

CORTLAND CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Regular Meeting – Tuesday, March 10, 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, March 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 (arrived at 6:15 PM)

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 6:02 PM.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

In accordance with Public Officer’s Law Section 96, Subdivision 1, Ms. Hoeschele called for an Executive Session at 6:02 PM, to discuss particular persons. Moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.

The Executive Session adjourned at 7:20 PM. Moved by Ms. Bordwell, seconded by Dr. Hodges. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.
3. **RECALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Ms. Hoeschele recalled the regular meeting to order at 7:24 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. **COMMUNICATIONS and RECOGNITION:**
 - a. **Kudos Korner.** There were no awards for Kudos Korner at this meeting.
 - b. **Audience Participation.** There were no requests to address the Board.
 - c. **Board Member Reports.**
 - 1) Mr. Young thanked the Budget Committee for the hard work and great job they had done.
 - 2) Ms. Hoeschele noted that the Chancellor Bennett of the Board of Regents visited the District yesterday.
5. **PRESENTATIONS:**
 - a. **2nd Quarter Academic Report.** Superintendent Spring presented the 2nd Quarter Academic Report. The report included academic results, State testing results, attendance, and conclusions for elementary, junior high, and high school. Also reviewed were JSBS failure rates and graduation rates. He noted that attendance is an area of concern across the district and is being looked at very closely. Mr. Spring also noted that the drop-out rate remains lower than in previous years, noting that this is a day-to-day battle, and that the district teachers and staff continue to reach out to students who are thinking about leaving school.
6. **CONSENT ITEMS:**
 - a. Minutes of February 24, 2009 Regular Meeting.
 - b. CPSE/CSE Recommendations: Approval of CPSE Recommendations of 2/25 and 3/4/09; Elementary CSE Recommendations of 2/10, 2/11, 2/12, 2/24, 2/25, and 3/4/09; Secondary Recommendations of 2/25, and 2/2/09; District Recommendations of 2/23, 2/24 and 3/5/09.
 - c. 2008-09 Tax Collector’s Report.
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Consent Items as presented. Moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Young. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.
7. **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no Old Business.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Extended Field Trip Final Approval:**
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the final plans for an extended field trip from May 16 to May 18, 2009, as presented, for the Senior High Concert and Jazz Bands to perform at a “Music in the Parks” competition festival at Virginia Beach, and to visit the National Aquarium in Baltimore, MD, before returning home. Moved by Ms. Bordwell, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.

- b. **Approval of Support of New York State Association of Small City School Districts (NYSASCSD) Litigation against NYS regarding the inequity in education funding:**
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to monetarily support the litigation against the State of New York by the New York State Association of Small City School Districts, regarding State education funding, in the amount of \$1,000., for the fiscal year 2008-09. Moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Mr. Spring explained that we are not a plaintiff in this litigation to force the State to adjust the aid formula, but we would certainly benefit from its success. Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.
- c. **Approval of Universal Pre-K Contracts:**
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the 2009-10 Universal Pre-Kindergarten Contracts as presented. Moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.

9. **PERSONNEL ACTION:**

- a. **Approval of Personnel Resignations and Leaves:**
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Resignations and Leaves Schedule No. 10.29, as presented. Moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 7, 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 Schedule of Appointment #984. Moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Bordwell. 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 2012 (Revised), 2013 (Revised) and 2014. Moved by Ms. Bordwell, seconded by Dr. Hodges. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.

10. **LEADERSHIP REPORTS:**

- a. **Director of Business Operations:**
 - 1) **Budget Preparation Update.** Mr. Martignetti reported that the Board should have a copy of the proposed budget at their next meeting on March 24. He noted that his department is doing a line by line budget analysis of this year's budget for reductions, that as much as possible of the under spent funds from this year's budget will be applied to next year's, and that an analysis of reserve funds is being completed. Staffing is being reviewed position by position with the idea that any position that is diminished or reduced has minimal impact on programs or students. Our goal is a budget to budget and tax levy increase of zero.
- b. **Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services:**
 - 1) Ms. Riley reviewed Chancellor Bennett's visit to our campus on March 9, 2009. While visiting he met with staff and administration and listened to local issues and concerns. He took a tour of the High School and was very complementary. She noted that it was a great opportunity for Cortland to honor and host his visit, and that Mr. Greg Santoro, Executive Principal, and his team should be commended for their work in facilitating this event.
- c. **Superintendent:**
 - 1) **Draft 2009-10 Calendar.** Mr. Spring explained that that the 2009-10 calendar has been a difficult one to coordinate. Due to the lateness of Labor Day, it was more difficult to come up with 187 work days, and to coordinate with neighboring districts and BOCES. The big difference this year is the 3-day February break. As it is important to our students with significant disabilities, our draft calendar reflects the days that BOCES McEvoy Center will be in session. He asked Board members to contact him with any questions or concerns. The final draft will be brought before the Board for action at their next meeting on March 24, 2009.

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

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Hoeschele asked for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Clark. Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0.