

Board of Education
Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 22, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Genovesi at 7:30 pm in the High School Library. Present were Trustees Berliner, Beyer, Knierim, Pombar, Sharkey and Webb. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Ms. Buatsi and Mr. Chlebicki.

Executive Session

At 7:30 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer seconded by Trustee Sharkey and all in favor, the Board went into executive session in the High School Faculty room for discussions regarding pending or current litigation and matters leading to the employment of a particular person.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of Trustee Berliner seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of executive session and resumed the meeting at 8:00 pm in the library. There was approximately 50 people in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Genovesi led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

On motion of Trustee Knierim and seconded by Trustee Beyer the minutes of September 8, 2011 were approved as amended.

Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Melnick reported on back-to-school nights; parent portal at Middle and High School; distribution of grammar handbooks to students and faculty; and the showing of *Race to the Top*.

Report of the SGO Representative

Christopher Sharkey, SGO representative, reported that juniors are preparing to take the PSAT exam; there will be a football game on Saturday; the Arts Angels are selling luggage tags; and he asked that everyone support Angus Mackenzie in the North American Cup Fencing finals.

Regular Business

Tri-States Report – LOTE

Dr. Ellen Shields, Director of Languages other than English, presented the report from the recent Tri-States review of the LOTE program including an action plan for implementation of their recommendations. She reviewed the department's vision statement and compared it to the mission statement of the district. She highlighted the areas of focus including the use of curriculum maps, the connections between schools, transition between grades 5 & 6 and 8 & 9, and the use of technology by the teachers of foreign language. Her faculty is in the process of revising the action plan to include a timeline and this will be forwarded to the Board sometime next month.

Trustee Genovesi thanked Dr. Shields and the entire Foreign Language staff for the amount of work that hosting a Tri-State review demands. She expressed appreciation for Dr.

Shields' openness in answering many of the Board's questions prior to the meeting. She explained to the public that this is the first opportunity the Board has had to discuss the report and the public would be welcome to make comments or ask questions after their discussion.

The Board had a lengthy discussion and focused on the recommendation for increased rigor in the foreign language curriculum and felt it is important to raise the bar. They also discussed the vision statement; how it will guide the department for the future and how to implement the key points. Questions were raised about whether the goal is to teach students to become fluent in a second language versus cultural awareness. Concern was raised for the cost of offering 4 languages and it was noted enrollment in French and Latin is very low. There was also concern expressed for the lack of technological use in the foreign language classrooms. A question was raised in regard to insufficient use of curriculum maps. Dr. Shields explained teacher maps are being utilized, however some of the master maps have not been finalized. The Board asked if it is possible to compare our report with another district's. Mr. Chlebicki explained the other district would need to give permission for their report to be used as a comparison.

Dr. Melnick thanked Dr. Shields and the members of the foreign language department for the amount of work they put into the Tri-States review. He went on to explain that teachers spent much time out-side of their day preparing for the visit. He agrees there needs to be a clear vision that includes what direction we are going with a focus on a more rigorous curriculum.

Comments from the Public

Jerry Romano, Sea Cliff said he does not feel it is essential for students to learn other languages in order to succeed and questioned if these funds could be better spent on other programs.

Dr. Melnick responded learning any language is a value which gives students a connection to the international community. Trustee Pombar added teaching foreign language is a state requirement and not something we can eliminate. Trustee Berliner said the responsibility of the Board is to educate our children for a changing world.

Eugene Alletto, Glen Head, supports offering languages however he does not feel it is a good practice to run classes that have small class size. He also stated learning other languages is important in the business world as it shows respect for other cultures.

Dr. Melnick explained courses run only if enrollment meets the minimum number of students required for it to run; the only exception is if the course is part of a sequence. He is aware that enrollment in the upper level foreign language courses drops off significantly and students are encouraged to take a language in their junior and senior years.

Daniel Deeks, Sea Cliff suggested contacting the Chinese Government to seek funding for implementing a Chinese elective. He said he has heard reports that there is funding available for teaching Mandarin in the mid-west.

Dr. Shields responded we did offer a Mandarin elective in the high school however there was not enough interest in the program. She explained that studies show Mandarin needs to begin in the elementary grades for it to be successful.

Dr. Melnick added language programs are more successful when they begin in kindergarten and if the goal is for students to speak a second language fluently, that would need to be considered. He also noted that he is not aware of the Chinese Government offering funding for the teaching of Mandarin, however he will look into it. Trustee Genovesi added this district looks into every funding opportunity possible, including grants, but we are considered a wealthy district which limits the possibilities.

Annette Zbodula, Glenwood Landing, asked if the 8th grade proficiency exam and the New York State Regents exam in language has been eliminated. She also suggested on-line learning or the "Rosetta Stone" program as an alternative to traditional language courses.

Dr. Melnick responded both the proficiency exam and the Regents exam has been eliminated, however the district is required to create an exam equivalent to those exams which will be administered in June. Dr. Shields is working with a consortium to create these exams and they will be recognized by New York State.

Denise Reiner, Old Brookville, asked if the Board considers what will best benefit the student rather than what the community wants. She suggested offering the top 3 languages that will best prepare the students for the world they live in

Rob Chlebicki stated this is a philosophical debate. He prefers using the word challenging instead of rigor and feels the bar needs to be raised on all levels. He said it is not fiscally prudent to keep adding languages without taking something away and we should be looking at what is best for the kids. He also said the master maps are used as the corner stone for languages of that level and there should be one for every course and every level.

Selection Classification

Dr. Melnick explained that New York State sets the criteria for the selection classification program, but it is not a requirement that districts participate. He further explained that the district has a policy in regard to this program which can be found on the web site; policy #5280 and regulation 5280R. Currently our policy allows for students to challenge up to junior varsity or varsity teams. Trustee Beyer had requested a Board discussion in regard to revising the policy to only allow students to challenge up to varsity teams.

Trustee Beyer explained she has been approached by several community members who are concerned about the selection classification process. Having been part of the Athletic Review several years ago, she reviewed the material to be sure the district is implementing the recommendations correctly. She read excerpts from the report that indicated only the exceptional athlete would be eligible to challenge up to varsity teams only. For this reason, she asked for the discussion of whether or not the Board wishes to revise the policy which would eliminate challenge up to junior varsity teams.

Don Lang, Director of Athletics explained the selection classification process. He explained that there are 6 students who challenged up this season; over the last year there were approximately 15 students who challenged up. He also explained the criteria middle school students must meet in order to try-out for a team.

The Board had a lengthy discussion. It was noted that the Athletic Review was established because the community wanted a competitive and successful program. They all felt the program is managed properly but want to be sure it is implemented fairly across all sports.

Comments from the Public

Bill Bianco, Glen Head, said the junior varsity team feeds into the varsity team so it makes sense to have students be able to challenge up to junior varsity as well. He also noted that in order to have a competitive team, there needs to be a better middle school program. At the moment there is no limit to the number of students who can play on a middle school team.

Therese Cantwell, Glenwood Landing, said it is equally important to have rigor in all aspects of education. She also suggested a look at the data to ascertain if challenge up has been successful, has benefited the student and the team. She noted students can accelerate in academics, so why not athletics. She also said allowing a student to try-out for a team denotes attempting to get a spot on the team, it is not a definite.

Beth Reiger, Sea Cliff, stated she has 4 children and has been on both sides of the issue. She is in favor of challenge up and asked if the Board changes the policy will those students in the program be grandfathered in. She also asked whether or not birth dates would be considered.

Eugene Aleto, Glen Head said he has had his first experience with challenge up this year. He said the parents need to be educated about the program, it should not be a rite of

passage, it needs to be publicized. He also noted that his daughter is on a team that does not have enough jerseys for all the players and this is demoralizing.

Bill Valasiadis, Glen Head, stated the biggest issue is the lack of communication. He was on the advisory committee and does not recall challenge up for varsity only. He also said the criteria for selecting captains and how awards are decided as well as designation of all-county and all-league needs to be the same for all teams and often this varies by coach.

Randi Lerner, Glen Head asked if her 8th grader is able to try out for a high school team.

Don Lang responded, the coach recommends the student if he or she has the ability; students cannot just decide to try out for the team.

Trustee Genovesi thanked community for their comments. After a poll of the Board it was decided that there would be no further discussion on changing the selection classification program; it will remain as is. The Board did agree to have a further discussion of the process and implementation of the policy.

Committee & Conference Reports

Trustee Beyer forwarded a written report from the construction steering committee meeting. It was noted that funding for the restrooms/concession stand may be needed as the bids for the track and field came in higher than expected. Until the bids for the restrooms/concession stand are received it is unsure what the exact cost will be. These bids are due mid-October.

On motion of Trustee Pombar and seconded by Trustee Berliner and all in favor, action item D (Personnel) was separated to D.1 (Increments for Advanced Study) and D.2 (all other personnel action).

Prior to acting on Increments for Advance Study, Trustee Pombar made the following statement:

Trustee Pombar stated he would be abstaining on the vote for action item D (Personnel). He said there are many people out of work and while he understands this is part of a contractual agreement, he is not in agreement and will not approve the educational salary increases (lane changes).

Trustee Genovesi responded the Board has no option in regard to approving incremental increases. These increases are protected under the Triborough Amendment as they are part of collective bargaining. She asked that the record show if all 7 members of the Board abstained from voting the Board would be taken over by the state for failing to comply with the law.

On motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Sharkey with Trustees Berliner, Beyer, Genovesi, Knierim, Sharkey and Webb in favor and Trustee Pombar abstaining, it was:

Personnel

Increments for Advanced Study- Certified

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Suzanne DiGregorio, Foreign Language, from Step 5 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Tracy Godek, Elementary, from Step 7 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Robyn Hoefling, Elementary, from Step 11 of the MA+45 salary schedule to Step 11 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Sarah Hogan, Biology, from Step 11 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 11 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jaclyn Kepke, English, from Step 7 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 7 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Dennis McEvoy, English, from Step 22 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 22 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Pamela Parsons, Art, from Step 23 of the MA+30 salary schedule to Step 23 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Rachel Resnick, Music, from Step 3 of the BA salary schedule to Step 3 of the BA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Saul Schachter, Social Studies, from Step 30 of the MA+60 salary schedule to Step 30 of the MA+75 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Keith Slack, Technology Education, from Step 3 of the BA salary schedule to Step 3 of the BA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Mary Ann Soare, Special Education, from Step 23 of the MA+45 salary schedule to Step 23 of the MA+60 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Julia Towey, Special Education, from Step 2 of the BA+30 salary schedule to Step 2 of the MA salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Casey Turk, Social Studies, from Step 5 of the BA+15 salary schedule to Step 5 of the BA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Kristin Webster, Latin, from Step 3 of the MA+15 salary schedule to Step 3 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011

The Board decided to act simultaneously on action items D.2 through G

On motion of Trustee Knierim and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, it was:

Granting of Tenure – Certified

Resolved: To grant tenure to Megan Corrao, English, effective October 12, 20011

Appointments - Certified

Resolved: To approve a probationary appointment for Megan Doyle, Level I Teacher Assistant, effective September 6, 2011 through September 6, 2014

Resolved: To approve a probationary and part-time appointment for Susan Schmelkin, (.8) Teacher Assistant/(.2) Math on Level II TA salary schedule and Step 8 of the MA salary schedule effective September 1, 2011 through September 1, 2013 (Teacher Assistant) and September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (Math)

Resolved: To approve a part-time (.5) appointment for Sammara Simon, Special Education, on Step 5 of the MA salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Resolved: To approve a probationary and part-time appointment for Brian Suhovsky, (.8) Teacher Assistant/(.2) Math on Level II TA salary schedule and Step 4 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2011 through December 9, 2013 (Teacher Assistant) and September 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 (Math)

Change of Status – Certified

Resolved: To approve a change of status for John Graziano, Special Education, from part-time (.6) to part-time (.6) and regular substitute (leave replacement) (.4), effective September 12, 2011 through December 9, 2011

Resolved: To approve a change of status for Brian Suhovsky, Teacher Assistant/Math, from (.8) Level II Teacher Assistant and (.2) Math to (.2) Math, (.4) Special Education and (.4) Level II Teacher Assistant, effective September 12, 2011 through December 9, 2011

Approval of Stipends

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Kelly Rakeman, Grade 6 Team Leader for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Michele Berger, Grade 6 Team for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Rosea Filone, Grade 7 Team Leader for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Jaclyn Etter, Grade 7 Team Leader for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Barbara Brennan, Grade 7 Team Leader for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Thomas Curtin, Grade 8 Team Leader for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Melissa Frank, Grade 8 Team for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Dave Keenan, Grade 8 Team for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Richard Hance, LOTE Team for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Sue Ring, Web Master, for the 2011-2012 school year

Resolved: To approve a stipend for Angela Carillo-Bofill for additional duties at the High School level to support a teacher with disabilities, effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Approval of Student Workers

Resolved: To approve the following student workers:
Robert Baierwalter Logan Kupferman

Approval of Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List:

Brittany Cofman	Teacher Assistant
Natalie Ernst	Secondary
Erica Rivera	Secondary
Kerry Smith Tittmann	Elementary
Amanda Wasserman	Secondary

Approval of Extra Curricular Activity Clubs & Coaches

Resolved: To add the following clubs to the list of approved clubs for 2011-2012 ACT Coordinator – High School

Middle School

Music Organizations

7/8 Grade Morning Chorus (replacing 6th Grade Chamber Orchestra)

Level I Clubs

Organic Gardening Club (replacing T.H.E./Green Teens)

Level II Clubs

6th Grade Morning Chorus (replacing Global Citizens)

Robotics Club #2 (replacing Enders Club)

Chess Club (replacing Peer Mediators)

Ukulele Club (replacing International Fun Club)

Resolved: To approve the following coaches for the fall season, 2011:

Middle School

Field Hockey	Michelle Waters
Boys Soccer	Carmine Rotolo
Girls Soccer	Ariel Seidner

High School

Varsity Volleyball	Frank Mauro
Equipment Manager	Peter Wass

Approval of Athletic Supervisors for 2011-2012

Resolved: To approve the following names to the list of athletic supervisors for the 2011-2012 school year:

Agovino, Daniel	Gordon, Thomas	Meierdiercks, Gary
Anderson, Margery	Gotta, Lauren	Melillo, William Jr.
Berglin, Harrison Ryan	Granieri, Thomas	Mercier, Kevin
Bishop, Michael	Henderson, Kelly	Moritz, Kellie
Bonosoro, Frank	Hernandez, Rafael	Muscarella, Jaclyn
Bridgwood, Timothy	Hickey, Christine	O'Hagen, Kelly
Budkevics, Karl	Hintz, Bernard	Pace, John
Butt, Jeffrey	Hodermarksy, Jean	Papa, Robert
Calo, Kristen	Hogan, Sarah	Papa, Vincent
Carpenter, Kevin	Hojnowski, Alex	Perdios, Maria
Cavallaro, Michael	Iacovelli, Tracy	Rickel, Colleen
Cochrane, Michele	Jackson, John	Richter, Andrew
Connors, Christen	Kline, Brian	Roslund, Caig
Cooper, Robin	Knox, Diana	Savage, John
Corona, Edward	Kozlowski, Aaron	Schachter, Saul
Craner, Gary	Levy, Neal	Schultz, Clifton
DeBonis, Stephanie	Lineman, Scott	Slack, Keith
Dell Aquila, Barney	MacLellan, Michelle	Trenkle, Robert
DeNicola, Craig	Madigan, William	Vassallo, Melissa
DePascale, Joseph	Martin, Heather	Vigliotti, John
Emmert, Michael	McCormack, Megan	Vitucci, Christopher
Freund, Keith	McEvoy, Dennis	Wass Peter
Frisch, Alicia	Gillespie, Matthew	Weber, Kathy
Gallina, Joseph	Gillespie, Michael	Welch, Donna Jean
Gatti, Dominic	Girolamo, Paul	Wenz, Karen

Approval of Community Recreation Workers

Resolved: To approve the following people to the list of community recreation workers for 2011-2012:

Harrison Ryan Berglin	Dan Agovino	Eileen O'Connor
Alexis Borgia	Dan Chemnitz	Andrew Richter
Kevin Carpenter	Craig DeNicola	Craig Roslund
Elizabeth Caruso	Mike Emmert	Joe Sidaras
Patrick Cassino	Keith Freund	Robert Trenkle
Ed Corona	Joe Gallina	John Vigliotti
Andrew Cross	Paul Girolamo	Chris Vitucci
Stephanie De Bonis	Lauren Gotta	Charles Wankel
Alicia Frisch	Tom Granieri	Karen Wenz
Sarah Hogan	William Madigan	Megan McCormack
Steven Kachmar		

Approval of Fall Community Education Instructors

Resolved: To approve the following community education instructors for the fall of 2011:

Michelle Tanner	Roy Gentile
Susan Gill	Mayer Weisen
Phyllis Hintze	Jerome Vivona
Dorian Dahl	Dennis Kelly
Jerry Cohen	Maria Whisenand
John Manzone	Patricia Mitchell
Barbara Grapstein	Janice Nunziata
Helen Bauer	Elizabeth Cassidy
Stephen Goldstein	Matthew Schmiemann
US Power Squadron	Dean Miller

Approval of Budget Transfer

Resolved: To approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$11,226.88

Approval of Special Education Consultant

Resolved: To approve Gary Scherer as a consultant to provide educational technology integration services effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Comments from the Public

Daniel Deeks, Sea Cliff, asked if it was necessary to build a concession stand at the new track and field.

Trustee Genovesi explained the concession stand also includes bathrooms and storage and will be a very basic building.

Denise Reiner, Old Brookville, asked how incidents of bullying are reported to the state. She also asked for clarification in regard to what groups of individuals are subject reporting, i.e. staff-to-staff bullying, student-to-student bullying, staff-to-student, etc. She also expressed the need for students and parents to have a place to voice opinions and concerns in regard to bullying, uncomfortable situations or harassment by staff without fear of reprisals.

Dr. Melnick reviewed the reporting procedures and said there is a zero tolerance policy in this district for bullying. He also explained that the district has two Title IX officers for whom staff or students may go to report incidents of harassment. Contact information on these officers is on the website and in the calendar. He welcomed any suggestions for ensuring a safe and comfortable school environment.

Trustee Genovesi encouraged parents to come forward if they have concerns.

Theresa Cantwell, Glenwood Landing, suggested coaches have a meeting to discuss policy & practice implementation. Dr. Melnick responded this happens every season.

Old Business

The old business log will be reviewed by the superintendent & Trustees Genovesi and Berliner at the next agenda meeting.

New Business

Trustee Knierim thanked Dr. Melnick and the district for showing "Race to Nowhere". He stated there is much interest in a follow up discussion especially about the homework piece.

Dr. Melnick explained the Board has had several discussions in regard to homework. He stated that the homework policy is online and in individual school handbooks.

Trustee Beyer added that although there is a homework policy it is important to know how it is being implemented.

Dr. Melnick will confirm that the homework policy is being implemented correctly and report back to the Board.

Dr. Melnick and Ms. Buatsi will begin building budget scenarios with an aim of presenting them to the Board by mid-November. The three scenarios will include a budget which includes maintaining what we have; a budget if the public approves an increase in the amount of the tax cap; and a budget if the public does not approve an increase.

Trustee Genovesi would like to discuss how it will be communicated to the public.

It was requested that guidelines for district e-mails be put on a future agenda for discussion.

Adjournment

At 11:15 P.M. on motion of Trustee Berliner and seconded by Trustee Beyer and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Ciampi
District Clerk