

Heuvelton, NY 13654

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Heuvelton Central School District was held in the Multi-Media Room on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. The Meeting was called to order by Vice President Andrew Martin at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Andrew Martin, Vice President, Darcy Backus, Keith Carmany, Dennis Durant, Michelle McGaw and Thomas Nichols

Members absent: Michael Davis

Also present: Susan Todd, Superintendent, Jesse Coburn, 7-12 Principal, Randy Johnson, Interim PreK-6 Principal, Michael Robinson, Assistant Business Manager and Tessa Herron, District Clerk

Guests: A. Foster, S. Williams, D. Fenton, K. Bates, M. Whalen, M. McDonnell, R. Thornhill, M. St. Pierre, N. Wilson-Mashaw, P. Hebert, R. Fifield, S. Cameron, M. Arquette, J. Carmany, J. Fischer, A. Villeneuve, C. Robert and A. Calkins

- 13-99 Motion #1  
Adopt proposed agenda To adopt the revised agenda.  
Moved: Carmany Seconded: McGaw  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-100 Public Forum No one from the public addressed the Board at this time.
- 13-101 Motion #2  
Approve consent agenda To accept the recommendations on the consent agenda for the January 22, 2014 meeting which included:
- To approve the minutes of the December 18, 2013, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.
  - To accept the Financial Reports for the period ending December 31, 2013.
  - To approve the Budget Transfer Report for the period ending December 31, 2013.
  - To accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2013.
  - To accept the Warrants for the period ending December 31, 2013, as previously approved by the Claims Auditor.
  - To approve the Extra-Classroom Activity Fund Quarterly Report for the period September 30, 2013 – December 31, 2013.
  - To approve the Internal Claims Auditor report for the period July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013.
  - To approve arranging for the appropriate programs and services for District Students with disabilities as previously approved by the District's Committee on Special Education.
  - To approve the Retirement Memorandum of Agreement between the Heuvelton Central School District and Mr. Stephen Knowlton, Head of Buildings & Grounds.
  - To approve the request from Lisbon Central School to merge with the Heuvelton Central School District in Girls Lacrosse.
  - To approve a merger with Hammond Central School for their students in grades 6-12 to participate in the Heuvelton Central School Marching Band.
  - 2014 Income Ceilings for Senior Citizen Exemption on Assessment Rolls (For information purposes only).
  - To approve the amendments made to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement of the St. Lawrence-Lewis Counties School District Employees Medical Plan fund.
  - To approve the District's plan for Shared Decision Making to comply with Commissioner's Regulation 100.11.
- Moved: Durant Seconded: Carmany  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-102 Presentation Presentation - Senior Class Representatives: Senior Trip – Shelby Williams informed the Board that the seniors will be going on a four day trip to Washington DC and Williamsburg, Virginia in April. Ms. Williams stated that out of the 44 student in the Class of 2014 33 students are going on the trip. Mr. Martin asked about the cost of this trip and Ms. Williams stated that the students had to pay \$100 deposit and the remaining balance will be covered through fundraising. Mrs. Backus explained why the Board felt that the Senior Class should return for this Board meeting and present information about the Senior Trip. Mrs. Backus said she felt it was important for the students to have practice with public speaking.
- 13-103 Motion # 3  
Personnel To conditionally appoint, pending New York State Education Department Clearance for Employment, Katharine Bogart to a three year probationary period effective January 22, 2014 through January 22, 2017 in the academic tenure area of Teaching Assistant at a starting salary of \$16,153(prorated) based on the current CSEA negotiated agreement.  
Moved: Nichols Seconded: Carmany  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-104 Motion # 4  
Personnel To approve the following individuals as volunteers for the 2014 Marching Band season:
- Tom Nichols – Assistant Director – AFL Instructor
  - Jennifer Hynes – Colorguard Instructor
  - Kari McCormick – Colorguard Instructor
- Moved: Durant Seconded: Carmany  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 13-105 Motion # 5  
Personnel To approve a medical leave of absence during the current school year for Jamie Bush, 9-12 Mathematics Teacher beginning on April 9, 2014. Mrs. Bush will be using benefit time. Once her benefit time is exhausted any time after that will be unpaid.  
Moved: Carmany Seconded: Backus  
Six present, six ayes. Carried

13-106 Information  
Administrative/Board  
Reports

Mr. Coburn discussed with the Board the following:

- Addressed a question that was asked at the December Board meeting regarding new students coming into the district. The district receives approximately 52 new students during the year of these approximately half is secondary level students. Currently the district does not have a formal new student mentor program in place. Mr. Coburn explained that are about 6 or 7 students that reach out to new students and help them get acclimated. Mr. Coburn suggested possibly giving this group a name.
- Friday, 1/17 half day early release for students. Staff Development for teachers for curriculum work or sign up for different sessions – test drive a chrome book, 25 of those have been purchased, two half hour sessions, Quincy Wood (IT) did a general help session in the library and there were sessions on SLO/LLO .
- Regents start next week on Monday, almost 50 tests being taken. Mr. Martin asked how soon results would be back to the district. Mr. Coburn informed him that unofficial results would be turned around within a day.
- A discussion began about Common Core. Mr. Nichols asked when or if the state is doing away with the regents. Mr. Coburn stated that they are not going away with the regents but there will be a transition to the regents being based on the Common Core Standards. Mrs. Todd explained that the reason implementation was so fast was because it was all tied to the Race to the Top funds and guidelines had to be followed and part of the guidelines were that districts had to adopt the Common Core. Mrs. Todd stated that she attended an advisory council meeting with the commissioner and spent time speaking with him about the results of the roll out of Common Core. The Council asked the Commissioner to consider reducing the testing especially at the elementary levels and reducing the number of questions. Mrs. Todd stated that the Council also suggested having a road map for the future because districts are going to be developing Common Core for science and social studies – districts need a 24 month planning period before implementation. There will be no modules for science and social studies. It was also suggested to allow multiple measures to determine AIS.

Mr. Johnson discussed with the Board the following:

- January 7 – The district held a rain forest presentation on understanding wildlife from a non-profit organization. This event was well attended. Mr. Johnson thanked PTA and especially Amy Mitchell for organizing this. Mrs. Todd stated it was a really nice presentation and a great opportunity for the community.
- January 15 – The district held an information night on the Common Core math. Becky DuPrey came to the district and held parent sessions. All parents of students in grades PreK-6 were invited. Ms. DuPrey held ½ hour presentations for parents to listen and understand what the Common Core Math is all about. Parent kits were provided to parents with learning games. After the presentations with Ms. DuPrey parents were asked to visit the classrooms and try the games that were in the parent kit with teachers. There were 53 sets of parents that came to this presentation. For parents that could not make it the district will provide them with a kit. Mrs. Todd stated that she would like to publicly thank the teachers for giving up their time to be here in the evening. Suzanne Raffel, Stephanie Gilbert, Erik & Kari Lutters, Katie Bogart and Christy Collins provided arts & crafts in the cafeteria while parents attended the presentations. Mrs. Todd stated that in her opinion parents seemed very positive about the district offering this night and commented how useful and informative it was. Thanked Mike Davis for coming and sitting in on every session. Mr. Johnson thanked Tessa Herron & Kelly Jackson for putting the kits together. Mr. Martin stated that he would like to see the meeting happen earlier in the school year or a 2nd session in January. Mrs. McGaw shared it was neat to see some of the light bulbs go on in some parents for one grade to the next grade.
- January 23 – K-4 awards ceremony
- Mrs. Backus stated that she attended the elementary winter concert and was very impressed. Mr. Nichols shared that he had a chance to hear the jr./sr. high band/chorus concert and the entire band and chorus performed together. Mr. Nichols shared that you can see just how far the Mr. & Mrs. Lutters have taken the band and chorus. Mr. Nichols expressed that he would like to see the spring and winter concert dates set before the next school year begins so to avoid any conflicts.

Mrs. Todd discussed with the Board the following:

- Board of Education Self-Evaluation – This time of year the evaluation is sent out as a packet but this year the evaluation will be created in Google Drive and made active on the Board portal.
- Homework Policy Ad Hoc Committee update - The following people are members of this committee: Mary Rasmussen, Julie Madlin, Jamie Bush, Todd Mashaw, Chris Montpetit, Lisa Sargent, Barb Lashua, Nancy LaFaver, CSEA, Jesse Coburn, Andy Martin, Darcy Backus and Michelle McGaw. The first meeting was mostly just beginning the discussions and looking at research. Mrs. Backus shared that she felt that the committee is a nice diverse group. The committee will be meeting once a month during the course of this school year. Mrs. Backus expressed her thought about possibly having a student on the committee.
- Elementary Principal Search update – Mrs. Todd shared that this position has been advertised. The brochure was sent to all BOCES District Superintendents in NYS and there is a link on the district's website. The deadline for applications is February 14 and the district is anticipating a start date of May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Backus shared that she would gladly serve on the interview committee.
- Request received from Erik Lutters – Mrs. Todd shared that Mr. Lutters informed her that he will be taking two graduate courses this summer towards his masters degree. These courses take place July 7-18th and he will be missing two major parades. Mrs. Lutters has offered to step in to offer assistance for rehearsals and to oversee the direction of the band. The Board was in support of this.
- At the Shared Decision Making sub-committee meeting yesterday it was discussed about having parent/teacher

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conferences offered in the spring. The teachers shared that they would like to have a half day in March to do that. Mr. Coburn shared that high School teachers are interested in doing this as well. It was discussed about having the ½ day be March 6<sup>th</sup> with conferences in the evening. It will be brought to the Board at the February meeting.

- Mr. Durant asked about looking into getting an application for a grant for another after-school program. Mrs. Todd stated that she would like to broaden the current after-school program to include elementary. Mrs. Todd shared that Heuvelton along with a group of other districts applied for a grant and did not receive it. Mr. Martin shared that besides the academic help it provides social growth as well speaking from his experience with his daughter attending the districts middle school after-school program.

13-107 Public Forum

Nancy Wilson-Mashaw shared how proud she is of this district for all it offers and provides on an annual basis such as an open house, parent conferences and possibly opening up more parent conferences. It was great that the district provided time to meet with parents because common core came quickly and everyone knew that kids and parents were frustrated. Mrs. Wilson-Mashaw expressed how in just a few short months the district was able to get everybody on Board to host a parent informational night. She stated that she was very impressed and that she loves this district.

Carol Robert – spoke for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade as Amy Mitchell was unable to attend. Ms. Robert thanked the Board for listening to the trials and tribulations of having two large classes and stated that the classroom reductions have been fabulous. She shared that she and Mrs. Mitchell are able to do more with the students and students are able to focus more.

Ann Villeneuve – suggested that if the Board is thinking about expanding the after-school program to also think about possibly expanding it to Elementary students.


Mr. Durant stated that he felt with the consent agenda the Board doesn't look at the financial reports as much unless individual Board members do research outside of the meeting. Mr. Durant expressed that he would like to hear the business side and possibly have Mr. Robinson, Business Manager just give highlights. Mr. Durant feels the more information the Board receives the better.

13-108 Motion # 6  
Convene Executive  
Session

To approve convening an Executive Session at 7:24 p.m. for the purpose of discussing employment of a particular individual Law and appoint Susan Todd as Clerk Pro-Tem.

Moved: Nichols Seconded: Carmany  
Six present, six ayes. Carried

Respectfully Submitted



Tessa E. Herron  
District Clerk

13-109 Motion # 7  
End Executive Session

To approve ending Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Moved: Durant Seconded: Carmany  
Six present, six ayes. Carried

13-110 Motion # 8  
Adjournment

To approve adjourning the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Moved: Carmany Seconded: Durant  
Six present, six ayes. Carried

Respectfully Submitted



Susan E. Todd  
Clerk Pro-Tem