

# **PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**May 2, 2006**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Albany High School**

**PRESENT:** Edward Brown, President  
Teneka Frost, Vice President  
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary  
William Barnette  
Jackie Jenkins-Cox  
Judy Doesschate

Dr. Eva Joseph  
Jeffrey Honeywell  
Terrance White  
Joseph Dragone  
Kathleen Wetmore  
Linda Jackson-Chalmers

**Absent:** Susan Kushner

## **Call to Order:**

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Brown welcomed the members of the audience and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Joseph noted the performance of "Carousel" at Albany High School on Friday, May 5 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Joseph advised an interview with Dr. Eric Cooper of the National Urban Alliance would be aired on Channel 6 at the 11:00 p.m. news this evening.

Dr. Joseph noted the Budget Hearing is scheduled for this meeting and extended her gratitude to the board for their efforts in developing a budget to be put before voters on May 16, 2006.

Mrs. Gaffuri noted an article in Newsweek that indicates Albany High School as one of 5% of the top schools in the nation based on course offerings and the ratio of graduating seniors.

## **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Minsoo Lee advised he had no formal report except that students are studying for finals.

## **BUDGET HEARING**

Dr. Joseph presented a very comprehensive explanation of the budget that will be presented for approval to the public on May 16, 2006. Dr. Joseph listed both goals that the budget supports and the existing and new programs that will be utilized in supporting those goals. The estimated tax rate increase breakdown was presented along with the impact of charter schools on the budget. Dr. Joseph spoke about the impact of additional Magnet Aid and the reductions the district will need to make in order to stay within the budget. Dr. Joseph continued with a breakdown of estimated revenues and expenditures and the implications to the district if the budget is not approved and the district would be compelled to go to a contingent budget.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION**

1. Charles Touhey addressed the board regarding cultural literacy.
2. Nolene Smith addressed the board relative to Earth Science Program at Hackett Middle School.
3. Robert Callahan addressed the board relative to the 2006-2007 budget.
4. Amy Chermak addressed the board relative to cultural literacy.

**ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Brown presented Routine Consent Items including Proceedings of Meetings for April 4 & 10, 2006; Resignations, Terminations, Leaves of Absence, Appointments (Regular Substitute, Part-time Teacher, Coaching-Spring, Miscellaneous (District Physician), Civil Service Permanent and Emergency Conditional Appointments; District Policy Regarding Unemployment Insurance; Attendance at Conferences, Treasurer's Report, Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund, Budget Transfers under \$10,000, Budget Transfers over \$10,000, Budget Status Report, Award of Bids & RFP's, Real Property Tax Adjustments, Health Contracts, Committee on Special Education, Subcommittee on Special Education, Committee on Pre-K Special Education, Contracts for Grants and Special Projects (Albany County). Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve Routine Consent Items. Ms. Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion.

Mr. Barnette set aside the Treasurer's Report, Emergency Conditional Appointments and Contract for Grants & Special Projects (Albany County). Ms. Doesschate set aside Health Contracts.

The board voted unanimously to approve Routine Consent Items absent those items set aside.

Mr. Barnette made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Following clarification, Mr. Brown called the vote.

The board voted unanimously 6 – 0, to approve the motion.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve Health Contracts. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Following discussion, Mr. Brown called the vote.

The board voted unanimously 6 – 0, to approve the motion.

Mr. Brown called for a motion to approve Emergency Conditional Appointments. Ms. Frost made a motion for approval. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Following discussion regarding using uncertified teachers in the classroom, Mr. Brown called the vote

The board voted 4 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstained.

Mr. Barnette was opposed and Mr. Brown abstained.

Motion passed

Ms. Jenkins-Cox made a motion to approve Contracts & Grants for Special Projects (Albany County). Ms. Frost seconded the motion. Following clarification, Mr. Brown called the vote.

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT**

**Action Items Related to the Facilities Project**

**Approval of Change Orders**

Dr. Joseph presented change orders for Stephen & Harriet Myers Middle School, North Albany Academy, Eagle Point Elementary School, School 16, School 18 and Hackett Middle School.

Ms. Jenkins-Cox made a motion for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously 6 – 0, to approve the motion.

**School 19 Design Development Documents & Construction Documents**

Mr. Brown presented the following resolution for board approval.

**RESOLUTION**

**School 19 Design Development and  
Construction Document Phase Approvals**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby accepts School 19, SED #019-006 Design Development and Construction Document phased and authorizes submittal of the project for SED approval for building permits, based on the recommendation of the Super Building Advisory Committee, Pike/Heery and the Superintendent.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion for approval. Ms. Frost seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously 6 – 0, to approve the motion.

**Resolution to Approve Hamlin Design Contract**

Mr. Brown presented the following resolution for board approval.

**RESOLUTION**

**Hackett Middle School  
Project Management Contract**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent for Business, District Counsel and the Director of Facilities Planning to enter into a contract with the Hamlin Design Group for the continued project management of the Hackett Middle School Project.

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

Mr. Barnette noted that Mr. Hamlin is a graduate of Albany High School and is now successfully forming Hamlin Design Group.

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

Dr. Joseph noted that the district would no longer know Mr. Hamlin as the Senior Architect, but rather a consultant working under the label of Hamlin Design. Dr. Joseph extended wishes of good luck and congratulations to Mr. Hamlin in this new endeavor.

**School 19 Swing Space**

Mr. Brown presented the item for approval. Dr. Joseph noted there was a revised resolution defining the timeline for the School 19 renovation.

**RESOLUTION  
TIMELINE FOR SCHOOL 19 SWING SPACE**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby approves the timeline for swing space for School 19 during the renovation of that facility whereby the school will be vacated in June 2007 with construction to begin in July 2007. Student population will be occupying the newly renovated school in January 2009.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Following discussion, the resolution was revised to read "It is anticipated that the student population will occupy the newly renovated school in January 2009". Ms. Doesschate accepted the revision as the maker of the motion and Mrs. Gaffuri accepted the amendment as the second. Mr. Brown called the vote.

The board voted unanimously 6-0, to approve the motion.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**School Budget Notice**

Mr. Brown presented the following resolution for approval.

**RESOLUTION  
SCHOOL BUDGET NOTICE**

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the City School District approve the School Budget Notice that will be distributed to all District residents after the Budget Hearing, May 2, 2006, as required by State Law.

Ms. Frost made a motion for approval. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Brown called the vote.

The board voted unanimously 6-0, to approve the motion.

**Building Condition Survey**

Mr. Brown presented the following resolution for approval.

**RESOLUTION  
BUILDING CONDITION SURVEY**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany hereby approves the Building Condition Survey dated March 23, 2006, to be submitted to the State Education Department.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion for approval. Ms. Jenkins-Cox seconded the motion. With no further discussion, Mr. Brown called the vote.

The board voted unanimously 6-0, to approve the motion.

**BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Doesschate advised the Academic Committee included a discussion of the possibility of adopting a school uniform policy. Ms. Doesschate noted that while the board is permitted to adopt such a policy, it is unable to enforce one based on free speech, etc. Currently there is a dress code contained in the Student Conduct policy, which might require more consistent enforcement. Ms. Doesschate noted the recommendation of the Academic Committee is that the district should not adopt a school uniform policy, but that if a school wants to adopt a policy, it would be supportive of the issue, provided financial support for students who are unable to afford uniform clothing is available. The board discussed an endorsement of individual schools initiating uniforms and it was determined that this would be addressed in review of the Student Code of Conduct. The issue would be delegated to the Policy Committee to determine how the district would proceed. Additional discussion followed regarding the fact that charter schools are permitted to require uniforms. It was noted that this is another example of the different standards and rules that true public schools have to abide by and the flexibility of so called public schools – charter schools have to follow. These facts need to be communicated to the public for action to level the playing field between public schools and charter schools.

**BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Mr. Barnette extended his gratitude to a recent graduate from Albany High School who stayed to the end of the meeting.

Ms. Doesschate encouraged those present to attend the production of Carousel at Albany High School. Ms. Doesschate noted there is a full orchestra performing the music for the play.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Frost made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Catherine L. Cutting  
Clerk of the Board