

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
JANUARY 3, 2007
CIONI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Bowers, A. Coston, C. Farrell, D. Fletcher,
D. Gartenstein, K. Germain, I. Horowitz,
J. Shaughnessy, M. Tack

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: G. Gretzinger, S. Miller, J. Previll, G. Fischer, G. Tomczyk

OTHERS PRESENT: Public, Media

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Farrell, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All board members were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Horowitz; seconded by Ms. Bowers the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session @ 6:33 p.m. to discuss collective bargaining under the Taylor Law; matters leading to the employment of particular individual(s), review of programs and placements of students with disabilities, the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition of securities or the sale or exchange of securities held by the public body; but only when publicity would substantially affect their value, and the employment history of particular individual(s)..

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The board members returned to public session at 7:42 p.m.

ACTION PERTAINING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nothing was offered at this time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Peter Themistocles & Meghan Hakim, students from Kingston High School, asked the Board and Administration not to cancel the Winter Carnival.

Mr. Gretzinger stated that Winter Carnival has not been canceled and he has been working with Ms. Anderson and teachers to try to work it out.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Report Card Survey

Mr. Gretzinger stated that a survey was created for staff to complete in order to see what their response and reactions are to the new report card. Discussion followed.

AMEND AGENDA

Mr. Farrell asked that the agenda be amended to allow Ms. Marie Anderson to address the Regents week schedule.

NEW BUSINESS

Regents Week Schedule – Ms. Marie Anderson

Mr. Gretzinger stated that the testing schedule involves many more students than it has in the past. He also stated that a survey of other Ulster County schools was conducted and that there are no High Schools in Ulster County that have full day classes and regular classes during regents.

Ms. Anderson reported that there is a very large increase of students being tested this year, which results in more proctors needed as well as space required for testing. She stated that it would be virtually impossible to maintain classes during exam week. Discussion followed.

MOTION TO AMEND SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mr. Farrell made a motion to amend the 2006-2007 school calendar to reflect a testing schedule for the dates of January 23, 2007 – January 26, 2007 with no academic courses being offered during this period for grades 9 through 12; seconded by Mr. Gartenstein. Discussion followed. The motion carried on a vote of 7:2; Yes: Rev. Coston, Mr. Farrell, Dr. Fletcher, Mr. Gartenstein, Mr. Horowitz, Mr. Shaughnessy and Dr. Tack; No: Ms. Bowers and Ms. Germain.

Correlation Study of State Assessment Scores vs. Scores on Report Cards – Dr. Pauls Childs

Dr. Childs reported on the results of a look at 200 random students from all 11 elementary schools that compared the state assessment scores to the report cards. Discussion followed.

Special Education District Plan – Ms. Sandy Miller

Ms. Miller answered Board members questions concerning the Special Education District Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

CDEP

Mr. Gretzinger asked if there were any final questions concerning CDEP before it came up for adoption. Questions and answers followed.

2006-CUR02 – Comprehensive District Educational Plan

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Mr. Gartenstein. Discussion followed. The motion carried on a vote of 8:1. Ms. Bowers voted no.

Facilities Updated

Mr. Tomczyk updated the Board on the latest developments concerning items that had been removed from the EXCEL aid project list and the items that replaced them.

Dr. Fletcher stated that the Finance Committee reviewed the draft buildings summary and the committee cross referenced it with the buildings survey and they did not find any inconsistencies. He stated that the Finance Committee recommends that if a resolution is offered the Board should endorse it. Discussion followed.

2006-B39 – District Facilities Upgrade/Improvement EXCEL Funded Capital Project

Dr. Fletcher made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Mr. Gartenstein. Discussion followed.

Dr. Fletcher left the board meeting at 9:35 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously. (Dr. Fletcher was absent)

Budget 2007-2008

Mr. Gretzinger reminded the Board of the Budget information sessions, one in February and one in March. He stated that he would like to schedule a community meeting in February to talk only about the referendum. Mr. Tomczyk informed the Board that budget information is due back from staff by January 19th. Discussion followed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Audit & Finance Committee

Mr. Shaughnessy reported that the committee was discussing the budget and that the committee recommends that administration look at a 5% increase in appropriations to see how that would affect programs and staff.

Policy Committee

2006-BOE32 – Revision to Policy #5410 Purchasing

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

2006-BOE33 – Contract for NYSSBA Policy Manual

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

Ms. Bowers also reported that at the next meeting there will be several finance policies up for adoption.

Dietz Commission

Mr. Horowitz stated that the structure is in place for the new scoreboard.

Coffee & Conversation

Ms. Germain stated that there would be an evening meeting at the Kingston Library on January 23, 2007 from 5:30 to 7:30 and she is looking for volunteer board members. She stated that she would like to expand the program to groups and would like to begin scheduling those as well.

Mr. Farrell stated that the next lunchtime conversation would be on January 9th from 10:45 – 1:00 at the high school.

Dr. Tack left the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Gartenstein made a motion to adopt the consent agenda; seconded by Ms. Bowers. The motion carried on a vote of 6:1:2; Yes: Ms. Bowers, Rev. Coston, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Gartenstein, Mr. Horowitz, and Mr. Shaughnessy; No: Ms. Germain; Absent: Dr. Fletcher and Dr. Tack.

Resolution #2006-S24 - Committee on Preschool Special Education Recommendations

Resolution #2006-S25 - Committee on Special Education Recommendations

Resolution #2006-S26 – Appointment to the District Committee on Special Education for Annual Review

Resolution #2006-S27 – Section 504

Resolution #2006-S28 – Appointment to the District Subcommittee of the Committee on Special Education

Resolution #2006-S29 – Special Education Department District Plan

Resolution #2006-P34 - Professional Personnel – Appointments, LOA, Resignation, Return from LOA, Revision

Resolution #2006-P35 – Professional Personnel – Substitute Teachers

Resolution #2006-CS07 – Civil Service – Appointments, Change of Status, Tops, LOA, Resignations, and Terminations

Resolution #2006-B37 – Budget Revision – Mini Grant Acceptance

Resolution #2006-B38 – Approval: Bid Award for Security Door Access Systems

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of December 6, 2006

Mr. Gartenstein made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2006 regular meeting; seconded by Rev. Coston. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Farrell announced that he had the opportunity to attend many holiday concerts this year and the performances were superb and he was very impressed. He also stated that he noticed that many of the schools were participating in activities to assist needy families and he thought it speaks highly to the character of our schools and staff.

Mr. Gartenstein stated that Senator Bonacic and Mr. Cahill would be at the Ulster County School Board Association meeting the next evening.

Mr. Shaughnessy stated that he had read an article that had been in the newspaper about a technical school opening upstate and he inquired whether Ulster BOCES was looking into the same thing.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Chris McGeaver commented on promoting the referendum, posting coffee & conversation in the Freeman, home economics, technology and regents week.

Ms. Paula Childs announced the Martin Luther King Luncheon @ the Hillside Manor on January 15th, tickets are \$40.00.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Shaughnessy made a motion to return to executive session @ 10:20 p.m.; seconded by Mr. Gartenstein. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the Board and on a motion by Mr. Shaughnessy; seconded by Ms. Germain, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn at 10:35 p.m.

Camille Ellsworth
District Clerk