

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

MINUTES

**Monday, December 8, 2014
District Office - 15 Quade Street - 7:00 p.m.**

- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Poulos – President, Mr. Conrick – Vice-President, Mrs. Burton, Mr. Deason, Mrs. Kunst, Mr. McTiernan, Mrs. Spector-Tougas
- BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mrs. Berger, Mrs. Maurer
- ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Paul Jenkins – Superintendent, Trent Clay, Debbie Hall, Jennifer Hayes, Christopher Reed, Barbara Sealy, Paul Streicher, Christopher Hearley, Carrie Mauro, Elizabeth Collins
- STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joanne Truchon, Brandon Lis, Skye Heritage, Joy Muller-McCoola
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chris Reed, Jr., Heather Shoudy Brechko, Kristie Center, Amy Stevens, Allison Casertino, Kelly Culliton, Nick Paigo, Dan Rice, Margaret Sawyer, John Barclay, Pat Gormely

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

1. **MINUTES:**
It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2014 Regular Board of Education Meeting.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)
2. **INFORMATION:**
 - 2.1 **Calendar of Events**

Tuesday, December 9	Middle School Instrumental Holiday Concert – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 17	Middle School Vocal Holiday Concert – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 18	High School Holiday Concert – 7:00 p.m.
December 22 – January 2	Holiday Recess – School Closed
Wednesday, January 7	Personnel Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
	Technology Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Monday, January 12	Curriculum Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
	Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
 - 2.2 **Superintendent's Report:**
 - The district received an award of Merit in Educational Communication from NYSPRA (New York State Public Relations Association) for the PR/Marketing Campaign on Stand Up for Upstate last year. Congratulations to Skye Heritage for all of her hard work.
 - Our next campaign for this year will be to end the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). We are even more organized with more districts on board this year. The District will be starting a letter writing campaign, and we also have a forum scheduled for January 22nd at Saratoga High School. We are hoping for a large group from Glens Falls to attend, so please get the word out to everyone you know and ask them to come. We will post information on our website and get information out to our PTA's, faculty, and staff.
 - Our District wide goal setting process is underway. The administrators are creating building level teams and will lead each team through the SMART goal process. Our PTA's will also go through the process at their January meetings. We will have our administrators and either

Skye Heritage or myself available to facilitate the process for our PTA's. Once all of that is done, a representative from each committee will report back to the BOE on the goals that were developed. The next step in the process will be for the BOE to develop District goals based on the information presented by each group.

- Technology updates – we are still waiting to get the full details on the Smart Schools Bond Act from the Governor's office. Once those details are released, we will develop the necessary technology plan for the grant. That plan will need to be approved prior to the District accessing any of the funding.
- We have some holiday concerts both this week and next week. A financial aid night is planned for this week at the High School.
- If anyone would like to help out with bell ringing for the Salvation Army, they are in need of volunteers. Please let me know and I can give you the contact information.
- Mike Borgos – GF Nation Fund report - We have been successful in spreading the word about our organization and have raised initial funds through the sale of the GF Indians jerseys, 50/50 raffles at two Flames games and some early donations from the community. Our current account balance is \$2,159.00. We are currently drafting the application form and guidelines for how the funds will be awarded, and expect that to be in place and available on our website by the end of the first quarter in 2015.
- On Friday, Skye Heritage, Mark Stratton, Liz Collins and I will be presenting at SUNY New Paltz on the later start time process.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Heather Shoudy Brechko spoke to the Board regarding her daughter at Jackson Heights having 25 students in her kindergarten class. She said she has lived in Glens Falls for quite a while, and has watched the kindergarten class sizes creep up. She said she understands that every kindergarten class in the district has at least 24 students in each classroom. She asked the Board to consider keeping class sizes at 20 students in grades Kindergarten through third grade. During the elementary school closing discussions, she said it was indicated the district would keep class sizes in the low twenties, but ideally it should be eighteen students. She asked the district to consider adding another kindergarten teacher at each building, as well as a full-time aide in each kindergarten classroom. She said the research shows that having a class size between fifteen and eighteen students has a positive impact on student learning, and that the district has the money left over from the undesignated fund balance... which is at least \$1.5 million.

Mr. Jenkins: Thank you. We did receive Jason's email, and I have discussed the information with the administrators.

- Amy Stevens said she is a 1994 graduate of Glens Falls High School, and took every art class she could fit into her schedule. She went on to major in graphic design in college, and worked for a publishing company in NYC right after graduation for four years, and then moved back to Glens Falls and worked as a graphic designer at the Hyde Collection, an Art Director at Trampoline Design, and has been the Creative Director at SUNY Adirondack for the last two years. She has two children in Kindergarten and 2nd grade at Jackson Heights. She said the arts are an important part of the curriculum at all levels of schooling, and if it wasn't for Tom Geyer and Sue Botch, she would not have any idea what kind of job she would be doing today. Mrs. Stevens said she was aware that some Middle School children are without art in their curriculum due to the enrollment/budget issue, and hoped this is not a trend we will be seeing in the future. She asked what the possibility of using the undesignated fund balance to add back more art classes to meet the state mandated art requirements that some of our middle school children are lacking. She said she moved back to Glens Falls to raise her children with the same opportunities that she was given. While declining enrollment is unfortunately a reality, it would seem prudent for the district to be proactive in still providing a quality education across the board and offering electives like art that are in the best interest of students. We need to find a solution as the ratios of students to teachers fluctuate. She said she knew this year's advanced drawing and painting class was still able to run even

with low numbers in order to maintain students sequence, which she commended the Board for, and hoped decisions like that will continue to be made. She said she clearly is an example that the arts do foster a livelihood and she would like the Board to think about what the impact of offering less or no art classes would do to the success and the future of our students. She also wanted to add that this year her daughter's kindergarten class at times has been as large as 26 students, which she and her husband thought was overwhelming. She asked the Board to take a minute and think about a small thing like going out for winter recess....can you imagine getting 26 kids ready for a winter time recess and have it be smooth and successful for all of the children? She encouraged the Board to reduce class sizes in the kindergarten level to 15 to 18 students with a full-time aide in each classroom as a way to allocate some of the undesignated fund reserve.

4. **REPORTS:**

- **Middle School PTSA** – Kelly Culliton reported the last PTSA meeting was held on Thursday, December 4th. The second 5th/6th grade activity night was Friday, December 5th. The theme was Candy Land, and the proceeds benefited Team Abanaki. Currently, they are in the process of planning the next 7th/8th grade activity night. They are considering a glow in the dark theme. The fall fundraiser was completed, and the PTSA profited over five thousand dollars. The PTSA contributed money towards the purchase of the Middle School Weather Station. They are looking forward to hearing about all the great learning experiences. The Bling Bucks Sale is next week. Children have been recognized for positive behavior with Bling Bucks, which they can use to purchase gifts for their family. The school has been taking donations of holiday wrap and gift bags and cards, as well as gently used or new gifts to be sold at the store.
- **High School Student Council** – Allison Casertino reported the Student Council and the National Honor Society conducted a food drive. Over 1,000 cans were collected and donated to the Salvation Army. The High School Guidance Office is hosting a College Financial Aid night. The Guidance Counselors are giving classroom presentations during the week.
- **Policy Committee** – Mrs. Kunst reported the committee met on December 3rd, and reviewed and discussed 1/3 of the recommended policies. Most of the policies had changes in the language, and recommended revisions. The policies that were reviewed will be brought to the Board at the next meeting.
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee** – Mrs. Kunst reported the committee met on December 3rd, and Gene Figler gave a report on Phase II of the construction project. Due to low bidding on some aspects of the project, Mr. Figler and Mr. Jenkins met with the architects, and we are able to use the extra money to rebuild the brick façade, replace the High School gym roof, and replace the chiller at the Middle School. The additional items that we are fixing were on a list of items for repair and replacement within the next five years.

Paul Jenkins: All the extra items were included in the original project. It's a shorter approval from SED to get it done now.
- **Curriculum Committee** – Dr. Poulos reported the Curriculum Committee met prior to the Board Meeting. Mr. Amberger talked about the School to Business Partnerships, which is the Everfi Financial Literacy program he is piloting with his class donated to us by Glens Falls National Bank. Mr. Clay gave a presentation on the NYS Transparency Report. We are required to provide open public discussion on this report relating to efforts to decrease testing of students related to APPR. Also discussed was the use of Chromebooks and Google Classroom.

5. **ITEMS FOR ACTION:**

- 5.1 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Conrick, 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 Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve additions to the CSE/CPSE Recommendations.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.2 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mrs. Kunst, **to approve Warrant 5A, 5B, and the Internal Claims Auditor's Report.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.3 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to accept the Bids for Custodial Supplies.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.4 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the Wrestling Trip to Sullivan County Community College for the Eastern States Tournament from January 9, 2015 – January 10, 2015.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.5 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve Discarding Library Books at the Middle School.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (attached).
- 5.6 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the Boys Swimming and Diving Team Trip to Raquette Lake from January 30, 2015 – February 1, 2015.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.7 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mrs. Kunst, **to approve the Revised Crossroads Center for Children Contracts.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.8 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve Discarding English Department Textbooks.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.9 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve Discarding Library Books at Big Cross Street Elementary School.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.10 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mrs. Burton, **to approve the Agreement with Vanderheyden from December 1, 2014 – June 26, 2015.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.11 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the Outing Club Trip to Pilot Knob from December 29, 2014 – December 30, 2014.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).
- 5.12 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the purchase of Materials and Equipment off State Contract from Day Automation, Annese and SMP for Phase 2 of the Capital Project.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0) (Attached).

6. **PERSONNEL:**

- 6.1 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Professional Appointment (Provisional):**
Young, Lawrence, Food Service Manager, Salary; \$55,000.00, Effective December 22, 2014, Probationary Period: December 22, 2014 – June 22, 2015 (Provisional Appointment pending successful completion of the Civil Service Test)

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.2 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following change in Professional Leave of Absence:**
Nastke, Nichole, Math Teacher, Effective October 14, 2014 – November 20, 2014

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.3 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Non-Teaching Appointments:**
Goff, Christopher, Mechanic, Salary; \$43,000.00, Effective December 29, 2014, Probationary Period: December 29, 2014 – June 29, 2015

Hadsell, Christopher, 2nd Shift Custodian, Salary; \$25,949.00 + \$504 shift stipend, Effective December 9, 2014, Probationary Period: December 9, 2014 – June 9, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.4 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Non-Teaching Change in Assignment:**
MacDuff III, Wayne, from Cleaner/Mechanic to Auto Mechanic/Bus Driver, Salary; \$34,266.50, Effective November 24, 2014

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.5 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Sixth Class Appointment:**
Clevenger, Walter, High School English Teacher, Salary; \$1,988.28, Effective November 12, 2014 – January 30, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.6 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the following Coaching Appointments:**
- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----|---------|
| Northrop, Tim | Boys Varsity Lacrosse | B-5 | \$4,810 |
| Mason, Samantha | Girls Modified Basketball | D-1 | \$2,775 |

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

- 6.7 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Volunteer Coaches (2014-2015):**
Mason, Meresa, Varsity Girls Basketball
Nordquist, Won-Suh, Varsity/JV Wrestling
Hayes, Wayne, Modified Wrestling

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** We received an email from Jason Brechko, a letter from Senator Betty Little, and a letter from the Glens Falls Teachers' Association.
8. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

9. **NEW BUSINESS:** None

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:20 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to adjourn to executive session to discuss Contracts and Personnel.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0).

Executive Session ended at 7:57 p.m.

It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, to come out of executive session.

The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0).

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:58 p.m., there being no further business, it was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to adjourn the meeting.** The motion was carried unanimously. (7-0)

Amy Towers
Clerk, Board of Education