

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**HIGHLIGHTS of MEETING HELD – February 10, 2015**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** at 7:00 P.M. at Franklin Academy High School, Huskie Lane, Malone.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Wayne Rogers, Stephen J. Dupree, Donna Kissane, David LaPlant, Carol Hunter, Philip Hans, Christine Crossman-Dumas.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Arlie Collins, Edward Lockwood

**MEMBERS TARDY:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Timothy P. Whipple, District Clerk/Business Administrator, Jerry Griffin, Superintendent, Melissa Brown (MFT), Brianne Iby (MFT), Brandon Pelkey, F.A. Principal, Suanne Tatro, Middle School Teacher.

**PLEDGE TO FLAG:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Rogers.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** was entered into at 7:01 P.M. for the purpose of discussing substitute additions.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:** at 7:17 P.M.

**BUSINESS MATTERS:**

AGENDA for 2/10/15 was adopted.

MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held 1/27/15 were approved as presented.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

BOE MEETING CHANGES: The 2/24/15 BOE meeting was canceled due to school not being in session during winter break and the 4/28/15 BOE meeting has been moved to 4/21/15.

AMENDMENT/ADOPTION OF POLICY # 7130 (FIRST READING): was adopted as presented.

WAIVE SECOND READING OF POLICY # 7130: was waived.

HOLY FAMILY SPORTS MERGER 15-16: was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF HUSKIE SUMMER SWIMMING CAMP 2015 AND HUSKIE SPRING SWIMMING CLUB 2015: were approved as presented.

**ADDITIONAL MATTERS:**

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION PRESENTATION: Kerri Keeler and Rhonda Shorette-Peets from Franklin-Essex-Hamilton BOCES gave a presentation to the Board on the multiple pathways to graduation initiative that was recently adopted by the NYS Regents. By 2015 NYS will offer all students the opportunity to take an additional, approved exam within a pathway to fulfill part of the Regents examination graduation requirement in the areas of Arts, CTE (Career and Technical Education), Humanities and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Ms. Hunter commented that while this is a great option for some students, the district should still push students to receive an advanced regent's diploma. Mr. Griffin stated that it was his expectation to encourage as many students as possible to graduate with an advanced regent's diploma.

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Crossman-Dumas reported that she attended the Title I presentation at the Middle School. Mr. Knight, MS Principal and Mr. Coakley, MS Asst. Principal did a nice job and she would encourage all parents to attend in the future.

Mrs. Crossman-Dumas also complimented the students who participated in the All County Chorus and Band concert recently in Chateaugay. She mentioned how impressed she was with the talent of our students. Mr. Pelkey, F.A. Principal, expressed appreciation on how well those students represented Franklin Academy. He also commended the music teachers on their hard work preparing students for the event.

Mr. Rogers said that he recently attended a NYS School Boards Association trip to Washington D.C. in his role as Area 6 representative. He gave members of the Board the talking points NYSSBA used when discussing education issues with members of congress. He is hopeful those issues will be addressed in the upcoming congressional session by our local and national representatives.

Mr. Rogers also handed out a letter from the NYS Educational Conference Board to Governor Cuomo outlining the issues with the Governor's state aid proposal and how the uncertainty surrounding education aid has hampered the efforts of school Boards to develop a budget.

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS:** Mr. Whipple presented the 2015-2016 draft budget to the Board. Each member was given a binder that summarized the different components of the proposed spending plan. The first draft of the budget shows expenditure increases of \$1,032,800, which calculates to 2.17% more than the 2014-15 budget. The district will realize significant savings in 15-16 as a result of a decrease in the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) rate. Mr. Whipple explained that because there have been no state aid runs, which are typically released by the Governor before now, it is difficult to accurately predict the revenue side of the budget. For the sake of providing the Board with a starting point, he and Mr. Griffin budgeted conservatively and added about \$545,000 to the budget in additional state aid revenue. The projected tax levy increase, without accurate state aid numbers, is 2.34%, which is lower than the allowable tax levy limit of 3.54%. Mr. Griffin explained the additional programs and positions that have been included as part of the base budget. He was happy to be able to recommend to the Board adding positions instead of cutting positions, as he has for the past few years. Mr. Griffin said that if the district were to receive additional state aid above and beyond what was estimated so far that additional positions could be added.

Mr. LaPlant stated that he would like to discuss adding additional counseling support for the Middle School and Elementary levels. Ms. Hunter suggested the Board look to potentially increase Pre-K opportunities with additional monies. Mr. Rogers suggested that Board members review the budget materials over the next few weeks and more discussion on additional positions would be had at our March 10 meeting.

**RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR A SOUND BASIC EDUCATION:** Mr. Hathaway, President of the Malone Federation of Teachers, addressed the Board in support of a resolution that expresses displeasure with the Governor's plan to tie state aid increases with political reforms to education policy. He believes the Governor's plan to connect state aid increases to policy changes in the K-12 education setting will continue to erode public education by promoting untested and unrelated policy decisions, taking away the autonomy of local school districts and the decisions made by individual communities, and finally degrading the profession of teaching.

Mr. Rogers encouraged all those in attendance at the meeting, including students in the audience, to write to the Governor and express their displeasure with the way in which his proposed reforms have been linked with students' constitutional right to a "sound basic education" and unfairly associates education aid with a political agenda.

A motion was made to approve the resolution as presented and send copies to Elizabeth Little, NYS Senator, Assemblywoman Janet Dupree, and Governor Andrew Cuomo. (See supplemental file for copy)

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

**Instructional Staff:**

**SUBSTITUTE ADDITIONS:** Daniel Hunter (Teacher/Teaching Assistant), Deborah Martin (Teacher), Annmarie Trombley (Teacher/Home Tutor).

**AIS APPOINTMENTS:** were made to Jillian Senter, Global Studies, 1 section/1 day per week, effective retroactive to February 9, 2015 through June 30, 2015 and Melissa Smith, Algebra, 1 section/1 day per week, effective retroactive to February 9, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

**SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS:** were made to Chris Kelley (Varsity Golf, Step III), Tim Lamay (Varsity Baseball, Step III), Joey Santamoor (JV Baseball, Step III), Greg Marshall (Varsity Softball, Step III), Terry Collins (JV Softball, Step III), Jason LaFlesh (Modified Baseball, Step III), Kevin St. Hilaire (Modified Baseball, Step III).

**Support Staff:**

**RESIGNATION:** Emily Vanier (Teaching Assistant, Flanders) effective 2/13/15.

**ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

**CSE/CPSE RECOMMENDATIONS:** were approved as presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:45 P.M.

Timothy P. Whipple  
District Clerk/Board of Education  
2/10/15