

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

Date of Meeting: January 14, 2008

Kind of Meeting: Regular

Place & Time: Croton-Harmon High School, 7:30 p.m.

Board Present: Katherine Brechner, Neal Haber, Beth Roth, Karen Zevin, Lynda Jones, Teri Lukin

Board Absent: Eugene Perl

Staff Present: Marjorie Castro, Diane Chaissan, Kusum Sinha, Gabriella O'Connor, Karen Ames, Kelly Maloney, Barbara Ulm, Michael Plotkin, Joel Adelberg, Mark Maxam

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Katherine Brechner.

Approval of Agenda A motion to approve the agenda with removal of Item F as requested by Marjorie Castro was made by Karen Zevin and seconded by Lynda Jones.

Ayes 6 Motion Carried

CET Presentation  
Enrichment Program The Board discussed the CET Enrichment Program:

The enrichment goal is to meet needs at all levels. The Current program is based on Renzulli Model – this is beginning stages – program will require many years of building up to a full running program.

The current enrichment programs in use are:

- A. Technology:
  - 1. Kindergarten – Introduction to computers and its uses.
  - 2. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Photojournalism – Newspaper Production.
- B. “Broadway Kids” – 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Collaborative long-range theatrical production – all levels of student and community participation.
- C. Hudson River Initiative – 1<sup>st</sup> grade multi-year ongoing project. Recently awarded \$50,000 grant from DEC to further fund project.
- D. Science through Art – 1<sup>st</sup> grade – Animals in Winter.

- E. Dance & Music – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – Singing and dancing to music from each continent.
- F. Math Olympiad – 4<sup>th</sup> grade – Newly initiated program, 7 a.m. – 2 to 3 times weekly.

President's Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Report on the Community Meetings: 1/9 Facility Meeting; good turn out and appreciated input.
- B. Con Edison & Public Service Commission Hearing: 33% increase on electric bill – public hearing 1/16 to provide public input.
- C. Leibell/Spitzer Property Tax proposals: READ Meeting – Proposals: Senator Leibell would like to eliminate property tax replaced by government funding. Governor Spitzer would like to place a cap on property tax.
- D. Dine & Network: Review of Board of Education attendance and registration.

Superintendent's Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Mid-year Report on Superintendent's Goals: Reschedule to February meeting due to time.

Director of Staff & Pupil Personnel Services Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. SEPTA Program: Presentation on ADD with Dr. Kutscher has been rescheduled to January 23, 2008.
- B. Personnel and Records Management will be moved to February meeting.

Director of Finance & Adm. Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Budget Update: No new information.
- B. Facility Project Decisions: The following was discussed:
  - 1. Neal Haber asked if the Board of Education is prepared to move forward with bond(s). What should be included? What is bond structure?

2. Lynda Jones stated the need to move forward with the possible bond(s) at this time:

- a. No other funding is available.
- b. The needs cannot be funded in the budget.

Therefore, the public should be called on to make the final decision.

3. Kathy Brechner reviewed items to be included in bond(s): Excel Aid of \$539,000 – 1 time infusion of funding could be used in Safety and Education – requires voter approval for use.
4. Karen Zevin asked how many Aid bonds? Projects total \$7.1 million, includes Excel (dollars must be spent before reimbursement) – Aidable – 29% of project is paid by other source.

\$4.7 million – Science & Safety;  
\$2.4 million – Lunch & AC

What does this mean to our taxpayers? \$14.64 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

5. The Board of Education agreed to move forward with 2 non-contingent bonds.

Board Liaison  
Reports

The following topic was discussed:

- A. Communication – upgrade Board of Education website.

Polling of the  
Board

The following topics were discussed:

- A. CET Weekly Newsletter & On-going Math Presentations – is a good means of providing information to the public regarding current school programs and events.
- B. 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Henry Hudson – what will schools involvement be?

Hearing of the  
Public

A first grade parent expressed concern that parents should have more involvement in curriculum changes.

Ongoing Business

The Board discussed the following:

- A. Review of to do list.
- B. Pending: Neal Haber – Board Member Handbook.

- C. Ron Longo of Keane & Beane to meet with Board. Lynda Jones asked how often is there a review of legal issues and reporting.

Policies First Reading:  
8414.5,  
8414.5-R,  
9320,  
9320-R

The following policies were read for the first time:

- 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.

SEQRA Resolutions

A motion to approve the following SEQRA resolutions was made by Neal Haber and seconded by Beth Roth:

- A. WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District (“Board”) is considering a project consisting of building and grounds maintenance, renovation and rehabilitation at the Croton-Harmon High School, the Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School and the Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the project consists of classroom renovation, door replacement, athletic field renovation and other maintenance, renovation and rehabilitation work shown as “Education and Safety (March Bond A)” on the proposed Capital Projects List dated 12/10/07; and

WHEREAS, the State Education Department requires a State Environmental Quality Review Act classification for purposes of Facilities Planning review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby determines the Project is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(1), (2) and (8), commonly known as the Regulations promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

- B. WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District (“Board”) is considering a project consisting of building and grounds maintenance, renovation and rehabilitation at the Croton-Harmon High School, the Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School and the Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the project consists of kitchen renovation and addition, auditorium improvement, athletic field renovation

and other maintenance, renovation and rehabilitation work shown as "health and Wellness (March Bond B): on the proposed Capital Projects List dated 12/10/07; and

WHEREAS, the State Education Department requires a State Environmental Quality Review Act classification for purposes of Facilities Planning review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby determines the Project is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(1), (2), (7) and (8), commonly known as the Regulations promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act.

Ayes 6 Motion Carried

Special District Meeting

A motion to approve the attached resolution, as amended, calling for a Special District Meeting to authorize the expenditure of moneys for school purposes and the levy of a tax therefore was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Karen Zevin.

On the question: Lynda Jones asked what is a Special District meeting. It is a Public Vote.

Ayes 6 Motion Carried

Special Education Placements

A motion to approve the following Special Education Placements for Student Nos. 1959, 11852, 1869, 10687, 1133, 1551, 11473, 1737, 20010, 1560, 1759, 1653, 1908, 20011, 1664, 2007, 20039, 99899.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Superintendent's Contract Tabled

The Superintendent's Contract item was tabled.

Bid No. 4:

A motion to approve the New York School bus lease based on Bid No. 4, Lease of One (1) Brand New 2007 Diesel GMC Corbeil 28 Student (20 Adult) Passenger Minibus, from Don Brown Bus Sales, in the amount of \$15,200.00, for the period December 21, 2007 through June 30, 2008 was made by Lynda Jones and seconded by Karen Zevin.

On the question: Neal Haber stated correction is needed. What is long term need? Eventual purchase of additional bus.

Ayes 6 Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

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

Nays 6 Motion Carried

A motion to amend Consent Agenda, removing a Donation from Cannon USA Net Work Video Solution, was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Teri Lukin:

- A. Addition of National Integrity Life as an approved vendor with OMNI.
- B. Graciously acknowledge receipt of a donation of \$871.70 by the PTSA for the purchase of a buzzer box system and case.
- C. Graciously acknowledge receipt of the following items from Intergenerational Buddies: Nursing Home Project, earned by Linda Reich for a classroom project:
  - 1. (5) Plastic Sleeves;
  - 2. (1) Cardinal Binder;
  - 3. (6) Paper Doilies;
  - 4. (1) Dick Blick Marker;
  - 5. (1) Mr. Sketch Stix Marker;
  - 6. (10) Chenille Stems;
  - 7. Additional requested resources.
- D. Approve the contract for Educational Services between the Croton-Harmon School District and Eastchester Union Free School District for Student No. 11871, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- E. Approve the contract for Educational Services between the Croton-Harmon School District and Eastchester Union Free School District for Student No. 11095, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- F. Approve the contract for Educational Services between the Croton-Harmon School District and Eastchester Union Free School District for Student No. 11638, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- G. Approve the award of Bid No. 5 to Riddell/All American, sole bidder, for the cleaning and reconditioning of athletic uniforms and equipment, as per attached.
- H. Rescind the appointment of Lanee Griffin, Substitute Teacher, appointed at the meeting of December 10, 2007.
- I. Approve the appointment of Ray Ferrara, Auditorium Technical Director, at a stipend of \$5,000, for the 2007-2008 school year.
- J. Approve the appointment of Matthew Byrd, Before School Chorus Teacher, at a stipend of \$921, for the 2007-2008 school year.

- K. Approve the following person be added to the Substitute lists:
1. Daniel DiSotto, Substitute Teacher;
  2. Patricia McHugh, Substitute Teacher, Aide;
  3. Catherine Block, Substitute Teacher (emergency conditional);
  4. Enid Caruth, Substitute Teacher;
  5. Eric Shapiro, Substitute Teacher;
  6. Tunde Bektas, Substitute Teacher;
  7. David Shapiro, Substitute Teacher (emergency conditional).
- L. Approve the following appointments for the PVC Afterschool Program, Session A (these instructors were approved at the October 9, 2007 meeting but their salaries were not approved):
1. Gerald Ardito, "Get Ready to Launch Your Rocket", \$800;
  2. Brienne Johannes, "For The Love of Mud" (Clay Program), \$800;
  3. Gloria Papelian, "Are You Ready To Bake", no fee;
  4. Jacob Burns film Center (Off Campus), no fee;
  5. Michael Katzman, "School of Rock", \$800.
- M. Approve the following appointments for the CET Afterschool Program, Spring 2008:
1. Patrice Davidson, Introduction to Tennis, \$500.00;
  2. Jan Meryle Phair of Croton Cake Creation, Advanced Cake Decorating, \$130.00 per student (final numbers to be approved once registration has been finalized);
  3. Renee Ivanoff, Ceramic Designs with Mud Made, not to exceed \$900.00;
  4. Peter Barkman, Chess for Players, \$500.00;
  5. Elizabeth Carlson of Kidsdance, Introduction to Ballet and Modern Dance, \$120.00 per student (final numbers to be approved once registration has been finalized);
  6. Laura Singerman, Basic Spanish, \$15.00 per hour;
  7. John Khoury, Soccer II and Beginning Soccer, not to exceed \$2,000.00 for both classes combined;
  8. Denise Bessette, Acting, \$500.00;
  9. Joseph Davis, Drawing Cartoons, \$500.00 (emergency conditional);
  10. Gary Schwartz of Mt. Kisco Music School, Percussion, not to exceed \$7,000.00;
  11. Jan Meryle Phair of Croton Cake Creation, Cake Decorating for Kids, \$130.00 per student (final

- numbers to be approved once registration has been finalized);
12. Chris Berlow of United Martial Arts, Taekwondo, not to exceed \$4,500.00 (based on final registration numbers);
  13. David Barnmart of Mt. Kisco Music School, Introduction to Violin, not to exceed \$7,000.00 (based on final registration numbers);
  14. Renee Ivanoff, Clayworks for Juniors, not to exceed \$900.00;
  15. Patrice Davidson, Introduction to Tennis (second class), not to exceed \$500.00;
  16. Alana De Luca of Mt. Kisco Music School, Introduction to Music, not to exceed \$7,000.00 (based on final registration numbers);
  17. Runhong Chen, Beginning Chinese, \$100.00 per week;
  18. Kazuko DiCroce, Japanese Culture and Art & Origami Art for Kids, not to exceed \$1,200.00 for both classes;
  19. Dawne Clark, Gymnastics, not to exceed \$4,000.00 based on final registration numbers (emergency conditional);
  20. Stacey Herron, Gymnastics (to be paid by Dawne Clark #19) (emergency conditional);
  21. Sharon Varekamp, Science Academy for Juniors, \$75.00 per week;
  22. Tomas Cataldo, Guitar (Acoustic & Electric), not to exceed \$7,000.00 (based on final registration numbers);
  23. Lou Villani, Basic Baseball, \$500.00;
  24. Ketti North, Sewing (Yarn Crafts & Knitting), not to exceed \$600.00;
  25. Claire Hilbert, Introduction to French, not to exceed \$700.00;
  26. Jan Meryle Phair of Croton Cake Creation, Kiddie Kakes, \$130.00 per student (final numbers to be approved once registration has been finalized);
  27. Peter Barkman, Chess for Beginners, \$500.00;
  28. Fran Perez, Supervision, \$16.00 per hour;
  29. Kelly Schulze, Supervision, \$16.00 per hour;
  30. Tricia Duclos, Supervision, \$16.00 per hour;
  31. Mary Thouboron, Supervision, \$16.00 per hour (Clerical, no contact with students).

N. Approve the following appointments for the Adult Education Program, Spring 2008:

1. Serita Nath, Indian Cooking, \$50.00 per class;
2. Beatrice Greenbaum (DiMartino), Sketching, \$50.00 per class;
3. Judith Leare, Pottery, \$90.00 per class;
4. Runhong Chen, Chinese, \$100.00 per class;

5. Zhigeng Yang, Chinese Brush Painting, \$50.00 per class;
  6. Allison Stewart, Watercolor, \$50.00 per class;
  7. Maria Mordan, Beginning Spanish, Intermediate Spanish, not to exceed \$800.00 per class;
  8. Frank Maddalena, Italian I and II, not to exceed \$800.00 per class;
  9. Jennifer Moore, Adobe Photoshop, Digital Photography, Intro to Computers, \$500.00 per class;
  10. Lou Nardone, eBay, Excel, Computer workshop for Srs., Internet for Srs., total for all classes not to exceed \$1,000;
  11. Renee Ligay, Knitting, not to exceed \$500.00;
  12. Driver Improvement Programs, Inc., Defensive Driving, based on the rate of \$40.00 per student;
  13. Dr. Robert Chuckrow, T'ai-Chi (2 classes), not to exceed \$750.00;
  14. Andrea Naitove, Yoga, not to exceed \$1,000;
  15. Cameron Kelly Fitness Programs, Inc., Total Workout/Pilates, Belly Dancing, Spring Gardening, Gardening in the Country, Investments for Women, not to exceed \$3,000 for all classes.
- O. Approve the appointment of Tom Burns, Athletic Trainer for the Wrestling Tournament to be held on Saturday, January 19, 2007, at a rate of \$40.00 per hour.
- P. Approve the salary adjustment for Lou Nardone, CHHS Building Webmaster, from \$2,700 to \$3,000 for the 2007-2008 school year.
- Q. Accept, with regret, the notice of resignation submitted by Laura Giordano, Teacher Aide, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, effective January 28, 2008.
- R. Accept the notice of resignation submitted by Noreen Schulze, Lunch Aide, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, effective January 28, 2008.
- S. Approve the probationary appointment of Adam Elias, Teacher Aide in the Afterschool Program, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, at a salary of \$11.00 per hour, effective December 18, 2007 (eligible for permanent appointment February 17, 2009).
- T. Approve the probationary appointment of Daniel DiSotto, Teacher Aide (IEP Mandated), Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, at a salary of \$13.40 per hour, effective January 15, 2008 (eligible for permanent appointment March 17, 2009).
- U. Approve the probationary appointment of Noreen Schulze, Teacher Aide, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, at a

salary of \$13.40 per hour, effective January 29, 2008 (eligible for permanent appointment March 31, 2008) (has been employed as a Lunch Aide since 9/1/02).

- V. Approve the following substitute appointments:
  - 1. Bernice Marriott, Substitute Part-time Bus Driver (currently is employed as a Bus Attendant and Lunch Aide);
  - 2. William Teti, Substitute Lunch Aide (previously appointed as a Substitute Teacher, Teacher Aide, Computer Aide, Library Aide).
- W. Approval of Budget Transfers.
- X. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports.
- Y. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Board of Education Minutes: Regular Meeting of December 10, 2007.
- Z. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Treasurer's Report for the period ending November 30, 2007.
- aa. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Student Activities Fund Report for the period ending November 30, 2007.

Hearing of the  
Public

There was no discussion.

Adjournment

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

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

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Gabriella O'Connor  
Assistant District Clerk

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