

Mrs. McCoy announced that the time allotted to speakers will be adhered to without partiality to any one person.

Heather Golisano made comments related to the issue of the speech therapist and Norma Aversano, as well as the programs that are working well for children at Crompond, French Hill, Mohansic Schools and the Middle School. Ms. Golisano felt that making changes will jeopardize the program and expressed concern that she was not approached for any input.

Linda Schneider spoke on behalf of Mrs. Greco and the tremendous results achieved by her son, Justin. Mrs. Schneider asked the Board to take these results into consideration before making a decision about Mrs. Greco.

Louise Oteiza also spoke in support of Mrs. Greco and Mrs. Cahill, and the progress her son has made this past school year. Removing Mrs. Greco would take away the special program that has put our students above other districts.

Chris Morris commented on this passionate issue that goes beyond a business decision. He spoke in support of Cindy Greco and questioned the need for this personnel change at this time. Mr. Morris spoke of the importance of education; he asked the Board to do the right thing and provide for the children and follow the mission statement.

Cheryl Hulbert spoke in support of Mrs. Cahill and Mrs. Greco and expressed concern about the future of the program that works very well now. Mrs. Hulbert asked the Board to consider what they are about to do.

Mark Drexel commented on communication between the Board and the community, the work on the Brookside roof and the progress on the project thus far. Mr. Drexel offered suggestions and his time in conducting a post-project review.

Colleen Walsh spoke about the painting at Brookside School that is to be completed by August 15th. She sees no reason for moratorium on painting and feels that it is safe to proceed with the painting. The district does have to get on with building maintenance and move forward.

Dan Lefkowitz commented on committees and sub-committees and who is making the decisions. If parents on the Health & Safety committee are to be replaced, Mr. Lefkowitz noted it would be a tremendous dis-service to this community.

Nick Ditomaso spoke on the process of education and read a prepared statement.

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Fridholm to go forward with painting in the district and end at the August 15th deadline. Discussion followed.

5 aye 1 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, C. Fridholm, P. Harris, aye; J. McCoy, nay)

Board of Education Discussion Items:

Mrs. McCoy discussed a change in the date of the August 24th Business Meeting. Both the President and Vice President cannot attend. After discussion the date was changed to August 31st.

Set date for Facilities Committee Final Presentation to Board – Mrs. McCoy asked members to consider a date for the Facilities Committee and architects to give the final presentation to the Board. The earliest possible date would not be until the end of September. The Committee's preference is to have it on a night where there is no other business discussed. It will be done as soon as the architects are ready, on the first Monday in between regularly scheduled meetings.

Board of Education Member Vacancy – Mrs. McCoy discussed the timeline for a possible vote and the BOCES option of its District Superintendent appointing a member. The idea of having a mini-candidates' night was explored though it is not logical at this time. A round table discussion to explore options was suggested.

Mr. Fridholm talked about a prior suggestion to select the next person with the third highest vote count from the last election, and what appears to be a preconceived notion by other members of whom to appoint. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. D'Alessandro, seconded by Mrs. Faigle to appoint Mr. Thomas Perrino as Board member to fill vacancy left by Mr. Jacobs. Discussion followed.

4 aye 1 nay 1 1 abstention
Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, J. Miller, J. McCoy, aye; C. Fridholm, nay; P. Harris abstained)

Mrs. Harris addressed the Board about soliciting candidates for the vacant position on the Board.

Point of Order - Mr. Miller asked if a member of the Board is calling her colleagues liars if she is asking for truthfulness from Board members. Discussion followed.

Mr. Fridholm announced he will be resigning from the Board at 11:00 p.m. this evening. He will present his resignation in writing. Mr. Fridholm suggested that the Board consider the letters of interest previously submitted to the Board when filling the vacancy of his seat.

The Board took a brief recess at 9:10 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:15 p.m.

Point of Order – Mrs. Harris discussed the process that was followed in soliciting applications from the community to fill the vacancy on the Board. Mrs. Harris announced that she will be

resigning from the Board with Mr. Fridholm and will submit her resignation in writing. She thanked Dr. Bruno for being a great administrator.

Sub-Committee Memberships – Mrs. McCoy tabled this item in light of the Board resignations.

The Board moved to the resolutions at this time to ensure a quorum is present to vote.

RESOLUTIONS

PERSONNEL

INSTRUCTIONAL

Rescission of Excessing

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to rescind the excessing of Mindy Spiridigliozzi, elementary teacher at Brookside School. Ms. Spiridigliozzi will continue her probationary appointment, which will expire August 31, 2006, and be removed from the preferred eligibility list. This rescission is due to the creation of an additional Grade 1 class at French Hill School, which was approved at the July 25, 2005 Board of Education meeting.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Harris, seconded by Mr. Miller to rescind the excessing of Elizabeth Philipbar, English teacher at Strang Middle School. Ms. Philipbar will return to her tenured appointment and be removed from the preferred eligibility list. This rescission is due to the return of another teacher at Strang Middle School to the gifted/ talented position.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Appointments

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the emergency probationary appointment of Joanne Cardona, as a guidance counselor, Step 7 of the Masters salary schedule plus 36 credits, effective September 1, 2005. Ms. Cardona has Provisional certification as a school counselor. Her tenure area is Special Subject Tenure Area-School Counselor, and her probationary period will expire September 1, 2007. Ms. Cardona's initial placement will be Strang Middle School, replacing Fredericka Butler who has resigned.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the emergency probationary appointment of Michael Sica, as a social studies teacher, Step 1 of the Masters salary schedule plus 6 credits, effective September 1, 2005. Mr. Sica's Initial certification is pending. His

tenure area is Academic Tenure Area-Social Studies, and his probationary period will expire September 1, 2008. Mr. Sica's initial placement will be Strang Middle School, replacing Eric Pechenko who has resigned.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the emergency probationary appointment of Christopher DiPasquale, as a social studies teacher, Step 3 of the Bachelors salary schedule plus 21 credits, effective September 1, 2005. Mr. DiPasquale has Provisional certification in Social Studies 7-12. His tenure area is Academic Tenure Area-Social Studies, and his probationary period will expire September 1, 2008. Mr. DiPasquale's initial placement will be Strang Middle School, replacing Anthony Sciacca in the Alternate Education program.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the emergency probationary appointment of Danielle Santulli, as a special education teacher, Step 2 of the Bachelors salary schedule plus 3 credits, effective September 1, 2005. Ms. Santulli has Provisional certification in special education. Her tenure area is Special Subject Tenure Area-Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions-General Special Education, and her probationary period will expire September 1, 2008. Ms. Santulli's initial placement will be at Strang Middle School. This is a replacement position for Doug Salvati who resigned.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the appointment of the following excessed teachers to permanent substitute/leave replacement positions for the 2005-2006 school year. They will remain on the preferred eligibility list:

Nicole Cindrich, elementary teacher at Brookside School, replacing Kristen Iorizzo who has been granted a parental leave of absence.

Amy Palmieri, elementary teacher at Brookside School, replacing Liza Day who has been granted a parental leave of absence.

Shelbey Graf, elementary teacher at French Hill School, replacing Joan Shiland who has been granted a parental leave of absence.

Michele Fortini, elementary teacher at Strang Middle School, replacing Lisa Statler who has been granted a parental leave of absence.

Marilee Sorrentini-Velez, English teacher at Yorktown High School, replacing Maryanne McGrath who has been granted a personal leave of absence.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

SUPPORT STAFF

Resignations

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the resignation of Joan Horvath, TA/IA at Strang Middle School, effective August 30, 2005.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Change in Appointment

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to change the appointment of Susan Berman as Occupational Therapist to temporary pending certification of Civil Service List.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to change the appointment of Suesana Sartario as Occupational Therapy Assistant to temporary pending certification of Civil Service List.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

ADMINISTRATIVE

Appointments

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the appointment of Gary Heller as Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction at a per diem rate of \$650.00, not to exceed \$139,100, effective August 3, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to sign an agreement consistent with this resolution pending review of the contract by legal counsel. Discussion followed.

5 aye 1 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, C. Fridholm, P. Harris, J. McCoy, aye; J. Miller, nay)

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mrs. Harris to enter into a contract with JFS Consulting Services, Inc. at a per diem rate of \$550.00, not to exceed \$117,000, to provide interim administrative services at Yorktown High School, effective August 3, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to sign an agreement consistent with this resolution pending review of the contract by legal counsel.

4 aye 2 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, C. Fridholm, P. Harris, J. McCoy, aye; P. Faigle, J. Miller, nay)

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to accept the proposal of Warren & Panzer Engineers, P.C. for services to perform SEQRA documentation for the State Education Department for an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00. The services are necessary to receive SED financial aid for the soil remediation project at French Hill School. The Board of Education hereby authorizes and empowers the President of the Board to execute an agreement with Warren & Panzer Engineers, P.C. for the same, contingent upon the review of said agreement by district attorneys (Thatcher Proffitt & Wood).

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to appoint George Cipolla as the District Asbestos (LEA) Officer for the 2005-06 school year at a stipend of \$3,500.00.

5 aye 1 nay Motion carried

(A. D'Alessandro, P. Faigle, C. Fridholm, P. Harris, J. McCoy, aye; J. Miller, nay)

BUSINESS OFFICE

CONTRACTS

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the proposed settlement with Baumann & Sons Buses, Inc. based on the letter dated June 6, 2005. Discussion followed.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Food Service Management Contract Extension

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the extension of the Aramark contract for food service management, effective July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Discussion followed.

6 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Administrative Interns/Proposed Retiree Tea – Gene Wolotsky reported the few responses he was able to obtain from other districts. He will have to look further into these issues and report back to the Board.

Mrs. McCoy raised discussion on what is done during a teacher's prep time and how it is delineated in their contract. She asked that the Y.C.T. take a look at it before the Board makes any decisions on this matter. Dr. Bruno suggested the Board make a conscious effort to promote having administrative interns in the district as a way of dealing with a shrinking pool of administrative candidates. There is a strong incentive to attract and keep quality people. Look at what message we are sending to our staff about their professional development. Discussion followed. Mr. Miller questioned the propriety of teachers furthering their education when it could encourage them to leave the district.

Proposed Retiree Tea – Gene Wolotsky talked about the issue of a retiree tea as it relates to changes in auditing practices by the S.E.D.

Two motions regarding community input at Board meetings – Mrs. McCoy referenced motions on the tentative agenda that had been postponed from previous agendas that relate to input from the PTA's at Board meetings. Mrs. McCoy had limited discussions with the PTA's which will continue. She asked for input from Board members. Mr. Miller offered to craft a resolution for the September agenda. Mrs. McCoy will make sure discussion takes place with the PTA's. This item was postponed from the agenda.

Item B – Mr. Miller suggested that the Board set aside a period of time during the budget workshops and formally invite stakeholder groups to the meetings to talk about the budget. This item was postponed. Mr. Miller will bring back to the Board an alternative motion regarding budget communication with the community and formalizing this interaction.

Superintendent's Reports:

Scheduling Walk-throughs – Mr. Cole indicated this is usually done days before the opening of school. He reported that the buildings will be ready by the time the teachers arrive. Mr. Cole suggested the walk-through be done during the day as more is visible in the daytime. It was scheduled for September 1st.

Curry Corporation resolution:

Mr. Miller read the resolution that was re-crafted by legal counsel. It formalizes what was discussed at two previous meetings regarding a very generous donation by Curry Corporation.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Faigle to approve the following:

Whereas, the Board of Education again expresses its deepest appreciation to the Curry Corporation for its generous \$75,000 donation to the Yorktown Central School District for the purchase of equipment for the weight room at Yorktown High School, which donation was accepted by the Board at the July 25, 2005 meeting, and

Whereas, the Board wishes to recognize this generous donation from the Curry Corporation through the creation and erection of appropriate signage;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board directs that prior to the commitment for expenditure of funds, as donated by Curry Corporation, for the purchase of equipment for the weight room at Yorktown High School, the Superintendent shall present proposed plans and equipment to the Board of Education for review and approval; and

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board directs the Superintendent to provide to the Board the plan for and cost of the proposed signage recognizing the donation, for review and approval, prior to the commitment for expenditure of funds for such purpose.

Discussion followed on a recommendation for Board policy to be developed by the policy committee that addresses donations and a process by which they are handled.

5 aye 0 nay Motion carried

Mr. Miller discussed the issue of clustering and asked the administration how it intends to address the issue regarding children in the Middle School and how they can benefit from differentiation of clustering. Dr. Bruno talked about the range and definition of clustering. A lot can be done in the next year beginning with conducting a good needs assessment of best practices and who is doing it effectively. Discussion followed.

Board of Education Comments:

Mrs. Faigle referenced an article in the Journal News regarding the Board of Regents. They will no longer accept portfolios in lieu of testing for High School English. She presented the article to Dr. Bruno. Mrs. Faigle also referenced previous discussion regarding High School students sitting at a Board of Education table and another article in the Journal News. It has come to light that, by law, voter approval is required to have one student per High School sit at Board of Education meetings and votes must take place periodically.

Mrs. Faigle also asked Mr. Cole to prepare an update of costs related to renovations at French Hill School for the next meeting. She asked the administration to provide the Board with evaluations of administrators who are up for tenure this year.

Mr. D'Alessandro thanked Mr. Fridholm and Mrs. Harris for serving the community. Mrs. Faigle concurred and indicated there may be a time frame for reconsideration.

Mr. Fridholm wished the Board well. He thanked Dr. Bruno, Gene Wolotsky, Tom Cole, Gina Pitruzzello, Dennis Tate, Dennis Verboys and staff, teachers and administrators. Mr. Fridholm thinks we have an excellent school district; he just doesn't have the time and energy to continue.

Mrs. McCoy asked members to review the tentative agenda and contact her or central administration if they have any questions or concerns.

Public Comment:

Nicole Fervan commented on Board policy as it relates to school Board member ethics. This Board has failed terribly in this regard. Mrs. Fervan also commented on resumes submitted for consideration for the Board vacancy when it was a foregone conclusion.

Mark Drexel thanked Board members for serving on the Board. He was saddened by the events of tonight's meeting. A reputation of discord and grandstanding is not what he wants for his community.

Nick Ditomaso thanked Christian Fridholm for his service on the Board and asked him to reconsider his position for the kids' sake. The Board must come together and iron out their differences.

Peter Bisaccia was sorry to see Mr. Fridholm leave. He commented on the process for appointing a Board member and asked questions regarding the candidates who submitted resumes. He felt it was obvious the Board picked who they wanted.

Mrs. McCoy asked those who submitted resumes to let her know if they are still interested. The Board may want to reopen the opportunity to solicit resumes. Discussion followed. Mr. Miller asked the District Clerk to verify if resignations are effective after 30 days. Mrs. Faigle need to discuss further on August 31st and consider the original candidates. Mrs. McCoy felt the Board should consider the remaining candidates. Mr. Miller wants to solicit for more resumes.

Motion by Mrs. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting.

4 aye 0 nay Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk