

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

MINUTES

**Monday, March 9, 2015
District Office - 15 Quade Street - 7:00 p.m.**

- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dr. Poulos – President, Mr. Conrick – Vice-President, Mrs. Berger, Mrs. Burton, Mr. Deason, Mr. McTiernan, Mrs. Maurer, Mrs. Spector-Tougas
- BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:** Mrs. Kunst
- ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Paul Jenkins – Superintendent, Christopher Hearley, Trent Clay, Jennifer Hayes, Carrie Mauro, Mark Stratton, Laurie Parker, Christopher Reed, Barbara Sealy, Debbie Hall
- STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Debbie Hill, Skye Heritage, Geri Lynn Teta, Paul Streicher, Gene Figler, Jason Brechko, Maureen Sara, Brandon Lis
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kelly Culliton, Kristin Greenwood, Missey Montgomery, Stephanie Doherty, Kristen Blakely, Jody Burgess, Margaret Sawyer, Steve Young, Beth Campbell, Emily LaLone, Debra Stockdale

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 Mrs. Burton, **to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2015 Special Board of Education Meeting, and the minutes from the January 12, 2015 Regular Board of Education Meeting.** The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

2. INFORMATION:

2.1 Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 4	Policy Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 5	Budget Development Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 9	Goal Presentation Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 19	Budget Development Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 20	Superintendent’s Conference Day
Wednesday, April 1	Personnel Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m. Technology Committee Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Budget Development Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 3	Good Friday – School Closed
Monday, April 6 - Friday, April 10	Spring Recess – School Closed

2.2 Superintendent’s Report:

- Mr. Jenkins is headed to Albany on March 10th for Lobby Day. He is attending a budget hearing meeting with legislators to advocate for education funding, and the release of state aid figures.
- Thank you to the building teams, PTA’s, and Skye Heritage for all their hard work during the goal setting process. We heard from representatives tonight, and the Board will take the information and suggestions to develop goals.

- We have started an internship initiative with the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, EDC, SUNY Adirondack, and Queensbury UFSD. Mr. Jenkins will provide more information as we develop the program.
- Last week, Mr. Jenkins presented information on our change in the High School start time to the Onteora school board.
- Voters will be electing two members to the Board of Education for a term of five years, commencing on July 1st. If you would like to run for the Board, petitions are available in the District Office.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Debra Stockdale – Will the information from the budget meetings be posted on the website?

Paul Jenkins – Yes.

Debra Stockdale – On the agenda there is an item for action to approve a new external auditor. Why is the district considering a new auditor? The auditor that the district wants to approve looks smaller and is not local.

Paul Jenkins – We have to go out to bid for our auditor’s services. We have to look at each bid individually. Flynn, Walker, and Diggin came in with a much higher bid. The firm that we are approving tonight specializes in school districts, and handles 39 different schools including Queensbury and Lake George. We did call Pat Diggin, and he was surprised he came in higher.

Debra Stockdale – How many years before you have to go out to bid?

Paul Jenkins – Four years. Pat Diggin was with the district for eight years and did a great job.

Emily Lalone – Is a parent of a kindergarten student at Kensington. She said she came to express her concerns over class size. The added Teacher Assistant was very helpful but it’s not enough. She said that 27 kids in a classroom are way too many. She said that amount of kids at that age in a classroom hurts staff morale, student morale, and learning. She said she goes in and helps out in the classroom, but it’s just too many kids. She said she has heard it from staff members as well.

Stephanie Doherty – She said she supports Emily. She has a student in second grade and in kindergarten at Kensington. She said there is a big difference between what her second grader learned in kindergarten with 17 kids in a class compared to her kindergartener with 27 kids, and there is a huge lack of progress they are making with that many students in the classroom. She said she goes in and participates as much as she can, and she also goes in to support the teacher. She said they just want the students to be successful, and right now they are not flourishing.

Steve Young – Has a kindergartener at Kensington and said he is seeing the same thing. He asked the Board if they felt 27 kids in a class is an acceptable number, and if the answer is yes then he will have to pursue a different avenue and if no...then what is going to be done.

Paul Jenkins – We have added Teacher Assistants to the kindergarten classrooms, and have consistently discussed with the building principals what needs to be done to support the teachers and students. The principals have also met with their kindergarten teachers. We are not turning away from the issue. The Teacher Assistants that we added to the classrooms are certified teachers, and it’s a positive step in moving forward. We are going to continue to look at it to make sure the students’ needs are met.

Steve Young – If it’s a funding issue, maybe we need to look into options where we pay more money for the benefit of the kids. It would be better than paying tuition to a private institution or putting a for sale sign on their house.

Paul Jenkins – We have neighborhood schools. We cannot add one teacher at one building and not add another at another building. We are trying to address it the best we can for this year, and will do the same for next year as well.

4. **REPORTS:**

- Big Cross PTA – Geri Lynn Teta reported it was a very busy February. They kicked off and finished P.A.R.P. with Pete the Cat. Poetry Night at the Village Green had a fantastic turn out. It was a great night for reading and writing. The PTA is getting ready for a super busy March. Some of the upcoming events are a book fair, the spring fair, kindergarten round-up and the 4th grade science experiment day.
- High School PTSA – Kelly Culliton reported the last PTSA meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4th. Founders' Day was held on February 10th. The High School honored Carrie McIntosh. Carrie is a hard working parent, who has been involved in the district for many years. Some fundraisers that are being discussed are McTeacher Night at the Exit 18 McDonalds on May 5th. Also being considered is a Giffey's Barbecue Day sometime this spring. The staff is starting a Backpack Program at the High School. They will be collecting food from the students and staff. They will also open a Boutique with gently used clothing donated from our community.
- Middle School PTSA – Kelly Culliton reported the last PTSA meeting was held on Thursday, February 12th. The Middle School had three activity nights since the last Board report. A 5/6 Activity Night was held on February 6th. The students who attended seemed to have a great time. A survey will be sent to the students to see what activities they would like in the future in hope of encouraging more students to come. Another option being discussed is to have fewer activity nights. The Founders' Day recipients for the Middle School were Lynessa and Mike Abare. They are the go-to parents in the Middle School, and it was well deserved. The Middle School was excited to learn that we have been honored once again with the "Essential Elements School to Watch" title. A formal ceremony will take place on June 4th.
- High School Student Council – High School seniors in French have been invited to participate in a French immersion day at SUNY Albany, where they will spend a day speaking French, meeting native speakers from different Francophone countries, etc. The day is free for our students. Annmarie Cipollo and Stephanie Ruel will be presenting at the Regional NYSAFLT Conference this Saturday at Lake George High School. Mrs. Gormley's government students went on a field trip to the following:
 - Special Terms: Sentencing session in Warren County Criminal Court with Judge Hall
 - Public Defender: Mr. Wapatt discussed the jobs of public defenders and criminal justice issues
 - Warren County Prosecutor: Kate Hogan discussed her job and the criminal justice system. She included two law school interns and their perspectives
 - Warren County Jail: Had a tour of the visiting room, waiting room and intake cells.
 - Discussion of issues in American jails

Reilly Brennan, Margaret Sue Kelleher, Mercedes D'Agostino, Angie Nardin and Jackie Hogan had art work accepted to BOCES Talent Unlimited art and literary publication. John Fernicola was an honorable mention for the journals cover design. A reception will be held at Skidmore College in March. Creative Crafts students are donating their hand-made sock creatures to the Peach Tree Day Care Center in Glens Falls. GFHS is partnering with the Hyde Museum to host a live adjudication of regional high school art work at the end of March. 200 works of art will arrive at GFHS from around the region and with the help of student volunteers work will be set up for a selection process which will choose the final 100 works to be displayed for exhibition at the Hyde Museum later in the spring. SoroptiMISS, formerly known as Hi-Y, is sponsoring Girls Day on Saturday, February 28th. Police Chief Michelle Arnold is our Keynote Speaker. We have a variety of presenters and are really looking forward to a lively day. Faculty will be asked to help provide lunch items. The Middle School and High School will be celebrating Math week from March 9 -13,

and with this year being a special year for Pi (3.1415) we hope to make this a bigger event than in the past. The week is scheduled to include an after-school competition of who can memorize the most digits of Pi, an after-school pie eating competition, an after-school game day (logic and math games), trivia math contest (hand out early for kids to figure out, and then daily drawings for prizes), best math jingle (would have them read during announcements each day), and best math poster (displayed in cafeterias).

- Public Relations Committee – Mr. Deason reported the Public Relations committee met on February 4th. After months of planning, the regional advocacy rally “Stand Up for Upstate Schools” drew more than 1,000 people to Saratoga Springs High School on January 22nd. Thank you for the strong support shown by the Glens Falls teachers, parents, and community members attending this event calling for an end to the Gap Elimination Adjustment and more equitable education funding in New York State. The advocacy continues on social media with the hashtag #StandUp4Upstate. Since the event, more than 300 tweets have been sent to the Governor and other legislative leaders using that hashtag. On Monday, February 2, the district’s official Facebook page surpassed 1,000 likes, which is a milestone. The committee discussed a possible shift in strategy to employ paid Facebook “promotions” to reach families with specific, limited information, with the example being UPK lottery application solicitation. Communication around 2015-16 budget development is significantly hampered by the stalemate in Albany, and specifically, the lack of state aide figures. Please push legislators for an on-time state budget. The committee also began to discuss a modification in the district’s photo release policy to include permission to post student photos on Facebook/Twitter.
- Athletic Committee – Mr. McTiernan reported the Athletic Committee met on February 4th. The committee reviewed the number of students participating on our athletic teams, and they remain consistent with our population. Mr. Corlew reviewed the projected budget for 2015-2016, but we are waiting until we receive our state aid numbers before we finalize a budget.
- Policy Committee – Dr. Poulos reported the Policy Committee met on March 4th. The committee reviewed a number of policies, and will move forward with the first reading at our April Board meeting. The committee also discussed a BYOD (bring your own device) policy. The committee received recommendations from administrators, but we will continue to have further discussion on the policy.
- Building and Grounds Committee – Mr. Jenkins reported the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on March 4th. The committee discussed the progress of our capital project. 80% of the network and wiring is completed. The Middle School and High School work will be finished at the end of March. We will be going out to bid for Phase III of the project, which will consist of repairing the gym roof, and brick work at the High School. Gene Figler gave a report on what busses and vans we will need to replace within the next ten years.

5. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

- 5.1 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, to **arrange for appropriate special education programs and services as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education effective February 10, 2015.** The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (A copy of the recommendations is included with these minutes).
- 5.1a. It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, to **approve additions to the CSE/CPSE Recommendations effective February 10, 2015.** The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).

- 5.2 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **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. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.3 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve Warrant 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B and the Internal Claims Auditor's Report.** The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.4 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the 2015 - 2016 School Calendar.** The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.5 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the agreement with John Farina, Assistive Technology Specialist, effective February 10, 2015 - July 1, 2015.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.6 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mrs. Burton, **to approve the National Honor Society Field Trip to New York City/Long Island on May 22-23, 2015.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.7 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to accept the Donation of 100 backpacks to the Glens Falls High School from Unique Arts Studio.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.8 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the Health and Welfare Services Contract with Corinth Central School from September 3, 2014 - June 26, 2015.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.9 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to accept the Donation of Photography Equipment from Vincent and Mary Palacino.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.10 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve Budget Transfers.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.11 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the Resolution for the Bus Proposition.** (Roll Call): Mr. Deason (Yes), Mrs. Burton (Yes), Mr. McTiernan (Yes), Mrs. Spector-Tougas (Yes), Dr. Poulos (Yes), Mr. Conrick (Yes), Mrs. Berger (Yes), Mrs. Maurer (Yes).
The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).
- 5.12 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the Notice of Registration and Notice of Public Hearing and Annual Meeting Resolution.** (Roll Call): Mr. Deason (Yes), Mrs. Burton (Yes), Mr. McTiernan (Yes), Mrs. Spector-Tougas (Yes), Dr. Poulos (Yes), Mr. Conrick (Yes), Mrs. Berger (Yes), Mrs. Maurer (Yes). The motion was carried unanimously (8-0) (attached).
- 5.13 It was moved by Mr. Deason, seconded by Mrs. Burton, **to approve Discarding a Fellows 2861 Shredder at the High School.** The motion was carried unanimously (8-0).
- 5.14 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to accept the bid from Raymond G. Preusser CPA, PC for External Auditing Services.**
The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (Attached).

6. **PERSONNEL:**

- 6.1 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to accept the following Professional**

Resignations:

Creager, Colleen, Special Education Teacher, Effective February 20, 2015

Manning, Lea, Science Teacher, Effective January 14, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.2 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to accept the following Professional Retirements:**

Irion, Patricia, Elementary Teacher, Effective June 30, 2015

Nicolls, Pattye, Science Teacher, Effective June 30, 2015

Lightfoote, Diane, Nurse, Effective November 30, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.3 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Professional Leave of Absence:**

McCabe, Megan, Science Teacher, Middle School, Effective March 30, 2015 for approximately eight weeks

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.4 It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Professional Appointment:**

Casimano, RosaLynn, Special Education Teacher, Kensington, Salary; Step 1 MA, \$46,724.00, Effective March 9, 2015, Probationary Period: 3/9/15 – 3/9/18

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.5 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to accept the following Non-Teaching Resignations:**

Winter-Walton, Christal, Teacher Assistant, Effective February 20, 2015

Guido, Rochelle, Teacher Aide, Effective February 20, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.6 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the following Non-Teaching Leave of Absences:**

Haux, Lisa, Aide, Kensington, Effective April 13, 2015 – April 24, 2015

Fronhofer, Mara, Teacher Assistant, Jackson Heights, Effective March 30, 2015 – June 30, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.7 It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the following Non-Teaching Appointments:**

Quillen, Meghan, 5.50 Hour Teacher Aide (1:1), Big Cross, Salary; \$10,643.05 prorated, Effective January 21, 2015, Probationary Period: January 21, 2015 – July 21, 2015

Langdon, Paula, Part-Time Bus Driver, Salary; \$16.44 per hour, Effective January 15, 2015, Probationary Period: January 15, 2015 – July 15, 2015

McGinnis, Elizabeth, 5.50 Hour Teacher Assistant, Jackson Heights, Salary; \$11,619.85 prorated, Effective February 23, 2015, Probationary Period: February 23, 2015 – August 23, 2015

Geczy, Christopher, 6.50 Hour Teacher Aide (1:1), Kensington, Salary; \$12,578.15 prorated, Effective February 27, 2015, Probationary Period: February 27, 2015 – August 27, 2015

McCarty, Marianne, 5.50 Hour Teacher Aide (1:1), Kensington, Salary; \$10,643.05 prorated, Effective March 6, 2015, Probationary Period: March 6, 2015 – September 6, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.8** It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Per Diem Coaching Appointment (2014-2015):**
Kilmartin, Bruce, Modified Swimming, \$53.80 per day, not to exceed \$1,883

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.9** It was moved by Mrs. Burton, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Coaching Appointment (2014-2015):**
Hall, Ethan Modified Softball D-2 \$3,033

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.10** It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to approve the following Mentor Appointments:**
Ketring, Melanie, Special Education Teacher, Jackson Heights, Salary; \$1,580 prorated, Mentoring Ashley Dutcher, Effective January 15, 2015

McClements, April, Reading Teacher, Big Cross, Salary; \$1,580 prorated, Mentoring RosaLynn Casimano, Effective March 9, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.11** It was moved by Mr. Conrick, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Middle School Club/Activity Advisor:**
Arney, Katie, from co-yearbook advisor to full-time yearbook advisor, Salary; \$664.50 + \$372.12, Effective January 15, 2015

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 6.12** It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the following Volunteer Coach (2014-2015):**
Nordquist, Won-Suh, Track and Field

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0)

- 7. CORRESPONDENCE:** None
8. OLD BUSINESS: None
9. NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Hearley received information regarding a Cooperative Purchasing Program coordinated by BOCES to purchase commodities for the 2015-2016 school year. In order for our district to participate, we need to have a Board Resolution authorizing participation.

Mr. Deason – Do we buy in bulk with other schools, and do we pick and choose which items we want to purchase on the commodity list?

Mr. Jenkins - We do not have to go off the commodity list if we receive a better price for the item. It's just another piece for us to utilize to try and get better pricing.

Dr. Poulos – It's nothing aidable...it's just an option.

Mr. Jenkins – That’s correct.

9.1 It was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Deason, **to approve the resolution to participate in the Cooperative Purchasing Program coordinated by WSWHE BOCES for the 2015-2016 school year for commodities.** The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0) (attached).

10. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:30 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Berger, seconded by Mr. Conrick, **to adjourn to executive session to discuss a legal issue and a personnel issue.** The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0).

Executive Session ended at 8:08 p.m.

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

The motion was carried unanimously. (8-0).

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:09 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. (8-0)

Amy Towers
Clerk, Board of Education