

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 28, 2015. The Meeting was called to order by President Michael Davis at 6:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Michael Davis, President, Andrew Martin, Vice President (6:36 pm), Keith Carmany, Dennis Durant, Barbara Knauf, Michelle McGaw and Thomas Nichols (6:43 pm)

**Members absent:** None

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

**Guests:** N. Wilson-Mashaw, K. Tennant, W. Tennant, S. Johnston, A. Calkins, S. Adams, B. Simmons, N. Moyer, P. Hebert, W. Willard, D. Willard, B. Willard and T. Wing

- 14-121 **Motion #1**  
**Adopt Revised Agenda** To adopt the proposed agenda.  
Moved: Carmany Seconded: McGaw  
Five present, five ayes. Carried
- 14-122 **Public Forum** Mr. Tennant spoke on behalf of the Varsity Golf team. Mr. Tennant stated his son brought it to his attention that the golf team was going to be merging with the OFA team. Mr. Tennant expressed that he strongly disagrees with the merger with Ogdensburg. His statements included: The merger wouldn't provide our kids with the opportunity the district thinks it would. OFA has a much larger team. There is interest among HCS students to have their own Golf team.
- 14-123 **Motion #2**  
**Approve Consent Agenda** To accept the recommendations on the consent agenda for the January 28, 2015 meeting which included:
- To approve the minutes of the December 15, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.
  - To accept the Financial Reports for the period ending December 31, 2014.
  - To approve the Budget Transfers for the period ending December 31, 2014.
  - To accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2014.
  - To accept the Warrants for the period ending December 31, 2014, as previously approved by the Claims Auditor.
  - To approve the Extra-Classroom Activity Fund Quarterly Reports for the period June 30, 2014 – September 30, 2014 and September 30, 2014 – December 31, 2014.
  - To approve the Internal Claims Auditor report for the period July 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014.
  - 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 and the District's Preschool Committee on Special Education.
- Moved: Durant Seconded: Knauf  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 14-124 **Special Presentation** Michael Ebertz and Stephen Staveski of SEI Design gave an update on the SEQRA and provided examples of informational newsletters to go out to the public.
- 14-125 **Motion #3**  
**SEQRA Resolution** To adopt the Resolution pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act to establish the Heuvelton Central School District as the SEQRA Improvement Project at the School Building.  
Moved: Martin Seconded: Durant  
Six present, six ayes. Carried
- 14-126 **Motion #4**  
**Capital Project** To approve the Capital Improvement Project outlined below:  
RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE HEUVELTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO UNDERTAKE CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CONSISTING OF RECONSTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING SCHOOL BUILDING AND BUS GARAGE FACILITIES, SITE IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN ORIGINAL FURNISHINGS, EQUIPMENT, AND APPARATUS AND OTHER INCIDENTAL IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH FOR SUCH CONSTRUCTION AND SCHOOL USE, ALL AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST OF \$6,755,000; AND THAT SUCH COSTS, OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, SHALL BE RAISED BY THE LEVY OF A TAX TO BE COLLECTED IN ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS, WITH SUCH TAX TO BE OFFSET BY STATE AID AVAILABLE THEREFOR; AND, IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH TAX, DEBT OBLIGATIONS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS MAY BE NECESSARY NOT TO EXCEED SUCH ESTIMATED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE COST SHALL BE ISSUED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the text of the aforesaid proposition may appear on the ballot labels in the following abbreviated form:

**PROPOSITION**

Shall the proposition set forth in the legal notice of this special voter meeting, authorizing reconstruction and equipping of the existing school building and bus garage facilities, site and incidental improvements, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$6,755,000; the issuance of debt obligations of the School District therefor, and the levy of a tax in

Heuvelton, NY 13654

annual installments therefor, with such tax to be offset by state aid available therefor, all as more fully described in said notice, be approved?

The School District, acting as lead agency to the extent necessary, if any, for this purpose under the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder ("SEQRA"), has completed its environmental review and, on January 28, 2015, has duly determined and found the purpose set forth in such proposition to be a type II action which will not have a significant impact on the environment and is not subject to any further environmental review under SEQRA.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots to vote on the proposition may be applied for at the office of the School District Clerk. Any such application must be received by the District Clerk at least seven days before the date of the aforesaid special district meeting if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before such special district meeting if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued shall be available for public inspection in the office of the District Clerk during regular office hours on each of the five days prior to the day of the vote (excluding Saturday and Sunday). An absentee ballot must reach the office of the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of such special district meeting.

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

14-127      Special Presentation  
Cafeteria

Mr. Adams gave an update on the Cafeteria. Mr. Adams explained that serve safe certified training doesn't come along very often and that he has asked at the Cafeteria managers meeting when the next training will occur. Mr. Adams stated that they are working on getting a date set that all the schools can participate in the Safe Serve training possibly during the regional March staff development day. Mr. Adams informed the Board that he is certified but not as a trainer. Mr. Durant asked how long the training is and Mr. Adams stated that it is approximately 8 hours long.

Mr. Adams gave an update on the Smoothie machine. Mr. Adams stated that the machine was purchased to offer an extra option for the students and possibly produce more revenue. Mr. Adams informed the Board that prior to January 2015 it could only be an a la carte item. He shared that apple cider in the fall went over very well and in warmer weather smoothies with yogurt or juice are popular. Mr. Adams stated that in winter time it's not used as much because students don't purchase the product during cold weather. Mr. Adams stated that as of January 1<sup>st</sup> the district can now use it as a reimbursable meal. Mr. Adams stated that the cost of the machine was \$2,200 and it has by far paid for itself. At this point it is no longer costing the district anything. Mr. Nichols shared his concern about the district pushing processed food. Mr. Nichols expressed that the district needs to be offering it as an option all the time. Every kid that is eating healthier that is a plus. Mr. Nichols questioned how many kids are ending up with lower grades or frustrated because they were unable to stay focused because of what is in their diet. The bigger issue the district needs to think about is how we feed our kids. Mr. Carmany asked if administration can check with Marianne to see how many students are diagnosed with celiac disease. Mr. Adams gave the cost of a smoothie - \$1.25 for HS - 10 oz. cup and 5 oz. cup for Elem. 75. Mr. Nichols and Mr. Carmany asked Mr. Adams to contact local farmers such as Bennett's and Fobare's to look into doing farm to table. Mr. Adams explained that the district does purchase apples from Fobare's but because of growing season it's difficult sometimes to use local produce. Mr. Adams informed the Board that the Cafeteria has done away with all canned fruits & vegetables. The Cafeteria now roasts almost all of the vegetables and use fresh fruit and vegetables or frozen. Mr. Adams provided the Board with the following numbers for free/reduced: 44% Free and 5% reduced - 366 averaging for purchased school lunch about 125 for breakfast out of 540 students.

14-128      Item for  
discussion/approval

Spring Sports

- Varsity Golf
- Girls Modified Lacrosse

Mrs. Todd gave an update - the Varsity Golf coach resigned and at that time the Athletic Director approached her regarding the district merging with OFA because at that time only 5 students were interested in playing golf. Mr. Steele felt the savings would allow the district to be able to offer a girls modified lacrosse team. Mrs. Todd informed the Board that a golf merger with OFA was approved in November. Mrs. Todd stated since that time there is a larger interest in golf if it was offered only through Heuvelton - 8 students now that have signed up and of the 8 only 1 said they would be interested in playing for OFA. Mrs. Todd informed the Board that there are 12 girls that are interested in playing Girls Mod. Lacrosse. Mrs. Todd explained that it would cost the district approximately \$5,000 to keep the golf team at Heuvelton and \$3,500 to have a Girls Mod. Lacrosse. Mrs. Todd stated that there is time to notify OFA if we are no longer interested in having the merger with OFA and there is time to find coaches for both teams if the Board would like to pursue that route.

Mr. Martin expressed his concern about the public perception of adding a sport while the district's budget did not originally include the modified Lacrosse for girls. Mr. Durant felt it made sense to add modified girls lacrosse since the district presently has a girls JV & Varsity team if it was within the district's budget.

14-129      Motion #5  
New Business

To approve rescinding the previous motion made on November 19, 2014 that approved a merger with Ogdensburg Free Academy for golf and approve having a Golf team and Girls Modified Lacrosse team at Heuvelton Central School and advertise for coaches.

Moved: Durant      Seconded: Nichols  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

To appoint the following individuals for Spring Coaching appointments for the 2014-2015 school year:

Heuvelton, NY 13654

- 14-130 Motion #6  
Personnel
- Becky Donnelly – Girls Varsity Lacrosse (Step 9 - \$3,910)
  - Josie Cole – Girls Varsity Softball (Step 4 - \$2,967)
  - David Steele – Boys Varsity Baseball (Step 21 - \$5,124)
  - Andy Rupert – Boys Modified Baseball (Step 4 - \$2,293)
  - Tony Williams – Girls Modified Softball (Step 1 - \$2,157)
- Moved: Carmany      Seconded: Durant  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried
- 14-131 Motion #7  
Personnel
- To approve the following individuals as Spring 2015 volunteer assistants:
- Logan Ladouceur– Varsity Baseball Volunteer Assistant Coach
  - Eliza Pierce – Modified/Varsity Softball Volunteer Assistant Coach
  - Gus Burns – Girls Lacrosse Volunteer Assistant
- Moved: Carmany      Seconded: Martin  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried
- 14-132 Personnel  
Horizontal Promotion –  
Information only
- The following horizontal promotion effective January 20, 2015, Erik Lutters from Schedule A-2, Step 3 to Schedule B(MA), Step 3.
- 14-133 Motion #8  
New Business
- To accept the following donations for HCS Chrome Book Project:
- \$300 – Corning Incorporated – Check #16546
  - \$500 – Cindi Putman – Check #261
- Moved: Carmany      Seconded: Knauf  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried
- 14-134 Motion #9  
New Business
- To approve the overnight field trip to Albany, NY from March 27-29, 2015 for IMPETUS students to participate in the STEP Statewide Student Conference.
- Moved: Carmany      Seconded: Knauf  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried
- 14-135 Administrative/Board  
Reports
- Mrs. Jordan reported that the PreK-6 students transitioned really well coming back from Christmas break. Mrs. Jordan stated that teachers are looking at student performance and students are taking benchmark assessments. Mrs. Jordan pointed out that in the February newsletter there are comments from teachers about achievement in each grade level. Mrs. Jordan informed the Board that she has started a Tie & Tutu club as a positive way to showcase students. Author Michael Shoulders is visiting the district again on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Coburn reported the High School is in the thick of regents exams. He expressed his thanks to Mrs. Patti Hebert for all the work she does with these exams. The district had 75 students register for mid-year exams. Mr. Coburn explained that most are repeats that didn't do well or get a passing mark moving from the old testing regime and moving to the common core. The Guidance Office is getting ready for report cards to go out next week and looking at electives for next year and opportunities to get college credit courses. Mr. Coburn shared that last week during the half day Staff Development the district hosted a Bulldog Slam where teachers demonstrate to their peers a technique of using technology in a quick method. Mr. Coburn informed the Board that on February 10<sup>th</sup> the 7-12 students will be having a STEP day and going to Clarkson University joining Colton-Pierrepont students: Speaker from Baltimore use of GPS & Bicycles, tour their speed lab, using technology, NYS Troopers on campus to meet with students to discuss aspects of safety. During that day the 7-12 staff will head to Colton for the day and work with their teachers.
- Mr. Robinson spoke about the State Aid Runs for 2015-2016/Governor Cuomo's Budget Proposal. Mr. Robinson shared that the district received \$34,000 worth of technology equipment and expressed his appreciation for all Mr. Coburn's efforts in helping obtain that from the Microsoft money grant. Mr. Robinson shared that his office is working on the budget which has been difficult as there will be no state aid runs the Governor has stated. Mr. Robinson explained that some of the aids such as building and transportation the projections that have been released are based on last year's formulas. The bulk of the state aid we don't know at this point. Mr. Robinson informed the Board that the district is starting at 1.62 for the tax cap. It's based on the CPI tax index.
- Mr. Nichols asked if he was correct in reading that the district is 1.7 million to the good in General fund. He expressed that he felt that the district is very similar to where the district has been in the past. Mr. Robinson stated that the principal debt payments are not factored into that yet.
- Mr. Robinson stated that with the talk of the Capital Project he would like to look the district to look into establishing a reserve for the next potential project prior to June. He explained that the other option would be if the district wanted to give money to this current project to offset the taxpayer's responsibility. The Board recommended using unappropriated fund balance to help offset the local share.
- Tom left the meeting at 7:21 p.m. – entered the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Mrs. Todd reported to the Board the following:

- NYSERDA Grant – School Municipality Sustainable Energy Cooperative Plan through Jefferson-Lewis BOCES obtained a \$200,000 grant. Mrs. Todd attended the kickoff meeting for this grant. The district is able to be a part of this project because a letter was written in support. This organization would come and look at the district for feasibility. Mrs. Todd shared that after discussions with Mr. Cole she doesn't think we have enough land for this but the panels could be placed on the roof.

Mr. Martin suggested looking into getting LED bulbs in place of florescent as a means to cut energy costs.

- Morristown/Heuvelton Conversations – meeting put on hold. Mr. Davis recently spoke with the Morristown Board President. She reports they are just too busy right now hiring a new Superintendent and Principal but would like to resume talks in the future.
- Addie Russell – Education Advisory Group – Mr. Davis was asked to be on this group of approximately 60 people. During this meeting participants were broken down into 7 different groups and each group had a task to work on and to gather information – first meeting was a couple weeks ago and next meeting is next Thursday. Mr. Davis stated that they are just at the gathering information stage. Mr. Durant asked what the purpose of this group is. Mr. Davis shared that Ms. Russell feels with the imbalance of state aid it would help to have the opinions of people from the North Country heard.

14-136 Old Business

Band/Chorus Participation

- Student Survey
- Area Band/Chorus Directors Survey

Mrs. Todd provided the summary report of the survey that Mr. & Mrs. Lutters gave to students and area band/chorus directors. Other districts are having the same problems with the conflict being with students who attend a BOCES program when they get in Jr/Sr high. Mr. Durant asked how Northern Music closing affected the rental program. Mr. Martin shared that Northern Music is offering that students can finish up renting it with the option to purchase. Mrs. Todd shared that she doesn't think the decreasing numbers are alarming. She expressed she feels students decide to try it out and then they decide to change. Mrs. Todd stated that she feels our numbers have grown since the Lutters have come and that the district is looking into possibly changing the schedule for next year.

Mr. Nichols expressed his concern of why students would want to be in Study Hall instead of in band or chorus. Mr. Nichols shared that he feels some study halls allow enough flexibility that study hall is more fun because you can socialize.

14-137 Public Forum

No one from the public addressed the Board at this time.

14-138 Motion #10  
Convene Executive  
Session

To approve convening an Executive Session at 7:43 p.m. for the purpose of discussing employment of a particular individual and appoint Susan Todd as Clerk Pro-Tem.  
Moved: Martin      Seconded: McGaw  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

*Tessa E. Herron*

Tessa E. Herron  
District Clerk

14-139 Motion #11  
End Executive Session

To approve ending Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.  
Moved: Martin      Seconded: Knauf  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

14-140 Motion #12  
Adjournment

To approve adjourning the meeting at 8:22 p.m.  
Moved: Durant      Seconded: McGaw  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

*Susan E. Todd*

Susan E. Todd  
Clerk Pro-Tem