

CORTLAND ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting – Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
Parker School, 89 Madison Street, Cortland NY

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at the Parker Elementary School, 89 Madison Street, Cortland, New York.

Present: Mr. Donald Colongeli, Ms. Melissa Davis-Howard, Ms. Janet Griffin, Ms. Judith Murphy, Mr. John Natoli, 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 – 6:30 p.m. – Board Budget Workshop

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

Ms. Van Donsel welcomed the Parker staff and PTO. She thanked Ms. Amber Thayer and the Parker School Chorus for entertaining the audience prior to the meeting with a selection of patriotic songs, and also thanked Ms. Johnson for arranging for refreshments.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS and RECOGNITION:**

- a. Kudos Korner

- 1) Two Hundredth Coaching Win as Varsity Field Hockey - Coach Jamie Brown

Mrs. Jamie Brown, Cortland Jr.-Sr. High School physical education teacher, was recognize for her 200th Varsity Field Hockey Coaching Victory. Mrs. Brown reached this milestone in her career on September 17. Mrs. Brown was presented a plaque in recognition of this impressive achievement.

- 2) New York State Master Teachers

The Board was pleased to announce that three Cortland Jr.-Sr. High School teachers had been selected as New York State Master Teachers. Mrs. Abbey Albright, Ms. Karen Krichbaum-Stenger, and Mr. James Ulrich are members of New York's inaugural group of Master Teachers bringing together 105 of the most qualified math and science educators from four regions of the state. As part of an effort to build a world-class education system in New York, the Master Teachers program will allow this first group of teachers to assist their peers in the classroom, further develop their own expertise, and enhance the overall learning experience of our students for years to come. Each teacher was presented with the Board's Certificate of Extraordinary Achievement.

- b. Audience Participation – on items related to the Agenda

Mr. Robert Thomas, representing Cortland Elks Lodge #748, shared that the lodge would be once again participating in the Dictionary Project. The goal of the project is to assist all students to become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers by providing students a gift of their own personal dictionary. Over the past twelve years over 5,000 dictionaries have been presented to Cortland area third graders. Mr. Thomas presented each Board member with a dictionary.

- c. Board Member Reports:

- 1) BOE Audit Committee – The next committee meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2013.
- 2) BOE Facilities Committee – The next committee meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2013.
- 3) BOE Policy Committee – The next committee meetings are scheduled for November 19 and December 3, 2013.

- d. NYSSBA 2013 Annual Convention

Mr. Hoose, Mrs. Riley and Board Members Colongeli, Griffin, Murphy and Natoli attended the NYSSBA Annual Convention in October.

Ms. Griffin reported she had attended the *Over the Bar and Up the Ladder* session. The presentation outlined Penfield Central School District's Intervention Block Strategy, a new elementary school-level intervention model. Ms. Griffin was impressed with the model and the strategies for student intervention that were shared. She also attended Commissioner John B. King's session on education reform initiatives. She shared that he expressed his optimism that education reforms are working and stressed

that the Common Core is here to stay. Ms. Griffin and Ms. Murphy attended the *Board Conflict -- Getting Beneath the Problem!* session that focused on resolving conflict and maintaining healthy relations on the board.

Mr. Colongeli reported that he was a presider for the *Government in the Sunshine: FOIL* session that focused on what the Open Meetings Law requires and permits, and provided information about recent updates. In addition he was the district's voting delegate at the NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting.

Ms. Murphy shared that she had attended the *Special Education – New Challenges Regarding Children with Mental Disorders* session. She reported that the new DSM-V contains a major restructuring of the diagnoses of mental disorders. This will challenge school districts in interpreting diagnoses of psychological disorders and will require changes to how eligibility for classification as a student with a disability is determined. She also attended Commissioner John B. King's session and had an opportunity to speak during the Q & A. She shared the concerns voiced by the CARES group at the last Board meeting, specifically concerns over the implementation of the Common Core State Standards and the curriculum modules provided by the NYSED.

- e. Cortland-Madison School Board Association Fall Dinner – November 4, 2013
Mr. Hoose and Board Members Colongeli, Griffin, Natoli and Sidebottom attended the Cortland-Madison School Board Association fall dinner. Cheryl Dobbertin, the Director of Professional Development for Expeditionary Learning, presented and discussed the history, purpose, and myths surrounding the implementation of the Common Core.
- f. CARES (Caring Advocates for a Responsible Education System)
Mr. Hoose, provided an update on a recent meeting he and Ms. Bliss had with representatives from the CARES group. They reviewed any misconceptions surrounding the Common Core, and will continue open communication with the group.
- g. Onondaga-Madison SBA Annual Meeting – December 5, 2013
Members received information regarding the Onondaga-Madison SBA Annual Meeting, and were asked to complete the RSVP and return it to Ms. Baccaro after the meeting.

3. PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Student Demonstrations on the Common Core Learning Standards Classroom Learning
 - 1) Nicholas Kossmann, a 5th grader, with the assistance of his teacher Ms. Snyder reviewed the process he used to solve a math problem presented on an end of module math assessment.
 - 2) Nicholas Sutton and Morrigan Hoffman-Olcott, 3rd grade students, with the assistance of Ms. Sclafani, shared research reports they had completed. They demonstrated the process they used to prepare for the project and shared their final projects.

Members applauded the students for their demonstrations and Mrs. Snyder and Ms. Sclafani for assisting their students with the presentations.
- b. Engagement Project – Parker School
Ms. Robin Cataldo, Parker School PTO President, and Principal Kevin Yard provided an overview of the Parker School Parent Engagement Project. They highlighted the Top 10 reasons how Parker School is successfully increasing parent engagement.

4. CONSENT ITEMS:

- a. Minutes of October 22, 2013 Regular Meeting
- b. Minutes of November 4, 2013 Special Meeting
- c. CSE/CPSE (Committee on Special Education/Committee on Pre-school Special Education)

Recommendations

610328932, 610342472, 610317761, 610289445, 610357291, 607001270, 607000790, 610341446, 610324606, 610364513, 610256315, 607000982, 610328939, 607001198, 607000612, 607000977, 607001068, 607000846, 610389584, 607000059, 610387747, 610319179, 610350601, 607001018, 607001036, 610363538, 610309695, 607001084, 607000458, 610382248, 610352570, 607001076, 607001081, 610392705, 607000777, 607000993, 610310806, 607001086, 607000196, 610293747, 607001043, 610241757, 610357783

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

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

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 1 (Colongeli), Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

5. **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to conduct.

6. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Planning Approval Extended Field Trip – Varsity Ice Hockey Trip, December 13-14, 2013 to Lake Placid, NY

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the planning request for a Varsity Ice Hockey Extended Field Trip to Lake Placid, New York, , December 13-14, 2013, as presented.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Mr. Sidebottom. Discussion: None.

Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 1 (Colongeli). Motion Carried.

- b. Approval of 2014-15 Budget Calendar

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the 2014-15 Budget Calendar, as presented.

Moved by Ms. Davis-Howard, seconded by Ms. Griffin. Discussion: None.

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

- c. Declaration of Surplus Audiology Equipment

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to declare two boxes of audiology equipment as surplus per the Surplus Audiology Equipment memo dated October 29, 2013, as presented.

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

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

- d. Declaration of Surplus Textbook Inventory

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to declare excess textbook inventory as surplus per the excess Textbook Inventory memo dated November 4, 2013, as presented.

Moved by Mr. Colongeli, seconded by Ms. Davis-Howard. Discussion: Ms. Griffin urged the district to be very cognizant of the number of texts ordered in the future to avoid having to dispose of excess, outdated textbooks.

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

- e. Acceptance of \$12,300 Donation from the Barry Playground Committee

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept a donation in the amount of \$12,300 from the Barry Playground Committee for the construction of a new playground.

Moved by Ms. Davis-Howard, seconded by Mr. Colongeli. Discussion: Ms. Shauna Brug, representing the Barry Playground Committee, noted that they are close to their first phase goal, lacking a few hundred dollars and an excavator to donate services. Mr. Hoose complimented Mr. Reyes and the Barry Playground Committee as they have been very patient as the district has worked through details pertaining to the project.

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

- f. Acceptance of \$600 Donation from the Houck Scholarship Fund

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept a donation in the amount of \$600 for the establishment of the Houck Scholarship Fund.

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

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

7. **PERSONNEL ACTION:**

- a. Approval of Personnel Resignations and Leaves – None

- 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 Schedule of Appointment 1101.

Moved by Ms. Davis-Howard, seconded by Ms. Griffin. Discussion: None.

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0. 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 2268 and 2269.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Mr. Sidebottom. Discussion: Mr. Hoose introduced and welcomed Mr. John Zarconi who began today as the 10-12 Assistant Principal. Mr. Zarconi attended SUNY Cortland, and comes to us from Brooklyn, NY.

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0. Motion Carried.

8. LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- a. Director of Business Operations – Mr. Brian Freeman shared that he began his first day today, and is looking forward to working in the District.
- b. Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services
- 1) Family Reading Partnership Annual Book Drive – Ms. Riley shared that the annual book drive, supported by the Family Reading Partnership of Cortland County and Seven Valley Reading Council, is underway. She invited members to take part in the book drive that provides low-income families with new books to give to their children for the holidays. Ms. Griffin presented Ms. Riley with a donation of books—the first of the year!
- c. Director of Curriculum and Instruction
- 1) October 25, 2013 Professional Development Day – Ms. Bliss reported that teachers were very involved in the planning for the day that included: module and module assessment planning, Common Core unit planning, Smartboard training, and special area staff attending in and out-of-district professional development sessions that were specific to their classifications. A feedback survey was conducted, and Ms. Bliss was pleased to report that the results were very positive.
- d. Superintendent
- 1) 75th Annual United Way for Cortland County Campaign – Mr. Hoose shared that the Campaign is underway with building liaisons organizing building level campaigns. Cortland students participated in the October 2 Day of Caring as volunteers picking up food collection boxes.
 - 2) Capital Project Change Orders – Mr. Hoose provided a review of two change orders relating to the Capital Project: GC-058 (a credit of \$1,500) and GC-059.
 - 3) Letter from Mr. David Brown, NYSSMA Executive Board Member - Mr. Hoose read a letter from Mr. Brown on behalf of the NYSSMA thanking the district for allowing the association use of our facilities, and complimenting Cortland’s team for an incredible well run festival last weekend.

9. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: There were no requests to address the Board.

10. NEXT MEETING AGENDA REVIEW: There were no requests to add to the next agenda.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with Public Officer’s Law Section 96, Subdivision 1, Ms. Van Donsel called for an Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person.

Moved by Ms. Davis-Howard, seconded by Ms. Griffin. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion Carried.

The Executive Session adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Moved by Ms. Davis-Howard, seconded by Ms. Murphy. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion Carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Van Donsel asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Moved by Ms. Davis-Howard, seconded by Ms. Murphy. Discussion: none

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion Carried.