

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
JULY 15, 2009
CIONI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Bowers, P. Boyle, J. Childs, C. Farrell,
D. Fletcher, K. Germain, M. McCoy, and J. Shaughnessy

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: G. Gretzinger, M. Corsones, R. Pritchard, J. Preville

OTHERS PRESENT: Public, Media

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Fletcher, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All board members were present with the exception of M. Tack who was excused. Dr. Fletcher asked for a moment of silence to honor the passing of Mr. Crosby, a longtime educator and principal in our district.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. McCoy; seconded by Ms. Germain, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session @ 6:32 p.m. to the employment history of particular individual(s), matters leading to the employment of particular individual(s), review programs and placements of students with disabilities, and collective bargaining under the Taylor Law.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The board members returned to public session at 6:55 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nothing was offered at this time.

RESOLUTIONS (Consent Agenda)

Ms. Bowers made a motion to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Ms. Germain. The motion to adopt was unanimous.

**Resolution #2009-P07
Resolution #2009-P08
Resolution #2008-CS02**

**Professional Personnel – Tops Appointments
Professional Personnel – Special Education Summer School
Civil Service – Appointments, Change of Status, LOA and
Resignation**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2009

Rev. Child made a motion to accept the minutes of July 8, 2009; seconded by Ms. Bowers. Mr. Shaughnessy corrected the spelling of a name for revision. The motion to adopt carried unanimously.

Resolution 2009-BOE01 – Contract Adjustment

Ms. Germain made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Ms. Bowers. The motion carried on a vote of 7:1:1; Yes: Ms. Bowers, Ms. Boyle, Rev. Childs, Mr. Farrell, Ms. Germain, Mr. McCoy and Mr. Shaughnessy; No: Dr. Fletcher; Absent: Dr. Tack.

Audit & Finance Committee

Dr. Fletcher reported that the committee had met the day before, on July 14th, and discussed the approximate fund balance of 1.5 million after an allocation of 2.6 million to the tax levy and smaller amounts to fulfill the 4% fund balance. After discussion the recommendation to the Board from the A&F committee will be to appropriate the 1.5 million to the tax cert reserve in September. The next discussion was the recommendations made by the Internal Auditor for the next area to audit. The committee agreed that their recommendation would be to audit the retiree medical benefits. The third item discussed was the A&F committee meeting schedule which the committee agreed to change to the 3rd Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on August 18th at 11:00 a.m.

Resolution 2009-BOE02 – Auditor Report

Ms. Bowers made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Ms. Germain. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy Committee

Ms. Bowers reported that the committee met two weeks ago and will meet again next week. She explained that there are eliminations of unnecessary policies as well as amending or revising some policies. Dr. Fletcher asked that policy 2210 be pulled for amendment or reconsideration. Ms. Bowers stated that she would like to pull 1620 from the eliminations so that a policy would remain on the books.

Resolution BOE03 – Policy Eliminations – 1320, 1330, 1510, 1511, 1720, 1720, 2310, 2330, 3110, 4410 and 5560

Ms. Bowers made a motion to adopt the above resolution minus 1620; seconded by Mr. McCoy. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution BOE04 – Policy Adoptions – 1100, 2210, 2220, 2342, 2410 and 6215

Ms. Bowers made a motion to adopt the above resolution minus 2210; seconded by Rev. Childs. The motion carried unanimously.

Master Plan Facilities Committee

Mr. Shaughnessy distributed two proposals from Advisory Solutions, a consulting area of NYSSBA. The first proposal is for a Demographic Capacity and Analysis for the elementary schools in the district for enrollment projections, building capacity study and an analysis of grade configurations. The cost quoted was \$34,500 plus \$2000 for expenses and \$650 to acquire census data. The analysis would begin in September with a report in February. The second proposal was for a community survey in anticipation of the renovation of the high school campus with a cost of \$17,500. The committee recommends that the study and the survey are needed and perhaps an RFP would be in order for both. By majority consensus of the board the board directs administration to put out an RFP on both the demographic capacity and analysis for the elementary schools and for the community survey in anticipation of any renovation of the high school.

Dietz Commission

Mr. McCoy reported that information was in the packet. The city and the school district contribute \$77,500 each year to the Dietz Commission and \$10,000 from each contribution goes into the turf account; currently the turf account has \$160,000 in it. A brief discussion followed on a letter from Hugh Reynolds with regard to having Ed. Palladino's name placed on the Wall of Fame.

BOE Workshop

Dr. Fletcher reported that he spoke with Mr. Entwistle from NYSSBA regarding which dates he would be available. A discussion followed and it was decided by the board that the September board meeting would be replaced with the workshop.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Audit of Curriculum Report and Action Plan

Mr. Gretzinger reported that the report was in the packet and explained that there were many volunteers and the audit has been going on for several months. Ms. Corsones reported that there were over 2500 staff hours dedicated to the process. She thanked everyone who was involved in the process and recognized Marilyn Kovarik, as the administrator in charge of the audit. She stated that they had met with the State Aid department to receive their informal feedback on the Plan and they had no changes to the actual plan but asked that they expand the narrative in certain areas. Ms. Kovarik commented on the professionalism and devotion of the Kingston City School District employees. Discussion followed. Board members asked for a report of the expenditures to date on the audit.

Resolution #2009-CUR01 Audit of Curriculum Action Plan

Dr. Fletcher made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Mr. McCoy. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gretzinger referred to Resolution #2008-BOE12 adopted on September 3, 2008 to repeal the backpack prohibition the 08/09 school year. He referenced the last paragraph of the resolution which stated that the Superintendent would make a final recommendation to the Board no later than July 2009.

Mr. Gretzinger presented the following resolution for the Boards consideration:

Resolution #2009-BOE05

WHEREAS, by Resolution #2008-BOE12, the Board of Education suspended the prohibition against backpacks at the high school for the 2008-09 school year; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent now recommends that the prohibition against backpacks be permanently rescinded and deleted from the Board's policies and District Code of Conduct;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board hereby permanently rescinds the prohibition against backpacks at the high school and directs the Policy Committee to review, suspends those provisions in Board Policy and District Code of Conduct pending the revision of the Educational Community Standard of Dress of Policy #5300 District Code of Conduct and any other policies that make reference to the prohibition.

Discussion followed on holding a public hearing prior to adoption. Mr. Gretzinger stated that the above resolution can be adopted so that the handbook can reflect the change and the public hearing can take place prior to the next meeting.

Dr. Fletcher made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Mr. McCoy. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Bowers stated that several meetings ago the board discussed extending the no smoking policy beyond the parameters of the high school campus to the city streets. She explained that she had contacted Checko Miller and he advised that it would take a community wide effort and working with the city to perhaps change certain city ordinances such as loitering or underage tobacco use on city streets in order to do so and other districts are also looking at this issue and he will keep her informed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shaughnessy presented the board with a report of the State Assessment Data. He asked that the administration comment on the information when they have had a chance to review it. A discussion followed on a list of parameters of how information should be presented in order to measure year in and year out longitudinal data.

Ms. Bowers asked if the Board would be interested in a brief presentation on what growth models or value added assessments mean. Board members agreed that they would be interested in hearing it a future meeting.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nothing was offered at this time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nothing was offered at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the Board and on a motion by Ms. Germain; seconded by Mr. Farrell, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

Camille Ellsworth
District Clerk