



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 3, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: Dan Egan, President
Rose Brandon, Vice President
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary
Felicia Green
Edith Leet
Melissa Mackey
Alexandra Streznewski
Dr. Raymond Colucciello
Jeff Honeywell
Dr. Tresa Diggs
Bill Hogan
Ken Cioffi
Linda Jackson-Chalmers
Linda Rudnick

ABSENT: None

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Members of the audience were welcomed and thanked for taking the time to attend the meeting.
- The Mission Statement was read.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Wrestling coach, Nick Lettieri introduced Shawn Berman. Shawn is a junior at Albany High School. He has more wrestling wins under his belt than any student in Albany High history. He's an honor student to boot. Last month he set a school record for wrestling victories before going on to win the Section II Division I wrestling championship in his weight class. (He broke the school record of 103 career wins that was set by Greg Jones in 1986.) He advanced to the state wrestling championships that were held Feb. 25-26 -- his second year competing at the state level. Although he was eliminated in the first round at states, he boasts an impressive career record of 108-21.

Track coach, Stan Gasorowski will introduce Dashawn Gates. Dashawn, a senior, is the fastest guy at Albany High. He's a sprinter and one of the scholar-athletes on the boys' indoor track team. He's also having a great year. He took first place in three Big 10 indoor track championship races this year: the 300 meter dash, the 600 meter run and the 55 meter hurdles. In the Section II qualifying meets for the state indoor track championship, Gates won the 55 meter hurdles and came in second in the 300-meter dash. Consequently, he'll be heading to Cornell this weekend to compete in those events at the state meet.

Dr. Kallanna Manjunath, Chief Medical Officer at Whitney Young Health Clinic, along with Carlos Ortiz presented a comprehensive program review of the School Based Health Services. The first center was established in October 2004 at Philip Schuyler Achievement Academy. In 2008 a second center was opened at Giffen Memorial Elementary School and in 2009 a center was opened at Sheridan Preparatory Academy. Program services include nutrition counseling, health education counseling, counseling services and active collaboration with parents, primary care providers and school staff. The program provides communication with primary care physicians, a social worker, flu vaccine, a nutrition program and Open Airways – Pharmacy Services. The mission is to provide access consistent quality healthcare without regard to income.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Thompson is traveling Berkley, California for the Model UN Program with school.. He is unable to be here this evening.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Marlon Anderson addressed the Board regarding the issues between the District and Charter Schools. These two entities need to be able to work together for the good of all students in the City.
2. Cheryl Pollock addressed the Board regarding hands on learning experiences for students. Ms. Pollock is donating several professional stitching machines to the District to be used by students at Abrookin. Ms. Pollock spoke about her own experience with hands-on learning. Students learning in different ways.
3. James Lembo addressed the Board regarding the recognition of students scoring level 4's on their assessments. The presentations to students were very successful. Mr. Egan noted that the presentations were recommended by Dr. Brandon.
4. Barry Walston addressed the Board regarding the school budget.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Discussion/Action

EXCEL AID

INFORMATION

High School Restructuring Update

DISCUSSION

2011-2012 Budget Development

ROUTINE CONSENT ITEMS

Routine Consent Items were presented as follow: Proceedings of Meetings (February 3, 2011; Appointments (Civil Service, Miscellaneous, Substitute Teachers 2010-2011, Tutors 2010-2011); Leave of Absence; Transfers, Retirement; Itinerant Uncertified Substitute; Field Trips; Attendance at Conferences; Treasurer's Report; Budget Transfers under \$10,000; Budget Transfers over \$10,000; Revenue Status Report-1/31/11; Appropriation Status report-1/31/11; Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund; Bid Awards (All Language Translation, Core BTS, New England Systems & Software); Authorization to Enter Into Contracts; 2011-2012 School Calendar; Resolution to Approve Appointment of Superintendent of Schools, Memorandum of Agreement (APSUE) for Technology Positions, Resolution to Approve Price Adjustment for Philip Livingston (PLMA), Resolution to Approve a Proposition to Sell 270-272 Central Avenue, School District Vote Resolutions (Budget Vote/Voting Locations, Voter Registration, School Vote Canvass, Public Hearing & Budget Notice, Appointment of Inspectors). Also included is a Resolution to Approve the Chaney Agreement. Ms. Mackey asked that the Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Superintendent of Schools and the Resolution to Approve Price Adjustment for Philip Livingston (PLMA) be set aside. Ms. Green asked that Budget Transfers Under \$10,000 be set aside. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve Routine Consent Items, absent those set aside. Dr. Brandon seconded the motion.

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

Motion Passed.

Ms. Mackey made a motion to approve the Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Superintendent of Schools and the Resolution to Approve Price Adjustment for Philip Livingston (PLMA). Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Ms. Mackey in 2010 the sitting Board, after careful consideration, approved the extension of the Superintendent's contract through July of 2011. This year, the current Board went through the process of careful consideration and concluded in favor of once again extending the contract through July of 2012. Board members expressed their support for Dr. Colucciello, who has developed a student centered atmosphere of trust in the District.

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

Motion passed.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the Resolution to Approve Price Adjustment for Philip Livingston (PLMA). Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Ms. Mackey noted that last year the public approved the sale of the building. The building has been on the market for one year with no positive results. Given today's real estate market, the recommendation is to present a price adjustment to the public on the May ballot.

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

Motion passed.

Ms. Green made a motion to approve Budget Transfers Under \$10,000. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Ms. Green asked for clarification of a \$9,000 transfer HR Fingerprinting to HR Sub Support Salaries. Ms. Jackson-Chalmers advised this transfer is being made to cover the cost of hiring a former District employee to gather data in response to a Civil Rights lawsuit.

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

Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM

Policy Approval

The Board of Education will act on approval of the following policies:

- 4321.9 IEP Distribution and Implementation
- 4321.14 IEP Diploma
- 4321.19 Time Out Room
- 5210 Student Organizations
- 5220 School-Sponsored Student Publication

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the policies as presented. Dr. Brandon seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Resolution to Request a Wage Freeze

Mr. Egan presented the following resolution for approval.

WHEREAS, the City School District of Albany, like many public school districts, finds itself in one of the most challenging budget development years in memory as a result of falling state aid, unfunded state mandates, dwindling financial resources, and ever increasing costs related to pension, health insurance and other mandated benefits; and,

WHEREAS, the District has already taken significant measures over the past two years to abolish a substantial number of positions and eliminate programs in an effort to maintain a reasonable tax burden for the residents of the City of Albany; and,

WHEREAS, the central administration and the District's administrators voluntarily chose to not take any pay increase for the present 2010-2011 school year as part of last year's budget development, which assisted the District in maintaining some staff and programs; and,

WHEREAS, further cuts in staff and programs will continue to undermine the fundamental and important mission of the District to deliver a meaningful, educational program for the students of Albany; and,

WHEREAS, an agreement by the employees of the District to accept no increase in pay for the 2011-2012 school year would save approximately \$2 million, which would translate into fewer positions being abolished and programs being eliminated; and,

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and Board recognize the high level of professionalism and community leadership in the ranks of District staff; and,

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and Board recognize the fact that each collective bargaining unit (teachers, administrators, and support staff) would have to agree voluntarily to such a salary freeze for the 2011-2012 school year,

IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board of Education supports the Superintendent of Schools' recommendation that he seek from all employees and collective bargaining units representing employees of the District an agreement to accept no increase in salary for the 2011-2012 school year, consisting of no increases in base salaries and no advancement on salary steps where such steps exist. Such an agreement by the collective bargaining units would constitute their shared effort to preserve as many positions and programs as possible in these extraordinary economic times. The Superintendent is hereby directed to engage in the District's unions in such a conversation by making this request of them.

Mr. Egan noted the Board discussed the recommendation of the Superintendent to seek this wage freeze from all employees, similar to the administrative staff. Mr. Green made a motion for approval. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The Board voted 6 ayes – 0 nays and 1 abstention. Ms. Mackey abstained.

Motion passed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Brandon seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned 12:05 a.m.