



Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Policy Committee Meeting-Superintendent's Conference Room 6:30pm and
Regular Meeting of the New Lebanon Central School Board of Education
Jr/Sr High School Library 7:00pm

1. POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING- 6:30pm

2. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Regular Board of Education Meeting held was at the Jr/Sr High School in the library. The meeting was called to order by Board President Lambert at 7:02pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Tim Lambert, Board President; Monique Wood, Board Member; Martha Esposito, Board Member; Christine Sotek, Board Member; Tracy Bingham, Board Member

Absent: Michael Bienes, Board Vice President; Sharon Putnam, Board Member; Matthew Klafehn, Principal Jr/Sr HS

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Healy shared aspects of his WBH PE program's participation in setting a Guinness World Record for stacking cups.

4. SUPERINTENDENT

Non-Action

A. The District Technology update was presented by Stephen Morrissey. Since July 1, 2013, he has established an internal server to obtain Windows updates and configure sharing and security settings on district shared files and folders. He has been able to limit file access to only those who should have access and upgrade the district's point-to-point connection from copper to fiber optic connection, resulting in an increase of bandwidth between the Elementary and High School buildings. He has upgraded our Point-of-Sale (POS) software from Lunchbox to Nutrikids. Going forward, he has goals that include providing the district with the most secure and efficient experience in its technology use. For example, increasing the district's network storage capacity and reliability, migrating district E-Mail from internal Microsoft Exchange server to Google Apps for Education.

Action

Board President Lambert made the motion to approve item 4B. Board member Sotek seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

B. Motion to accept the amended Board of Education meeting schedule (January date revised).

Board member Sotek made the motion to approve item 4C. Board member Esposito seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

C. BE IT RESOLVED, the New Lebanon Central School District Board of Education hereby elects Matthew Wade of the Brunswick (Brittonkill) Central School District to the position of Area 7 Director of the New York State School Boards Association for a two-year term beginning in January 2014.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

A. The Athletic report was given by Rick Arket. Winter sports season has begun. All teams have started competition except for the swim team, who has their first meet Thursday, December 12th. He commented that Kara Siciliano and Tim Christiansen have been working with the swim team for over two weeks without a pool. He congratulated the fall Varsity teams. Boys and girls soccer and girls volleyball all achieved Scholar Athlete Team Distinction. Each team had players with an overall average above a 90 for the first marking period.

B. Usman Sadiq gave the student representative update. The Drama club is conducting auditions on December 12 and 13 for the upcoming play, Loving Lives. The Food club is proposing offering additional free monthly community dinners, beginning January 17, 2014. Student Council is creating holiday cards for the residents of Barnwell nursing home. Honor roll students received tickets to an Albany Devil's game. The English 12 class wrote process analysis papers describing the steps that the Hotel and Restaurant Management class needed to host a successful Thanksgiving Community dinner. Ms. Norberg's robotics classes are working on programming robots for different tasks, like creating tug-of-war robots to demonstrate an understanding of gearing systems. Mrs. Allard's economics classes had a cookie contest. Students were in small groups, competing against each other conducting a market study and determining all the costs that go into running a business both fixed and variable.

C. The Business Office/Facilities and Grounds update was presented by Michael Los. The bid opening for the bus garage renovation has been extended until January 16, 2014. This is due to a change in the specifications for the bus lift. This postponement shouldn't cause much of a delay to the overall project, as there are limits to the work that can be done in winter. There are several transfers in this meeting. One transfer is needed due to an additional out-of-district student placement at Questar. There also is an interfund transfer for the pool bathroom that has been discussed at the last board meeting and the facilities committee meeting. The last transfer is for refurbishing and changing the layout of the Walter B. Howard library. They have been working with a consultant to rework the space to better meet their needs. The new design will allow for improved supervision, create appropriate testing space, allow for student collaboration,

and enhance the overall educational environment for students. The current setup consists of the original furnishings for the library.

D. The Walter B. Howard update was given by Leslie Whitcomb. There was an assembly rehearsal today for the grades 4-6 concert tomorrow night (December 12) at 7:00pm. This year all students in grades 4-6 have the opportunity to participate in choir as it has been fully integrated into the general music program. Also, band participation numbers are up since lessons are now included during the regular school day. Classrooms are planning many special activities as we approach the winter recess. Shared Decision Making is hosting a story night for students in grades preK-4. Upper grade students will be assisting with crafts and hot chocolate. Families will be able to make snowman sponge paintings, decorate cookies and enjoy hot chocolate before heading home. Grades 4-6 swim will continue through January. Students in each grade have 2 weeks of daily swim instruction. This takes the place of their scheduled PE classes. Mr. Healy has shared that on a daily basis he is advancing several students up a level in swim proficiency. She thanked the HS PE teachers for accommodating their students. She noted that faculty members appreciated the time they spent during the Superintendent's conference day. They took advantage of the opportunity to articulate curriculum across the grades and between the buildings. WBH staff also spent time working on developing leveled book room selections to meet current curriculum needs. Progress reports will be distributed on Friday and are currently available to parents with a parent portal account.

E. Jr/Sr High School update presented by Rick Arket. There were close to 70 people at the free community Thanksgiving dinner. Recognition was given to Michelle Daus and her Appetites Anonymous class, teachers who volunteered in serving and preparation, and Hannaford Supermarkets (and our local contact Mike Bienes) for donating the food. Meghan Pepe has been hosting transition meetings with our 7th graders to gauge their junior high experience to date. Students have indicated their experience has been positive so far. Michelle Daus' Hotel and Restaurant Management class went on a field trip last month to the Cranwell Resort in the Berkshires. The students were given a tour and learned the ins and outs of running a resort. The tour culminated with a lunch that wowed the kids, making the trip an instant success. Tim Christiansen took his health students to view panels of the Aids Quilt (a compilation of 3-by-6-foot memorial panels designed to pay respects to the life of individuals who have died due to AIDS). The students heard stories from six individuals who are HIV positive. Art Club students have been busy making ceramic bowls for charity. The bowls will be on sale at Blueberry Hill Café, and all proceeds will go to the Northeast Regional food bank to support local families in need. Several junior high students attended a Youth Leadership Summit on December 5th. The kids, along with representatives from 20 other capital area schools, learned many applications of character education from both "experts" and from their work with each other in their peer groups. On Friday, December 6, the senior choir, under the direction of Valene Synakowki, was invited to the Town Hall to sing for the senior citizens

for the second consecutive year. The senior citizens have been invited to sing at the winter concert, which will be held on Thursday, December 19, at 7 pm. On Wednesday, February 5th, English 12 classes, senior choir section leaders, and members of the Drama Club will be attending a day on Broadway in New York City. After attending an actor's workshop, the students will continue on to Brooks Atkinson Theater, where they will see the musical *After Midnight*, set in Harlem's Golden Age. The musical is woven together by the prose of Langston Hughes, who will be studied in the English 12 classes as part of Black History Month prior to the excursion. All of this was made possible by a grant from the Columbia Arts and Humanities Project Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation combined with money awarded by the New Lebanon Arts and Humanities Endowment.

F. Tamara Thorpe-Odom presented on Special Education. The Special Education department continues to work on implementation of programs and services. As they prepare for annual reviews, teachers and providers will begin assessments. Students are being continuously progress monitored. They continue to foster the inclusion model and our embedded staff developer was here to work with new teacher teams, emphasizing planning, preparation, and providing feedback to teachers. She will begin visiting outside placements to continue alignment of program/services to determine student need.

G. No District Update given.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action

Board Member Bingham made the motion to approve items 6A-B. Board Member Wood seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

A. Motion to approve the November 13, 2013 minutes.

B. Motion to approve the December 4, 2013 minutes.

7. CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Non-Action

A. Superintendent McGraw presented information on Common Core standards vs. State testing.

B. Principal Whitcomb presented information on the programs supported by the New Lebanon Arts & Humanities Foundation and the District's Arts in Education program.

C. First Reading of Policies 3281, 5570, 5580, 7132, 7265.

Action

Board president Lambert made the motion to approve items 7D-F. Board member Sotek seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

D. Motion to approve the athletic code of conduct for the 2013-14 school year, as amended.

E. Motion to approve a field trip to Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, NJ and Liberty Science Center on June 3, 2014 and chaperones.

F. Motion to approve the CSE/CPSE recommendations of programs and placements for the following special education students: 092100217, 092100331, 092100328 and 092100329.

8. FINANCIAL

Non-Action

- A. OPEB overview given by Michael Los.
- B. Health Trust review by Michael Los.
- C. Long Term Financial Planning Series: Fund Balance/Use of Reserves, presented by Michael Los.
- D. Budget Goals discussion for 2014-15 facilitated by Superintendent McGraw and Business Administrator Michael Los.

Action

- Board member Wood made the motion to approve items 8E-K. Board member Esposito seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.
- E. Motion to approve the sale or disposal of obsolete library books.
 - F. Motion to approve the October 2013 Treasurer's report.
 - G. Motion to approve the October grades 6-12 extra-curricular accounts report.
 - H. Motion to approve the November grades 6-12 extra-curricular accounts report.
 - I. Motion to accept a donation in the amount of a \$100 gift card from Hannaford.
 - J. Motion to authorize transfers in the amount of \$214,177.00
 - K. Motion to approve an interfund transfer in the amount of \$100,000.00

9. PERSONNEL

Action

- Board member Wood made the motion to approve items 9A-G. Board member Bingham seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.
- A. Motion to appoint Thomas Morrissey as a volunteer for the Information Technology department.
 - B. Motion to appoint Helen Carlone as a bus driver trainee, effective November 21, 2013 at a rate of \$7.25 per hour.
 - C. Motion to appoint the following substitutes:

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|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| AnnMarie Mabeus (currently employed) | Uncertified Teacher Assistant substitute | \$14.52 per hour |
| AnnMarie Mabeus | Teacher Aide substitute | \$11.94 per hour |
| AnnMarie Mabeus | Cleaner substitute | \$10.99 per hour |
| Karen Timm (previously employed) | Nurse substitute | \$17.35 per hour |
| Christopher Howe (currently employed) | Laborer substitute | \$12.10 per hour |

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Gretchen O'Connell (previously employed) | Teacher Assistant substitute | \$14.52 per hour |
| Gretchen O'Connell | Uncertified Teacher substitute | \$85 per day |
| Amy Legere | Uncertified Teacher substitute | \$85 per day |
| Amy Legere | Teacher Assistant substitute | \$14.52 per hour |
| Amy Legere | Teacher Aide substitute | \$11.94 per hour |
| Christina Bradley | Uncertified Teacher substitute | \$85 per day |
| Amy Haaf | Uncertified Teacher substitute | \$85 per day |
| Amy Haaf | Teacher Assistant substitute | 14.52 per hour |

D. Motion to approve, upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, a correction regarding the previous appointment of Jeffrey Maclutsky to read as follows: To appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, Jeffrey Maclutsky to the elementary tenure area (probationary), Step 8, with a salary of \$50,714, effective September 1, 2013 through September 1, 2016. Mr. Maclutsky has a Masters degree and has professional certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) and initial certification in Literacy (Birth-Grade 6).

E. To appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, Shannon Manning as an intern under the supervision of Tamara Thorpe-Odom.

F. To appoint the following officers for annual appointments. Annual appointments to be in effect until the time of the 2014-15 organizational meeting, or until a successor is appointed (whichever comes first).

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Patricia White | Section 504 coordinator | No Stipend |
| Tylea Gebbie | Section 504 coordinator | No Stipend |
| Leslie Whitcomb | Section 504 coordinator (alternate) | No Stipend |
| Matthew Klafehn | Section 504 coordinator (alternate) | No Stipend |
| Tamara Thorpe-Odom | Section 504 coordinator (alternate) | No Stipend |

G. To approve, upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, Kara Siciliano, Michelle Bienes and Patricia White as chaperones for the Travel Club's trip to Spain from April 10, 2014- April 19, 2014.

10. BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

The discussion to establish a first meeting date for the Communications Committee was postponed.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Action

A. Board President Lambert made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:35pm for the purpose of discussing collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law. Board Member Sotek seconded the motion. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Action

B. Board member Sotek made the motion to appoint Superintendent McGraw as Clerk Pro-Tem. Board Member Wood seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Action

A. Board member Wood made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23pm. Board President Lambert seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstained.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly McGivern, District Clerk