

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 18, 2009
J. W. BAILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Public, Media

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Dr. Fletcher, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All board members were present with the exception of Ms. Germain who was excused, Dr. Tack who arrived at 6:20 and Mr. Farrell who arrived at 6:40.

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME – JULIE LINTON

Mr. Gretzinger introduced Ms. Julie Linton and Ms. Wanda Lobianco. Ms. Linton reviewed the Middle School Philosophy. Questions and answers followed with the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Rev. Childs; seconded by Dr. Tack, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session @ 6:30 p.m. to discuss matters leading to the employment of particular individual(s); matters made confidential by FERPA and matters relating to client attorney privilege.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The board members returned to public session at 7:28 p.m.

ACTION PERTAINING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION #2009-BOE30

BE IT RESOLVED, that all references to an out of school suspension resulting from an incident on October 27, 2009 shall be expunged from the record of a student who filed an appeal with the Board of Education dated November 9, 2009.

Dr. Fletcher read the above resolution. Mr. McCoy made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Mr. Farrell. The motion carried 7:1:1; Abstained: Rev. Childs; Absent: Ms. Germain.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

James Huditt, from the Bruderhof community expressed gratitude to the Board and administration for their hard work.

Mr. Gueri thanked the board for breakfast meeting, spoke regarding the incident at Pine Plains and pesticides.

RESOLUTIONS (Consent Agenda)

Ms. Bowers requested that B45 be pulled from the consent agenda. Dr. Tack made a motion to adopt the consent agenda minus B45; seconded by Mr. McCoy. Ms. Bowers noted B46 & B47 as donations. Questions and answers followed. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions:

Personnel

- 2009-P42 Professional Personnel – Substitute Teachers
- 2009-P43 Professional Personnel – TOPS Substitute Teachers (GW)
- 2009-P44 Professional Personnel – Home Teachers
- 2009-CS11 Civil Service – Appointments, Change of Status, Leave of Absence, Resignation and Terminations

Business Services

- 2009 – B43 Bid Award – Food Services Management Contract
- 2009 – B46 Donation – Robert Graves Elementary School
- 2009 – B47 Donation – Zena Elementary School PTA
- 2009 – B48 Bid Award – Asbestos Abatement at the KHS Boiler Room
- 2009 – B49 Bid Award – Laminating Steel Panels

2009 – B45 Authorization – Center for Creative Education Agreement

Dr. Tack made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Mr. McCoy. Discussion followed. The motion carried 6:1:1:1; No: Dr. Fletcher, Abstain: Ms. Bowers; Absent: Ms. Germain.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

January Regents Exam Week

Mr. Gretzinger stated that Ms. Anderson’s father passed away this week and she asked that the Board postpone the discussion on Regents week until the December 2nd meeting so that she would be present for the discussion. Mr. McCoy asked that there also be a report on night school at that time.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Approval of Minutes – November 4, 2009

Ms. Bowers made a motion to adopt the minutes of November 4, 2009; seconded by Mr. Farrell. The motion carried unanimously.

Audit & Finance Committee

Dr. Fletcher stated that the committee had met yesterday and items covered were the claims auditor report, the treasurer's report which had not been included in the board packet but the committee briefly reviewed them, a presentation by Dave Wall from BBL and a presentation by the external auditor, Ray Preusser who is prepared to give his report this evening. Dr. Fletcher brought forward the following resolutions:

Resolution 2009-BOE28 – October 2009 Claims Auditor Report

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

Resolution 2009-BOE29 – October 2009 Treasurer's Report

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

Resolution 2009 – B44 – Authorization – Auditor's Report

Dr. Fletcher introduced Mr. Ray Preusser who gave a brief report which included the tax certiorari, fund balances, Employees Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System, setting up reserve funds, reduction in state aid and a five year plan. Questions and answers followed. Dr. Fletcher asked if board members would like the opportunity to read the report before bringing the resolution to the floor. Board members agreed and the resolution will be brought forward at the next meeting.

A brief discussion followed on the reduction of state aid and the impact on next year's budget.

Master Plan Facilities Committee

Mr. Shaughnessy reported that the committee had met earlier that day and they reviewed a draft of the survey, and they will meet again in two weeks to do a final review of the survey. He reported that they are hoping to complete the survey over the holiday break and they hope to have the results by the end of January and that work on the demographic survey has begun as well.

Dietz Stadium Commission

Mr. McCoy reported that they met on November 13 as well as that morning. The commission has received notice from the city that their budget allocation for next year has been reduced by

\$27,500 and the commission has formed a committee to look over the budget. The committee is looking at the district taking on the ticket takers and the security for all school district events as well as taking the easement money to fund the operating budget rather than funding the stadium turf account. Discussion followed.

Coffee & Conversation

Mr. Farrell & Ms. Bowers reported that seven or eight people had attended that morning and that the most pressing issues that several parents expressed concern over was the roofing project at Chambers school. Mr. Pritchard gave an update on the progress and the communication issues over the roof replacement at Chambers.

Mr. Farrell questioned kindergarten entrance age on behalf of a parent and a brief conversation took place.

Dr. Fletcher announced that the Coffee & Conversation schedule is on the school web site.

Carnegie Committee

Mr. Shaughnessy reported that Mr. Quadrini, from KSQ Architects, stated that he expected to hear from SED on the engineering approval by the end of December so that the beginning of January we can proceed on getting bid documents together.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Fletcher stated that the following resolution was tabled at a previous meeting so that it could be renegotiated. Discussion followed.

Resolution #2009-B50 – Authorization – Retainer Agreement

Ms. Bowers made a motion to adopt; seconded by Rev. Childs. The motion carried on a vote of 5:3:1: Yes: Ms. Bowers, Rev. Childs, Dr. Fletcher, Mr. Shaughnessy and Dr. Tack; No: Ms. Boyle, Mr. Farrell and Mr. McCoy; Absent: Ms. Germain.

District Goals

Dr. Fletcher asked that in framing the goals, they be specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable and time related. He opened the discussion with the current first goal for the middle school: Develop strategies for the early intervention of attendance problems. Discussion followed.

Dr. Fletcher suggested “Identification of all students with chronic attendance or tardiness problems and development of individual strategies to address individualized needs with the goal of 95% average attendance by June 2013.” Board members agreed.

Dr. Fletcher read the next bullet from the current goals: Introduce a comprehensive, curriculum-based program for gifted and talented middle school students. Mr. Gretzinger stated that this is also his goal as well as the Middle School Principals to have this program in place for the 10/11 school year. Board members agreed to move on.

Dr. Fletcher read the next two goals as: Meet or exceed the SPI in ELA-8 and Math-8 Demonstrate AYP in ELA-8 and Math-8. Discussion followed. A suggested goal is to increase longitudinal performance achievement of all sub groups of students by 6% by 2013. Further discussion followed. Dr. Fletcher asked if board members were in agreement of the concept of this goal and if they are, he suggested that he sit down with Ms. Corsones and Mr. Gretzinger to come up with the wording that will be attainable and realistic.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Shaughnessy questioned a recent article in the Kingston Times regarding an SRO teaching a middle school health class and a complaint that board members had received from a parent. Mr. Gretzinger responded that he was not contacted nor was the SRO and that SRO's do teach certain subjects to classes at both the middle and high school level; however it was handled at the building level and that the issue has been resolved.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Farrell stated that he wanted to highlight a letter we received from John Miller and Timothy McGuire who come in and work with our health teachers in the high school with regards to alcohol and substance abuse. He read the last paragraph of the letter "what surprised us were the changes in the demeanor of the students and the very positive change in the high school. Students were pleasant almost without exception and the building was very orderly as students passed to classes. While we have always enjoyed the interaction with high school students, this visit left us with a very positive impression of the changes that have been implemented. All involved should be complimented on finding the solution that can only enhance the educational experience of the students of Kingston High School." Mr. Farrell stated that these are community members who have worked in the high school on a yearly basis and they were taking note of the positive changes with the ID badges, the closed campus and the new cafeteria.

Dr. Tack noted what a pleasure it is now to be able to walk between hospitals during the day. People who used to take the shuttle bus now feel more comfortable to be able to walk.

Mr. McCoy stated that he will be going to Miller on Friday for their play.

Ms. Bowers stated that she was at Miller the night before for their expo and dinner and it was very, very nice.

Dr. Fletcher attended college night and he observed a good number of college representatives and students interacting. He stated that he had a couple of representatives tell him that Kingston was one of their favorite stops. He also attended a Woodcrest breakfast with several other board members and it was very interesting.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dr. Fletcher asked for a moment of silent prayer to honor Doris Helsley, a TA in our district who passed away last week as well as Marie Anderson's father, Paul C. Donahue who has served as a school board trustee.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the Board and on a motion by Mr. Farrell; seconded by Mr. McCoy, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:36 p.m.

Camille Ellsworth
District Clerk