

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
JANUARY 2, 2008
CIONI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Bowers, A. Coston, C. Farrell, D. Fletcher,
I. Horowitz, M. McCoy, M. Tack

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: G. Gretzinger, S. Miller, M. Corsones, J. Previll,
R. Pritchard

OTHERS PRESENT: Public, Media

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Farrell, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All board members were present with the exception of Ms. Germain and Mr. Shaughnessy who both arrived at 6:35 and 6:38 respectively.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Horowitz; seconded by Ms. Bowers the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session @ 6:31 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individual(s); matters leading to the employment of particular individual(s); collective bargaining under the Taylor Law; 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 matters made confidential by FERPA.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The board members returned to public session at 8:32 p.m.

ACTION PERTAINING TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution #2007-BOE17

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby approve the terms of the Release and Settlement Agreement involving Student Identification Number 605725; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute such Release and Settlement Agreement on behalf of the District.

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Clark Richters spoke regarding airing more programs from the school district to Kingston's public access TV station.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Math, Science and Technology Initiatives

Mr. Gretzinger stated that information had been in the last board packet and Mr. Goren reported briefly on the science curriculum, K-8 textbook adoption, AIS, a pilot program at Graves for computer attendance and assessing out technology plan to see where we are and where we will be going with technology as well as a K-6 technology map. Questions and Answers followed.

Elementary & Middle School Attendance

Mr. Gretzinger explained that perhaps this item should have been under Old Business because at the last meeting a discussion had taken place on the board having a specific attendance goal and he does not have a report to give. Discussion followed on earlier interventions.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Farrell asked for a Montessori Update. Mr. Gretzinger reported that he, Ms. Hannum, Ms. Corsones and Ms. Miller had met with Senator Larkin and they presented him with their proposal and asked him to help them with it and he was very supportive. There have also been two meetings at George Washington for staff and special education teachers, four one hour workshops at Graves and an open invitation to staff if they have any concerns to contact Central Office to arrange a meeting. There will also be a meeting at George Washington for parents tentatively set for February 21st. Mr. Gretzinger also stated that there have been several inquiries from parents outside the district that are willing to pay tuition to send their child to a Montessori School. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Fletcher stated that the local newspapers had recently published the results of the States list of schools not meeting targeted scores for ELA. A discussion followed.

Ms. Bowers stated that with regards to the letter that was in the Board packet concerning refreshments being provided by the Quick Check she was opposed. A poll of the Board indicated that the majority of the Board was opposed to the idea as well. Mr. Farrell responded that he would let them know.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Audit & Finance Committee

Dr. Fletcher reported that the minutes of the last meeting along with the report from the Internal Auditor were included in last weeks packet and if there are any questions he would be glad to answer them. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 8th, 11 a.m. @ Crown Street. A brief question and answer session followed.

Policy Committee

Ms. Bowers reported that the policy committee has not met since the last meeting and the next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15th at noon

Coffee & Conversation

Ms. Germain reported that the board clerk had inquired with several establishments for their willingness to host a session and we were waiting for a response. She inquired as to the availability of other board members to host the sessions since her availability was limited. Several board members volunteered. Ms. Germain will put together a schedule.

Dietz Committee

Mr. Horowitz stated that John Tuey is the new representative for the city and they have elected a new chair which will be Kevin Gilfeather.

Carnegie Committee

Mr. Shaughnessy reported that since the last meetings he has met with Congressman Hinchey's chief of staff, Dan Ahouse, Assemblyman Cahill and Mayor Sottile and they have been very supportive and are looking for ways to support us. He is still waiting to hear from the architects with regards to the building survey. Mr. Prichard responded that he did hear back from them and it has been presented to the state and there should be a report for the next meeting. A brief discussion followed.

Health & Wellness Committee

Mr. Pritchard reported that they had sent out the administrative regulation and there were one or two compliance issues which he believes have been worked out. At the last meeting on December 17th they rolled out an action plan dealing with 28 areas with the top three areas being staff wellness, acquiring the services of a registered dietician in order to be able to monitor the menu planning, and a point of sale system. The next meeting is tentatively Monday, January 28th. Meetings are usually the third Monday of the month, however the Martin Luther King Holiday falls on that day.

Master Plan Facilities Committee

Mr. Gretzinger reported that there will be a meeting on Monday, January 14th and everyone on the committee should have received a letter announcing that date and that Jim Shaughnessy will be chairing that committee.

RESOLUTIONS (Consent Agenda)

Mr. Farrell asked if anyone had any items to pull from the consent agenda. Board members pulled resolutions P445. Dr. Tack made a motion to adopt the consent agenda without P45; seconded by Ms. Germain. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions:

2007-S20	Appointment to the District Committee on Special Education for Annual Review
2007-S21	Appointment to the District Subcommittee of the Committee on Special Ed
2007-S22	Committee on Preschool Special Education Recommendations
2007-S23	Committee on Special Education Recommendations

2007-S24	Section 504
2007-P44	Professional Personnel – Appointments, LOA, and Return from LOA
2007-P46	Professional Personnel – Substitute & Home Teachers
2007-P47	Professional Personnel – Night School OSS Faculty
2007-P48	Professional Personnel – ASTUTE Teachers
2007-CS09	Civil Service – Change of Status, Corrections, Resignation and Retirement
2007-CS10	Civil Service – Teaching Assistant Tenure
2007-B36	Approval: Disposal of Textbooks
2007-B37	Award for Professional Roofing Services
2007-B38	Approval: Mini-Grant for the Kingston High School
2007-B39	Approval: Dutchess County Arts Council Grant(s)

Resolution #2007-P45 – Professional Personnel – Tenure

Mr. Horowitz made a motion to adopt the above resolution; seconded by Mr. McCoy. The motion did not carry on a vote of 4-4-1: Yes: Ms. Bowers, Rev. Coston, Mr. Horowitz and Mr. McCoy; No: No: Mr. Farrell, Dr. Fletcher, Ms. Germain and Dr. Tack; Abstain: Mr. Shaughnessy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Meeting of November 28, 2007

Dr. Tack made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 28th special meeting; seconded by Dr. Fletcher. The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting of December 5, 2007

Mr. Horowitz made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 5th regular meeting; seconded by Mr. McCoy. The motion carried unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Germain stated that her son had participated in the diversity presentation on flash judgments at the Middle School and she was impressed with the discussion that happened at home and she felt that it was worthwhile and that the kids got something out of it.

Mr. Farrell stated that he had the pleasure of attending several Holiday concerts and that the music department should be commended as well as the Anna Devine Elementary School for their efforts at collecting over 300 items for the Family of Woodstock.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. McKeever asked what FERPA meant and discussed a welcome packet from the schools to all newborns in the district and 4th grade attendance.

Caroline Ramaley, PTA President at George Washington stated that she thought a February meeting for the parents on the Montessori program was too far away and should be addressed sooner. Mr. Gretzinger responded that he understands her concern and will get back to her the next day.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the Board and on a motion by Mr. Horowitz; seconded by Mr. McCoy, the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn at 10:15 p.m.

Camille Ellsworth
District Clerk