

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, November 20, 2013. The Meeting was called to order by President Michael Davis at 6:33 p.m.

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

Members absent:

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

Guests: A. MacAbee, S. Sargent, A. Calkins, C. Robert, S. Johnston, N. Wilson-Mashaw, E. Stevens, R. Lawrence, K. St. Pierre, L. Piercey, M. Rasmussen, A. Mitchell and P. Hebert

13-70 Motion #1
Adopt proposed agenda

To adopt the revised agenda.
Moved: Martin Seconded: McGaw
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

Introduction: New 7-12 Principal Jesse Coburn

13-71 Public Forum

Mr. Davis reviewed what was discussed at recent school board training that he attended along with Mrs. McGaw, Mrs. Backus and Mrs. Todd. Mr. Davis reviewed the protocols for public forum. He explained that generally the Board members would listen but not respond. If warranted the Board will get back to people with information if needed. Mr. Davis reviewed information that is provided to the Public on a Public Forum flyer regarding using the chain of command to contact people, the proper procedures and other information.

Ann MacAbee – stated that she had a letter to present to the BOE for consideration. Ms. MacAbee stated that this is a letter that is going throughout NYS that is coming from principals and that many school principals are signing throughout NYS. Ms. MacAbee informed the Board that the original document is 66 pages long and she would be happy to email everyone the entire document. She provided the Board with the first 3 pages which contained the letter and the other pages show which principals have signed it. Ms. MacAbee expressed that as a concerned citizen she would like to see Heuvelton on it.

13-72 Motion #2
Approve consent agenda

To accept the recommendations on the consent agenda for the November 20, 2013 meeting which included:

- To approve the proposed 2014-2015 Budget Calendar.
- 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 following individual to be an extra-curricular advisor for the 2013-2014 school year with stipends based on the current negotiated agreement with HTA:
 - Dwight Stevenson – Class of 2017
- To approve awarding the contracts for Phase III Capital Project as follows:
 - General Work
Continental Construction, LLC
Gouverneur, NY
Total Contract Award - \$809,719
 - Mechanical Work
Skelly Contractors, Inc.
Ogdensburg, NY
Total Contract Award - \$146,960
 - Electric Work
Norsworthy Electric, LLC
Hammond, NY
Total Contract Award - \$33,392
 - Plumbing Work
ENI Mechanical, Inc.
Gouverneur, NY
Total Contract Award - \$23,400
- To approve the minutes of the October 23, 2013, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education with corrections to the dialogue from Mr. Nichols regarding the Board's role with curriculum. Mr. Nichols stated that he did not say that the Board had a role in curriculum planning. He informed the Clerk that he stated the Board should have a role in knowledge about curriculum understanding.
- To accept the Financial Reports for the period ending September 30, 2012 and October 31, 2013.
- To authorize the Superintendent to sign the list of Budget Transfers for the period ending September 30, 2013 and October 31, 2013.

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- To accept the Treasurer's Report for the period ending October 31, 2013.
- To accept the Warrants for the period ending October 31, 2013, as previously approved by the Claims Auditor.
- To approve the Extra-Classroom Activity Fund Quarterly Report for the period June 30, 2013 – September 30, 2013.
- To approve and sign the list of 2013-2014 Unpaid School taxes for transmittal to the St. Lawrence County Real Property Tax Service for reimbursement to the District and subsequent collection by the County.

Moved: Durant Seconded: Carmany

Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

13-73 Special Presentation

Common Core/New Math Curriculum – Becky DuPrey & Jennifer French

Mr. Durant asked about the top score of 40.0 being the highest. Cassidy stated it could be 100% proficient. Mr. Nichols asked if there are any scores that are above 40%. Mr. Martin shared that on the website greatschools.org you could see all the test scores. Mr. Martin shared that he contacted someone from another school and they have the materials workbooks from Pearson that help parents & students with the Common Core. Ms. DuPrey expressed that she felt these Common Core Standards are the best she has seen since teaching in 93. She stated that the modules are not perfect but yet no textbook is perfect. Ms. Mattimore shared that she is seeing the main issues for teachers being the timing of all this changing ELA & math at the same time. Teachers were handed the modules a week before they were supposed to teach them. Ms. Mattimore shared that currently there is nothing that is comparable as of yet in the form of any textbook and that she felt the modules were the best option we had at the time. She stated that another issue is that the new teacher evaluations were rolled out about the same time.

Mr. Durant asked about the district that Mr. Martin mentioned regarding textbooks. If that district has textbooks and they are succeeding well above other districts why doesn't our district get them. Mr. Martin stated they are using Envision Math. Ms. Mattimore and Ms. DuPrey shared that there are textbooks that are close but not one met the common core. Mrs. Belleau interjected that My Math was ordered just last year for K-8 and that My Math was reported to include Common Core Standards. Ms. Mattimore agreed the My Math was one of the textbooks that had some of the Common Core Standards in the lessons. Mrs. Belleau shared that the teachers have been told to use what is in the best interests of the students.

Mrs. Todd explained that there was never a textbook that matched the state curriculum and referred to when she taught 5th grade that she took the standards and the textbooks and created own tests, lessons and worksheets etc. from those standards. Ms. DuPrey stated that the level of understanding is a deeper level of understanding from the modules vs. my math. She shared that it's going to take time to understand being taught different set of standards being taught in previous grades prior to common core. Ms. DuPrey shared that she recently visited Australia and the main focus was to look into their curriculum. They had parent kits. Ms. DuPrey came back and has created parent kits that could be used. This helps the parents to get a better understanding of what is being taught and how to help. Ms. DuPrey presented a website that is just freshly rolling out with more information for parents. This website is to help parents gain access to videos that they can use to help the students and links where the child can go to play some games to practice fluency. Mr. Martin stated that what Ms. DuPrey presented to the Board as examples of the parent kits is what he would like to see the District provide to parents. Ms. DuPrey stated that she is presently working on one for every grade level and is hoping to have all grade levels done by middle of December. Mr. Nichols stated that this is great information to have but this should have been presented to us a year prior to the rollout. Ms. DuPrey shared that she is going to come up with as many fixes as she can to help as many parents as she can. Mr. Nichols stated that this just reinforces the concerns this board has had regarding Common Core and the implementation process. Ms. DuPrey shared that she is seeing the lights are starting to come on with students and is hearing that from teachers here. Mr. Nichols stated that he feels a delay in the implementation would help out students/parents. Mr. Martin expressed again that he really feels that the parent kits Becky showed would be great help. It's a start.

13-74 Motion # 3
Personnel

To accept, with regrets, the resignation of Cynthia Belleau as PreK-6 Principal effective November 30, 2013.

Moved: Nichols Seconded: Durant

Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

13-75 Motion # 4
Personnel

To accept the resignation of Eric Lalonde as Custodial Worker effective October 30, 2013.

Moved: Nichols Seconded: Martin

Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

13-76 Motion # 5
Personnel

To appoint Randy Johnson as a long-term substitute replacement for the PreK-6 Principal position at \$425 per day beginning on November 25, 2013.

Moved: Martin Seconded: Durant

Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

13-77 Motion # 6
Personnel

To appoint the following individual as a winter 2013-2014 volunteer assistant position:

a. Matt Moses – Boys Varsity Basketball

Moved: Martin Seconded: McGaw

Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

- 13-78 Horizontal Promotion Information Only: The following horizontal promotion effective September 1, 2013, Kari Lutters from Schedule A-1 BS, Step 3 to Schedule B(MA), Step 3.
- 13-79 Motion # 7
Snowplowing Bid To accept the snow plowing bid from Onsite Solutions of \$25,000 for the 2013-2014 school year.
Moved: Carmany Seconded: McGaw
Seven present, six ayes, one abstain. Carried
- 13-80 Information
Administrative/Board Reports
- Mrs. Belleau discussed with the Board the following:
- At the end of October the Kindergarten class collected over 1,000 items that were delivered to the food pantries in Heuvelton. The Kindergarten also collected for PJs for Christmas and \$317 was collected and donated.
 - On November 15th and 18th parent conferences were held. It was a great turnout in Elementary and the feedback received from parents that evening conferences were great and they appreciate that.
 - Holiday concerts Dec. 18th 5/6 @ 1:30 and K-4 Dec. 20th at 9 a.m.
 - High- five winners were Jolee Johnson, Meya Calkins, Cody Finley, Nathan Mashaw and Jed Crayford
 - K-4 Award ceremony tomorrow at 8:30 a.m.
- Mr. Johnson discussed with the Board the following:
- Thanked the Board for the opportunity and shared that it has been a great time working as 7-12 principal and that his last day will be on Friday and will be working with Mrs. Belleau for a smooth transition to PreK-6.
 - Thanked the Board for allowing having an early dismissal on Friday as well. Parent conferences were very well attended. Patti did an excellent job of putting together a schedule with parents.
 - Dec. 11th – 7-12 concert at 7 p.m.
- Mr. Durant shared that he didn't have much to comment on the health care consortium meeting he attended. He shared that they discussed the whole health care plan as to how it's going to look going into next year. Plan C is running 90-95-110-115% way over the revenue that is being generated to support that. There is a lot of concern for districts that don't have Plan C and we are subsidizing school districts that do have Plan C at the meeting he attended. No decisions were made but there was a lot of discussion. Mr. Durant also asked some questions concerning the workers compensation data and Mrs. Todd and Mr. Robinson will look into this.
- Mrs. Todd discussed with the Board the following:
- There will be a meet and greet with the new principal's prior to the 7-12 concert. PTA has offered to provide refreshments for this.
 - November 21st attending a conference in Albany to represent our region on the House of Delegates committee, will meet with the Commissioner for discussions about Common Core and assessments (State Ed has looked over the math & ELA assessments and they are trying to reduce the questions on them – not have them so lengthy)
 - Item for discussion looking into a homework policy, passed out the current policy that the BOE has in place, Mrs. Todd shared that she thought the process of getting used to the common core homework was one of the biggest issues, in recognizing that we have teachers with different expectations and philosophies it might be good to have a consistent philosophy with what homework should be. Shared this with the SDMC yesterday. They want to move forward with this. Mr. Durant expressed that he felt this is a wise way to go at it. Mr. Martin, Mrs. Backus & Mrs. McGaw would like to be on the sub-committee. Mr. Martin shared that the Good Homework policy article was a good read.
- Mrs. Todd and Mr. Davis shared that they attended the law briefing training this morning at BOCES. BOE Training Lake Placid – good refresher for Mike and eye-opener for Darcy & Michelle. Mr. Davis shared information received at the Area 6 NYSSBA Dinner in Malone – heard Bill Owens speak, had a long discussion on where we're at today with education, David Little was the main speaker, director of governmental affairs with the NYSSBA. Regent Dawson was there. Reminder of Regent Dawson dinner on Dec. 9th.
- Mr. Nichols shared a letter that he made revisions to the one Susan sent out that was drafted to NYSED. He stated that anything he had added is in yellow and that it was just for draft purposes. Mr. Nichols stated that he felt that it should be not only sent to commissioner but sent to all assembly people. Mr. Davis stated that prior to doing that he would like to see what Mrs. Todd brings back from her training/discussions with the Commissioner. Mr. Nichols expressed that he would like the district to look at our sound system in the auditorium and update it. Mrs. Todd stated that the district is looking into that with the next phase of the capital project.
- Carol Robert shared her concern of having a very large 2nd grade and thanked the Board for giving the support of Melinda Schiszler. She stated that she was made aware of the 2nd grade possibly rising to 53 2nd graders in the next of couple weeks. Ms. Robert shared their concern stating that they want to do all that they can to support and foster our 2nd graders with common core, social development, and physical development but there is not a lot of room for more desks. Ms. Robert asked that the Board keep in mind that it has been a big challenge to meet the needs of our students with the larger the numbers.
- 13-81 Public Forum

Mr. Martin asked about more modules being printed for teachers so that they can have multiple copies. How much do these

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cost? Mrs. Todd stated that they are available online.

Mrs. Wilson-Mashaw wanted to piggyback on what Ms. Robert just shared. She shared that she is really concerned about having 27 7&8 year olds in one classroom. Mrs. Wilson-Mashaw expressed her concern that they are going to get a little bit lost.

Ms. MacAbee shared that she read a study that came out at the beginning of this week that looked at the tests that our students have taken. They are beginning to see that they think the students have the knowledge but they don't understand the way the questions are worded. She stated that she didn't know if teachers had test vocabulary for tests.

Mrs. St. Pierre shared her concern regarding the 2nd grade and having 27 kids in the class especially for the bottom students that may not be receiving the support because there are too many students in one room.

To approve convening an Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing employment of a particular individual and for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law and appoint Susan Todd as Clerk Pro-Tem.

Moved: McGaw Seconded: Martin
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

13-82 Motion # 8
Convene Executive
Session

Respectfully Submitted



Tessa E. Herron
District Clerk

To approve ending Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.

Moved: Martin Seconded: Backus
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

13-83 Motion # 9
End Executive Session

To approve adjourning the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

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

13-84 Motion # 10
Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted



Susan E. Todd
Clerk Pro-Tem