

Croton-Harmon Union Free School District
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Date of Meeting: April 7, 2008
Kind of Meeting: Regular
Place & Time: Croton-Harmon High School, 7:43 p.m.
Board Present: Katherine Brechner, Eugene Perl, Neal Haber, Karen Zevin, Lynda Jones, Beth Roth, Teri Lukin (arrived at 7:44 p.m.)
Staff Present: Marjorie Castro, Diane Chaissan, Kusum Sinha, Gabriella O'Connor,

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m. by Katherine Brechner.

Approval of Agenda A motion to approve the agenda was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Neal Haber.

On the question: Item B, Long Range Plan, will be removed from the consent agenda and added as Item G under New Business.

Ayes 6 Motion Carried

At this point Terri Lukin arrived (7:44 p.m.).

President's Report The following topics were discussed:

- A. School Board Member Petitions: The deadline for submission of petitions to run for office of the Board of Education is, Monday, April 21, 2008.
- B. Absentee Ballots: Applications for absentee ballots will be obtainable in the District Office beginning April 30, 2008.
- C. Public Budget Hearing: The Public Budget Hearing will be held in the Croton-Harmon High School Community Room, May 12, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., followed by the monthly Regular Meeting.
- D. Statewide Budget Vote is on May 20, 2008.
- E. BOCES Administrative Budget.

Superintendent's
Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. The Tenure Decision Process: This is a careful and lengthy 3-year process (based on formal and informal classroom observations, interaction with parents and students, co-worker relationships, and professional development). Teri Lukin asked what is the Board of Education role in this process. Katherine Brechner stated that information received by any Board of Education member should be brought back to the district. Other district Boards of Education could be surveyed for what process they follow.
- B. Superintendent's Conference Half-Day: The following topics were discussed:
 - 1. CET: Literacy/Hudson River/Math in the city.
 - 2. CHHS: Former IBMer computer training (Word, Excel), and training in the teacher role in the CSE process.
 - 3. PVC: Anti-Bullying training.
- C. Congratulations to Dr. Adelberg.

Director of Staff &
Pupil Personnel
Services Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Mental Health Forum for SEPTA: 4/16/08.
- B. Speech and Occupational Therapists offering activity ideas for summer, 3rd year running.
- C. Commissioner's Advisory Panel.
- D. Annual Reviews.

Director of Finance
& Adm. Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. 2008-2009 Proposed Budget: Lynda Jones requested an effort be made at reducing the budget to a 4% budget to budget increase. Beth Roth stated this is the lowest tax rate increase in the past 5 years. Neal Haber and Katherine Brechner feel that the 5.05% budget to budget increase is the best representation of a sound educational and financial budget.
- B. State Audit.

Principals Reports The following reports were given:

- A. CHHS, Joel Adelberg:
 - 1. April 9: College Panel – 3 schools visiting.
 - 2. April 11-13: West Side Story Musical.
 - 3. Brett Bowden: Outstanding Educator on Human Rights.
 - 4. April 18: Wellness Day.
 - 5. 10th grade: career/technology day with representatives from Pace University.

- B. PVC, Barbara Ulm:
 - 1. Bullying prevention program held during ½ day Superintendent's Conference Day.
 - 2. April 29: Parent Meeting.
 - 3. April 30: Student Kick-off.
 - 4. May 1: Coffee.
 - 5. April 2: Kick Butt's Day – Anti Smoking Campaign.

- C. CET, Karen Ames:
 - 1. Broadway Kids.
 - 2. Poetry in Emotion.
 - 3. Math Enrichment: Mr. Ben math games and math club at lunch time.
 - 4. PTA Principal's Coffee: April 11 (Math and next steps).
 - 5. PTA contacting to community members to create DVD of productions.
 - 6. PTA sponsored programs:
 - a. April 30: Good Parenting – Home to School connection.
 - b. April 28: Turn off the TV Week.
 - c. April 29: Board Game Night.
 - 7. CET Blooms with Spring words – come post a flower. Live reading – staff introducing favorite children's book.

Board Liaison Reports

The following was discussed:

- A. Teri Lukin and Beth Roth met with Chris Silverii re what is presently going on in the district regarding sustainability. The next step is meeting with the building principals and tree huggers club.

- B. Communication Committee: Ideas on updating the Board of Education portion of the website – see handout, creating a Board of Education homepage.

- C. An evening budget coffee is scheduled for May 7.

- D. READ Meeting: Provided overview of what READ does. Karen spoke to the elected reps of the list of costs related to the unfunded mandates. Representatives were very open to looking at areas to provide cost savings for these unfunded mandates.
- E. Policy Committee: Work continues on many policies, including student conduct/behavior.

Polling of the Board The following topics were discussed:

- A. Neal Haber: Board of Education handbook draft completed; comments due back by April 18.
- B. Lynda Jones commented on grant research: www.hudsonvalley.org up to \$10k, sharing costs/services BOCES.
- C. Lynda Jones asked what is the reporting process of the claims auditor.
- D. May 19 is the preliminary external audit.

Hearing of the Public There was no discussion at this time.

Audit Committee Charter Adoption A motion to adopt the revised Audit Committee Charter was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Neal Haber.

On the question: Eugene Perl stated that a correction to language is needed.

Ayes 5 Nays 2 (Lynda Jones, Teri Lukin) Motion Carried

Adoption of School Budget A motion to approve the following resolution relative to the adoption of the 2008-2009 budget was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Karen Zevin:

RESOLVED that there be raised by tax upon all taxable property in the Croton-Harmon School District such amount as will with moneys otherwise available produce the sum of \$41,688,800 as contemplated by the budget prepared by the Board of Education on April 7, 2008.

Ayes 5 Nays 1 (Lynda Jones) Abstentions 1 (Eugene Perl)
Motion Carried

Aramark Mgmt.
Services
Termination

A motion to approve the following resolution was made by Karen Zevin and seconded by Lynda Jones:

RESOLVED, that the Croton-Harmon Board of Education authorizes the signing of a letter to terminate the contract with Aramark Management Services Limited Partnership, effective June 30, 2008.

On the question: Lynda Jones asked if there are penalties.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Special Education
Placements

A motion to approve the following Special Education Placements was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Lynda Jones:

- A. School Year 2007-2008: Student Nos. 1849, 20046, 20047, 1130, 20014.
- B. School Year 2008-2009: Student Nos. 1773, 20014, 20028, 20002, 20033, 20024, 10493, 11323, 1186, 3755, 1362, 11362, 3951, 11358, 11484, 20010.

On the question: Lynda Jones asked why are we still receiving 2007-2008 placements.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Educational Trip:
China

A motion to approve the educational trip to China for two weeks beginning on May 19, 2008 for a senior as part of the CHOOSE Intern experience (includes Mahopac Schools) was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Neal Haber.

Ayes 6 Abstentions 1 (Katherine Brechner) Motion Carried

Settlement
Agreement:

A motion to accept the settlement agreement with Piazza Brothers for the district to pay the sum of \$420,000 was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Lynda Jones.

On the question: Lynda Jones asked why Thomas Associates were included as a party?

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Legal Liability

A motion to appropriate \$420,000 from the Legal Liability Reserve to increase the general fund budget in account code A1930-409-00-0000 to be able to pay the settlement to Piazza Brothers, Inc. was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Karen Zevin.

On the question: Neal Haber stated this was a movement to pay the above settlement.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried to Table Item

Long Range Plan
Tabled

A motion to approve the proposal from the Western Suffolk BOCES School Planning & Research Team for an update to our Long Range Plan (Demographic Study), at a basic fee for 2008-2009 of \$8.050 (included in the budget proposal) was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Neal Haber.

On the question: Eugene Perl asked what information are we expecting?

A motion to table this item was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Neal Haber.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the following was made by Neal Haber and seconded by Beth Roth: Resolved that the Board of Education hereby approves all items contained on the Consent Agenda.

- A. Appropriate \$26,558.54 from the unappropriated fund balance and to increase account code A1420-441-00-9000 in the general fund budget to pay legal bills.
- B. Approve the renewal contract for 2008-2009 with CBIZ Valuation Group, LLC, to update our inventory, in the amount of \$900, and a roll of bar codes to attach to the newly acquired items, in the amount of \$175.

On the question: Neal Haber asked is this a result of present state audit?

- C. Approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of Croton-Harmon Union Free School District increase the fees for outside use of facilities, effective July 1, 2008, in accordance with the attached schedule and maintain the same attached facility use fees waiver schedule as in 2007-2008.

On the question: Lynda Jones & Karen Zevin asked if \$100 for 5 hours is enough for field use.

- D. Approve the out-of-district trip to be taken by the Future Business Leaders of America, June 26-30, 2008, Atlanta, Georgia, to attend the 2008 National Leadership Conference.
- E. Approve the following health services contracts for the 2007-2008 school year (all addresses have been verified with the Transportation Department):
 - 1. Valhalla Union Free School District for 2 students attending Holy Name of Jesus School, \$842.60 per student, totaling \$1,685.20.
 - 2. Bedford Central School District for 2 students attending Rippowam-Cisqua Schools, \$885.04 per student, totaling \$1770.08.
- F. Rescind the following appointments made at a previous meeting:
 - 1. Frank Mule, Substitute Teacher;
 - 2. Karen Novelli, Substitute Teacher;
 - 3. Theo Philips, Hip Hop Instructor, PVC Afterschool Program.
- G. Approve the notice of extension of child care leave submitted by Jodi Burger, Art Teacher, Croton-Harmon High School, for the 2008-2009 school year (currently on child care leave).
- H. Approve the following coaching recommendations for the 2007-2008 spring season:
 - 1. Barbara Durk, .5 Modified Boys' Tennis, \$994 (Step 1).
 - 2. Patrice Davidson, .5 Modified Boys' Tennis, \$994 (Step 1).
- I. Approve the following Fitness Center Supervisors for the 2007-2008 school year:
 - 1. Bill Thom, Fall & Winter, \$500;
 - 2. Ralph DeFino, Fall & Winter, \$500;
 - 3. George Castelli, Fall & Winter, \$500;
 - 4. Michael Chimileski, Fall & Winter, \$500;
 - 5. Michael Weinstein, Spring, not to exceed \$1,500.
- J. Approve the appointment of Jocelyn Jones, Drama Choreographer, Spring, 2008, Croton-Harmon High School, at a salary of \$995.

On the question: Lynda Jones asked if step language should be used for non-teaching staff?

- K. Approve the appointment of Eileen Davis, Part-Time Enrichment Consultant, Choreographer for the Chick Show, April 1 through May 30, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, at a stipend of \$1,500.
- L. Approve the following PVC Afterschool Enrichment Program Instructors/Vendors (8 weeks):
1. Gerald Ardito, "Let's Get Ready to Launch", \$800 (Session C);
 2. Fashion & Arts Xchange, \$900 (Session C);
 3. Brienne Johannes, "Photo mania", \$800 (Session C);
 4. Kako DiCroce, "Art of Japan", \$680 (Session C);
 5. Theo Philip Entertainment, "Hip Hop", \$920 (Session B).
- M. Approve the addition of the following persons to the following substitute lists:
1. Doreen Pettit, Substitute Teacher (currently a Teacher Aide);
 2. James Datka, Substitute Teacher & Substitute Teacher Aide (emergency conditional);
 3. Michael Pellet, Substitute Teacher;
 4. Peter Davenport, Substitute Teacher & Substitute Teacher Aide.
- N. Adjust the fee to be paid to Brienne Johannes who vended the Mud Two Class in the PVC Enrichment Program, from \$800 to \$650.
- O. Accept, with regret, the following resignations:
1. Abdiel Ramos, Teacher Aide, PVC Afterschool Program, effective April 4, 2008.
 2. Adam Elias, Student Helper, PVC Afterschool Program, effective April 1, 2008.
- P. Approve the addition of the following persons to the following substitute lists:
1. Vilma Caku, Clerical Substitute (currently a lunch aide);
 2. Myrlin Valerio, Clerical Substitute (currently a substitute teacher);
 3. Catherine Block, Substitute Teacher Aide, Substitute Computer Aide, Substitute Library Aide, Substitute Lunch Aide (currently a Substitute Teacher);
 4. Judith Singerman, Substitute Lunch Aide, Substitute Milk Monitor (currently a Substitute Teacher);

5. Carlos Del Solar, Substitute Custodial Worker.

Q. Approval of Budget Transfers.

R. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports.

S. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Board of Education Minutes:

1. Special Meeting of February 4, 2008.
2. Regular Meeting of March 10, 2008.
3. Special District Meeting of March 11, 2008.
4. Special Meeting of March 24, 2008.
5. Special Meeting of March 31, 2008.

T. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Treasurer's Reports:

1. For the period ending January 31, 2008.
2. For the period ending February 29, 2008.

U. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Student Activities Fund Reports for the period ending February 29, 2008.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Hearing of the
Public

There was no discussion.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 11:07 p.m. to discuss personnel was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Karen Zevin.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Gabriella O'Connor
Assistant District Clerk

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