

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE KINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
JANUARY 16, 2008
J. WATSON BAILEY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: G. Gretzinger, M. Corsones, J. Preville, 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 6:03 p.m. All board members were present with the exception of Mr. McCoy who arrived at 6:20 p.m. and Ms. Germain who was excused.

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME: JULIE LINTON

Ms. Linton welcomed the board and described middle level education requirements as well as some of the programs and initiatives currently taking place at Bailey. She also described some of the changes they are considering for the future such as houses or academies, looping and class times of one hour.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Horowitz; seconded by Rev. Coston the board members unanimously agreed to adjourn into executive session @ 6:25 p.m. to employment history of particular individual(s) and matters made confidential by FERPA.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The board members returned to public session at 7:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing was offered at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Amended Board of Education Attendance Goal

Ms. Bowers explained that she had felt that developing strategies for the early intervention of attendance problems at both elementary and middle level and introducing a comprehensive, curriculum-based program for gifted and talented middle school students had been agreed on but had not been included in the adoption of board goals at the November meeting. Board members agreed to amend the goals to reflect the changes.

NEW BUSINESS

UCIDA Pilot Agreement

Mr. Farrell explained that the City of Kingston has requested that no action be taken at this time. Dr. Tack made a motion to remove it from the Agenda; seconded by Mr. Shaughnessy and carried unanimously by the board.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Tack expressed concern that the public could not hear the discussions taking place at some of our meetings and that perhaps our AV equipment or the acoustics make it difficult. He requested that for future meetings this be taken into consideration.

Dr. Fletcher gave a brief explanation of the minutes of the Audit and Finance Committee which had been in the last board packet. Mr. Farrell inquired if it would be possible to post those minutes on our web site as well. Dr. Fletcher responded that he saw no reason why not since it is an open meeting and the minutes are a matter of public record.

RESOLUTIONS

Personnel – Civil Service 2007 – CS11 – Teaching Assistant Tenure

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

Dr. Fletcher explained to the public what the resolution was and Mr. Farrell read the following names of the teaching assistants that will be tenured in February: Karen Barnhart, Barbara Felece, Sheila Garrison-Decicco, Peter Keizer, Bonnie Lalor, Jeanne Lloyd and Jerry McGahan.

The board offered their congratulations.

Business Services – 2007-B40 – UCIDA Pilot Agreement – Colony Liquor Project

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

Board of Education – 2007-BOE10 Revised Board of Education Goals & Objectives

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

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA

Dr. Tack suggested that since the board had returned from executive session early and members of the public may not have had an opportunity to speak the agenda be amended to add a second Public Comment at this time to accommodate those who had arrived at 7:15 p.m. as per the agenda.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to amend the agenda; seconded by Dr. Tack; the motion carried on a vote of 5:2:1:1: Yes: Ms. Bowers, Dr. Fletcher, Mr. McCoy, Mr. Shaughnessy and Dr. Tack; No: Rev. Coston and Mr. Farrell; Abstain: Mr. Horowitz; Absent: Ms. Germain.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Ann Parker inquired whether the district fingerprints everyone. Mr. Gretzinger responded that it was mandated by the State for all school employees. She also commented on parental responsibilities and respecting others.

Chris McKeever inquired about money from the Mayor for security. Mr. Gretzinger responded that the money for additional security was coming from the school budget; however he had spoken with the Mayor regarding a second School Resource Officer for next year.

WORKSHOP TOPIC

2008-2009 Budget

Mr. Gretzinger explained that he would like to hear any particular areas that the Board would like administration to be aware as the budget is prepared. Mr. Pritchard gave an overview of his budget projections with different scenarios. Discussion followed regarding the following:

Mr. Farrell asked that existing programs and their financial value as well as a preliminary assessment regarding whether these programs are doing what they are supposed to be doing and when was the last time they were assessed.

Dr. Fletcher commented on the cost for safety and security in the district and asked that the contractual services for the BOCES co-ser for safety officers and the agreement with the Kingston Police be looked at. The Board agreed that they would like to know how other large districts handle safety and security.

Ms. Bowers asked that curriculum begin to address some of the issues that the community has seen in the last few weeks. Dr. Tack asked if there was some way to require students to take a half semester class on diversity and character education much like we do with a health class.

Ms. Bowers also asked that the purchase of a point of sale program for the cafeteria be included in the budget figures. She also inquired about moving toward the physical education mandates that the State has made.

Dr. Fletcher stated that he is aware that Administration has been looking at alternative education programs for the middle and high school levels and he hopes that whatever they are developing will be included in the budget. He also inquired about the licensing of our software systems and whether or not they could recapture control of those programs. Ms. Bowers inquired about the parent module under the SASI program.

Mr. Farrell stated that he would like to see the Middle School programming for gifted & talented students be part of this budget cycle and a phase in of a foreign language program in the elementary level. He stated that his fantasy would be that there would be no additional staff costs and in order to

do that he would like to see a review of our current staffing and whether there are any changes that could be made based on our reduction in the census.

Dr. Tack asked Mr. Pritchard for an estimate on how much of last years maintenance budget line in addition to the EXCEL money has been expended, how much has been targeted for use. Dr. Fletcher responded that the Finance Committee is currently looking at this issue as well as developing a 5 year maintenance plan.

Mr. Shaughnessy stated that he would echo Mr. Farrell's comments regarding the gifted and talented program as well as the foreign language in the elementary schools.

Mr. Farrell also stated that he would like to see the budget percentage less than 3%. He stated that the limit low number that Mr. Pritchard presented seems to be in line with what this community can handle.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business before the board and on a motion by Mr. Horowitz; seconded by Dr. Tack, the Board Members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Camille Ellsworth
District Clerk