

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2009  
CIONI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** M. Bowers, P. Boyle, J. Childs, C. Farrell, M. McCoy,  
J. Shaughnessy and M. Tack

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:** G. Gretzinger, R. Pritchard, J. Preville, S Miller

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Public, Media

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. McCoy, Vice-President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All board members were present with the exception of K. Germain who arrived at 6:05 and Dr. Fletcher who was excused.

**PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME: Jo Ellen Gibbons**

Ms. Gibbons welcomed the Board and gave a brief description of the student body and some of the new initiatives being used. Questions and answers followed.

Ms. Bowers offered condolences on behalf of the Board and Administration to Dr. Fletcher on the loss of his mother.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Ms. Bowers; seconded by Rev. Childs, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session @ 6:10 p.m. to discuss the review of programs and placements of students with disabilities; matters leading to the employment of particular individual(s); discussion involving proposed, pending or current litigation; collective bargaining under the Taylor Law; employment history of particular individual(s).

**RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

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

**ACTION PERTAINING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Resolution #2009-BOE16**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education does hereby authorize the firm of Shaw, Perelson, May & Lambert, LLP to initiate an appeal of the Impartial Hearing Officer's September 2, 2009 Findings of Fact and Decision involving Case Number 40954.

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

**Resolution #2009-BOE17**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the terms of the Confidential Settlement Agreement involving Student Identification Number 602030; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute such Confidential Settlement Agreement on behalf of the District.

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

**Resolution #2009-BOE18**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the terms of the Confidential Settlement Agreement involving Student Identification Number 603221; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute such Confidential Settlement Agreement on behalf of the District.

Ms. Bowers made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Ms. Germain. The resolution carried on a vote of 7-1-1: No: Ms. Bowers; Absent: Dr. Fletcher

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Victoria Destefano, Katie Ehmann, David Seche, Amy Buono, and Grace Schneller all spoke about their concerns regarding the closing of the campus.

Pamela Tack spoke regarding a recent personnel shift in the guidance office.

**RESOLUTIONS (Consent Agenda)**

Dr. Tack made a motion to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Rev. Childs. A brief question and answer period followed. The motion to adopt the consent agenda carried unanimously.

**Resolutions:**

2009-P21	Professional Personnel – Appointments
2009-P22	Professional Personnel – Night School
2009-P23	Professional Personnel – Substitute Teachers
2009-P24	Professional Personnel – Technology Liaison
2009-P25	Professional Personnel – Stipends
2009-P26	Professional Personnel – Fall Coaches
2009-CS08	Civil Service – Appointments, Change of Status, Resignations, and Terminations

**Business Services**

2009-B25 Bid Award – Kingston High School Walkway Bridge Soffit  
Removal

2009-B27 Authorization – Budget Transfer

2009-B28 Bid Award – Roof Replacements, Phase III, EXCEL PROJECT

**Student Services**

2009-09 504 Accommodations

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

**Opening of School**

Mr. Gretzinger reported that at the elementary and middle level principals reported that everyone was excited, energized, and complimentary towards the new lunch program. He commented that he spent the majority of the first three days at the high school this year and that he and the staff have been very impressed with the changes and the cooperation of staff and students at Kingston High School. He gave a brief report.

Mr. Gretzinger thanked the students who spoke during public session and encouraged them to email him with their concerns and he would meet with them at the high school. Questions followed with the Board.

**Contingency Plan for HINI Virus**

Ms. Miller gave a brief report explaining that she has worked with the County Health Department, Dr. Woodley and all the school principals and nurses to have procedures in place when school started. She stated that letters would be going home with students this week as well. Discussion followed.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Approval of Minutes of September 2, 2009**

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adopt the minutes of September 2, 2009; seconded by Ms. Bowers. The motion carried 7-1-1; Abstain: Ms. Germain; Absent: Dr. Fletcher.

**EXCEL Update**

Robin from BBL reported that the close out documents for the roof project has been received; all the tanks are in and they are now waiting on the DEC for final certification; they are working on the finishing work on the boilers at Sophie Finn and Bailey and they should be done in the next week or two, the skylights at Bailey and the windows at Graves should be done the last week of September; Phase 2 doors and hardware will begin on Monday, the roofs have detail work to be completed, the electrical is all complete except for Miller which will be done in October, fire alarm systems are ongoing. Discussion followed on the fire escape at Meagher; the new tank at Miller and phase 3.

Ms. Bowers suggested changing the order of reports on the agenda in order to accommodate those in the audience that are present to give reports. Board members agreed.

### **Audit & Finance Committee**

#### **Resolution 2009-BOE 12 – Claims Auditor Report**

Mr. McCoy introduced Sandy Nelson, Claims Auditor, to the Board. Questions and answers followed regarding procedures.

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

#### **Resolution 2009-B26 – Authorization – Johnson Controls Performance Energy Contract**

Mr. Pritchard gave a brief explanation of how the program with Johnson Controls will affect the district. He introduced Mr. Alan Zucker from Johnson Controls who gave a brief report on how the program will save energy dollars while major capital improvements take place without major capital expenditures. Questions and answers followed.

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

### **NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting: Proposed Resolutions**

Mr. McCoy asked if any board members had any proposed resolutions that they would not want to support. Mr. Farrell and Ms. Bowers had several suggestions. Mr. Farrell was not in agreement with NYSSBA regarding #13 Partial State Funding of Charter Schools, #15 Funding Foreign Language in Elementary School, and he was ambivalent towards #16 Green High Performing Schools; Ms. Bowers stated that she was ambivalent on #14 Change Formula for Measuring Transportation Aid and suggested that Mr. Farrell suggest an amendment to change tolerance of others to acceptance of others on # 10 Cultural Diversity. Board members were all in agreement.

### **Dietz Stadium Commission**

Mr. McCoy stated that the minutes had been in the last board packet, that the light timers and breakers had been installed on the light posts and that a plaque honoring Ed Palladino has been approved pending final approval from the commission as to what the plaque says and that the committee is discussing painting the grandstand and getting estimates to fix the concrete on the grandstand.

### **Coffee & Conversation**

Ms. Ellsworth asked for guidance on a schedule for the 09/10 school year. Discussion followed and board members agreed that one per month would be acceptable with the majority taking place in the morning and a few lunch times and they would like to see it expand beyond the city of Kingston as well.

### **Carnegie Committee**

Mr. Shaughnessy reported that they had a meeting earlier that day and it looks very favorable for being ahead of schedule, and they may be ready to go out to bid in January.

### **Return to Audit & Finance Committee**

#### **2009-BOE13 – Treasurer’s Report**

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

### **Policy Committee**

Ms. Bowers brought forward the following resolutions and stated that there are policies that are being renumbered as well. The next meeting is on October 6<sup>th</sup> from 12-2 at Crown St.

#### **2009-BOE14 – Policy Eliminations**

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

#### **2009-BOE15 – Policy Adoptions/Revisions – 1500, 2330, 5340**

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Farrell stated that the photos of the EXCEL scope of work on the web site look great and suggested that perhaps adding a scrolling set of pictures of the EXCEL work to KHS TV during their down times would also be a great way to reach the public. Board members agreed.

Dr. Tack asked that a report on Regents week at the high school be placed on a future agenda. Mr. Gretzinger suggested the November meeting. Board members agreed.

Mr. Shaughnessy inquired if there had been any news from SED regarding the curriculum audit budget. Mr. Gretzinger responded that it has been submitted but he has not heard anything to date.

Ms. Bowers inquired about a discussion at the Board Retreat regarding certain policies that board members thought should be looked at again. Board members agreed that the manual should be completed before addressing new policy issues.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Farrell asked that Ms. Bowers inquire of the District Wide Parents Council (DWPC) if they could list in their minutes along with the attendance who the voting representative is for each school so that if he had a question he would know who to contact. A member of the committee was in the audience and they will bring that issue to the committee.

Mr. Shaughnessy stated that earlier there was a meeting of the Master Planning Facility Committee and there had been a discussion about a survey that was discussed at a DWPC meeting or at a PTO meeting somewhere and he was confused regarding the community survey. Mr. Gretzinger stated that it was not regarding the facilities but a parent involvement survey.

Ms. Bowers inquired about the enrollment information that had been in the packet and whether or not there was a typo under Sophie Finn; she expressed concern over the number 29/30 for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Gretzinger stated it was a typo and that they are aware that anything over 30 would be another section, however it is not unusual to have 29/30 students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She also pointed out that the high school has 682 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and based on past conversations wanted to state that in four years they will want to know what happened to the 682 students in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade cohort. Board members pointed out that some of those students may be repeaters as well. Ms. Bowers stated she was just using that as an example.

Mr. Gretzinger stated that the Mid Hudson Study Council Awards Night is the same night as the next scheduled board meeting. He announced that Alan Aidala, a Kingston High School guidance counselor will be honored that night and he will be attending and some of his cabinet would like to attend as well. Mr. Gretzinger inquired if any board members would like to attend as well and if the board meeting could be rescheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>. Discussion followed and board members decided that there would only be one meeting in October and it would be scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Kingston High School Cafeteria.

### **BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Farrell announced that the next Health and Wellness Committee meeting will be held on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 at the Cioni Building.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Suzanne Jordan stated that since the meeting for October 7<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled she has a gift from the KTF of a tree to restore the memorial for Janessa Kalser at the George Washington Elementary School. She asked if the Board would be able to deal with the donation that evening so that the tree could be planted.

Mr. Shaughnessy inquired if it could be considered New Business and board members agreed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Resolution 2009-BOE19**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Kingston, New York does hereby accept, with grateful appreciation, the donation of a tree to the George Washington Elementary school in order to restore the memorial for Janessa Kasler.

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

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business before the Board and on a motion by Dr. Tack; seconded by Ms. Germain, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

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Camille Ellsworth  
District Clerk