

Call to Order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was done by Mr. Sutton.

Emergency Exit Review was done by Mr. Sutton.

Board of Members Present were Mrs. B. Foster, Mrs. L. Gormley, Mr. J. Helft, Mr. R. Mausert, Mr. D. Skott, Mr. D. Sutton and Mr. D. Wilwol.

Also present was Ms. P. Cottrell, District Clerk, Mr. K. Facin, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. P. Hatfield, School Business Admin and Mrs. K. Philpott, Director of Spec Ed.

Absent was Mr. P. Dailey, K-6 Principal and Mrs. S. Vadney, 7-12 Principal.

Board Presentations:

1. Senior Ball

- A presentation was done by seniors, Meaghan DiMaggio and Amanda Cavanaugh on having the Senior Ball at the Six Flags Great Escape Indoor Water Park in Lake George on March 27, 2010. They explained the chaperone ratio (1:6), evening schedule of events and transportation.

Mr. Facin stated that bags will be checked and that 2 chaperones will drive their own vehicles to Lake George so that if transportation is needed for emergency reasons, it will be available. He also stated that all students will be transported by school buses to and from the event for an additional safety precaution.

* A motion was made by Mr. Skott seconded by Mrs. Gormley to have the Senior Ball at the Six Flags Great Escape Indoor Water Park in Lake George on March 27, 2010.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

2. National Honor Society Chapter By-Laws

- A presentation on "Christmas Wish" was done by NHS members, Meghan McEachron, Peter Donahue, Meaghan DiMaggio and Amanda Cavanaugh. They explained what "Christmas Wish" did for the community and how the money raised was used. They hope to exceed last years amount of \$8,000.

- Mrs. Nielsen, Co-Advisor for NHS explained some changes to the NHS By-Laws as follows:

- Sophomores will no longer be eligible to be inducted, only juniors and seniors (Article II, section 3(a);

- GPA change, candidates must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 90 starting with the class of 2013 (Article II, section 3c);

Mr. Helft asked if the GPA was weighed and Mrs. Nielsen answered yes.

- Induction will be in the fall beginning in the fall of 2010 (2010-2011 school year).

There will be one last spring induction in 2010. (Article III, section 3)

- Ms. McGuire, Co-Advisor for NHS explained discipline changes in the NHS By-Laws as follows:

- Violations (Article IV, section 4). All NHS members and parents of those members must sign the Chapter By-Laws and the HFCS Extracurricular Code of Conduct; Mr. Helft asked if this carried over into the summer months.

Ms. McGuire answered yes as they are NHS members 12 months a year.

Mr. Facin commented that this is a prestigious organization and the members have high standards that they must meet.

- Dues for NHS members of \$10 per year (Article X, section 1).

- Ms. McGuire stated that these by-laws are firm for HFCS

- Mr. Facin stated that NHS now has new "matching" robes for the induction ceremonies

- Mr. Helft asked Ms. McGuire if the 90 average was cumulative

- Ms. McGuire answered yes, over-all GPA of 90

- Mrs. Gormley thanked everyone for very nice presentations.

3. Lacrosse Student Survey Results

- A presentation by Lisa Ferrannini, Eric Crawford and Mark Marquart explaining who would be involved, age levels and grade levels
 - Ms. Ferrannini would like to form a club team for this spring
 - Mr. Sutton asked the measurements of the field used for lacrosse
 - Mr. Crawford answered 60 x 100 yards
 - Mr. Facin stated that for fall sports, the district has 43% of the student population participating. In the spring participation rate drops dramatically. This would be an additional sport for students to join. We want 90% participation in some extracurricular activity for all seasons.
Have intramural money to use this year and next year would like to include in the budget for a modified league lacrosse team.
 - Mr. Helft stated that soccer plays are registered through CDYSL which insures these players. What were the plans for a lacrosse team regarding insurance?
 - Mr. Crawford replied that the US Lacrosse would insure players and organization.
 - Mr. Sutton thanked all involved in organizing this and caring for the students.

Public Comment Session: Started at 7:48 pm and Ended at 7:48 pm.

Board President's Report:

1. Drama Production: Rumors by Neil Simon Dates December 4, 5 and 6, 2009
2. Fall Athletic Team Results
 - Mr. Sutton acknowledged the Scholar Athlete Teams as follows:
 - Varsity Football
 - Varsity Field Hockey
 - Varsity Girls Soccer
 - Mr. Sutton announced the team results for Wassaren League and Section II standings
3. Mr. Sutton read the following quote by Theodore Roosevelt:
“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

Board Forum: This is an opportunity for Board Members to ask clarifying questions and discuss issues. - December 7, 2009 Workshop discussion

- Mr. Helft commented on the athletic teams, some disappointed that they were not “winning” champs. He stated that there is more to it than winning, but character and that building character is more important than winning.
- Mr. Wilwol asked about the December 7, 2009 workshop time
- Mr. Facin asked board members to come up with a time, 6:00 – 9:00 or 7:00 – 10:00. It was agreed to 6:00 – 9:00 on December 7th in the high school library.
- Mr. Facin stated that he would like to focus on reviewing the policies at this workshop and it

was agreed upon by board members. He asked that board members please review the policies that will be discussed at this meeting prior to the meeting date.

Approval of Minutes:

1. A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mr. Helft to approve the Minutes of October 15, 2009 Regular Meeting.
Mrs. Gormley had a correction to the minutes which were noted and will be corrected.
Vote: 6 ayes 0 nays 1 abstain (Mr. Sutton); motion carried.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Student Results:
 - K-12 Attendance (September- present)
 - District normally has an average of 95%-97% attendance rate
 - October dropped to 92% for grades 7-12
 - October dropped to 91.6% for grades K-6
 - both are due to the H1N1
 - now both levels are back to normal
 - Grades 7-12 1st Quarter Grades
 - December board meeting, we will acknowledge the following
 - Principal's List
 - Honor Roll
 - Scholar Athlete / Scholar Team
 - Drama Scholar
 - Grades K-6 1st Quarter grades
 - Grade 5, an over-all average of 83
 - Grade 6, an over-all average of 84
 - this needs to improve, increase expectations
 - more responsibility on the students and parents
 - the district needs to do whatever it could to get parents more involved. This might even include going to the parents homes to meet if necessary.
 - Elementary Open House had a good participation by parents
 - Grades 7 and 8 Open House had poor participation by parents
 - Mrs. Foster stated it was probably due to lack of communication with parents
2. Capital Project:
 - Finishing up on drainage in fields, bleachers, handicap bleachers, walkways. This will be completed by spring.
 - Tower will be coming down in a few days. The panther and the Ken Baker sign were saved.
3. School Safety
 - Fire drills are complete for the fall;
 - Will be having lockdown drills and will place an all-call to parents regarding such;
 - Structural Integrity test passed;
 - Fire inspection will occur in December;
 - Mr. Sutton asked if the faculty is notified prior to lockdown drills
 - Mr. Facin answered no. He also stated that we will bring in drug dogs during lockdown drills.
 - Great improvement in school safety;
 - Employees now have their "swipe cards" for entrance into the school building;
 - Student asked what should they do during a lockdown if they are in the "Senior Area";
 - Mr. Facin stated that a teacher will come and take you to a classroom.

School Business Administrator's Report:

1. Senior Citizen and Disabled School tax exemption
 - based on gross income and must be a resident of the property applying for exemption
 - must be 65 years of age or older to qualify and you go through the town assessor

- district needs to approve a level
- Mr. Helft asked if the application must be done yearly?
- Mrs. Hatfield answered yes as it is based on your yearly gross income.

2. Cafeteria Report

- Under new leadership;
- Changes in food choices and students like it
- Still self-funded

Administrator's Report:

- **Special Education:**
- **K-6 Elementary School:** (Mr. Dailey absent, attending "Rachel's Challenge")
 - Mr. Helft asked if only one writing program?
 - Mr. Facin answered yes, only one writing program currently.
 - Mr. Skott commented on the electronic report cards, long journey.
 - Mr. Facin stated that previously, elementary did not have electronic grade reporting. Teachers in each grade designed their report cards
 - Mr. Skott stated that he likes oral presentations by administrators when possible
 - Mr. Sutton likes receiving their report in the board packet
- **7-12 Secondary School:** (Mrs. Vadney absent, attending "Rachel's Challenge")

Committees:

- a. Negotiations: D. Sutton, Chair; J. Helft, D. Skott
- b. Facilities: D. Sutton, Chair; D. Wilwol, D. Skott
 - Thurs, Nov. 23 @ 6:00 pm
- c. Academic Standards: J. Helft, Chair, L. Gormley, D. Wilwol
 - Wed, Dec. 9 @ 4:00 pm

PTA: Dec. 1 @ 6:30 pm

- Mrs. Gormley:
 - Fall Festival had over 400 attendees with 30 volunteers and students
 - Fall fundraiser is winding up
 - School Spirit – students voted on the design

HFTA Report: Judy Woodard - None

Old Board Actions: None

Board Correspondence: None

New Board Actions:

A. Leaves / Resignations: None

B. Appointments:

1. A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Helft to approve the Appointment of Tenure to Martha vonSchilgen, Teacher of School Media Specialist, in the Tenure area of School Media Specialist, effective November 27, 2009.
Mr. Facin highly recommended Ms. vonSchilgen to receive tenure. He further explained that this position was previously abolished due to budget cuts in June 2002 and recalled in November 2007.
Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

The use of a consent agenda permits the Board of Education to make more effective use of its time by adopting a single motion to cover those relatively routine matters which are included. Any member of the Board who wishes to discuss a particular piece of business on the consent agenda may request that item to be transferred to the regular agenda for consideration and a separate vote.

- A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mrs. Gormley to accept by Consent Vote the following Appointments on Items 2-9:

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

2. to approve the following Volunteer for the 2009-2010 school year:
 - Melissa Reynolds
 - Charles Krawczyk
 - Richard Cooney
 3. to approve the appointment of Nicole Brundige as a substitute Food Service Helper, effective October 16, 2009, at a rate established by the Hoosick Falls Support Staff Contract, on an emergency conditional status upon completion of a fingerprint test and a background check;
 4. to approve the appointment of Molly LaBonte as a Food Service Helper for 3.75 hrs/day, effective September 8, 2009, at a rate established by the Hoosick Falls Support Staff Contract., Ms. LaBonte has been cleared by NYSED;
 5. to approve the addition in assignment for Diane Hunter from 7.25 hrs/day bus attendance, to 7.25 hrs/day bus attendant to 7.25 hrs/day bus attendant and .75 hrs/day teacher aide, effective October 19, 2009. Mrs. Hunter will be paid on Step 12 for both assignments;
 6. to approve the additional appointments as follows:

| | | |
|---|----------------|------------|
| <u>Academic Assistance Gr. 5 & 6</u> (per MOA 1/200 th of salary per hour) | | |
| Grade 5 | Jenny O'Connor | \$38.80/hr |
| <u>Morning AIS K-6</u> (per MOA 1/200 th of salary per hour) | | |
| ELA K-6 | Jenn Barron | \$35.10/hr |
| <u>Mentors</u> (per MOA rate of \$1,300) | | |
| Erin Jarosz | | |
 7. to approve the appointment of Sarah Roy as a NYS Certified Substitute Teacher at a rate of \$85 a day effective October 13, 2009. Ms. Roy has been cleared by NYSED;
 8. to approve the appointment of Amanda Webber as a Non-Certified Substitute Teacher with a BA degree at a rate of \$70 per day effective October 13, 2009, on an emergency conditional status upon completion of a fingerprint test and a background check;
 9. to approve the appointment of Sharon Rogers as a Non-Certified Substitute Teacher with a BA degree at a rate of \$70 per day effective October 13, 2009, on an emergency conditional status upon completion of a fingerprint test and a background check.
- Mr. Helft asked why a volunteer (Richard Cooney) who had never attended HFCS or lived in the district would want to volunteer at our school. Mr. Wilwol explained that he was a friend of one of our coaches.

C. Miscellaneous: None

CSE Recommendations:

A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mrs. Gormley to have the Board of Education approve the appropriate special education programs and services to be provided to students with disabilities as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

Subsequent Meeting Dates:

- The Board of Education will hold a Policy Workshop on December 7, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the

high school library;

- The Board of Education will hold its Regular Meeting on December 17, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the high school cafeteria.

2nd Public Comment Session: Started at 8:54 pm and Ended at 9:00 pm.

- Mrs. Philpott commented on the “Rachel’s Challenge” assembly today. She believes it had an impact on students. Today several students who had previously eaten lunch alone now had other students sitting with them.

Board Forum: This is an opportunity for Board members to ask clarifying questions.

- Mr. Helft stated that at the December board meeting when we acknowledge students, he would like better attendance by both students and their parents. We would like to see a full house that evening.
- Mr. Helft commented on the elementary newsletter on the “Reading Counts” article. Reading does count. Also commented that all the newspapers published were wonderful and very well written.
- Mr. Skott asked about students making up gym class when going to band lessons.
- Mr. Facin answered that percentage of grade is based on participation. He will review this.

Executive Session: A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mr. Helft to go into Executive Session at 9:04 pm for reason to discuss contract negotiations with the School Support Staff.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

There will be no board actions following this executive session.

A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mr. Wilwol to return to Regular Session at 10:35 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Sutton to Adjourn the meeting at 10:36 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

Pamela Cottrell, District Clerk