

<u>September 12, 2005</u> Date	<u>Special/ Work Session</u> Type of Meeting	<u>M.E.S. M.S. Cafeteria</u> Where Held	<u>J. McCoy</u> Presiding Officer
Members Present:	<u>A. D'Alessandro</u> <u>P. Harris</u> <u>J. Miller</u>	Members Absent:	<u>P. Faigle</u> <u>T. Perrino</u>

Also present: G. Bruno, G. Heller, T. Cole, E. Cariello, staff, community and press

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m. by President McCoy.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Faigle that the Board convene into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. to discuss a specific personnel issue/work history.

4 aye 0 nay Motion carried

There was no action taken.

Motion by Mr. D'Alessandro, seconded by Ms. Harris that the Board return to open session at 7:50 p.m.

4 aye 0 nay, Motion carried

President McCoy led the Board in the pledge to the flag.

Point of Order from Ms. McCoy to move the "Discussion of Mathematics Acceleration" forward to allow the teachers present to get home at a reasonable hour.

Further Discussion of Mathematics Acceleration

Mr. Heller began the presentation by explaining the reasons for a change in the math curriculum and the recommendations of the committee which also included continued staff development, notification to parents and further assessment of these changes. The math acceleration committee will reconvene at the end of the school year to review the success and/or problems with the change. A question and answer period followed regarding the changes in curriculum, differentiation of instruction, proposed staff development, and the preparation of new curriculum maps.

A testing committee has been established to totally revamp the district's assessment program, outlining each assessment and including a diagnostic piece that will assess students at the beginning of the school year to mark their progress in the spring. This will be done for both math and reading.

Moment of Silence

Ms. McCoy asked for a moment of silence in honor of 9/11 and the Katrina hurricane victims.

Public Comment

Jackie Carbone, parent, asked the Board to hire a good search firm to do the “superintendent” search.

Kathy Belardo, teacher/parent, wanted to recognize and commend the Yorktown High School custodial staff for the excellent job they did this summer getting the high school ready for September. The high school looks absolutely great!

Dan Lefkowitz, parent, questioned why the meeting with the Board trustee candidates had been cancelled at the last minute. He also expressed concern about people walking their dogs on school property and that there should be signs stating “no dog walking.” He also asked that the results of the bid process be placed on the website.

Cathy Russell, resident, spoke about the 4th grade acceleration; her concern about the 3rd grade math program; and the fact that clustering did not happen this year. She suggested evaluating the program from kindergarten through twelfth grade to see how differentiation will happen for all kids.

Nick Ditomaso, resident, questioned whether it is helpful to children to separate them for instruction. Asked if the district had investigated if one country may know better than another how to increase school performance.

Alan Brand, parent and educator, stated that Dr. Bruno should be thanked for hiring the great staff at the high school. He appreciated the presentation on curriculum.

Miriam Curtin, parent/PTSA member, spoke of the accusations of board members against fellow board members, and whether there is actual proof. If there is then the community needs to be notified.

Board of Education Discussion Items

Board of Education Member Update: The Board discussed whether or not to reschedule the candidates question and answer meeting. Due to a lack of quorum of the Board for that meeting, it was cancelled. It was agreed to reschedule the candidates’ meeting on September 27th.

Subcommittee and Board Liaisons Assignments: Ms. Faigle will be the alternate for the Facilities Committee. Mr. Perrino was added to the Finance Committee, Goals Committee, and the Facilities Committee. Mr. D’Alessandro and Ms. Harris will handle the high school principal search committee. Ms. McCoy and Mr. D’Alessandro will handle the superintendent search committee.

Ms. McCoy stated that the District PTSA would like to send a representative to Board Business Meetings and to have ten minutes to discuss their reactions to the previous week’s Work Session and/or to discuss individual building concerns.

Superintendent Search: Initial Thoughts: Dr. Bruno stated that it would be appropriate to look into firms that are national in scope and that the Board should pursue a search firm who would have the ability to do a nation-wide search. Mr. Miller stated that the Board may want to looking at a “non-traditional” candidate, and that would have an impact on the type of search firm selected. Ms. McCoy stated that a separate Board meeting would be necessary to discuss the search.

Master Calendar of Board Meeting Agenda Items 2005-06: This is a work in progress. Board members requested that presentations be scheduled on literacy/balanced literacy, discipline and attendance policies.

2005-06 Board Goals: The Board reviewed the goals and made suggestions for changes to clarify what will be done and how it will be implemented. Once the goals are approved, they should be placed on the website.

NYSSBA Community Survey: Schedule a discussion for the following Board meeting regarding possibly forming a sub-committee to develop questions for the survey.

Formation of a Finance Committee: Have the Board sub-committee formulate a charge, including Tom Cole.

Board Subcommittee Updates

Ms. Harris stated that with regard to the Curry Honda donation for the weight room, they had hoped to have a sign up in time for the start of the football season, but that didn't happen. Questions were raised on what will be done in the weight room and when the work will be started.

Mr. Cole reported that the EMF Committee forwarded a request to Senator Leibell's office for financial help to pay for the testing and remediation.

Ms. McCoy announced that there would be a special board meeting with the architects and facilities committee on September 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the middle school regarding the bond work for the elementary schools. All information regarding the bond will be listed on the Yorktown website.

There was a discussion regarding the PCB remediation at French Hill School. The remediation is estimated to cost \$20-30,000. There is a likelihood that the same problem will be discovered with the caulking at the other schools. The Board will discuss the need for additional testing throughout the District.

Superintendent Reports

Report on School Opening: Dr. Bruno stated that this was the best opening of school in his three years with the District. Despite that, Dr. Bruno noted that Mr. Sullivan indicated that there were security and safety issues with regard to the entrance to the school. There is a need for security cameras and the use of a school resource officer (a request has been made to Linda Cooper to consider paying for half of a resource officer as the Town is preparing their budget). A suggestion was made to have an instructional assistant assigned at the entrance of the school as is done in the other five schools.

Charge to the Gifted & Talented Work Group: The work group will convene to review the charge to the committee.

Pupil Services Department Reorganization: The District will not be replacing Mr. Wolotsky in the Assistant Superintendent position. The two administrators in that department will be promoted to Directors and a supervisor will be hired to help relieve the burden in that department. A Supervisor of Guidance will also be created to spend approximately 50% of the time in the middle school and 50% in the high school. There will be no impact to the budget in the overall restructuring. This system will be evaluated at the end of the year.

Selection Process for Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction and Professional Personnel; and the Selection Process for the high school principal: Mr. Heller stated that the process would include staff, students, board members, parents and community members who will select two or three candidates to present to the Board of Education.

Director of Technology Position: Dr. Bruno stated that there is a very definite need for a director of technology. Mr. Heller explained to the Board the benefits of using the Lower Hudson Regional Information Center (LHRIC) to provide that employee to the District and reap the benefit of getting back approximately 50% BOCES aid on the cost for this individual.

Review of Tentative Agenda for September 26, 2005 Business Meeting: The Board asked that more information be added regarding the appointments: whether it is a new position or a replacement and what the impact on the budget would be. Ms. McCoy asked the Board to call in questions to the administration before the next meeting.

Board of Education Comments

Ms. Harris questioned the results of the bids on the high school renovation. The facilities committee will work with the high school principal to figure out space needs of the students. The administration must be moved into the high school by July, so a separate bid will be sent out for that portion of the work. The auditorium may be refurbished to also be used as the large instruction room. Ms. McCoy will have a discussion with Mr. Sullivan to see what he perceives to be the needs of the students.

Public Comment

Cathy Russell, parent and district webmaster, suggested that a middle school parent should be included in the search committee for the high school principal since there are many middle school students who are taking classes at the high school.

Mark Drexel, parent, putting the PTA as a standard agenda item is a good idea. He spoke to the PCB issue and what the EPA says about the possibility of PCB exposure. He also asked if anyone was looking into the reasons for the bids to have come in 17% over estimate.

Peter Bisaccia, parent and board candidate, suggested that in an effort to save time, the board should have each of the eight candidates respond to the questions in writing and base the decision on those responses.

Nick Ditomaso, resident and board candidate, approved of the board looking into corporate sponsorships for the district. Would prefer to respond to the questions in person rather than in writing.

Jackie Carbone, parent and board candidate, questioned the PCB abatement at French Hill; and the issue of combining classrooms by taking down walls for a large instruction room at the high school. Ms. Carbone also asked if there was something that could be done to avoid "empty buses" leaving the high school in the afternoon by combining those buses with the middle school buses.

The Board decided not to hold a meeting with the potential board candidates, but to have the candidates submit responses to the questions, the board will review them and make a decision at the September 26th Business Meeting. The candidates present agreed to that process, with the exception of Mr. Ditomaso.

Motion by Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro to have the candidates submit answers to the questions to Elaine Cariello by the end of the business day on September 21st and that the selection of the candidate will be placed on the agenda for the September 26th Business meeting.

4 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Harris, to adjourn the meeting.

4 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Board Secretary