

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGHLIGHTS of MEETING HELD – April 8, 2014
REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: at 7:01 P.M. at Franklin Academy High School, Huskie Lane, Malone.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Arlie Collins, Christine Crossman-Dumas, Carol Hunter, Gordon Hutchins, Donna Kissane, Edward Lockwood, Wayne Rogers.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephen J. Dupree, David LaPlant.

MEMBERS TARDY: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry Griffin, Superintendent, Timothy P. Whipple, Business Administrator, Melissa Brown, Suanne Tatro, Jason Black (CSEA) and several government class students.

PLEDGE TO FLAG: was led by President Rogers.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK PRO-TEM: Timothy P. Whipple was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for the duration of the Board Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: was entered into at 7:02 P.M. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters as they relate to specific individuals and contractual matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: at 7:12 P.M.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

AGENDA for 4/8/14 was adopted as presented.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held 3/25/14 were approved as presented.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

BID AWARD - FRANKLIN ACADEMY PLUMBING RENOVATIONS: was awarded to K & L Plumbing of Plattsburgh, NY in the amount of \$152,850.

REVISED CONTRACT WITH FRANKLIN COUNTY FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER: was approved as presented. (Revision being a start date of May 1, 2014.)

CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES: with M/E Engineering, P.C. for the natural gas conversion at various District buildings in the amount of \$29,500 was approved as presented.

DONATION: of \$800 from Poissant, Nichols, Grue & Vanier, P.C. for the Science & Swim Camp (5 scholarships at \$150 each, with an additional \$50 for supplies) was accepted "with thanks".

FORENSICS TRIP TO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: in May for students to attend the National Championship Tournament was approved as presented. The cost of the trip is being funded from the co-curricular account.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS:

BOARD REPORTS: Ms. Hunter informed the Board that she and Mr. Griffin have been working on organizing an informal presentation of the upcoming capital project to residents who live in the neighborhood around the current College Avenue Buildings. The neighborhood informational session, geared towards homeowners in the College Avenue, State Street, Pearl Street, Scott Drive, Willow Street and Reservoir Street areas, will be held on April 22, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in the High School Library. Light refreshments will be served. Mr. Rogers, who just returned from the National School Boards Association convention in New Orleans, provided the Board with an update of some of the issues that were discussed at the conference. One topic, although not a current factor in the Malone area, was the prevalence of Charter Schools across the country and in New York State. Mr. Rogers explained his concern with the infringement of Charter Schools on budgets and how public monies are siphoned off to these start-up schools from local and state dollars. Mr. Collins asked Mr. Rogers to explain what a Charter School was for the benefit of the many students in the audience. Mr. Rogers gave a thorough summary of what a Charter School is and how they operate. Many of these schools are very selective with whom they allow to attend their schools and operate with very little, if any, oversight by a governing body or State Government, although tax dollars are used to fund the operations.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: Mr. Whipple reviewed new revenue updates for the 2014-15 budget as a result of the recent NYS budget deal that was passed by the State Legislature last week. In total, \$825,906 of the District's Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) was restored, as well as \$232,181 in additional Foundation aid. Those two aid categories provided \$1,058,087 in additional aid to the District for the 2014-15 school year, which enables the overall projected tax levy to fall within the tax levy cap calculation of 3.15%. The current levy is projected to be 2.86%, with total budget increases being 2.31%. Mr. Griffin gave the Board a summary of the Tax Freeze Plan that was also a

component of a final NYS budget deal. For the fiscal year beginning 2014, any school district that adopts a “freeze compliant budget” by remaining at or below their tax levy cap calculation for the 2014-15 fiscal year will enable eligible homeowners in those school districts to receive a credit for certain increases in school property taxes. Based on Malone’s projected tax levy increase of 2.86%, taxpayers should expect a relatively small refund check in November 2014. Ms. Hunter wondered if we should utilize all of the District’s allowable tax levy for next year, which would be \$30,000 more than currently budgeted for 2014-15. Mr. Rogers stated this is a fair budget and meets our needs, so using all of the 3.15% increase may not be necessary. Mr. Griffin added that this is a budget that we can stand up for. The District did not have to make any cuts to any staff or programs for 2014-15, which is not consistent with many other school districts throughout New York State. Mr. Griffin complimented Mr. Whipple for his work on preparing the budget.

STEM PARTNERSHIP WITH CLARKSON UNIVERSITY PRESENTATION: Mr. Miletich, Science Teacher at Franklin Academy, and Darcy Rabideau, Math Teacher at Franklin Academy, gave a presentation to the Board about the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program being offered to high school and middle school students through a partnership with Clarkson University. The program consists of one-day workshops for a series of weeks, with the culminating event taking place at Clarkson University at the conclusion of each workshop. The program is intended to introduce students to different aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through hands-on experiments and projects, as well as giving teachers the tools they need to integrate these programs into their curriculum. Through a grant Malone CSD received, students are able to work directly with Clarkson University students on various tasks by working together in teams. Mr. Miletich mentioned that not only are the students engaged with the specifics of the project, but they are also learning how to work together in a team concept to achieve a mutual goal. Mr. Rogers mentioned that this is a program that is extremely valuable to our Middle School and High School students, but he believes it would also be of interest to elementary students.

CONSENT AGENDA: for **PERSONNEL MATTERS** was approved as follows:

Instructional Staff:

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ADDITIONS: Gloria Baldwin (Teaching Asst. only), Kari Brooks (Teacher Aide/Teaching Asst./Clerk/Typist also), Andrew Kirkpatrick (Home Tutor only), Jeffrey Robinson (Teaching Asst. also), Kimberly Saumier (Teaching Asst. also) & Megan Tavernia (Teacher Aide/Teaching Asst. also).

Support Staff:

RESIGNATION: Michelle Grimshaw (Teacher Aide), effective 3/24/14.

SUBSTITUTES: Stephen Barse & Harold Poirier (Bus Drivers), effective 4/21/14.

TRANSFER: Amber Hanna (Cleaner) from Davis to St. Joseph’s, effective 5/5/14.

PERMANENT APPOINTMENT: Douglas Randall (Cleaner), effective 5/5/14.

SICK LEAVE POOL RECOMMENDATION: 20 days were granted to Lynn Preve.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CSE/CPSE RECOMMENDATIONS: were approved as presented.

2014-2015 BUDGET: in the amount of \$47,600,410 was adopted as presented (2.31% increase from 2013-2014).

ADJOURNMENT: 8:03 P.M.

Cindy L. Brooks
District Clerk/Board of Education
4/10/14