

**CORTLAND CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting – Tuesday, February 10, 2009**

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A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at 7:00 PM at the Kaufman Center, 1 Valley View Drive, Cortland, NY, on Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

**Present:** Ms. Lisa Hoeschele, Mr. Paul Marshall, Ms. Mary Lou Bordwell, Mr. Sean Clark, Dr. Bonni Hodges, Mr. Joseph Lyman, Mr. William Young

**Also Present:** Mr. Laurence Spring, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Arthur Martignetti, Director of Business Services; Ms. Judi Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services; Community Representatives; Mr. Scott Conroe, Cortland Standard; Ms. Carolyn Dorn, Clerk, Board of Education

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Ms. Hoeschele called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION.** There was no Executive Session.
3. **RECALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** N/A
4. **COMMUNICATIONS and RECOGNITION:**
  - a. **Kudos Korner:**
    - 1) The Board recognized Jesse Bowers, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, and Alex Klaes, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, for coming to the aid of an elderly man who had fallen on the ice. They called 911 and remained with the man until help arrived and are attributed with saving his life as he had fallen in a location where he would have been hard to find.
  - b. **Audience Participation.** There were no requests to address the Board.
  - c. **Board Member Reports -**
    - 1) **Report on CNYSBA Legislative Breakfast** – January 31, 2009. Mr. Spring advised that he had attended this event and had spoken with both Senator Seward and Assembly-woman Lifton at length, regarding the need for increased school aid. Their discussion also included how the deficit reduction assessment has unfairly impacted school districts – a poor district like Cortland has a \$1 million deficit to fill, and richer districts have a \$500,000 deficit.
    - 2) **Meeting with McGraw** - Ms. Hoeschele reported that as recently noted in the Cortland Standard, she and Mr. Spring accepted the McGraw Board President’s invitation to attend their meeting on Thursday, February 5, to present some thoughts on consolidation. Although they decided not to continue exploring this option, we continue to enjoy good relations with McGraw and hope to continue current collaborative efforts with them.
    - 3) **Open Budget Meetings** - Dr. Hodges reported that the Board is getting good feedback from these meetings. The Budget Committee will take the information gathered and look closely at it. A report will be made to the Board of Education, and it is hoped that the Committee will be able to again meet with the public to review their report before the final budget goes before the Board.
    - 4) **NYSSBA Workshops.** The Board had been given several flyers about upcoming workshops. If they are interested in attending they should contact Ms. Dorn.
    - 5) **Yearbook Order.** If any Board members would like to purchase a 2009 yearbook, they should let Ms. Dorn know as soon as possible.
    - 6) Ms. Hoeschele noted that the Board would like to extend their heartfelt sympathy to the family of Nancy Mack. Nancy had been a member of the Smith School community since 1994, first as a volunteer, then as a Teacher Aid substitute, and then as a Teaching Assistant.
5. **PRESENTATIONS:**
  - a. **Writing Process – Parker Elementary.** Principal Kevin Yard introduced Ms. Kim Hay, Librarian and Ms. JeanAnn Sclafani, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher, who explained their PALS collaborative and introduced Noah Lieberman, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, who shared a piece of his writing as an example of how writing and technology can be combined. Mr. Yard then introduced Mr. Jim Wallis, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, who explained the background for and introduced his students Katie Musci and Michael Dineen, who presented their poetry writing in a very unique style.
  - b. **Operation Recognition Program Diploma.** Mr. Donald Maynard, was presented his High School diploma under the Operation Recognition Program. Mr. Maynard was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Spring explained the program, and noted for the record that the District was thankful for the service Mr. Maynard provided to his country, community and school by serving with the U. S. Army in Vietnam.
6. **CONSENT ITEMS:**
  - a. Minutes of January 27, 2009 Regular Meeting.

- b. Approval of Secondary CSE Recommendations of 12/15/08 and 2/3/09; Elementary CSE Recommendations of 1/22 and 1/27/09; District CSE Recommendations of 1/23, 1/26, 1/29 and 2/3/09; and CPSE Recommendations of 2/4/09.

**RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Consent Items as presented. Moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Bordwell. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.**

7. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

8. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

9. **PERSONNEL ACTION:**

- a. Approval of Personnel Resignations and Leaves. **RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Resignations and Leaves as presented on Resignations and Leaves Schedule No. 10.27, the retirement resignations of Sharon Bilodeau, Joseph DiSanto, and Karol Lowie to be accepted with regrets.**
- 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 982. Moved by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.**
- c. Approval of Instructional Personnel Appointments. **RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointments for Instructional Personnel as presented on Schedules of Appointment 2009 and 2010. Moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Ms. Bordwell. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.**

10. **LEADERSHIP REPORTS:**

- a. Director of Business Operations. No Report.
- b. Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services. No Report.
- c. **Superintendent -**
- 1) **Budget Preparation Update.** Mr. Spring noted that more budget preparation information will be known as information is gained from the preliminary community budget meetings and priorities are decided on from those meetings. He updated the Board about where we stand with the Federal Stimulus Package passed by the House last week. As it now stands the package means increases in three areas that will impact our district. There would be a total of \$600,000 for Title I Funding (money intended for students with lower socioeconomic status) and IDEA (funding for special education students). The State cannot change how those funds are distributed. Also included was a fairly significant amount of money for State Stabilization Aid, money that the State would have the ability to change how it is distributed. The Senate recently approved their version of the same stimulus bill and it accounts for half of those amounts mentioned above. The House and Senate will now go into conference to try to come to an agreement. This Stimulus Package allows somewhat of a reprieve for two years, but at the end of those two years, we have to find a successor system for funding schools, that is not based on the backs of taxpayers who are paying more than their fair share now, but ensures that all of our students are prepared to graduate from high school.

11. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

- 1) Ms. Hoeschele reminded the public that there are two more budget meetings, Wednesday evening at Virgil and Monday evening at the Beard Building.
- 2) Ms. Kathy Reynolds, Virgil Elementary Teacher, invited the Board to visit classrooms to see the wonderful instruction going on daily in our schools.
- 3) It was suggested by a man in the audience that an appeal be made to businesses and the community for help. Ms. Hoeschele noted that the Cortland Public Education Foundation may be able to help us with programs in danger of being cut, and would be an avenue the community can take to help with funding.
- 4) Ms. Hoeschele asked the public to contact the Board with any thoughts or suggestions they might have. All phone numbers for Board members are in the phone book.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

**There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Hoeschele asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Clark moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM, Mr. Young seconded the motion. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**

**A Board Retreat followed the meeting.**