

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 22, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: Edward Brown, President
Teneka Frost, Vice President
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary
William Barnette
Judy Doesschate
Susan Kushner

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

Absent: Jackie Jenkins-Cox

Call to Order:

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dr. Joseph acknowledged Mr. Tracy Ford, who is being appointed as the principal at Philip Livingston Magnet Academy and Ms. Wilberlee Range, who will be serving as the Interim Principal at Giffen Elementary School. Dr. Joseph also noted the appointment of Harry Corbitt as Director of Safe Schools and Violence Prevention.

Dr. Joseph advised the State Education Department today released information regarding persistently dangerous schools. Dr. Joseph advised the district is pleased to advise that the district did not have a school in this district identified as persistently dangerous for this school year, due to the collaboration of the educational community.

Dr. Joseph noted for a point of clarification, Philip Livingston Magnet Academy remains on the list. Once identified a school does remain on the list for two years. The district has been given an opportunity to petition the Commissioner of Education with information that supports the effectiveness of the district incident reduction plan for Livingston. Information regarding the 2005-2006 VADIR report for Livingston, along with other supporting information will be forwarded to the Commissioner seeking his determination that the school be removed from the list. Dr. Joseph noted the district is preparing that petition and application and will be looking forward to having Livingston removed from the list.

The board engaged in discussion related to information that was sent out to parents relative to enrollment of 9th graders at Harriet Gibbons High School. Dr. Joseph provided board members with the orientation packet that was sent to students. Dr. Joseph noted with respect notifying parents of their child's placement, the intent was that parents were personally contacted by the principal, the assistant principal or the guidance counselor to come in for a conference. Dr. Joseph noted that if for some reason the parent did not have that personal communication or a parent conference with respect to entry and received an orientation packet, given their names, she would follow up with those parents personally.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no speakers.

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. presented a listing of appointments (Administrative, Interim Principal, Director of Safe Schools and Violence Prevention and Miscellaneous (Math and Science Grant Coordinator) for board action. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the appointments. Ms. Kushner seconded the motion. Mr. Barnette acknowledged the candidates being presented for appointment this evening and noted that Mr. Ford, who is being appointed to the position of Principal of Philip Livingston is a graduate of Philip Livingston.

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

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 2006-2007 Tax Warrant

Dr. Joseph advised the board would be acting on two items. Dr. Joseph noted the district has received confirmation of the receipt of the \$1.5 million of Magnet Aid, additional money that was not confirmed at the time that the 2006-2007 budget was approved. Dr. Joseph advised the board is being asked to approve a resolution to amend the General Fund Budget by that amount, actually reducing the General Fund Budget by \$1.5 million. Following that approval, the board would be acting on approval on the 2006-2007 tax warrant.

Ms. Wetmore advised approval of the budget re-appropriation would reduce the General Fund Budget by \$1.5 million in Magnet Aid. The second items presented for board approval is the tax warrant. The tax warrant will show a tax rate for Homestead properties of \$24.46, which is a 7.09% increase in taxes. Ms. Wetmore advised this is the figure reflected in the budget approved by the public in June.

Ms. Wetmore reviewed the Homestead and Non-Homestead tax rates, along with the tax levy in the amount of 495,573,452. Ms. Wetmore also reviewed the revised budget reflecting the \$1.5 million Magnet Aid reduction. Ms. Wetmore reviewed the resolution to amend the General Fund Budget and the tax warrant, which is also presented for board approval.

Ms. Wetmore confirmed that the budget for which the district is levying taxes for is \$500 below the contingency budget.

Mr. Brown called for a motion on the resolution to amend the General Fund Budget. Ms. Frost made a motion to approve the resolution. Mr. Kushner seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Brown called for a motion to approve the tax warrant. Mr. Barnette made the motion. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

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

Following a lengthy discussion related to the enrollment process for 9th grade students going into Harriet Gibbons in September, Mr. Brown called for a motion to adjourn into executive session.

Adjournment

Ms. Kushner made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session. Mr. Brown advised the board would not be reconvening this evening. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board