$45,329,626~~ \$47,504,329 to the public, a 2.9% increase in the tax levy, with no job cuts. The budget summary reflected a 4.8% (\$2,174,703) increase over 13-14 which will result in a 2.9% tax levy increase in 14-15.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS:**

a. Minutes of March 25, 2014 Regular Meeting

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

610351024, 610375509, 610339634, 610338808, 610364514, 610365275, 610259046, 610258716, 610279817, 610273491, 607000164, 607001347, 610261569, 610307218, 610395066, 610339463, 607000382, 607000102, 60700100, 610344373, 610330366, 610335006, 610373829, 610351540, 610350091, 607001281, 610268129, 607000913, 610361655, 610327888, 610343387, 610351033, 607000139, 607001272, 607001087, 607001307, 610350720, 607000196, 607001058

c. Health and Welfare Services Agreement – West Genesee Central School District

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

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Ms. Murphy.

Final Vote: Yes – 4, No – 0, Abstain – 1 (Colongeli). 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 – February 2014

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve Financial Reports dated February, 2014 as presented.

Moved by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Griffin. Discussion: None

Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion Carried.

b. Approval of Renewal Proposal by Cayuga Medical Center of Ithaca for Athletic Training Services for 2014-15

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Renewal Proposal by Cayuga Medical Center of Ithaca for Athletic Training Services for 2014-15, as presented.

Moved by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Natoli. Discussion: None

Final Vote: Yes – 4, No – 1 (Colongeli). Motion Carried.

c. Approval of 5-Year Computer Technology Service Contract with OCM BOCES July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve a 5-Year Computer Technology Service Contract with OCM BOCES July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2019 as presented.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Ms. Murphy. Discussion: None
Final Vote: Yes – 4, No – 1 (Colongeli). Motion Carried.

- d. Acceptance of \$1,378 Donation from the Barry Playground Committee
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept a donation in the amount of \$1,378 from the Barry Playground Committee for the construction of a new playground.
Moved by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Natoli. Discussion: None
Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion Carried.
- e. Approval of Revision to 2013-14 District Calendar
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the revised 2013-14 Faculty/Student Calendar as presented.
Moved by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Natoli. Discussion: None
Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion Carried.
- f. Approval of Private School Transportation Requests for 2014-15
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Private School Transportation Requests for 2014-15 as presented.
Moved by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Natoli. Discussion: None
Final Vote: Yes – 4, No – 1 (Colongeli). 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 11.27.
Moved by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Ms. Murphy. Under discussion members acknowledged retiree Brian Bosch for his thirty-five years of service and accepted his retirements with regret.
Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion Carried.
- b. Approval of Non-Instructional Personnel Appointments - None
- 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 2284 and 2285.
Moved by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Ms. Murphy. Discussion: None
Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion Carried.

8. LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- a. Director of Business Operations – Mr. Freeman shared that he had attended the SUNY Cortland Sandwich Seminar *Renewable Energy on Campus*. The seminar focused on the college's recent solar project as well as other green initiatives taking place on campus. Their solar project includes a combination of ground and rooftop arrays, and Mr. Freeman was impressed with the state's buying power and the rates SUNY was able to negotiate. Due to State University involvement, SUNY's project was one and a half years in the making. Should the District decide to undertake a solar project Mr. Freeman does not believe the planning phase will take that long.
- b. Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services – Ms. Riley shared that she had attended both the Central NY and Rochester Area Teacher Recruitment Days last week. The recruitment process has begun with anticipated vacancies advertised.
- c. Director of Curriculum and Instruction – Ms. Bliss provided a timeline for the Elementary Summer School Program. The program will be held at Randall School again this year.
- d. Superintendent
- 1.) The Walden Oaks Country Club – 2014 Golf Team Agreement – Mr. Hoose shared that this the second year in a row at Walden Oaks because the daughter of owner Marcus Benardo is a Senior and Walden Oaks wanted to host for this season. Willowbrook will host the following two years. All parties were in agreement with the arrangement.
 - 2.) JSHS Trip to Europe March 2015 (11 days) – Mr. Hoose shared that sixty-nine students have shown interest in this extended field trip. The original request was for up to thirty-two students with four chaperones. The Board may receive a request to add eight more students and another chaperone.
 - 3.) New Tech High – Mr. Hoose provided a PowerPoint presentation *A Vision for Education in Central New York*. The vision, New Tech, includes teaching that engages, a culture that empowers and technology that enables through a project based learning approach to education. New Tech is a nationwide program that began in the late 90's in Napa California in response to business community concerns that graduates were not coming out of school with the types of skills and knowledge that

employers need. Mr. Hoose shared a vision for a Central NY New Tech High School which would include multiple districts in the area with plans to convert the current Hartnett Elementary School located in Truxton into a Regional New Tech High School. Feedback has been extremely positive from those (teachers, administrative staff, and Board member Griffin) who have participated in site visits to various New Tech high schools.

9. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: (Individuals are requested to keep their comments to two-minutes per speaker).

Ms. Eileen Fitzgerald Spiels, CUT President, shared and encouraged everyone to attend a session organized by the League of Women Voters of Cortland County on Thursday, April 10, 2014, 5 p.m., SUNY Cortland Sperry 104. The session, *Fixes Needed to NYS Common Core & Testing*, will feature Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton.

10. NEXT MEETING AGENDA REVIEW

There were no new items added to the agenda.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (only if needed) – There was no call for an executive session.

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. Murphy. Discussion: None

Final Vote: Yes – 5, No – 0. Motion Carried.

Ms. Margaret Baccaro, Clerk