

Heuvelton, NY 13654

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Heuvelton Central School District was held in the Multi-Media Room on Wednesday, October 23, 2013. The Meeting was called to order by President Michael Davis at 6:38 p.m.

Members present: Michael Davis, President, Andrew Martin, Vice President, Darcy Backus, Keith Carmany, Dennis Durant, Michelle McGaw and Thomas Nichols

Members absent:

Also present: Susan Todd, Superintendent, Randy Johnson, Interim 7-12 Principal, Michael Robinson, Assistant Business Manager and Tessa Herron, District Clerk

Guests: A. MacAbee, S. Sargent, S. Adams, D. Hale, N. Putman, A. Calkins, M. Desormeaux, J. Gray, C. Steele, M. Rasmussen, N. Mashaw, C. Robert, A. Villeneuve, P. Hebert, L. Piercey, A. Weidner and A. Mitchell

- 13-54 Motion #1  
Adopt proposed agenda To adopt the revised agenda.  
Moved: Durant Seconded: Backus  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-55 Motion #2  
Approve consent agenda To accept the recommendations on the consent agenda for the October 23, 2013 meeting which included:
- To approve the minutes for the September 25, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.
  - To accept the Financial Reports for the period ending July 31, 2013 and August 31, 2013.
  - To authorize the Superintendent to sign the list of Budget Transfers for the periods ending July 31, 2013 and August 31, 2013.
  - To accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending September 30, 2013.
  - To accept the Warrants for the period ending September 30, 2013, as previously approved by the Claims Auditor.
  - To approve arranging for the appropriate programs and services for District Students with disabilities as previously approved by the District's Committee on Special Education and the District's Preschool Committee on Special Education.
  - To approve the following individual to be an extra-curricular advisor for the 2013-2014 school year with stipends based on the current negotiated agreement with HTA:
    - Anna Marie Dawley – Class of 2015
  - To authorize the Board President to sign the 2013-2014 Lease Agreement between the Heuvelton Central School District and St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES.
  - Other items on consent agenda:
    - Special Presentation: Common Core/New Math Curriculum – Becky Duprey & Jennifer French, November Board of Education meeting
    - Future workshop opportunities – Area 6 Dinner meeting – Malone Golf Club – November 7, 2013 and Ferrara Fiorenza Law Firm, School Law Briefing – Canton BOCES Building – November 20, 2013
    - Field Trip Notification:
      - IMPETUS to Clarkson University, Potsdam, 9/11/13
      - Juniors to NWT for SUNY Roadshow, Ogdensburg, 9/18/13
      - Select Chorus to Canton HS, 9/20 & 9/21/13
      - Scholar Enrichment Program (Formerly Talented Juniors) to SLU, Canton, Saturdays in September, October & November
      - 3rd & 4th grade to Ogdensburg for Ogdensburg Command Performance, 10/2/13
      - PreK-3rd grade to Heuvelton Fire Hall for Fire Prevention week, 10/10/13
      - IMPETUS to Clarkson University, Potsdam, 10/16/13
      - School Garden Club to SUNY Potsdam for Food Day Youth Summit, 10/16/13
      - Marching Band to Syracuse for NYSFBC Championship, 10/27/13
      - Whiz Quiz to PBS Studios, Watertown, 10/22/13
      - 9-12 grades to OFA for Ogdensburg Command Performance, 11/4/13
      - French/Spanish Club to Montreal Canada, 6/7/13
  - Correspondence:
    - Letter from Dr. Glover, Superintendent of Morristown Central School
    - Letter from Wayne Rogers, Board President of Malone Central School District
- Moved: Durant Seconded: McGaw  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-56 Public Forum No one from the public addressed the Board at this time.
- 13-57 Information Reports/Presentations School Board Recognition Week – October 28<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013  
Cafeteria Update: Steve Adams

Mr. Adams stated that the cafeteria trying new things with the smoothie machine. Apple cider smoothies were made and fresh apples were used from Fobare Fruits in Rensselaer Falls. Mr. Carmany asked about the Renzi representative and if the district receives any discounts. Mr. Adams informed him that due to food items being purchased from the BOCES bids discounts aren't

received. Mr. Carmany also asked if Mr. Bennett had been in touch with him regarding discussions at the last meeting of using organic vegetables that he grows. Mr. Adams stated that he hadn't heard from him at this point. Mr. Davis asked about if the panini machine had been purchased. Mr. Adams stated that a toaster was purchased instead and now that Mr. Knowlton has done some rewiring the panini machine could work. Mr. Nichols expressed his concerns about students that eat lunch late are not receiving enough portions and are not getting all of the options that are on the menu. Mr. Adams stated that students are receiving all the options on the menu but alternate or second choices sometimes do run out.

- 13-58 Motion # 3  
RFP Snow Removal To approve advertising a RFP for Bids on Snow Removal for the 2013-2014 school year.  
Moved: Carmany Seconded: McGaw  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-59 Motion # 4  
Snowmobile Trail access To approve the request of the St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association to use the athletic field access road for a snowmobile trail from 12/15/13—3/30/14.  
Moved: Nichols Seconded: Durant  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-60 Motion # 5  
Personnel To appoint Jesse Coburn to the tenure position of Building Principal for a two-year probationary period effective 11/25/13 – 11/25/15. Further recommend the Board agree to the Terms outlined in the Terms of Employment for Mr. Coburn from November 25, 2013 – June 30, 2016 with a prorated salary of \$83,600 for the 2013-2014 school year.  
Moved: Carmany Seconded: McGaw  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-61 Motion # 6  
Personnel To extend Randy Johnson's appointment as an Interim Principal to November 22, 2013 at \$425 per day.  
Moved: Nichols Seconded: McGaw  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-62 Motion # 7  
Personnel To approve the appointment of Erica Preston as a Long Term substitute replacement for Sarah Hopper based on 1/200th of Step 1, BA \$35,977 per diem of the current negotiated agreement between the Heuvelton Teachers' Association and the District beginning on October 23, 2013.  
Moved: Carmany Seconded: McGaw  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-63 Administrative/Board  
Reports The audit committee discussed with the Board the following:  
➤ The audit committee members met with representatives from Furgison & Co. to review the audit prior to the Board meeting. No major deficiencies were found. The district received an impressive audit.
- 13-64 Motion # 8  
External Audit To approve the external audit report for the year ending June 30, 2013.  
Moved: Nichols Seconded: Carmany  
Six present, six ayes. Carried

Mrs. Belleau was not in attendance due to an illness so there was no PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grade report.

Mr. Johnson discussed with the Board the following:

- Spirit week would be taking place October 28<sup>th</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>
- ENCORE's play performance of "Annie" will be November 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. There will be pre-sale tickets available.

Mrs. Backus asked what time the Halloween parade would be. Mrs. Todd informed her that it would be at 1:30 p.m.

**Mr. Martin entered the meeting at 7:14 p.m.**

Mr. Davis discussed with the Board the following:

- Review of BOE Ground Rules and various articles that were presented to the Board.
  - The Emotions of Change
  - The Common Core and the Common Good
  - OnBoard articles: "NYSED groups have common position on Common Core" and "Spread the Word on the Common Core"
- "Leadership Succession Planning" workshop held at BOCES on 9/26/13 – Mr. Davis attended this workshop and reported that he felt it was very helpful and informative. Mrs. Todd shared that it's good for districts to begin discussions early on this issue as there is presently a shortage of administrators in NYS and a decline of interest in teachers going on to get an administrative degree. Mr. Durant asked how many teachers in our district are certified as an administrator. Mrs. Todd informed him that two were.

- Discussion on the Common Core included:  
 Mrs. Todd sharing that while the common core initiative is worthwhile the rollout from the state was not well planned. Mr. Martin asked how the staff is being supported. Mrs. Todd explained that the biggest obstacle is time. The district has tried to give teachers extra time to work on incorporating the common core during Staff Development Days and with substitute replacements during the work day. Becky Duprey is scheduled to work with 4-12 grade math teachers eight days this year. Becky and Jennifer French have been invited to give a specific presentation on the common core standards to the Board at the next Board of Education meeting.  
  
 Mr. Durant shared that he felt the district had enough talent and experience to tackle this problem. He felt the district should put energy into supporting the staff the best way we can rather than spend energy fighting the State or NYSED. Mr. Martin stated he would like a timeline of when the district could get parent packets together to help parents struggling to help their children with homework. Mr. Nichols expressed that he thought the district should lobby against the Common Core and that the Board should get involved with curriculum planning. Mr. Durant stated that the Board's job was to set policy not get involved in curriculum planning. Mr. Nichols stated that it is the Board's duty and read a section from the School Law book. Mr. Nichols stated that if the Board needs to meet with staff more frequently to make sure we are supplying them with the materials needed then that should happen. Mrs. Backus asked how the district is keeping parents informed. Mrs. Todd shared that there was a presentation for parents on common core at the Open House and that she spoke about common core at length in the October newsletter. Mr. Johnson added that the district is getting the modules into the teachers hands as quickly as possible. He agreed that time is a factor.
- November 15th Early Dismissal to include grades 5-12. Mr. Johnson explained that 7-12 teachers expressed interest to need time in the afternoon on November 15<sup>th</sup> for parent conferences.
- Discussion/Revision of Draft to Dr. John King, Commissioner of Education – Mr. Nichols stated he was unable to access the draft up until a day ago. Mr. Nichols stated that he would certainly work with Mrs. Todd to revise the draft that had been emailed to him.
- Mrs. Todd gave an update on the Loss Ratio for Plan C Districts. Mrs. Todd informed the Board that there may be more information after the Health Insurance meeting.

13-65 Motion # 9  
 Early Dismissal

To approve including grades 7-12 in the early dismissal on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.  
 Moved: Durant Seconded: Carmany  
 Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

13-66 Public Forum

Ms. Robert suggested having Becky Duprey and Jennifer French give a parent presentation with ideas and suggestions on a parent booklet.

Mrs. Piercey expressed her concern with amount of time parents are trying to help their children with homework. Mrs. Piercey stated the worksheets that are coming with the modules are difficult.

Mrs. Villeneuve responded to Mr. Nichols concerns about students only having one way to answer questions in math. Mrs. Villeneuve stated that she didn't believe students are being told there is only one way. There may be only one way that is presented to the students but she believes as long as students are showing their work and how they are getting to an answer that is sufficient. Mrs. Todd shared that the Common Core Math Standards actually teach students to think through problems and come up with various methods to solve them.

Mrs. Mashaw expressed that having worked here for 20 years she feels we need to continue to do what is in the best interest of the children. She felt with time, like the controversy of when Reading First was implemented that the district would get through this if we focused on what's best for children.

Mrs. Steele stated that she was pleased to hear that Mrs. Todd did have some concerns with the common core. In reading the article in the newsletter she felt Mrs. Todd was 100% behind the common core. Mrs. Steele expressed that a parent packet would not be a good use of time because most parents wouldn't read or use it. Mrs. Steele also asked if there is some way to adjust staff evaluations to create a system that provides comfort to teachers to think outside of the box. Mrs. Steele stated that it wasn't fair for a teacher's evaluation to be based on student test scores. She felt there are some students who will never make progress. Mrs. Todd explained that the APPR evaluation system was mandated by law and that 40% must be based on student achievement. Mrs. Todd stated that Colton-Pierrepont has recently revised their APPR to include using a different method to do SLO's. Mrs. Todd is investigating how their school-wide approach may be used.

Ms. MacAbee commended Mr. Martin and Mr. Nichols for continuing to speak up regarding the issues with common core and the struggles that teachers are going through. Ms. MacAbee expressed her opinion that the Math and ELA common core lessons are not appropriate for the grade levels.

13-67 Motion # 10  
 Convene Executive  
 Session

To approve convening an Executive Session at 8:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussing employment of a particular individual and appoint Susan Todd as Clerk Pro-Tem.  
 Moved: Durant Seconded: Carmany  
 Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

Heuvelton, NY 13654

Respectfully Submitted



Tessa E. Herron  
District Clerk

- 13-68 Motion # 11 To approve ending Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.  
End Executive Session Moved: Carmany Seconded: Martin  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried
- 13-69 Motion # 12 To approve adjourning the meeting at 8:45 p.m.  
Adjournment Moved: Carmany Seconded: Martin  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

Respectfully Submitted



Susan E. Todd  
Clerk Pro-Tem