

A Special Goal Setting Meeting of the Board of Education of the Heuvelton Central School District was held in the Multi-Media Room on Wednesday, September 23, 2015. The Meeting was called to order by President Michael Davis at 5:10 p.m.

Members present: Michael Davis, President, Dennis Durant, Barbara Knauf and Michelle McGaw

Members absent: Keith Carmany, Andrew Martin and Tom Nichols

Also present: Tessa Herron, District Clerk

Guests: None

15-36 Information/Report

Mrs. Todd gave a brief historic look at HCS. Background of where the district was when she was hired and where she hopes the district will be in the future.

Mrs. Todd stated that setting Board goals and ground rules are both really important. Ground rules are important to keep a team functional and goals keep people on track. Mrs. Todd informed the Board that there is a shortage in administrators especially for Superintendent's and since the district will be looking for a new Superintendent in the near future, a highly functional Board will attract good candidates.

Mrs. Todd explained modifications that were done on the ground rules – bullet 7 added "except during..." and the last bullet on the first page. Mr. Davis shared that he feels that sometimes issues are being brought to the Board at Board meetings without following the Ground Rules. Mr. Davis stated that if a Board member would like something on the agenda they should call him or Mrs. Todd to put it on the agenda.

Mr. Durant stated that as the moderator of the meeting Mr. Davis can step in and give a warning and say the member has 30 seconds to wrap up the discussion if he needed. Mr. Davis stated that he doesn't want Board members to feel like he is cutting them off. Mr. Durant suggested giving them enough of an opportunity to say what they want to say but keep them on track. Mrs. Todd stated that sometimes she feels blindsided when issues come up and it's the first time she heard about it. Mrs. Todd shared that if issues were brought to her she could have information or feedback at the meeting. Everyone was in agreement to approve Ground rules as written.

The BOE Goals from 2014-2015 were reviewed. They included:

Goal 1: Continue to strive to become a High Performing School based on the following criteria:

1. Clear and Shared Focus
2. High Standards and Expectations
3. Effective School Leadership
4. High Levels of Collaboration and Communication
5. Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Aligned with Standards
6. Frequent Monitoring of Teaching and Learning
7. Focused Professional Development
8. Supportive Learning Environment
9. High Levels of Community and Parent Involvement

Goal 2: Successfully complete contract negotiations for CSEA by June 30, 2014.

Goal 3: Continue to investigate a Regional approach with neighboring districts to improve educational opportunities for 7-12 students and to help reduce cost of services.

Goal 4: Highlight success stories of the district to celebrate and promote the quality of our program through:

- Facebook
- Pamphlets
- News articles

Goal 5: Decrease the dependence of using fund balance to close the gap for the annual budget for the purpose of keeping the district solvent for as long as possible.

Goal 6: To move to Paperless Board of Education meetings and investigate how to reduce paper waste in the district.

It was decided to keep Goal 1 as it is written.

Revised Goal 2 to read – Successful completion of CSEA contract negotiation by January 1, 2016.

Goal 3 – Mrs. Todd stated that the regional approach was a good idea but unfortunately it appears that the district has gone as far as it can right now in sharing with other districts. She approached the new Superintendents of Morristown

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and Hermon Dekalb and at this time those districts are not interested in resuming talks about a regional 7-12 program between their schools and Heuvelton. The enrollment projections Mrs. Todd had provided were reviewed. Mrs. McGaw asked about the possibility of opening enrollment up to tuition. Mrs. Todd explained that this could cause problems down the road because the district doesn't get any extra money for those students. Families really need to move into the district so per pupil aid increases. Mrs. McGaw stated that she does agree that it is important that families buy in the district but what about if the district opened enrollment up to let children of faculty members attend. Mrs. Todd said once again it's important to realize that that could cost the district a significant amount of money because of increased enrollment costs without the benefit of increased aid. For example 3 additional students at one grade level might make it necessary to hire another teacher. Mr. Davis stated that one thing the district can do is be the best school we can be and get people interested in moving into the district. Mrs. Todd stated that if we focus on becoming a model school it will make us look a lot more attractive. Mr. Davis shared that he has been on the board of the housing council for many years and the council would like to come and present to the board and do a walk-through and work with the district as a team to look for more properties within the district. Mr. Durant shared that if Heuvelton had a housing development similar to the one in Hannawa falls within the district he doesn't think a developer would have a hard time getting rid of those units. Mr. Davis shared that the housing council also recommended reaching out to the board of realtors and set up a meeting with them to take them through the school. Mrs. Knauf suggested going to the Human Resources office at local colleges.

It was decided that Goal 3 would be – Initiate a task force of stakeholders in relation to real estate opportunities to include but not limited:

- Town of Oswegatchie
- St. Lawrence County Planning Board
- Village of Heuvelton
- St. Lawrence County Housing Council
- Board of Realtors
- DANC
- Elected officials

Mrs. Todd suggested to add another bullet point to Goal 4 –Redesign the district's website.

It was decided to keep and continue working on Goal 5 – Decrease the dependence of using fund balance to close the gap for the annual budget for the purpose of keeping the district solvent for as long as possible.

Since last year the Board has moved forward with conducting paperless Board meetings and has consistently worked to reduce paper waste it was decided to drop that as a goal.

It was decided that Goal 6 would be – Develop a sustainable program to ensure that quality facilities and operations are maintained.

The meeting ended at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tessa E. Herron
District Clerk