

Call to Order at 7:05 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was done by Mr. Helft, Vice President.

Emergency Exit Review was done by Mr. Helft, Vice President.

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

Board Member Absent was Mr. D. Sutton. Also absent was Mrs. S. Vadney, 7-12 Principal. Also present was Ms. P. Cottrell, District Clerk, Mr. K. Facin, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. P. Hatfield, School Business Admin, Mrs. K. Philpott, Director of Spec Ed, and Mr. P. Dailey, K-6 Principal.

Board Presentations:

1. School Store (Paw Mart): Presenter was Michael McGraw, Business Teacher
 - Paw Mart students showed a power-point on the "Paw Mart Store"
 - Mr. Helft asked what would be done with the profits from the store?
 - Mr. McGraw commented that the business class would like to go to NYC and Wall Street
 - a student asked if grade 3 and 4 would be able to use the store and Mr. McGraw answered yes
 - Mr. Facin stated that the students will be joining the Future Business Leaders of America and will be able to send members to local and state meetings.
2. Principal's List: Presenters were Mr. Facin and John Helft.
 - Mr. Facin explained that this list is for students who obtained a 95 or higher average
3. Drama Scholar: Presenters were John Helft and Rob Allen
 - Mr. Facin explained that this list is for students who obtained a 90 or higher average
4. Scholar Athlete: Presenters were John Helft and Mike Lilac
 - Mr. Facin explained that this list is for students who obtained a 90 or higher average
5. Scholar Teams: Presenters were John Helft and Mike Lilac
 - Mr. Facin explained that this list is for the team members who obtained an accumulative average of 85 or higher and participate in a varsity sport.

Public Comment Session: Started at 7:54 pm and Ended at 7:54 pm

- none

Board President's Report by John Helft, Vice President:

1. Importance of Academic Recognition
 - this is what we are all about and we support that
 - we will continue to support the teachers, students and families
 - Academics is critical in life
2. Statement by Commissioner of New York State
 - importance of expectations of excellence
 - provide the best for our students
 - Regents Exams in the past lowering bars, new regents will reflect critical thinking.

Board Forum: This is an opportunity for Board Members to ask clarifying questions and discuss issues.

- December 29, 2009 @ 6:00 pm Policy Meeting
- Mrs. Gormley asked if there was any feedback on her forms regarding the December 29th Policy meeting
- Mr. Facin stated that Mr. Mausert had emailed he and Mrs. Gormley his suggestions
- Mr. Mausert asked if there could be a laptop at the meeting to insert recommended changes

- Mr. Wilwol stated that Mrs. Gormley's forms were helpful, but there is a lot of reading
- Mrs. Gormley stated that this is one of three sets of policies to review

Approval of Minutes:

1. A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mrs. Gormley to approve the Minutes of November 23, 2009 Regular Meeting. (Nov. 19, 2009 canc'd)
Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Student Results
 - K-12 Attendance (September- present)
 - Mr. Facin reported that K-11, attendance was 94-95%
 - Grade 12 was at 92%, students are attending college visits
 - attendance has rebounded since October.
2. Grade Level & Department Coordinator student result work, Commissioners Press Release
 - we need to do better work at school
 - now have grade level and department coordinators to evaluate student assessments
 - Grade 5 – NYS Social Studies assessment test, did very well
 - NYS goal of 90% has been met
 - Mastery % goal is 2-%, 1;5
3. Art and Music Departments:
 - Art work and ceramics are displayed throughout the school
4. Drama Production
 - "Rumors" was outstanding
5. Concerts – Choral & Band
 - Concerts were magnificent
 - "Music for the Holidays" being broadcasted by WMHT-TV
 - Choral went to Albany for the tree lighting
 - Choral going to Orlando to perform
6. Governor Patterson's state aid cutbacks
 - 10% state aid deferment effective December 15, 2009
 - this is across the board, the same for everyone, no matter what your school budget is
 - NYSTA and NYSSBA have filed suit against the Governor for this deferment
 - \$83,543 is the district's 10% reduction in state aid with a \$21 million budget
 - Hoosick Falls has the same reduction as Niskayuna (budget of \$74.5) and Queensbury (budget of \$58 million)
 - this is an inequitable , unilateral decision
 - district will tighten our budget
 - this will not impact our students and faculty this year
 - will continue to keep all informed with any additional changes

School Business Administrator's Report:

1. Budget Calendar
 - a motion on agenda for board approval
 - May 18, 2010 will be the budget vote for the 2010-2011 school year
 - this is to help the board and public better understand the budget
2. Benetech 403(b) Benefit Plan Amendment
 - new law by IRS, open to all employees
3. Senior Citizen & Disability Income Exemption
 - this will make more residents be able to qualify

- \$15,000 – 50% exemption
- \$23,400 – 5% exemption
- Rensselaer County has \$29,000 – 15% exemption
- Rensselaer County has \$37,400 – 5% exemption
- will have a Public Hearing regarding this issue, will have in newspapers, will be on the January agenda for approval
- it is my recommendation that we do this as it will be more equitable and help those who need it
- Mrs. Gormley stated go with Rensselaer County across the board
- Mr. Facin offer to the public with the Board of Education present
- Mr. Helft asked if this \$29,000-\$37,400 was adjusted gross taxable income?
- Mrs. Hatfield answered that she advises residents to go to the town assessor for any questions they may have to see if they qualify
- Mr. Wilwol asked if this would impact the budget and have a tax increase
- Mr. Facin answered that the tax levy percentage goes up, STAR ceiling goes up, state contributes less, this will put a burden on taxpayers
- Mrs. Gormley asked if this was for next fall 2010 collection and the date for the hearing
- Mrs. Hatfield answered yes for fall 2010 collection and this will be reviewed with school attorney

* A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Mausert to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed Senior Citizen & Disability Income Exemption.

Vote: 6 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

4. Property Tax Refund by Washington County
 - a motion on agenda for a property tax refund to Merton Cross, Jr. as his STAR exemption was not on his tax bill
5. Bleacher and Press Box
 - a motion on agenda as RFP's were opened on December 11, 2009

Administrator's Report:

- Special Education: absent
- K-6 Elementary School: absent
- 7-12 Secondary School: absent

Mr. Helft asked what support Special Education was receiving from NYS

Mr. Facin answered that the performance on state assessments were low and that special education students were with regular education students, we are doing much better and since we were low NYS gives us assistance free of charge.

Committees:

- a. Negotiations: D. Sutton, Chair; J. Helft, D. Skott
- b. Facilities: D. Sutton, Chair; D. Wilwol, D. Skott
 - Thurs, Dec. 17 @ 6:00 pm
 - Mr. Facin reported:
 - meeting tonight and reviewed punch list items; bleacher pad is in and old tower is down; fire inspection was done December 10 and went well; field drainage work; bond counsel okay to replace school sign; security entrance, ID/ swipe card access; elementary entrance to be the same as high school
 - punch list to be completed before final payment can be made
- c. Academic Standards: J. Helft, Chair; L. Gormley, D. Wilwol
 - Wed, Jan. 13 @ 4:00 pm
- d. Audit Committee: L. Gormley, Chair; D. Sutton, J. Helft

e. Policy Committee: L. Gormley, Chair; B. Foster, R. Mausert

- Mrs. Gormley reported that this meeting on December 29 is very important of the board and will move forward, once complete, the policies will be on the website for the public to view

PTA: Jan. 5 @ 6:30 pm

1. Programs and fundraisers
2. Assisted Life Skills students to attend a trip to NYC Radio City Music Hall
3. Membership: If you have not already done so, please do so

HFTA Report: None

Old Board Actions: None

Board Correspondence: None

New Board Actions I:

A. Leaves / Resignations:

1. A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mrs. Gormley to accept the Resignation of Terresa Couch as Assistant Transportation Supervisor, effective December 31, 2009. Mrs. Couch will remain as a school bus driver.
Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

B. Appointments:

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 Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Wilwol to accept by Consent Vote the following Appointments on Items 1-2:
Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.
1. to approve the following Volunteer for the 2009-2010 school year:
 - Robert Pine
 - Gregory Fox
 - Cala Colvin
 - Gina Ellis
 2. to approve the Appointment of Daniel Williams as a Substitute Bus Driver effective December 8, 2009 at an hourly rate established by the Hoosick Falls Support Staff Contract, on an emergency conditional status, upon completion of a fingerprint test and background check.

C. Miscellaneous:

1. A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mrs. Foster to accept the donation of a piano, estimated value of \$1,500 from Amanda Haar and family.
Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mrs. Foster to approve the 2010-2011 Budget Development Calendar.
Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.
3. A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Mausert to approve the Resolution to Amend the Hoosick Falls Central School District 403(b) Retirement Plan. This amendment

will change the eligibility so all employees may participate in the 403(b) plan which will bring the District's plan into compliance with IRS guidelines. There is no additional cost to the District for this action.

Vote: 6 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

4. A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mrs. Foster to approve the tax refund as authorized by the Washington County Real Property Tax Services:

- Merton J. Cross, Jr., Town of White Creek \$682.83

Vote: 6 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

CSE Recommendations:

A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Wilwol 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: 6 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

Subsequent Meeting Dates:

- The Board of Education will hold a Policy Meeting on December 29, 2009 @ 6:00 PM in the District Office.
- The Board of Education will hold its Regular Meeting on January 21, 2010 @ 7:00 PM in the high school library.

2nd Public Comment Session: Started at 8:46 pm and Ended at 8:46 pm

- none

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

- Mr. Helft congratulated the 5th grade students and Mrs. Grogan for a job well done.
- Mrs. Foster stated as a parent, it was difficult for her daughter, but doing DBQs helped tremendously.
- Mr. Facin stated that this was indeed a good reflection on the help of the parents of the 5th grade students.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Wilwol to go into Executive Session for reason to discuss negotiations and personnel issues at 8:54 pm.

Vote: 6 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

There will be a motion following the return to Regular Session.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Wilwol to return to Regular Session at 9:50 pm.

Vote: 6 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

- A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Mausert to accept the following Resolution:

At a meeting of the Board of Education of the Hoosick Falls Central School District conducted in Executive Session on December 17, 2009 it was, RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hoosick Falls Central School District possesses a strong interest in protecting the children under its care and in order to safeguard the health of children attending the Hoosick Falls Central School District, the Board of Education is requiring employee XXXX to submit to a psychiatric examination in order to determine his/her mental capacity to perform

his/her duties as a teacher at the Hoosick Falls Central School District, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that employee XXXX is to be examined by Stephen D. Kronick, M.D., Pine Bush Mental Health, 1A Pine West Plaza, Albany, New York 12205, at a date and time to be selected by Dr. Kronick, and it is further,

RESOLVED, that pending the completion of the psychiatric examination and receipt of any documentation pertaining to the aforesaid examination, Employee XXXX is suspended with pay from his/her teaching duties at the Hoosick Falls Central School

Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

New Board Actions II:

Appointments:

3. A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Skott to approve the Appointment of Kelly Rossley as a NYS Certified Long-Term Substitute Teacher at a BA Step-1 salary of \$35,047 pro-rated to \$175.24 per day effective December 14, 2009. Ms. Rossley has been cleared by NYSED.

Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

Miscellaneous:

5. A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mrs. Gormley to accept the lowest bid for Bleachers and Press Box from Dant Clayton Corp., in the amount of \$145,350, as part of the construction project. Bids were opened on December 11, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.

Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mrs. Gormley to Adjourn the meeting at 9:58 pm.

Vote: 6 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

Pamela Cottrell, District Clerk