

CORTLAND CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Regular Meeting – Tuesday, February 24, 2009

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 24, 2009.

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

Absent: 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 6:05 PM.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

In accordance with Public Officer's Law Section 96, Subdivision 1, Ms. Hoeschele called for an Executive Session at 6:05 PM, to discuss contract negotiations. Moved by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Ms. Bordwell. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.

The Executive Session adjourned at 6:58 PM. Moved by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Ms. Bordwell. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.
3. **RECALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Ms. Hoeschele recalled the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. **COMMUNICATIONS and RECOGNITION:**
 - a. **Kudos Korner:** The Board recognized Seniors Rozalyn Hesse and Nichole Wageck for earning top awards in the 2009 CNY (13 county) Scholastic Art Competition. Ms. Hess won for Best Senior High Drawing and Ms. Wageck won Best Senior High Painting. They both also received awards for Best of Show and Gold Key awards.
 - b. **Audience Participation** - on items related to the Agenda (speakers are asked to limit their comments to two minutes).
 - 1) Ms. Melissa Howard asked if any remaining funds from this year's budget could be used for next year's budget and was advised that they could be and have been used in this way for the past few years. She asked that the public be made aware of the amount left over at the end of this year, and suggested that they be used towards next year's budget deficit.
 - 2) Ms. Christine Place suggested a county-wide panel of Superintendents, current and former Board members, and community members be formed to look at ways services can be shared.
 - 3) Mr. Michael Vale, Town Councilman for the Town of Virgil, noted that there is room for expansion in Virgil, Virgil is one of the fastest growing rural areas in the county, and asked that the school remain open.
 - c. **Board Member Reports -**
 - 1) **NYSSBA Budget Workshop.** Ms. Hoeschele noted that any Board members interested in attending this workshop should contact Ms. Dorn.
 - 2) **Report on Results of Community Budget Meetings.** Dr. Hodges, Budget Committee Chair, presented the results of the recent budget meetings held to get community input on 13 potential areas for budget adjustment as part of closing a \$2.8 million budget gap. She started by explaining the purpose of the meetings and the process used. The recommendations to the Board were:
 - (a) No further consideration be given to closing Virgil or creating sister schools.
 - (b) Keep the tax levy at 0% or as close as possible.
 - (c) Decrease dollar amount of budget.
 - (d) Cut spending.
 - (e) Reduce administrative costs.
 - (f) Thoughtful investigation of amount of reserve funds to be used.
 - (g) Increase class size only as last resort.
 - (h) Look closely at all other possibilities for cost reduction.
5. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - a. **Elementary Progress Report.** Elementary Principals Ms. New (Virgil), Ms. Wanish (Smith), Ms. Rosero (Barry), Mr. Kostuk (Randall), and Mr. Yard (Parker) reviewed their initiatives and academic focus for this year to reach their long-range goal of reaching a passing rate of 95% on NYS ELA and Math Assessments by 2011.

6. CONSENT ITEMS:

- a. Minutes of February 10, 2009 Regular Meeting.
- b. Financial Reports, Treasurer's Report, Extra-Classroom Activity Fund, Intrafund Transfers, Warrants – January, 2009.
- c. Approval of Secondary CSE Recommendations of 2/4, 2/5, 2/6, 2/11, 2/12 and 2/13/09; District CSE Recommendations of 2/5, 2/9 and 2/13/09; and BOCES CSE Recommendations of 2/10/09.
- d. Approval of Election Inspectors for the 2008-09 School Year as attached. (Note: At the July organizational meeting, the Superintendent is given the authorization to appoint inspectors to this list should someone be unable to serve.)
- e. BOCES Amendment #6.
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Consent Items as presented. Moved by Ms. Bordwell, seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.

7. OLD BUSINESS: None**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

- OCM BOCES Board Member Nomination.** Ms. Hoeschele explained that the term of Mike Brady, of Homer, our local representative on the OCM BOCES Board, expired this year, and asked for a motion to nominate him for reelection. **RESOLVED, that the Cortland Enlarged City School District nominates Michael Brady for the OCM BOCES Board of Education Term of Office from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012. Moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**
- a. **Approval of Reality Check Smoke-Free Movie Initiative Resolution.** This item was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting.

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. 10.28, the resignations for retirement of Denise Banner-Haley and Cindy Hering to be accepted with regrets. Moved by Ms. Bordwell, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**
- 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 Revised Schedule of Appointment #983. Moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 6, 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 Schedule of Appointment 2011. Moved by Ms. Bordwell, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**

10. LEADERSHIP REPORTS:

- a. **Director of Business Operations -**
 - 1) **Financial Summary Report.** Mr. Martignetti updated the Board on the year-to-date expenditures and revenues and reviewed the monthly claims report.
- b. Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services. No report.
- c. **Superintendent -**
 - 1) **Budget Preparation Update.** Mr. Spring thanked the Board Budget Sub-Committee for their recommendations and providing direction on the budget. He advised that although a stimulus package has been approved at the Federal level, it is not known as yet everything that it will mean for us locally. We know that Title I and IDEA funds should be a little more than \$500,000 per year split between those two programs. We also know that the stimulus package is a two year package. So even though it will do a lot to defray the aid cuts that Governor Patterson proposed, we still have a tremendous need to reduce our overall costs in an operating budget in terms of being sustainable 3-5 years out. He anticipates that the first version of the Budget will be given to the Board in March so they will have plenty of time to review. The Board needs to approve the budget in early April that will go to the voters in May.

11. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

- a. Ms. Lynn New thanked the Board for their decision on retaining our neighborhood schools.
- b. Mrs. Christine Place suggested looking at building a new school in Virgil, relocating students while school is being built.

- c. Mr. Robert Applegate thanked the Board for their decision not to close Virgil school. He also suggested that the Board look at increasing revenues by increasing building use.
- d. Ms. Mary Leary asked the Board if alternative forms of energy were being looked at and was assured that they were.
- e. Mr. Michael Vale, noted that there is a Virgil Town Board Meeting on February 26, a public hearing on the establishment of a natural gas municipality franchise (which Groton, Marathon, Solvay and Auburn have, but not Cortland). He also noted that he felt with the current fiscal situation, now is not the right time to rebuilt Virgil school.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Ms. Hoeschele asked for a motion to adjourn. **Moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.**

Carolyn Dorn, Clerk, Board of Education