

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held at Newfield Central School on September 18, 2014.

Members Present: S. Allinger, R. Borgella, H. Cooper, P. Miller, J. Pawlewicz, M. Rynone

Members Absent: G. Wiltsie

Also Present: C. Thomas, Superintendent; J. James, Business Administrator; V. Volpicelli, Elem. Principal; C. Griggs, M.S. Principal; R. Hawk, H.S. Principal; M. Jasinski, Dir. of Curr. & Inst.; C. Jackson, Dir. of Spec. Prog.

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The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by S. Allinger, President.

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by P. Miller, to appoint Dr. Cheryl Thomas as Clerk Pro Tem for the meeting in the absence of the District Clerk. Motion carried 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Privilege of the Floor was offered to all in attendance.

M. Jasinski went over the Professional Development Plan—the development and purpose of the plan, the direction of professional development in the district and the priorities for 2014-15. Priorities include implementing Common Core Learning Standards, creating a positive learning environment and engaging students. R. Borgella stated that he supports inclusion but asked if there will be plans for students who need enrichment. M. Jasinski replied that good differentiation of instruction provides for students all along the spectrum of abilities.

C. Brockner gave the Transportation Department Report. Two new buses were received over the summer. He has re-advertised for the mechanic position and feels that he is in good shape for driver staffing. Bus routes were revised over the summer to adjust for housing development and overloading on some buses. Unloading as soon as the buses arrive has alleviated traffic in the morning. H. Cooper asked about the length of Pre-K routes. S. Allinger stated that SED limit is one hour.

(M. Rynone arrived at 6:55 p.m.)

The administrative team joined the BOE in a discussion of District Goals, looking at the 2013-14 goals and how they could be updated for 2014-15. Under Goal #1, all levels are working on the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). Pre-K modules are new this year and staff received training over the summer. V. Volpicelli and C. Griggs said that teachers are continuing to work on adapting the modules and scaffolding the lessons. R. Hawk is assessing where the high school teachers stand with CCLS. Some work was done over the summer and during the September staff development days. Work is also ongoing to improve academic achievement as measured by the state assessments. District assessments were written in 2013-14, but some need to be revised and/or improved. The Teaching is the Core grant will allow the district to provide more opportunities and training in writing appropriate assessments. It is also important to continue work on the special education program and begin implementation of the co-teaching model. The elementary school no longer needs a Local Assistance Plan; however, the middle school needs to develop one, specifically for special education students in ELA. C. Thomas stressed that these goals and areas of focus must be kept in mind at budget time so that the necessary resources are provided. Discussion took place about the quantification of goals and the provision of challenging courses for higher level students. Under Goal #2, C. Thomas recommended adding the implementation of the safety plan including the new entry

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procedures. S. Allinger suggested adding the Board's efforts to evaluate all options for a sustainable energy plan for the district to include heating, cooling and energy efficiencies. Under Goal #3, all indicators are ongoing. Plans for implementation include a bonfire for Homecoming and other student-initiated activities. S. Allinger asked about the safety measures in place for the bonfire. R. Borgella shared the student excitement about running for office. S. Allinger thanked everyone for their participation in the discussion.

V. Volpicelli shared a book by Janette Winter called "September Roses," about September 11th. S. Miller and C. Linville obtained \$200 from NY Council for the Humanities for presenting this and other relevant books to students. Elementary staff members are reading the book "Mindset," which encourages adults to evaluate how they think about things and challenges them to have a growth mindset.

C. Griggs talked about her new staff, the revised advisory program and the middle school open house.

R. Hawk was impressed that students were already working on homework during lunch. Parents attending open house followed the student schedule and were provided with refreshments from the PTA.

M. Jasinski talked about the presentation of the Fish Philosophy to CSEA staff on the first day. Pre-K is using the Early Childhood Assessment this year to be proactive. He was pleased with attendance at the Pre-K parent meeting.

C. Jackson has been working on cleaning up IEPs. There are currently 159 classified students in the district, with 17 in Pre-K and 47 having 504 plans. R. Borgella asked about the percentage of special education students and its relation to state aid.

J. James reported that the district is getting wealthier overall (CWR), resulting in less state aid. She explained the tax rebate cap and the need to show a 1% reduction in order for taxpayers to receive the rebate next year.

C. Thomas presented enrollment trends and cohort comparisons. She also presented achievement data from 2013-14 ELA and Math assessments, being careful to point out that it was only one piece of information. Discussion followed as to possible questions and implications from the achievement data.

Motion was made by H. Cooper, seconded by R. Borgella, to approve the following on a consent agenda:

Approval of Payroll through October 9, 2014;

Approval of the attached recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and/or the Committee on Pre-School Special Education (Attachment 14-15-18);

Adoption of the district's revised Professional Development Plan (Attachment 14-15-19);

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Approval of the following appointment(s) pending fingerprint clearance where appropriate:

- a) Dominique Everhart - permanent appointment as a part time, 10 month, Teacher Aide at the starting rate effective November 3, 2014 (probationary period through January 2, 2016)
- b) Alexis Rice - appointment as a part time, Student Aide at minimum wage effective September 19, 2014

Approval of the following volunteers for the 2014-15 school year or season:

- a) Ricky Stewart - Boys' Basketball
- b) Bobby Sinn - Boys' Basketball

Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by P. Miller, seconded by R. Borgella, to approve the updated Districtwide Teaching Substitute List (Attachment 14-15-19). Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by P. Miller, to approve the following late special transportation request to a charter/private school, pending space on the bus:

- a) Pierce - New Roots

Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by P. Miller, to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on August 21, 2014. Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by P. Miller, seconded by R. Borgella, to postpone action on the minutes from the meeting held on September 4, 2014 until the next meeting. Motion to postpone carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

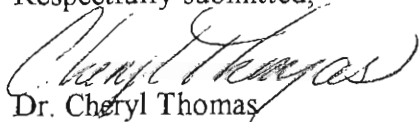
Motion was made by M. Rynone, seconded by R. Borgella, to cast a vote for Sandra Ruffo from the Broome-Delaware-Tioga BOCES for NYSSBA Area IV Director. Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by H. Cooper, seconded by J. Pawlewicz, to enter Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter involving a particular person. Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

Motion was made by P. Miller, seconded by H. Cooper, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Cheryl Thomas
Clerk Pro Tem