

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Administration Building 7:00 p.m. – 9:29 p.m. June 17, 2015

Members Present:

- Mark Mirabile, Presiding Officer
- Kim Barker
- Vipul Dedhia
- Gina Scaletta-Nelson – arrived at 8:11 p.m.
- Michael Rak – arrived at 7:02 p.m.
- Kristin Violante

Absent:

- David Negron

ROLL CALL AND VISITORS

Present were staff members Erika Sawosko, Candy Kramer, Catherine Chang, Matt Vandercar, John Glimco, Karyn Lisowski, Jen Maita, Tanya Kim and Joanne Histed; Derik Lantry of Carnow Conibear; and resident Tom Lisowksi.

ADD’TL ITEMS TO AGENDA

Board Secretary Kim Barker requested to discuss the closed session tapes and minutes to be released back to the district from the district attorney. Board President Mark Mirabile stated that this does not need to be a discussion item and has scheduled to have them returned to the district on July 1.

ACTION NO. 82 Consent Agenda

Motion by Violante, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda consisting of: regular meeting minutes of May 20, 2015; closed session meeting minutes of May 20, 2015; payment of May payroll/May warrants; prevailing wage resolution; voluntary student insurance; transfer of interest; payment of June 30, 2015 warrants; imprest fund custodian; designation of depositories for school district funds; hot lunch/milk contract renewal; LADSE Articles of Agreement; special education consultant. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Rak, Violante) absent – Negron, Scaletta-Nelson.

REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

*Elementary School Environmental Conditions Investigation*  
Business Manager Catherine Chang stated that Dr. Conibear was not able to fully prepare the cancer cluster report due to receiving information from TAP later than what she anticipated. If approved, testing at the elementary will begin on Monday. Dr. Conibear will present the report to the Board regarding the cancer cluster in July. If available, the environmental report will also be presented in July. Derek Lantry from Carnow, Conibear stated that a survey was received from the staff and due to the results of that survey, the proposal for testing was created. The investigation will focus on mold, bus exhaust odors, allergies, air circulation, and the ventilation system. There will be a visual assessment that will also take place. The report will provide recommendations to rectify the issues that are discovered. Joanne Histed questioned the type of visual testing that would occur. Board member Michael Rak stated that they will not be tearing down walls, etc without gaining Board approval first. Water was not included in the proposal due to the fact that city water testing results have been provided to Dr. Conibear. The testing will begin before the asbestos abatement. It was asked when additional radon testing would be done. Board President Mark Mirabile stated that the Board has approved annual testing. Confirmation of when the next cycle of testing will take place will be provided to the Board in a Friday packet by Business Manager Catherine Chang.

Joanne Histed stated that room numbers were left off the survey as advised by IEA and if this information was needed it was available.

ACTION NO. 82

Envir. Test Proposal

Motion by Violante, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the proposal from Carnow, Conibear, Ltd. to investigate environmental concerns at the elementary school in the amount of \$19,282.00. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Rak, Violante) absent – Negron, Scaletta-Nelson.

Spring Testing Report

Asst. Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Candy Kramer provided testing results for AIMSweb, STAR, Learning.com, EXPLORE and behavioral data. STAR data is still being analyzed as the testing window closed in May. Asst. Supt. Candy Kramer will analyze the data to determine if there are any areas that show consistent gaps. Board President Mark Mirabile requested that Ms. Kramer analyze each subgroup/grade to acknowledge if there are any gaps and what will be done in the future so this does not continue. Spring data meetings provided the movement between tiers. There was a question on why kindergarten and grade 4 were not included in the RtI report. It was requested that percentages not be used because the results were hard to understand. The Board would like to see the report represented with students rather than percentages. Behavioral data for the elementary and middle school was presented. At Elementary the SEL team has completely updated the RtI behavioral plan. The expectations have been raised for the students, so what might not have been a level 1 in the past now is. Principal Matt Vandercar stated that the student behavior at the elementary is very good and this chart doesn't reflect how well-behaved the students are. The number of students with offenses has gone up due to the expectations being raised and there was a larger amount of repeat offenders. Board President Mark Mirabile stated that the significance of a weapons offense was more severe than a profanity offense. For future reports, level 4 offenses will list the specific offense. Board member Kristin Violante stated that the report does not represent the teachers who might have not reported an offense. Principal John Glimco stated that the middle school has detentions for level 2 and 3 offenses. Learning.com is a computerized assessment showing our students amongst age level peers with regards to technology. Pleasantdale only tests 8<sup>th</sup> grade where the norm is all middle school grades, it was stated that our whole middle school should be a part of this test if we would use the norming group for comparison. The Board questioned whether this assessment was providing the data the Board needed. Board President Mark Mirabile stated that we should assess all our students and then show growth from grade level to grade level. Principal Glimco would like to evaluate if there is a better assessment to show the growth of our students. EXPLORE results compared the average township score and the Pleasantdale scores. The high school will not be administering the EXPLORE in the future. Asst. Supt. Candy Kramer will provide a more disaggregated report on how the students moved in the RtI tier chart and adding those who remained in tier 1. Also curriculum changes will be brought to the Board for items coming out of the STAR testing after discussed with staff.

Math Materials Presentation

Asst. Superintendent Candy Kramer provided the Board with a background on our enVision math textbooks. There have been updates to the enVision textbooks, but the district has not purchased the updates. Grades 1 through 3 have moved to modules of Engage NY that were created for the Common Core. The modules have been published by Great Minds as Eureka Math. Board Secretary Kim Barker questioned why grade levels are using different materials to meet the same standards. Board member Kristin Violante stated that she had a discussion with Dr. Palzet and Eureka Math is a material and not a new curriculum. Great Minds is going to provide parent homework help and information for parents before a module is started. Eureka is online, so if a student forgets their book, they can go online to obtain the materials.

ACTION NO. 83

Great Minds Purchase Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the Great Minds, Eureka Math purchase for \$10,712.25. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Negron.

Summer Work Hours

Board President Mark Mirabile who stated that the Board has been presented with a modified summer work hour proposal. Asst. Supt. Candy Kramer stated that she will be the point person for summer work and will contact the staff to see what support she can provide. She will also confirm that the summer work was completed. Board President Mark Mirabile asked that Asst. Supt. Kramer address what will be accomplished during the school year to justify summer work hours for next year. Administration will provide the Board with a plan for summer work in January.

ACTION NO. 84

Summer Hours

Motion by Violante, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education approve the summer work hours as presented in the amount of \$43,737.60. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Negron.

Board of Education Information Requests

There were no additional information requests from the Board this month. It was stated earlier in the meeting that the Board would be provided a schedule for radon testing.

ACTION NO. 85

Add'l Info

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Barker, that the Board of Education approve the information request stated earlier in the meeting to be provided a schedule for radon testing. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Negron.

Review Hot Lunch Fees

Business Manager Catherine Chang provided the Board background information on the costs for hot lunch. She is recommending an increase of \$.10, the maximum allowed by federal regulations. Fresh Expectations was discontinued in January 2015.

ACTION NO. 86

Lunch Fees

Motion by Rak, seconded by Violante, that the Board of Education approve the summer work hours as presented in the amount of \$43,737.60. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Negron.

NEXT AGENDA

Items submitted for the July 2015 agenda include:

Elementary Cancer Cluster and Environmental Report; STAR Data Analysis; Establish Petty Cash Fund; Summer Academy Update (written); Hiring Status Report (written); Review Parent/Student Handbook; Declassify Executive Session Minutes; District 2015-16 Goals; Class Size Update; and Review Personnel (sec. 5) and Students (sec. 7) Board Policies.

ACTION NO. 87

Closed Session

Motion by Scaletta-Nelson, seconded by Rak, that the Board of Education go into closed session at 8:55 p.m. to discuss matters related to collective negotiating matters between the District and its employees or their representatives; and matters relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Negron.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:27 p.m.

ACTION NO. 88

June Personnel Rpt

Motion by Rak, seconded by Dedhia, that the Board of Education approve the June 2015 Personnel Report as amended consisting of: the resignation of Jillian Vonnahme, grade 5, teacher; hiring of Annette Szymczak, middle school ELA; Connie Savas, middle school math (.67 FTE); and Meagan Bubulka, grade 5 math. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 6 ayes (Barker, Dedhia, Mirabile, Scaletta-Nelson, Rak, Violante) absent - Negron.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Rak, seconded by Dedhia, that the regular meeting adjourns at 9:29 p.m. Voice vote. Motion carried.

App. \_\_\_ President \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_