

Corrections by Board Members are reflected in bold print.

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

Date of Meeting: February 11, 2008
Kind of Meeting: Regular
Place & Time: Croton-Harmon High School, 7:30 p.m.
Board Present: Katherine Brechner, Eugene Perl, Neal Haber, Beth Roth, Karen Zevin, Lynda Jones, Teri Lukin
Staff Present: Marjorie Castro, Diane Chaissan, Kusum Sinha, Gabriella O'Connor,

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Katherine Brechner.

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

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

President's Report The following topics were discussed:

- A. Review of Board of Education Goals:
1. Review & Assess Initiatives:
 - o Math scheduled for May/June
 - o Technology- Task Force to report at the end of the month
 - o Foreign Language- April
 2. Implement Food Service Program- 3/11 Bond Vote
 3. How to improve communication: Always & On-going- Website, Black Cow Days, Q&A: general/bond
 4. Commitment to Environmental Sustainability- Teri Lukin & Beth Roth working to document current district practices in this area.
- B. Bond Vote: March 11, 2008, Bond A & B. An additional Town Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2008.
- C. Voter Registration: March 5, 2008, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., District Office.

- D. Budget Saturday, March 8, 2008.
- E. Board Meetings Open to the Public.
- F. Legislative Breakfast: February 29, 2008.

Superintendent's Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Mid-year Report on Goals.
- B. Technology Task Force & Arts in Our Schools Work Session: February 25, 2008.
- C. Attendance at the following activities during the weekend of February 9-10:
 - 1. 1st Annual quad-Village Middle School Honor Band in Ossining – we hope to host this event next year.
 - 2. **Gazette** Basketball Tournament at CHHS.
 - 3. Romeo & **J-liet** performance.
- D. Review of Long Range Plan.

Director of Staff & Pupil Personnel Services Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. SEPTA Program: Joy Brewster presentation on February 12 on parents dealing with conflict at home.
- B. Parent Member Training.
- C. SAVE Training of Building & District Teams: Developing a parent and Classroom Reference Guide.
- D. Records Management Update: 2nd Grant awarded – student and personnel information to be transferred to micro-fiche and accessible on-line, via E-Doc.

Director of Finance & Adm. Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Budget Update: Preliminary numbers were given to the Board.
- B. State Aid: Appears to have increased – cautiously optimistic.

Principals Reports

The following reports were given:

- A. PVC: Barbara Ulm
 - o All ELA testing done
 - o Spring Musical: March 7, 2008

- March 28: Attendance at the **American Society for Engineering Education**
 - March 15: 7th grade girls to attend **Barnard College- Science/Technology**
- B. CET: Kelly Maloney
- March 14: Parent Teacher Conferences
 - April 10: Evening parent teacher conference
 - Currently holding Kindergarten registration- enrollment numbers not yet available
- C. CHHS: Joel Adelberg
- Distribution of 2008/09 program guide: Introduction to computing in collaboration with Pace University, 3 college credits Theatre Course
 - Distinguished Graduates program scheduled for the fall during homecoming; selection and announcement still to take place in the Spring
 - Channel 12 Local News: The Challenge, Croton vs. Yonkers – Croton won the 1st round; the 2nd round is scheduled for March 5 against Putnam Valley
 - Library Association Theme – “Humor” each door in the high school have knock-knock jokes
 - Newsweek: Top High School list: Croton is #140

Board Reports

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Karen Zevin: itemization of non-funded mandates report for READ model.
- B. Teri Lukin and Beth Roth provided the district sustainability handout of ideas.
- C. Neal Haber attended the transportation committee meeting regarding the purchase of 2 hybrid vehicles and review of driver/monitor training when dealing with special needs children.
- D. Katherine Brechner and Teri Lukin are working on ideas for the Board of Education website.
- E. Eugene Perl reviewed the “To Do List”, which included the Board of Education handbook and the audit Committee Charter.

Hearing of the Public

There was no discussion at this time.

Policies
Adoption:
8414.5,
8414.5-R,
9320
9320-R

A motion to adopt the following policies was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Neal Haber:

- A. Policy 8414.5, Alcohol and Drug Testing of Bus Drivers and Other Covered Employees.
- B. Policy 8414.5-R, Alcohol and Drug Testing of Bus Drivers Regulation.
- C. Policy 9320, Drug-Free Workplace.
- D. Policy 9320-R, Drug-Free Workplace Regulation.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Fund Balance
Appropriation:
Wasserman, Grubin
& Rogers, LLP

A motion to approve the appropriation of monies from the unappropriated fund balance to pay the latest legal bills submitted by Wasserman, Grubin & Rogers, LLP, in the amount of \$55,972.55, for the period October 1, 2007 to November 30, 2007, was made by Karen Zevin and seconded by Lynda Jones.

On the question: Should a larger amount be designated in anticipation of future bills?

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Calendar Adoption

A motion to adopt the school calendar for the 2008-2009 school year was made by Karen Zevin and seconded by Neal Haber.

On the question: Are the number of days allotted for Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah in line with other districts?

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

At this point Beth Roth left the room.

Special Education
Placements

A motion to approve the following Special Education Placements for Student Nos. 1838, 21021, 1557, 23042, 1523, 1457, 1659, 23021, 20040, 20032, 11587, 1824, 20004, 11500, 21024, 20017, 11068, 20038, 3852, 1172, 11666, 1977, 20011, 20042, 20037, 20043 was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Lynda Jones.

Ayes 6 Motion Carried

Special Education
Parent Represent-
tatives

A motion to approve the following Special Education Parent Representatives was made by Lynda Jones and seconded by Karen Zevin:

- A. Stephanie McCaffrey, CSE Committee;
- B. Karthryn Walsh, CSE Committee;

- C. Rosalie Nathan, CPSE Committee;
- D. Stephanie McCaffrey, CPSE Committee;
- E. Karen Streisfeld-Leitner, CPSE Committee;
- F. Anne Shaw, CPSE Committee.

Ayes 6 Motion Carried

At this point, Beth Roth returned to the meeting.

Amend Agenda

A motion to amend the agenda by adding the following item was made by Neal Haber and seconded by Karen Zevin.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Donation: CHEF

A motion to gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following donations from the Croton-Harmon Education Foundation was made by Neal Haber and seconded by Teri Lukin:

- A. I-POD Springboard Project-Digitized Libraries and Beyond – CET, \$2,994;
- B. Confratute Institute for 5 Teachers, CET, \$9,725;
- C. Hudson River Science/Math Activities, CET, \$3,117.90;
- D. Smartbrain (Neurofeedback) Software System to Assist ADHD Students, PVC, \$5,099;
- E. Videoconferencing, PVC, \$4,500;
- F. “Day In Clay” Multi-Cultural Potter’s Wheel Demo BOCES Program, PVC, \$1,275;
- G. CHHS Foreign Language Dept. Smartboard, CHHS, \$4,737;
- H. CHHS Darkroom Facility, \$4,810.05;
- I. GEO Motion Fitness and Dance Program, PVC Afterschool, Program, \$1,298.95.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the following items was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Karen Zevin:

- A. Approve the contract between The Learning Shop, Inc., and the Croton-Harmon School District for Homebound Instruction.
- B. Board of Education does assure that the Croton-Harmon School District’s plan for the participation of teachers and parents with administrators and school board members in school-based planning and shared decision making was recertified as previously approved by the Commissioner at a public meeting held on February 11, 2008.

On the question: It should be noted that this is a state mandated requirement.

- C. Approve the following health services contracts for the 2007-2008 school year (all addresses have been verified with the Transportation Department):
 - 1. Ossining UFSD, for 61 students attending St. Augustine's or St. Ann's Parochial Schools, \$831.00 per student, totaling \$50,691.
 - 2. Somers Central School District, for 8 students attending John F. Kennedy High School, \$670.63 per student, totaling \$5,365.04.
 - 3. White Plains School District for 2 students attending either Good Counsel High School or Stepinac High School, \$746.70 per student, totaling \$1,493.40.
 - 4. Public Schools of the Tarrytowns for 12 students attending Hackley School, \$699.00 per student, totaling \$8,388.00.
- D. Approve the Instruction Contract between Summit School at Nyack and the Croton-Harmon School District for Student #11130, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- E. Approve the contract with BestWeb, in an amount not to exceed \$2,580.
- F. Approve the contract for educational services between Eastchester Union Free School District and the Croton-Harmon School District for Student No. 21010, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- G. Approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that the rate of pay will be \$90.00 per diem when an Aide substitutes as a Substitute Teacher.
- H. Accept, with regret, the notice of retirement submitted by Mitchell Visoky, Art Teacher, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, effective June 30, 2008.
- I. Accept, with regret, the notice of retirement submitted by Douglas Young, Social Studies Teacher, Croton-Harmon High School, effective June 30, 2008.
- J. Accept, with regret, the notice of retirement submitted by Arthur Wulfhop, Science Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective June 30, 2008.

- K. Accept, with regret, the notice of resignation submitted by Mike Pellet, Assistant Indoor Track & Field Coach, effective December 31, 2007.
- L. Approve the creation of a Jr. Varsity Softball position, effective with the 2007-2008 school year.
- M. Approve the creation of an Art Club Advisor for Session III, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective with the 2007-2008 school year.
- N. Approve the emergency conditional appointment of Ben Emmert-Aronson, Part-time "Mathematician in Residence", Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, at a salary of \$60.00 per hour, not to exceed 10 hours per week, effective February 4, 2008.
- O. Approve the appointment of Denise Baker, Teacher/Advisor of the Math Enrichment program, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, at a stipend of \$1,400, effective January 29, 2008.
- P. Approve the appointment of Brienne Johannes, PVC Art Club Advisor for Session III, at a salary of \$1,328 (Step 2), for the 2007-2008 school year.
- Q. Approve that the following persons be added to the following Substitute lists:
 - 1. Maggie Davies, Substitute Teacher & Teacher Aide (currently a Kindergarten Aide);
 - 2. Christina Anzalone, Substitute Teacher (currently a Teacher Aide);
 - 3. Susan Rogers, Substitute Teacher (currently a Teacher Aide);
 - 4. Desirae Amato, Substitute Teacher & Teacher Aide;
 - 5. Kay Kohlman, Substitute Teacher (currently a Teacher Aide);
 - 6. Luise Riley, Substitute Teacher (currently a Teacher Aide);
 - 7. Chris Flanagan, Substitute Teacher (emergency conditional);
 - 8. Jarred Buchanan, Substitute Teacher & Teacher Aide (emergency conditional);
 - 9. Pamela Sheppard, Substitute Teacher & Teacher Aide (emergency conditional);
 - 10. Angelica Hester, Substitute Teacher & Teacher Aide (emergency conditional).

- R. Approve the following individuals to serve as Volunteer Destination Imagination Team Managers, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, for the 2007-2008 school year:
1. Valerie Nolan;
 2. Patrice Davidson;
 3. Lisa Noble;
 4. Debra Fletcher;
 5. Suzanne Van Der Wilden;
 6. Myrlin Valerio;
 7. Corrine Collett;
 8. Cheryl Roberto;
 9. Mary Louise Astacio (emergency conditional).
- S. Approve the salary adjustment for Matthew Byrd, Before School Chorus Teacher, from \$921 to \$1,740, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- T. Accept, with regret, the notice of resignation submitted by Rose Harper, Teacher Aide, Croton-Harmon High School, effective January 25, 2008.
- U. Rescind the appointment of Fran Perez, Supervision Aide, in the CET Spring 2008 Afterschool Program (approved by the Board at the January 14, 2008 Board meeting).
- V. Approve the probationary appointment of Lauren Broadbelt, Teacher Aide (IEP Mandated), Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, at a salary of \$13.40 per hour, effective February 4, 2008 (eligible for permanent appointment March 23, 2009) (currently a substitute Teacher Aide).
- W. Approve the probationary appointment of Vilma Caku, Lunch Aide, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, at a salary of \$12.54 per hour, effective January 17, 2008 (eligible for permanent appointment March 19, 2008) (currently a substitute Lunch Aide).
- X. Approve the appointment of Fran Perez, Head Supervision Aide in the Spring 2008 CET Afterschool Program, at a salary of \$18.00 per hour.
- Y. Approve the following substitute appointments:
1. Regina Connolley, Substitute Teacher Aide (currently working as a Lunch Monitor);
 2. Carmen McCallum, Substitute Lunch Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher Aide);
 3. Alfred Settepani, Part-time Substitute Bus Driver (resigned recently as a Part-time Bus Driver);

4. Allison Malone, Substitute Lunch Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher, Teacher Aide);
 5. Tunde Bektas, Substitute Teacher Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher);
 6. Catherine Block, Substitute Teacher Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher);
 7. Enid Caruth, Substitute Teacher Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher);
 8. Chris Flanagan, Substitute Teacher Aide (recommended above as a Substitute Teacher) (emergency conditional);
 9. Gay McKoy-Parker, Substitute Teacher Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher);
 10. Katherine O'Hanlon, Substitute Teacher Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher);
 11. David Shapiro, Substitute Teacher Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher);
 12. Eric Shapiro, Substitute Teacher Aide (currently substitutes as a Teacher);
 13. Karon Lawrence, Substitute Clerical (emergency conditional).
- Z. Approve the appointment of Donna Braca, Supervision Aide in the CET Winter/Spring 2008 Afterschool Program, at a salary of \$16.00 per hour.
- aa. Approve the revised Benefits Agreement for the Technical Support Specialist.
- bb. Authorizes the benefit agreements for the following employees (they will remain in effect unless the employee leaves the employ of the district or the Board of Education changes the items and conditions):
1. Diane Chaissan;
 2. Kusum Sinha;
 3. Gabriella O'Connor;
 4. Renee Ligay;
 5. Rochelle O'Mara;
 6. Denise Lowry;
 7. Joan Garone;
 8. Kathleen Geradi;
 9. Ellen Bencivenga;
 10. Eileen Stark;
 11. Gloria Papelian;
 12. Philip Levy.
- cc. Approval of Budget Transfers.
- dd. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports.

- ee. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Board of Education Minutes:
 - 1. Special Meeting of December 19, 2007.
 - 2. Special Meeting of December 21, 2007.
 - 3. Regular Meeting of January 14, 2008.
- ff. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Treasurer's Report for the period ending December 31, 2007.
- gg. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Student Activities Fund Reports for the period ending December 31, 2007.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Hearing of the
Public

There was no discussion.

Bond Counsel

Lynda Jones asked Diane Chaissan to include in her weekly memo the cost of the Bond Counsel and Financial Advisor.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 11:20 p.m. was made by Neal Haber and seconded by Lynda Jones.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Gabriella O'Connor
Assistant District Clerk

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