

**GLENS FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

MINUTES

**Monday, October 20, 2014
District Office - 15 Quade Street - 7:00 p.m.**

- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Poulos – President, Mr. Conrick – Vice-President, Mrs. Berger, Mr. Deason, Mrs. Kunst, Mr. McTiernan, Mrs. Spector-Tougas
- BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Maurer
- ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Paul Jenkins – Superintendent, Trent Clay, Debbie Hall, Jennifer Hayes, Carrie Mauro, Christopher Reed, Barbara Sealy, Mark Stratton
- STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Skye Heritage, Paul Streicher, Andrea Winter-Barclay, Betty Brown, Jason Brechko, Brandon Lis, Peter Taylor
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jaime Wright, Schuyler Williams, Scott Williams, John Fair, Gordon Woodworth, Debra Stockdale, Pete Casertino, Allison Casertino, Christopher Harrington, Margaret Sawyer

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Poulos, President, at 7:00 p.m.

1. MINUTES:

It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2014 Regular Board of Education Meeting, and the October 8, 2014 Special Board of Education Meeting.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

2. INFORMATION:

2.1 Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Wednesday, November 5 | Public Relations Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Athletic Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m. |
| Friday, November 7 | Emergency Release Day – Students dismissed 15 minutes early |
| Monday, November 10 | Superintendent’s Conference Day
Curriculum Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Regular Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, November 11 | Veterans’ Day – No School |
| Wednesday, December 3 | Policy Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m. |

2.2 Superintendent’s Report:

- A special report will be given tonight by Schuyler Williams for his Eagle Scout Project.
- Our Board of Education Retreat is Thursday, October 23rd at the District Office.
- Mr. Jenkins and Board of Education Members will be attending the 95th Annual NYS School Boards Association Convention in New York City next week.
- Kerr Gooden has been accepted as a Soprano 1 to the National Association of Music Education’s All-National Honor choir. She will be traveling to Nashville, TN to rehearse with top vocal and instrumental high school musicians from across the country. Good luck and Congratulations!

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

John Fair asked the Board for a few extra minutes to speak. He handed out the information to Board Members that aired on NBC News regarding artificial turf fields. Mr. Fair was on the original committee investigating the feasibility of a turf field at Glens Falls, and said that many studies were done. He explained to the Board that everything he has brought to the School Board's attention is in the report. Mr. Fair said that it is about the kids, and kids should not be exposed to the chemicals in the field. He said that he asked the School Board for the MSDS sheet last April to see what they sprayed on the field to fight MRSA...but still has not received the information. His second issue was the lights. He said that all he heard while on the committee was whining about playing football games at night. The coaches and Athletic Director did not want to play night games because of all the problems with fighting, and wanted Saturday afternoon games....so why do the Grandstanders rent lights every year for football games? If the Grandstanders have that much money to throw away, give it to the kids for scholarships. Mr. Fair said the district needs to get the turf tested. He said he brought up at a committee meeting that he wanted an 8 ounce sample of the field tested. Mr. Fair said that he offered to pay to have it done but the district never had it tested. He said the district should set up a committee of experts, not just coaches to find out what we have first, and then go in and fix the problem. He said that it's not rocket science...engineering firms do this all the time. Mr. Fair said that not one person on the School Board has ever called and asked him to get a cup of coffee and look at the studies. He said he wanted it written and sent to him on how the School Board is going to address these problems.

Deb Stockdale introduced herself and made the following statement. "In order to help explain her position this evening, she wanted to present the Board with a scenario. She said she believed that all the school board members are parents, so she wanted them to imagine that their child has broken the law. You find out that your child has broken the law and ask him/her about it. Your child says "Other people are doing it." Is that excuse acceptable to you? Then your child says "I've been doing it for years and haven't been caught, so why should I worry?" Would that answer be acceptable? Lastly, your child exclaims, "I don't like the law, so I shouldn't have to follow it." These same excuses are what I've heard for years at Board of Education meetings in regard to the district's continues practice of exceeding the state mandated fund balance limit of 4% of the budget. I know there are several people new to the School Board, and you may or may not be aware of the budget history of the district. I have been attending Finance Committee meetings for the last five years, and have prepared a spreadsheet that I believe sows a disturbing pattern. You may feel that a recitation of numbers is dry and tedious; however the district makes important decisions based on these numbers, so I think they are worth your attention. My figures come directly from the district's financial statements.

2008 - 2009, the District over- budgeted by \$2.5 million. The undesignated fund balance was 9.83% of the budget which is more than double the state limit. The District said they were using \$1.7 million from the fund balance to balance the budget but used \$0.

2009 - 2010, the District over- budgeted by \$2.6 million. The undesignated fund balance was 10.41% of the budget which is double the state limit. The District said they were using \$1.7 million from the fund balance to balance the budget but used \$0.

2010 - 2011, the District over- budgeted by \$2.3 million. The undesignated fund balance was 11.92% of the budget which is triple the state limit. The District said they were using \$2.3 million from the fund balance but actually used \$82,000.

2011 - 2012, the District over- budgeted by \$2.1 million. The undesignated fund balance was 11.14% of the budget which is triple the state limit. The District said they were using \$2.6 million from the fund balance but actually used \$0.

2012 - 2013, the District over- budgeted by \$1.9 million. The undesignated fund balance was 6.79% of the budget which is one and a half the state limit. The District said they were using \$3.3 million from the fund balance but actually used \$713,000.

2013 - 2014, the undesignated fund balance was 7.98% of the budget, which is double the state limit. The District said they were using \$1.75 million from the fund balance but used \$600,000.

In reviewing the data, I believe that the district has shown a pattern of over- budgeting its expenses,

disregarding its auditor's warnings and existing NYS law regarding the mandated 4% fund balance, and allocating the same \$1.2 million of fund balance to balance the budget year after year. When the district allocates fund balance toward expenses, then doesn't use it, it goes right back to the fund balance, to then be allocated again the following year. As you begin preparing the 2015-2016 budget, please keep these facts and figures in mind. As you contemplate how to continue current staffing levels and programs, while dealing with the Gap Elimination Adjustment and rising health insurance and pension costs, please remember that things may not be quite as dire as they appear. For the last year alone, the district over-budgeted by \$1.2 million. What staff and/or electives could the district have kept with \$1.2 million? I am urging you to please critically and carefully review all the financial information you are provided. Please attend every Audit and Finance Committee Meeting and ask questions. Thank you for listening".

Andrea Winter-Barclay – I am requesting approval for a field trip, which is listed as 5.19 on the agenda. If you have any questions or concerns I am here to answer them. Thank you.

4. **REPORTS:**

- Big Cross PTA – Jaime Wright reported they are off to a fantastic start! The PTA has many new memberships this year. The first PTA meeting was held on October 6th. Open House was a huge success. Walking Wednesday begins on October 8th, and all locations are covered by parents and teachers. The Harvest Dance is quickly approaching. The dance will have crafts, a raffle, a Haunted House and a photo booth. Currently all classes are working on their art work for Original Works.
- High School Student Council – Allison Casertino reported they are off to a great start. The officers planned and participated in freshman orientation and the homecoming games. Homecoming week went well. They had different events and games during the week, as well as a float parade at the Jug Game. Approximately 250 students attended the homecoming dance. Some upcoming events are a food drive and a faculty basketball game.
- Personnel Committee – Dr. Poulos reported the Personnel Committee met on October 8th and discussed the process of hiring a Food Service Manager.
- Curriculum Committee – Dr. Poulos reported the Curriculum Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Trent Clay gave a school performance presentation which is attached to these minutes.
- Technology Committee – Mr. Jenkins reported the Technology Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Streicher gave a presentation which is attached to these minutes.
- Schuyler Williams gave a presentation on his Eagle Scout Project. He constructed a beautiful welcome sign and donated it to Jackson Heights Elementary School. Schuyler completed the extensive project over the summer, as part of his efforts to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. The sign features a large brick base with a back-lit display board for school announcements. The base includes soil for flowers and plants. Schulyer's presentation can be found at www.gfsd.org.

Mr. Jenkins thanked Schuyler for all his hard work. He also thanked Big Cross for giving the sign to Jackson Heights.

Mrs. Mauro wanted to thank Schuyler publicly for his hard work. She said "we get at least one compliment a day on the sign....it's wonderful."

5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

- 5.1 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mrs. Kunst, to **arrange for appropriate special education programs and services as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.**

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (A copy of the recommendations is included with these minutes).

- 5.1a. It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mrs. Kunst, **to approve additions to the CSE/CPSE Recommendations**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.2 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve Warrant 3A, 3B, 3C, and the Internal Claims Auditor's Report**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.3 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve Discarding Library Books at Jackson Heights Elementary School**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.4 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mrs. Kunst, **to approve Discarding Discovering French 3 Rouge, and Discovering French Blanc 2 Textbooks and Workbooks**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.5 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve Discarding Non-Repairable Computer Equipment**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (attached).
- 5.6 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the Agreement with Olympia Avignone, MA, CCC-SLP for PROMPT Consultation Services from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.7 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mrs. Berger, **to approve Discarding the Celebrate Reading Series K-5**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.8 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the Advanced Art Field Trip to Boston, MA on Friday, November 14, 2014**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).

Mrs. Berger commented on how beautifully the information for the field trip was put together, and how the activities planned were clearly connected to the standards.
- 5.9 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the 8th Grade Field Trip to Boston, MA on June 19, 2015**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.10 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve a Budget Transfer**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.11 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mrs. Berger, **to approve the JV and Varsity Volleyball Team Trip to St. John's University on Saturday, November 15, 2014**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.12 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mrs. Kunst, **to approve the Senior Class Trip to Camp Chingachgook from Saturday, November 8, 2014 – Sunday, November 9, 2014**. The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.13 **Tabled**
- 5.14 **Tabled**
- 5.15 **Tabled**

5.16 Tabled

5.17 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the Resolution Regarding Advocacy Priorities for the 2014 – 2015 School Year.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).

5.18 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the Counseling Office Field Trip to SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Cobleskill on Wednesday, October 22, 2014.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).

5.19 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mrs. Kunst, **to approve the Honors Psychology Field Trip to Syracuse University on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).

6. PERSONNEL:

6.1 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve Rescinding the following Professional Leave of Absence:**
Nastke, Nichole, Math Teacher, Effective September 10, 2014 – January 5, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

6.2 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Professional Leave of Absence:**
Nastke, Nichole, Math Teacher, Effective October 14, 2014 – January 5, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

6.3 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to accept the following Non-Teaching Resignations:**
Brown, Cindy, Teacher Aide, Effective September 9, 2014
Vaughan, Cynthia, Teacher Aide, Effective October 3, 2014

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

6.4 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to accept the following Non-Teaching Retirement:**
Tvede, Connie, Clerk, Effective April 2, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

6.5 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mrs. Berger, **to approve the following Non-Teaching Appointment:**
Beames, Paula, 6.0 Hour Aide, Kensington, Salary; \$11,943.60, Effective October 8, 2014

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

6.6 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the following Non-Teaching Change in Assignment:**
Loabe, Rebecca, from 4.0 Hour Aide at the High School to 5.50 Hour Aide at Kensington, Salary; \$11,263.73, Effective October 14, 2014 (First on the call-back list)

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.7 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mrs. Berger, **to approve rescinding the following Per Diem Coaching Appointment:**
Girard, Dan, Varsity Football, Effective September 23, 2014

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.8 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mrs. Berger, **to approve the following Per Diem Coaching Appointment:**
Girard, Greg, Varsity Football, \$53.80 per day, not to exceed \$1,883

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.9 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mrs. Kunst, **to approve the following Coaching Appointment (2014-2015):**
Murphy, Pat Modified Cross-Country D-4 \$3,538

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.10 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Sixth Class Appointment:**
Reed, Meredith, Music Teacher, \$1,558.59, Effective September 22, 2014

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.11 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Volunteer Coach (2014-2015):**
Homkey, John, Modified Boys Basketball

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.12 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mrs. Berger, **to approve rescinding the following Middle School Team Advisors:**
Moynihan, Mike, Mohican, Effective September 15, 2014 (Shared Position)
Manning, Rob, Mohican, Effective September 15, 2014 (Shared Position)

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.13 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mrs. Berger, **to approve the following Middle School Team Advisor (2014-2015):**
VanVleet, Martha, Mohican, Effective September 16, 2014

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.14 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Middle School Club/Activity Advisors (2014-2015):**
Packer, Elizabeth 6th Grade Homework Club
Williams, Mary 7th Grade Homework Club
Spellburg, Jessica 8th Grade Homework Club

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.15 It was moved by Mrs. Kunst, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following High School Club/Activity Advisors (2014-2015):**
Aleva, Michelle Hi-Y – Shared Position

Strader, Elizabeth Hi-Y – Shared Position
Collins, Elizabeth Hi-Y – Shared Position

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

6.16 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the following Professional Change in Assignments:**

Arney, Katie, from ELA Department Chair (Grades 9-12) to ELA Department Chair (Grades 7-12), Additional Stipend of \$1,314.00; Effective October 1, 2014

Cote, Robert, from Math Department Chair (Grades 9-12) to Math Department Chair (Grades 7-12), Additional Stipend of \$1,314.00; Effective October 1, 2014

Dock, Jeff, from Social Studies Department Chair (Grades 9-12) to Social Studies Department Chair (Grades 7-12), Additional Stipend of \$1,314.00; Effective October 1, 2014

Dempsey, Dennis, From Science Department Chair (Grades 9-12) to Science Department Chair (Grades 7-12), Additional Stipend of \$1,314.00; Effective October 1, 2014

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

8. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

9. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:25 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to adjourn to executive session to discuss Contracts and Personnel.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

Executive Session ended at 8:20 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to come out of executive session.**

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:21 p.m., there being no further business, it was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to adjourn the meeting.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

Amy Towers
 Clerk, Board of Education