



14665 State Route 22
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Regular Meeting
December 8, 2010

The regular meeting was held at the Jr./Sr. High School. The meeting was called to order by Board President Wood at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Board Members Wood, Smith, Gavrity, Bingham, Lambert, Superintendent McGraw, Leslie Whitcomb, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, Becky Marzeski, Walter B. Howard Elementary Principal, Matthew Klafehn, Assistant Principal, and Carrie Nyc-Chevrier, Business Administrator.

ABSENT: Board Members Sowalski and Kroboth. Tamara Thorpe-Odom, Director of Special Education

ALSO PRESENT: Members of the public.

Public Comment

None.

Acknowledgments/Administrative Comments

Leslie Whitcomb, Jr./Sr. High School Principal notified the Board that teachers Mary Beth Liles and Ben Long have received National Board Certification. A recent Financial Aid night presentation was well attended. She thanked Earl Tretheway from the financial aide office at Columbia Greene Community College for his presentation. Students in 10th grade took a PLAN test which is designed to assess students' readiness for college material upon graduation. A new sound system has been installed in the gymnasium. Students in health class recently took a field trip to the capital to view the AIDS quilt. The Winter Concert and Art show is scheduled for December 16. The Senior Choir sang at the tree dedication and lighting at the firehouse last Friday. There is a change in a testing date for Comprehensive Regents Exam in English which results in a change of the District calendar. There will be a half day on January 11, 2011 and all students will be in attendance during the January Regents week.

Matthew Klafehn, Athletic Director, recognized the recipients of the Scholar Athlete Team Award from the NYSPHSAA. He notified the Board that the boys basketball team was first place in the Coaches vs. Cancer tournament.

Superintendent McGraw notified the Board that a transportation update memo on the bus security camera was included in their packet.

Becky Marzeski, Walter B. Howard Elementary Principal, notified the Board that on the November 24 Superintendent Conference Day, the teachers were given a review and overview of The Core Standards for ELA. They were also introduced to or reviewed the analysis of NYS ELA testing data. They looked for strengths as well as weaknesses between questions that were easier as shown by regional outcomes shown by our students. Teachers analyzed actual test questions and wrote SMART Goals for instruction. The K-1 assessment team has met and has determined ELA areas needing to be assessed. The team is determining which assessments they will use and when these assessments will be given.

Public Comment

**Acknowledgments/
Administrative
Comments**

They have also begun discussing implementing an Early Literacy Profile. The Annual Winter Music concert is scheduled for Thursday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. An Art show will take place at 6:30 p.m. on that night. A Multi-Cultural Assembly on Kwanzaa will be held. It will incorporate the African dancing that has been going on as an enrichment activity.

Superintendent McGraw updated the Board on shared transportation planning and implementation grants. She also notified the Board that the District did not receive a flood mitigation grant.

Carrie Nyc-Chevrier, Business Administrator, notified the Board that a wellness survey has been sent out to employees.

Minutes

Action Item

Board Member Bingham made a motion to approve item A. Seconded by Board Member Gavrity. 5 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. Review and approval of the November 17, 2010 minutes

Curriculum and Instruction

Non-Action Items

Leslie Whitcomb discussed a new course proposal for college preparation algebra and new graduation requirement of four units of study for math class.

The Board reviewed the following revised policies: (first reading)

4310	Superintendent of Schools
6120	Equal Employment Opportunity
6170	Safety of Students (Fingerprinting Clearance of New Hires)
6212	Certification and Qualifications

Action Items

Board Member Gavrity made a motion to approve items A-F as a block. Seconded by Board Member Smith. 5 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to establish a college preparation algebra class effective for the graduating Class of 2012.
- b. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to establish as a graduation requirement, four units of study for math class.
- c. To approve the Athletic Code of Conduct.
- d. To approve continuation of the swimming team merger with Berlin Central School District for the 2010-2011 school year.
- e. To approve CSE/CPSE recommendations of programs and placements for the following special education student:

092100117
- f. To amend the school calendar to make January 11, 2011 a half day to accommodate NYS testing and to restore a regular attendance schedule during the Regents week.

Financial

Non-Action Items

Carrie Nyc-Chevrier reviewed the topic Structures of School Finance; Fund Balance and Reserves.

Grants

Minutes

Revised Policies

College Prep Algebra Class

Four Units of Study for Math Class Grad Requirement

Swimming Team Merger

CSE/CPSE Programs & Placements

Half Day Added to District Calendar

Structures of School Finance: Fund Balance and Reserves

Action Items

Board Member Smith made a motion to approve items A-M as a block. Seconded by Board Member Wood. 5 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. To approve the 2011-2012 budget calendar.
- b. To approve the Walter B. Howard Elementary Extra-Curricular Accounts dated October 31, 2010 as submitted by Courtney McDonald, Extra-Curricular Accounts Treasurer.
- c. To approve the Jr./Sr. High School Extra-Curricular Accounts dated October 1-31, 2010 as submitted by Eileen Winslow, Extra-Curricular Accounts Treasurer.
- d. To approve the September, 2010 Treasurer's report.
- e. To approve the October, 2010 Treasurer's report.
- f. To accept a donation of \$250.00 from the New Lebanon Alumni Association to support the Jr./Sr. High School Library program.
- g. To increase budget line A2610.4504 by \$250.00.
- h. To approve the sale or disposal of the following surplus and obsolete items to the highest bidder and to give the District Clerk authority to advertise the sale of said items and if unable to find a buyer, to authorize Superintendent McGraw to dispose of the items:

Quantity	Item
1	IBM writer typewriter
5	Baseball helmets
3	Catcher masks
2	Catcher helmets
1	Wood desk
1	Wood shelf
2	Cash registers
45	Library books (list to BOE members)
1	Quasar VHS video camera (no battery)
1	Cannon EOS 700 film camera
1	Overhead projector (needs a lamp)
1	Umax Astra 6400 Digital image scanner

- i. WHEREAS, the Rensselaer City School District has joined with eight neighboring districts to form the *Rensselaer School Transportation Collective* for the purpose of studying a shared approach to utilizing regional transportation resources with a special focus on out-of-district transport, and now wishes to further investigate, pilot and implement various opportunities to reduce overall governmental cost by sharing services;

WHEREAS, the New York Department of State Local Government Efficiency Grant Program ("LGECP") for 2010-2011 presents an opportunity for the *Rensselaer School Transportation Collective* to receive fiscal assistance in support of their initiatives by developing viable, cost-effective programs to reduce governmental costs by sharing resources and services; and

WHEREAS, Rensselaer City School District, Averill Park Central School District, Brunswick Central School District, East Greenbush Central School District, Lansingburgh Central School District, New Lebanon Central School District, Schodack Central School District, the Enlarged City School District of Troy, and the Wynantskill Union Free School District compose the *Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective*, and which, upon authorization by each participant board of education, will apply for two grants in support of the *Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective*, to be entitled the "*Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective – Planning Initiative*" grant application and the "*Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective – Implementation Initiative*" grant application, with Rensselaer City School District designated as the Lead Applicant; and

WHEREAS, the *Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective – Planning Initiative* will identify opportunities to reduce public school district spending by sharing demanding and relatively expensive out-of-district student transportation services; explore immediate cost savings possibilities such as shared vehicle maintenance or compressing sports schedules as well as move towards such regional sharing opportunities as cooperative purchasing, shared fuel facilities, shared spare buses, and centralized training and recruitment for bus drivers; evaluate funding resources to implement services and develop inter-municipal agreements leading to the implementation of such cost savings opportunities; and

2011-2012 Budget Calendar

WBH Extra-Curricular Accounts, 10/31/10

Jr./Sr. High School Extra-Curricular Accounts, 10/-1-10/31/10

September, 2010 Treasurer's Report

October, 2010 Treasurer's Report

Accepted Donation

Increased Budget Line

Surplus Items

Board Open Discussion

Rensselaer School Transportation Collective Resolution

WHEREAS, the *Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective – Planning Initiative* Local Government Efficiency Planning Grant application shall seek funding in the amount of \$25,000 for the initial two partners –Rensselaer City School District and Averill Park Central School District – and \$1,000 each for the seven additional grant participants – Brunswick Central School District, East Greenbush Central School District, Lansingburgh Central School District, New Lebanon Central School District, Schodack Central School District, the Enlarged City School District of Troy and Wynantskill Union Free School District, with the total grant amount sought totaling \$32,000; and

WHEREAS, the *Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective – Implementation Initiative* will implement regional shared student transportation services and other cost savings targeted by the Collective’s planning initiative; and

WHEREAS, the *Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective – Implementation Initiative* LGEGP application shall seek funding in the amount of \$172,500 to support shared transportation services in the nine participating districts, and

WHEREAS, the Rensselaer City School District and the eight co-applicant school districts shall together provide 10% of \$3,200 of the total Planning Project amount of \$356 each, either in a payment, or as a reduction of 10% per agency from the \$32,000 in eligible planning grant funds; and 10% of \$17,250 of the total Implementation Project amount of \$1,917 each or as a reduction of the 10% per agency from the \$172,500 in eligible implementation grant funds, and

WHEREAS, the municipal co-applicants Averill Park Central School District, Brunswick Central School District, East Greenbush Central School District, Lansingburgh Central School District, New Lebanon Central School District, Schodack Central School District, the Enlarged City School District of Troy and the Wynantskill Union Free School District have agreed to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the Rensselaer City School District, in which the shared services are listed in detail pending approval of this grant application; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the New Lebanon Central School District Board of Education expresses its support for the *Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective* initiatives and these grant applications; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New Lebanon Central School District Board of Education authorizes the Rensselaer City School District to apply as the Lead Applicant for the *Rensselaer Student Transportation Collective – Planning Initiative* Local Government Efficiency Planning Grant and the *Rensselaer School Transportation Collective – Implementation Initiative* Local Government Efficiency Implementation Grant under the New York State Local Government Efficiency Grant Program for the 2010 – 2011 Program year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Rensselaer City School District Superintendent, Sally Ann Shields, be designated the Lead Contact Person (and her designee), to submit said application, and to execute all financial and/or administrative processes relating to the grant program.

- j. WHEREAS, the New Lebanon Central School District received, accepted and opened bids for as pest management and control services on November 23, 2010 and WHEREAS, the lowest responsible bidder was Pugliese Pest Solutions. WHEREAS, the Business Administrator has recommended the award of the proposal to the above company.

THEREFORE:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the pest management and control services proposal is awarded to Pugliese Pest Solutions effective January 1, 2011.

- k. To accept the donation of 22 books from Mr. & Mrs. Carl Bornhorst.
- l. To accept the donation of 9 books from Ms. Gail Foster.
- m. To accept a donation of 25 t-shirts from Mr. Michael Bienes worth approximately \$275.00.

Personnel

Action Items

Board Member Wood made a motion to approve items A-F as a block. Seconded by Board Member Lambert. 0 ayes, 5 nays. The motion failed. Board Member Wood made a motion to approve items A-B, C, E and F as written with a change to Item D. 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Smith)

**Pugliese Pest Solutions
Awarded Proposal**

Donation of Books

Donation of T-shirts

- a. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to appoint the following coaches for the 2010-2011 school year.

Coach	Sport	Stipend
Leilani Hover (Assistant Coach)	Boys Varsity Volleyball	No stipend

- b. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to appoint the following substitutes for the 2010-2011 school year:

Name	Certified or Uncertified	Position	Rate
Jody Rhoderick	Uncertified	Teacher	\$80.00 per day
Georgianna Raimer	Uncertified	Teacher	\$80.00 per day
Leonard "Jesse" Brown, IV	Uncertified	Teacher	\$80.00 per day
Frank Spoto (previously appointed as a sub)	Uncertified	Teacher	\$80.00 per day
Becky Meier	Certified	Teacher	\$95.00 per day

- c. To accept the resignation of Harris Kupper, bus driver, effective December 3, 2010.
d. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to appoint Moani McArdle to the position of scoreboard operator at a rate of \$30.00 per *night*.
e. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw, to appoint the following Class Advisor for 2010-2011 school year.

Class Advisors		Stipend
Grade 6 (Class of 2017)	Caitlin O'Connell (co-advisor)	\$575 (shared)

- f. Upon the recommendation of Superintendent McGraw to appoint April Smith as a substitute Clerk Typist with a rate of \$14.05 per hour, as per CSEA contract, effective November 29, 2010.

Superintendent Non-Action items

Superintendent McGraw updated the Board on Race to the Top network team/inquiry team as well as fire department use of the District's fueling depot.

Action Item

Board Member Lambert made a motion to approve item A. Seconded by Board Member Wood. 5 ayes, 0 nays.

- a. The Board of Education authorizes Raymond Sowalski to attend the NYSSBA Winter Law Conference entitled Teacher Principal Evaluations.

Board Open Discussion

Tracy Bingham and Monique Wood provided an update to the Board on the joint workshop for board members, superintendents and business officials that was held at Questar III recently. The Board requested copies of the materials that were handed out at the workshop.

Public Comment

Mr. Michael Brutsch expressed that there is a need for more specific information about why the Board enters Executive Session. He expressed that he felt that there was no discussion with regard to hiring a new principal in open session.

Executive Session

Board Member Wood made a motion to enter executive session to discuss employment matters related to a particular person or corporation and collective bargaining at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Board Member Smith. 5 ayes, 0 nays.

**Leilani Hover, Boys
Varsity Volleyball
Assistant Coach**

**Jody Rhoderick,
Georgianna Raimer,
Leonard "Jesse" Brown,
IV., Frank Spoto,
Uncertified Substitutes**

**Becky Meier, Certified
Substitute**

**Harris Kupper,
resignation**

**Moani McArdle,
Scoreboard Operator**

**Caitlin O'Connell, 6th
Grade Advisor**

**April Smith, Substitute
Clerk Typist**

**Race to the Top
Network Team/Inquiry
Team**

Fuel Depot Discussion

**Raymond Sowalski,
Winter Law Conference**

Board Open Discussion

Public Comment

Executive Session

Clerk Pro-Tem

Board Member Wood made a motion to appoint Superintendent McGraw as Clerk Pro-Tem. Seconded by Board Member Lambert. 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Returned to Open Session

Board Member Wood made a motion to return to open session at 10:03 p.m. Seconded by Board Member Smith. They discussed having a meeting on December 14, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. for purposes of discussing the superintendent evaluation.

Adjournment

Board Member Wood made a motion to adjourn at 10:10 p.m. Seconded by Board Member Bingham. 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista Giangrossi, Deputy District Clerk

Clerk Pro-Tem

Return to Open Session

Adjournment