

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
OCTOBER 18, 2006
CIONI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Bowers, A. Coston, C. Farrell, K. Germain,
J. Shaughnessy

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: G. Gretzinger, S. Miller, J. Preville, G. Fischer

OTHERS PRESENT: Public, Media

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Farrell, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. All board members were present with the exception of D. Fletcher & I. Horowitz who were excused and D. Gartenstein and Dr. Tack who arrived at 6:10 p.m.

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME: ANNA BRETT

Ms. Brett lead everyone in their school pledge "I promise to be respectful to all, responsible for my own actions and ready to learn". She gave a brief description of how she came to Kingston to work and how her career developed and led to her present position as principal of Chambers Elementary. She introduced staff members that were in attendance and gave a brief history of the Chambers School. She then presented a slide show of the activities that students, staff and volunteers had participated in.

Mr. Farrell inquired about the impact on Chambers that the austerity budget has created. Ms. Brett responded that space, traffic and safety has been an issue at Chambers for many years and that austerity makes it impossible to address those issues. She stated that as a Title 1 school her students were in need of support and early intervention and funding is not available. Mr. Farrell asked how a second year of austerity might impact the school. Ms. Brett responded that she thought staff would have to be cut which would result in larger class sizes.

Each Board member thanked Ms. Brett and her staff for their presentation and bringing the children and learning into focus.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kathleen Kurtz, a KHS senior, spoke concerning the impact of the austerity budget on extracurricular activities, particularly band.

BOARD OF EDUCATION RECOGNITION

Mr. Gretzinger stated that New York State has declared next week as Board of Education Week and that he would like to take tonight as an opportunity to recognize the Kingston City Schools Board of Education. Mr. Previll thanked the board for their tireless dedication to helping to create a quality education, a positive workplace for our staff, and for sacrificing their time to be ambassadors for the district. He then read a proclamation from Governor Pataki.

Mr. Gretzinger extended his personal thanks and gratitude to the Board for all that they do, their dedication, time and service that is very much appreciated. He presented all Board Members with Certificates of Appreciation. He invited everyone to share in the celebration and share a piece of cake with the board. A brief recess followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Gartenstein; seconded by Ms. Bowers the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session @ 6:50 p.m. to discuss 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 matters made confidential by FERPA.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The board members returned to public session at 8:12 p.m.

ACTION PERTAINING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Nothing was offered at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit Report

Mr. Raymond Preusser, CPA, P.C. gave a brief report on their findings and the suggestions they made for changes. He stated that it would take two to three years after an austerity budget to become stable again. Discussion and questions and answers followed. Board member inquired whether the changes had been implemented yet. Administration stated that all the suggestions made by the auditor had been put into place already.

RESOLUTION

2006-B29 Donation for the E.C. Myer Elementary School

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

OLD BUSINESS

NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting: Proposed Resolutions

Ms. Bowers stated that NYSSBA has a total of 29 proposals and the resolutions committee has recommended 13 for adoption and the remaining 16 not be adopted. NYSSBA also sent an amendment packet and rebuttals from some the schools. Discussion followed. Board Members asked for a roll call on whether or not to support the Clarkstown resolution. The vote was split 3-3-1. Discussion followed.

Mr. Gartenstein made a motion to give Mr. Shaughnessy the authority to vote at his discretion; seconded by Dr. Tack. Discussion followed. The motion carried on a vote of 6-1-2; Yes: Rev. Coston, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Gartenstein, Ms. Germain, Mr. Shaughnessy, Dr. Tack; No: Ms. Bowers; Absent: Dr. Fletcher and Mr. Horowitz.

BOE Academic Goals

Mr. Gartenstein made a motion to table the discussion on Academic Goals; seconded by Mr. Farrell. Discussion followed. Mr. Gartenstein withdrew his motion to table and asked that the agenda be amended to move the Facilities discussion to the next item on the agenda and depending on how long the Facilities discussion lasts the board can decide whether or not to have the Academic Goals discussion. Mr. Farrell stated that he felt that it was important that all board members be present for the discussion on Academic Goals.

Mr. Shaughnessy made a motion to table the Academic Goals discussion; seconded by Mr. Farrell. The motion carried on a vote of 5:2:2. Yes: Ms. Bowers, Rev. Coston, Mr. Farrell, Mr. Gartenstein, Mr. Shaughnessy; No: Ms. Germain and Dr. Tack; Absent: Dr. Fletcher and Mr. Horowitz.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Germain inquired as to why the PSAT's are scheduled on the same day as homecoming. Discussion followed. Mr. Gretzinger stated that they would look into the reasons for the scheduling conflicts however they may not have any control over the athletic schedule or the states testing dates.

Ms. Bowers announced that there was a conference on Opening Minds, Closing the Gap and Achievement and Equity for All in New Paltz on November 3rd if anyone was interested in attending.

WORKSHOP TOPIC

Facilities: Future Planning

Mr. Gretzinger stated that it was his understanding and his belief that the Board feels that one of the starting points is that something needs to be done at Kingston High School because the

current conditions are not acceptable or fair to the students or staff at the High School. Discussion followed and the board decided to separate the issue of the High School and the issue of maintenance repair on all district buildings. Discussion followed. The Board directed Mr. Gretzinger to prepare a priority list of maintenance items that need to be addressed and discussed for a possible placement as a health and safety referendum in May.

The Board discussed a community forum on how to proceed with the issues at the high school. Mr. Gretzinger stated that what he is hearing from the board is that a community forum would not be about the high school but about all of our facilities. He stated that he felt the first meeting should be about district facilities and that this type of a meeting will be much more acceptable to the community. He stated that it would be important to let the community know that we heard them, we are listening and we want to work with you. The Board agreed and discussed a workshop meeting in November or December.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An unknown speaker suggested getting more information out to the public in order to involve them.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the Board and on a motion by Mr. Gartenstein; seconded by Dr. Tack, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

Camille Ellsworth
District Clerk