

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 7, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Teneka Frost, President	Dr. Eva. Joseph
	William Barnette, Vice President	Jeffrey Honeywell
	Wayne Morris, Secretary	Terry White
	Dr. Mark Barth	Dr. Joseph Dragone
	Judy Doesschate (excused at 9 p.m.)	Kathleen Wetmore
	Barbara Gaffuri	Linda Jackson-Chalmers
	Jackie Jenkins-Cox	

ABSENT: None

Call to Order:

Ms. Frost called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Frost welcomed the members of the audience and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Mr. Barnette made a motion to amend the agenda to present item #8 discussion item before the current #5 information item and to include additional information under the listing of retirements and resignations under the routine consent agenda item. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph acknowledged on behalf of the Board of Education and the district, the passing of David Brown of Sawchuck Brown. Dr. Joseph the district has recently secured a contract with Sawchuck Brown Associates. Dr. Joseph noted the district is disappointed and sad for his firm, his wife and also the fact that the district has not had a chance for the partnership to evolve with him along side.

Dr. Joseph acknowledged with congratulations the facilities referendum vote last night. Dr. Joseph recognized the Board of Education, the facilities team, cabinet, administration, faculty, staff, families, parents and friends of the district for their contributions in making this referendum vote successful.

Dr. Joseph noted magnet school lottery applications are available at Academy Park and also the district website.

Dr. Joseph noted City Council PTA Founder's Day Dinner is scheduled for Friday, February 9, 2007.

Dr. Joseph noted in addition to activities that take place throughout the year as part of the district black history curriculum, February is Black History Month, a month where the district highlights and showcases events. Dr. Joseph noted a flyer promoting "Say It Loud" is available to the public. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28 at Albany High School, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Joseph announced the names of administrative staff, Mr. Guzik, Mr. Spicer, Mr. Tate, Mr. Robert White and Mr. Terence White, whose names are on the agenda under retirement this evening. Their service to the district totals 166 years. Dr. Joseph congratulated the group and wished them well in their retirement.

Dr. Joseph noted an important piece in the budget development process is the charter school goal. Dr. Joseph noted the Governor has released information regarding transition aid for Albany with a figure of \$2.5 million in charter school aid next year. Dr. Joseph noted the district was pleased that the Governor recognized there was a problem of over saturation of charter schools in Albany. However, \$2.5 million does not come close to fixing the problem. The district will continue to work hard to have our voices heard relative to charter school issues.

Dr. Joseph noted in regard to concerns about textbooks made in the fall, Ken Screven of Channel 6 indicated he had received information that textbooks were not being provided to students at some of the district schools. Dr. Joseph advised the principals of these schools have assured administration that textbooks are provided to our students. Dr. Joseph advised if there are individual circumstances where that is not the case, it is important that the Superintendent's office be contacted for follow-up.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Kathy Neuffer addressed the board regarding the Albany High students who won an independent film award and their fund raising efforts to cover the costs related to travel to Paris to receive that award. Ms. Neuffer also recognized students who will be working with Habitat for Humanity during the recess to assist victims of the Katrina hurricane in New Orleans.
2. Nolene Smith addressed the board regarding NCLB regulations and requirements.
3. Bill Ritchie addressed the board regarding the successful referendum vote and APSTA efforts to lobby against charter schools in the district.
4. David McLeod addressed the board regarding middle school structure.
5. Eric Carman, and Albany High students addressed the board regarding the sponsorship of the community for Tri Fecta Productions, which will allow the group to attend the award ceremony in Paris for the independent film award.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student representative was not present for the meeting. There was no report.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Ms. Frost presented the Routine Consent Items, including Proceedings of Meetings, January 3, 2007, January 18, 2007 and February 6, 2007 Canvass of Votes; Resignations/Retirements; Vacated Position, Abolish of Positions, Creation of Positions, Leave of Absence; Transfers; Appointments (Interim Administrative Appointment, Probationary Appointments, Regular Substitutes, Miscellaneous, Coaching – Winter 2006-07, Albany Evening High School – Winter 2006-07, Civil Service and Emergency Conditional Appointments); Attendance at Conferences, Resolution to Appoint the Board of Registration for the May vote, Final Vote Canvass – February 6, 2007; Treasurer's Report, Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000, Budget Status Report – 12/31/06, Extra Classroom Activity Report; Property Tax Adjustments Bids and External RFP Award, NUA Contract; Committee on Special Education, Subcommittee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-School Special Education, Appointments to Special Education Committees,

Contracts for Grants and Special Projects (Reading & Writing Project Network, LLC (Columbia University) for staff development at Arbor Hill Elementary School, Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology, Pine Hills Elementary, Albany School of Humanities, School 19, Montessori and Eagle Point Elementary Schools and a second contract for Philip Livingston Magnet Academy, Stephen & Harriet Myers Middle School and Hackett Middle School.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the routine consent items. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Mr. Barnette asked to set aside Civil Service and Civil Service Permanent appointments, NUA Contract and Contracts for Grants and Special Projects. Mr. Barth asked to set aside proceedings of meetings.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve Routine Consent Items absent those set aside.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve proceedings of January 3, 2007. Ms. Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion. Following discussion Ms. Frost called the vote.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.

Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox made a motion to approve the proceeding of January 18, 2007. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Following a point of clarification, Ms. Frost called the vote.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.

Mr. Barth made a motion to approve Civil Service and Civil Service Permanent Appointments. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The board voted 5 ayes, 0 nays and 2 abstentions.

Mr. Barnette and Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox abstained.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the NUA Contract. Ms. Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion.

The board voted 5 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention.

Mr. Barnette was apposed and Ms. Jenkins-Cox abstained.

Ms. Jenkins-Cox made a motion to approve contract for grants and special projects. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Following discussion Ms. Frost called the vote.

The board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Dr. Joseph gave a comprehensive presentation on the 2007-2008 budget development indicating the board mission/vision, goals, performance objectives and resources, focusing on the following objectives that accompany the goals. Test 95% of all students in grades 3-12. Increase grades 3-8 ELA and Math performance index of students with disabilities, black students and economically disadvantaged students to safe harbor targets. Increase graduation rates in all subgroups. Increase district attendance rate. Decrease district dropout and suspension rates. Dr. Joseph reviewed the process of taking performance objectives presented in the fall of 2006 with the 2007-2008 budget development goals and objectives to define programs and strategies and then develop the 2007-2008 budget plan. Dr. Joseph then reviewed the budget development goals of meeting and exceeding the New York State education standards for all schools. Eliminating the achievement gap while providing academic challenges and rigor for all students at all academic levels. Successfully integrating students with disabilities into all academic areas and improving student achievement. Keeping safe schools and student health a priority. Continuing to rebuild Albany schools including meeting facilities plan targets and continuing to seek additional state aid and reduce the impact of charter schools on the district.

INFORMATION ITEM

Alternative Education Program

Dr. Joseph provided the board with background information regarding the district's Alternative Education Program. Mr. Dragone introduced Ms. Ferlazzo, Director Pupil Personnel and Mr. Guzik, Safe Schools Coordinator who prepared the presentation to the board this evening. Ms. Ferlazzo presented a brief overview of the Alternative Education Program in the district. Ms. Ferlazzo noted the current role of the Alternative Education Program is to provide an educational setting for students who have violated the district's safety and conduct policies. Another role is to provide transitional programs, through regular settings, for students that have transferred from various facilities and schools. The program also provides enriched connections with district and community services. Ms. Ferlazzo noted there is a wealth of these services in the City of Albany. Included in the presentation was a review of the current role of alternative education and a review of the programs such as the Transitional Learning Center at North Albany Academy, the Middle School Alternative Program (MsAPS), the Tutorial Options Program (TOPS) and the AHS Transition Program at the Adult Learning Center. Additional programs include the Harriett Gibbons High School Preparatory Program, the Abrookin Night School Program and the Teenage Mother's Program at Abrookin. The Albany Alternative Education Program has a combined capacity of 499 students. Present enrollment is 422 students. The presentation concluded with a review of the strengths, needs and recommendations related to the current program. Ms. Ferlazzo spoke about program flexibility, innovative educational opportunities through technology, greater outreach to retrieve dropout students and support graduation, professional development for alternative education teachers and staff, and continued development of wrap-around services for students. Recommendations include the promotion of student-school connections and continued development of innovative alternative programming.

Ms. Frost noted a presentation on the Middle School and High School Program is scheduled for the February 15, 2007 and March 6, 2007 board meetings. Board members will have an opportunity for additional questions at that meeting.

Ms. Doesschate left the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Approval of Change Orders

Ms. Frost presented change orders for Stephen & Harriet Myers Middle School, Hackett Middle School and Delaware Community School for approval. Following a review of the change orders, Ms. Jenkins-Cox made a motion to approve the change orders. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

ACTION ITEM

Policies

Ms. Frost presented policy #1130 News Media Relations and #1230 Public Participation at Board Meetings for approval. Mr. Barnette made a motion to approve the policies as presented. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously (6-0) to approve the motion.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Barnette noted the Policy Committee met earlier this week to review policy #6900 Sale and Disposal of School Property. Mr. Barnette noted this is a required policy. Ms. Jackson-Chalmers noted members focused on two policies, Board Operational Goals and Board Legal Status. These policies will be presented to the board to determine whether or not the board deems them as necessary policies. Also, the committee will be taking the last group of draft policies provided through the first phase of the policy review by NYSSBA, dealing with board operations. The board will be asked to consider these policies in their entirety. Mr. Barnette noted there are a number of policies that pertain to New York State regulations and statute. The committee discussed the issue of having policies that basically repeat information in regulations and whether or not the board feels that a formal policy is necessary. Board members expressed interest in having the opportunity to look at the NYSSBA draft policies.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Ms. Frost requested an update on the NUA Contract, particularly the community meetings. Following discussion board members agreed that this should be placed on a future agenda.

Ms. Frost also requested information related to the practices of Honors Program throughout the district be placed on a future agenda. Following discussion Dr. Joseph suggested that part of future presentations regarding the middle school and high school planning would include discussion regarding the Honors Program. Board members will receive information related to this item in an update.

Mr. Barnette requested clarification of the exact amount of state aid the district would be receiving this coming year. Dr. Joseph advised last year the district received \$60,240,004 in state aid and this year the amount is \$66,991,019, plus the transition aid, which is \$2,525,682.

Adjournment

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion. Upon notification that a member of the audience requested an opportunity for public comment, Mrs. Gaffuri withdrew the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Peretta addressed the board relative to a position related to the Dual Language Program.

Adjournment

Ms. Jenkins-Cox made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board