

BOARD OF EDUCATION
HIGHLIGHTS of MEETING HELD – March 8, 2016
REGULAR MEETING

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEMBERS TARDY: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Timothy P. Whipple, District Clerk/Business Administrator, Jerry Griffin, Superintendent, Brandon Pelkey, F.A. Building Principal, Kathy Seymour, MCSD Administrators, Brianne Iby, MFT, many students and Despo Macneill, (Media).

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

RECOGNITION:

Mr. Griffin recognized Kathy Seymour, Principal at Flanders Elementary School, who was present at the board meeting along with her husband, Neil. Mr. Griffin stated that Mrs. Seymour will be retiring in a few days and he wanted to recognize her for the service she has given to the district over the past thirty years, and her career in education over the past thirty-five years. Kathy, as Mr. Griffin noted, has worked with thousands of students over her career and he thanked her for her service to the district and community. Mr. Rogers presented Mrs. Seymour with a retirement gift from the district and also commented that Mrs. Seymour always created a family-friendly atmosphere in the school and at special events. He concluded his remarks by wishing her well in retirement and thanking Kathy for her service to the district. Mrs. Seymour thanked the Board and her colleagues for their support. She said she always had a passion for what she did and she enjoyed trying to make a difference in the lives of students. Board members and those in the audience gave Mrs. Seymour a standing ovation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: was entered into at 7:06 P.M for the purpose of discussing personnel matters as they relate to specific individuals and litigation matters.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: at 7:38 P.M.

BUSINESS MATTERS:

AGENDA for 3/8/16 was adopted as amended. **Added: Vacant BOCES Board Member Seat**
MINUTES of the Regular Meeting held 2/23/16 were approved as presented.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

4/26/16 REGULAR BOARD MEETING: was changed to 4/19/16 due to the district being required to meet on April 19th to vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget and BOCES Annual Election of Members.
APPROVAL OF FORENSICS STATE COMPETITION TRIP TO UNIONDALE, NY (April 9 & April 10): was approved as presented.

DONATION: \$2,500 from the Adirondack Foundation for Chromebooks for use in the foreign language program was approved with much thanks and gratitude.

2015-2016 BUDGET TRANSFERS: were approved as presented.

2016-2017 SPORTS MERGER: with Holy Family School for all Modified, J.V. and Varsity Sports Programs except those provided by Holy Family School was approved with the stipulation that in regards to teams which are formed based on a tryout, the merger will only apply to Holy Family students who reside in Malone Central School District.

ADDITIONAL MATTERS:

BOARD REPORTS: Mrs. Kissane reported that she read to students at Flanders Elementary School as part of Dr. Seuss day. It was a fun experience and she enjoyed how attentive and interested the students were.

Mr. Rogers reminded board members about the Franklin-Essex-Hamilton School Boards Association event on April 7th at Franklin Academy High School. Dr. Bill Daggett will be the guest speaker. Mr. Rogers also asked members to review a couple emails from NYSSBA pertaining to a resolution survey, as well as an advocacy alert about the tax cap. He asked members to consider responding to the survey so that NYSSBA staff can understand the issues that are important to our district and our school board members. Mr. Rogers concluded his report by reminding members about the upcoming musical performance of Beauty and the Beast on March 17, 18 & 19.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: Mr. Whipple reviewed the BOCES component of the 2016-17 budget with Board members. BOCES costs are projected to increase by \$423,000, but many of the expenditures included in the budget are optional and were included because the district asked for pricing. Mr. Whipple stated that the final BOCES commitment for 16-17 will be determined when the NYS budget is adopted and the district is aware of their total aid package. It is the goal to remain at or beneath the tax cap limit, which is 1.655%. Mr. Whipple responded to Mrs. Kissane that the current 15-16 BOCES expenditures total \$5.73 million.

ACCOUNTABILITY PRESENTATION: Mr. Griffin gave a presentation to the Board about the accountability status of two of the District's schools, Davis Elementary and Malone Middle School. Those schools were designated as focus schools for the 2016-2017 school year because one or more accountability groups in the district, excluding the "all students" accountability group, were preliminarily identified based on 2014-2015 school data as among the lowest performing in the state for the English language arts (ELA) and mathematics Performance Index (PI) results combined. For Davis, the accountability group as identified by the state was for "Economically Disadvantaged Students" and for the Middle School the category as identified was "Students with Disabilities". Each school was identified with a performance index (PI) being at or below the Focus District cut points and/or the accountability group(s) for which the school has been preliminarily identified has not shown progress by meeting any of the progress filters. Mr. Griffin reviewed with Board members the requirements for the two schools moving forward, which include participating in a diagnostic review of quality indicators in a format prescribed by Commissioner. Mr. Griffin was happy to report this process has already been completed last week. He also reported that there are some parent notifications of the accountability status that must be followed, which will take place in the coming weeks.

Mr. Lockwood asked Mr. Griffin what can be done to ease the mind of parents about the upcoming 3-8 ELA and Math exams so that they are more comfortable allowing their children to take the exams. Mr. Griffin reviewed with the board changes that will take place with the exams this year, including decreased number of test questions and unlimited testing time. Additionally, teachers were more directly involved with test question selection and formation this year, and student test scores are not factored in to a teacher's evaluation.

Mr. Hans stated that he would like to support Mr. Griffin in explaining to parents the changes to the exam and how not taking the exam can affect the district's accountability status. Griffin stated that he would give the board members talking points about the changes so members can have those conversations with parents.

Mrs. Crossman-Dumas asked what changes were taking place for special education students who have difficulty sitting for the entire exam. Mr. Griffin responded that in addition to having unlimited time to take the exam, there is a possibility the tests can be read aloud to students with disabilities if that is an accommodation they are entitled to. The state will be sending a final determination about that in the near future.

VACANT BOCES BOARD MEMBER SEAT: There is one vacancy for a three year term of office from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019. Mr. Dupree has decided not to run again on the BOCES Board. Mr. Rogers asked the board if they would like to nominate any candidates. At this time there are no nominations.

VACANT BOCES BOARD MEMBER SEAT (Cont'd): Mr. Rogers asked that any board member interested in being nominated should contact him. This may call for a Special Board Meeting before the nomination due date of March 18th.

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

RESIGNATION: was accepted from Julie Miller (School Psychologist), effective March 26, 2016.

AIS APPOINTMENTS: were made to Jillian Senter (US History), Brett Buschbascher (Algebra), Antonia Blair (Global Studies), Kim Reilly (Earth Science), \$35.00 per session; 2 days/week, effective March 9, 2016 through June 30, 2016.

SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS: were made to Austin Lamay (Baseball), Brad Garrow (Baseball), Mike Andrews (Baseball), Emily Sharlow (Softball), Amy LaVine (Softball), Chad Lawrence (Track), Mike Westcott (Track), William Trombley (Track). All appointments are volunteer.

ADDITIONAL SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS/ASSISTANTS/AIDES: were made to Rebecca Aird, Sara Barber, Robert Bashaw, Jeanette Bassett, Jannette Drake, Kristin Farrell, Taylor LaPage, Victoria Merrick, Annika Peterson, Tyler Spillane, (Teacher/Teaching Assistant/Teacher Aide), Jennifer Fefee (Teacher Assistant/Teacher Aide), Jared Taylor (Teacher/Teaching Assistant/Teacher Aide/Home Tutor).

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED ACTION:

CSE/CPSE RECOMMENDATIONS: were approved as presented.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:45 P.M.

Timothy P. Whipple

District Clerk/Board of Education

3/8/16