

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

Date of Meeting: June 9, 2008
Kind of Meeting: Regular
Place & Time: Croton-Harmon High School, 7:50 p.m.
Board Present: Katherine Brechner, Eugene Perl, Neal Haber, Teri Lukin, Beth Roth
(arrived at 8:00 p.m.)
Board Absent: Karen Zevin, Lynda Jones (attending Property Tax Forum for the
Board of Education)
Staff Present: Marjorie Castro, Diane Chaissan, Kusum Sinha, Gabriella O'Connor,

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Katherine Brechner.

Discussion There was some discussion of the agenda items.

Approval of Agenda A motion to approve the agenda with the following change was made
by Eugene Perl and seconded by Katherine Brechner: Move Item N
on the Consent Agenda and mark as Item E on the Regular agenda.

Ayes 4 Motion Carried

President's Report Katherine Brechner reported on the Budget Vote and Board Member
election results.

Superintendent's
Report The following was discussed:

- A. Acknowledgement of Retirees.
- B. Graduations/Award Ceremonies:
 - 1. CHHS Senior Awards Ceremony: June 24, 7:00 p.m.
 - 2. CET 4th Grade Principal's Assembly: June 25, 10:00
a.m.
 - 3. CHHS Graduation: June 25, 6:00 p.m.
 - 4. PVC 8th Grade Graduation: June 26, 9:00 a.m. (CHHS
Field)

Post graduation information is listed on the front page of the
website.

- C. New Faculty Update:
 - 1. A 4th grade teacher was hired.

2. We are close to hiring an Art teacher.
3. Two Spanish teacher are need (PVC & CHHS).

D. Tri-States Consortium.

Dir. Of Staff & PPS Report

The Director of Staff & Pupil Personnel Services reported that they are continuing the annual reviews and are planning for summer and fall.

Dir. Of Finance & Administration

The Director of Finance & Administration reported that the 2008-2009 year has been opened.

At this point Beth Roth arrived (8:00 p.m.)

Principals' Reports

The following reports were presented:

Karen Ames, CET:

- 2008-2009 placements are done
- All kindergarten children were screened (120+)
- Year end wrap-up
- Kindergarten orientation on 6/10 and 6/11
- Clearwater Sail

Michael Plotkin, PVC:

- Orientation of incoming 5th graders and parents
- Bullying kick-off event for students and parents

Joel Adelberg, CHHS:

- Back from China: 6 Seniors and Joel
- Host families needed for July visit for students from China
- Distinguished Hall of Graduates held on 10/27/08:
1955 Daniel Botkin
1977 Robert Kerh
1989 Gordy Sheer

Hearing of the Public

There were no comments at this time.

Board Liaison Reports

The following reports were given by Board members:

- A. Teri Lukin and Beth Roth reported on Sustainability and provided handouts.
- B. Neal Haber of the Policy Committee has set forth a policy for first reading.

- C. Katherine Brechner stated this is the final year for the WestPut Meeting.
- D. Teri Lukin of the Communication Committee, spoke about updating the webpage and access to Board of Education and other areas.
- E. Beth Roth stated that goal comments are need as soon as possible.

Polling of the Board Board members discussed the following:

- A. Neal Haber attended the PVC Award ceremony for 8th grade.
- B. Beth Roth mentioned that the following events are forthcoming:
 - 1. CET Chick Show;
 - 2. Spring Concert;
 - 3. Septa – Ideas for Summer Activity.
- C. Kathy Brechner discussed the following:
 - 1. CHHS Award Ceremony
 - 2. Making lower levels and community aware of the many levels of successes of graduates and all students.

Meeting Schedule A motion to approve the date of Tuesday, July 8, 2008, for the following meetings in the District Office was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Neal Haber:

- A. Board presentation from Western Suffolk BOCES, 7:00 p.m.
- B. Reorganizational Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
- C. Regular Monthly Meeting following Reorganizational meeting.

Ayes 5 Motion Carried

Policy First Readings The following policies were reviewed (first reading):

- A. Policy 6111, Budget Deadlines and Schedules.
- B. Policy 6150, Budget Transfers.
- C. Policy 6761, Payments prior To Claims Auditor Approval.
- D. Policy 6910, Accounting of Fixed Assets.
- E. Policy 6760, Payment Procedures.

Legal Authority:
Energy Reserve
Funds

A motion to approve the following resolution was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Teri Lukin:

WHEREAS school districts are required by New York State to conduct ongoing long range planning including the planning of district finances, and

WHEREAS school districts have been subjected to significant financial pressures in recent years from rising energy prices including prices for natural gas, electricity, heating oil, gasoline and diesel fuel, and

WHEREAS these sharp increases in energy costs are neither under the control of school districts nor are subject to meaningful long range forecast by school districts, and

WHEREAS it is desirable for school districts to have the ability to fund through appropriate reserve funds for unanticipated costs, and

WHEREAS school districts are already allowed, under New York State law, to fund a variety of other reserves established for other uncontrollable costs, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the New York State School Board Association hereby calls upon the New York State legislature to pass legislation permitting school districts to establish, fund and use, as needed, an Energy Reserve Fund, and be it further

RESOLVED that any such Energy Reserve Fund be established upon the passage of a resolution of a Board of Education, and be it further

RESOLVED that Energy Reserve Funds be used to pay for unbudgeted rising energy costs upon the passage of a resolution by the Board of Education.

RATIONALE

School districts are the only governmental body in New York State which must submit their annual budgets to a vote of the public. In order to properly plan for annual budgets, school districts need the flexibility to fund, whenever possible, for future costs including energy costs. In recent years, energy costs for a variety of energy sources (electricity, natural gas, heating oil, diesel fuel, and gasoline) have risen dramatically thereby causing dramatic increases in school budgets. These cost increases are essentially beyond the control of local school districts and yet significantly impact local school budgets.

New York State already permits under the law a variety of other reserve funds which can be used to set aside funds for other uncontrollable costs. We believe that the authority to fund and use as needed energy reserve funds would allow for better planning of school budgets and provide an important opportunity to avoid spikes in school budgets and school taxes.

Ayes 5 Motion Carried

Special Education
Placements

A motion to approve the Special Education Placement of the following students was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Neal Haber:

Student Nos. 1510, 11632, 11461, 1198, 1987, 11825, 11770, 3955, 1902, 1791, 1106, 11874, 11877, 11867, 1092, 1066, 1287, 20016, 1347, 20001, 11606, 11614, 1145, 11871, 1329, 1478, 1541, 1557, 23009, 1551, 1457, 1462, 1492, 1495, 1467, 11435, 1135, 1133, 1104, 10035, 1309, 1520, 1323, 23054, 1985, 1289, 20053, 11422, 11782, 1963, 11721, 1163, 9805, 1895, 1896, 11548, 20042, 20045, 20039, 20044, 1158, 11084, 23069, 20040, 20054, 11068, 21018, 20011, 20038, 1626, 20002, 20032, 3870, 1597, 11579, 11125, 1648, 21018.

Ayes 5 Motion Carried

Salary Approvals

A motion to approve the following salaries for personnel not covered by a collective bargaining agreement for the 2008-2009 school year was made by Beth Roth and seconded by Eugene Perl:

- A. Diane Chaissan, Director of Finance & Administration, \$138,000;
- B. Kusum Sinha, Director of Staff & Pupil Personnel Services, \$155,000;
- C. Gabriella O'Connor, Administrative Assistant, \$67,275;
- D. Gabriella O'Connor, Assistant District Clerk, \$3,150;
- E. Renee Ligay, Technical Support Specialist, \$82,024;
- F. Rochelle O'Mara, Supervisor of Transportation, \$101,430;
- G. Denise Lowry, Secretary to Superintendent, \$60,900;
- H. Joan Garone, Assistant For Personnel & Data, \$46,886;
- I. Kathleen Geradi, Secretary to Director of Finance & Administration, \$65,723;
- J. Kathleen Geradi, District Clerk, \$7,040;
- K. Ellen Bencivenga, District Treasurer, \$43,263;
- L. Eileen Stark, Occupational Therapist, \$89,010;
- M. Gloria Papelian, Director of Enrichment Center, \$37,415;
- N. Philip Levy, Assistant Supervisor of Transportation, \$60,530;
- O. Peter Kuczma, Director of Physical Education, Health & Athletics, \$100,000.

Ayes 4 Abstentions 1 (Teri Lukin) Motion Carried

Table Item

A motion to amend the Consent Agenda to table item M2 (Creation of Senior Custodial Worker position) was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Beth Roth.

Ayes 5 Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approve the following health service contracts for the 2007-2008 school year (addresses have been verified by the Transportation Department):
 - 1. Katonah-Lewisboro Schools for 2 students attending The Harvey School, \$925.49 per student, totaling \$1,850.98.
 - 2. Mt. Pleasant Central Schools District for 1 student attending Holy Rosary School, totaling \$926.
- B. 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 \$33,164.56, for the months of March and April, 2008.
- C. Approve the reassignment of appropriation for the following:
 - 1. Enrichment money budgeted in the Non-Instructional account code to be moved to the Instructional salary account code, in the amount of \$10,290, for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
 - 2. Funds to pay clerical in O & M, in the amount of \$26,600, for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

On the question: This is how prior approval of budget transfers will appear on agenda.

- D. Approve the disposal of the following:
 - 1. Old uniforms of various sports (basketball, tennis, wrestling, soccer, etc);
 - 2. 15 CPR manikins and supplies that do not fit the manikins;
 - 3. 2 baseball protective frames and nets;
 - 4. 2 pieces of wrestling mats, 11' x 35';
 - 5. Other small amount of disposable items as deemed expendable.

On the question: Do we look for ways to place these items?

- E. Approve the contract between Miron Vislocky and the Croton-Harmon School District, as a Czech Translator to translate examinations at CHHS, not to exceed \$800.

- F. Approve the Agreement for Services between Eileen Stark, Occupational Therapist, and the Croton-Harmon School District, for services from July 7 – August 15, 2008, at the rate of \$50.00 per session.
- G. Approve the Agreement for Services between Allison Marston, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, and the Croton-Harmon School District, for services during the 2008-2009 school year, at the rate of \$32.00 per hour.
- H. Approve the Agreement for Services between Michael Moses, Physical Therapist, and the Croton-Harmon School District, for services during the 2008-2009 school year, at the rate of \$50.00 per session.
- I. Approve the Agreement for Services between Deborah Silberberg, provider of Blind and Visually Impaired Services and orientation & Mobility Training, for the 2008-2009 school year, at the rate of \$100.00 per hour.
- J. Approve the Agreement for Services between Andrea Pereira-Kriniske, provider of Speech and Language Services, for the 2008-2009 school year, at the rate of \$54.00 per hour.
- K. Acknowledge acceptance of the following CHEF grants:
 - 1. CHHS Art Club Beautification Project: Funds requested for paint, clay, glazes, tools and supplies for CHHS Art Club to continue art beautification projects at high school and in CHHS garden, in the amount of \$1,500.
 - 2. CHHS Special Education I-pod Reading Program: Funds requested for 8 Apple iPod nanos and 8 Monster iSplitters, to supply each grade's resource room with 2 iPods and 2 iSplitters, to allow 4 students per resource room to use iPods to enhance reading skills and comprehension, in the amount of \$1,351.60.
 - 3. Croton Academic Challenge Team Intellengencia (C.A.C.T.I.): Funds requested for entry fees, Questioning Materials and travel and accommodations for National Championship, in the amount of \$2,240 in fees and materials.
- L. Approve the request for a one-year leave of absence submitted by Loira Ortiz-Shapiro, Foreign Language Teacher, Croton-Harmon High School, for the 2008-2009 school year.

- M. Approve the probationary appointment of Daniel Large, Special Education Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective September 1, 2008 (eligible for tenure 9/1/09). (Mr. Large is currently an elementary teacher at PVC).
- N. Approve the probationary appointment of Nicole Fassacesia, Mathematics Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective September 1, 2008 (eligible for tenure 9/1/11). (Ms. Fassacesia is currently a leave replacement at PVC.)
- O. Approve the conditional probationary appointment of Rebecca Googel, Elementary Teacher, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, at a salary of \$74,597 (Step 7MA), effective September 1, 2008 (eligible for tenure 9/1/11).
- P. Approve the appointment of Eileen Davis, Part-time Enrichment Consultant, choreographing Broadway Kids from January 1 through mid-April, 2008, not to exceed \$3,500.
- Q. Approve the appointment of Matthew Byrd, .5 Broadway Kids Advisor, Carrie E Tompkins Elementary School, at a salary of \$870 (Step 1), for the 2007-2008 school year.
- R. Approve the appointment of Sally Stevens, Long-term Substitute for Special Education, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective April 14, 2008 to June 26, 2008.
- S. Approve the revised appointments of the following continuing education instructors:
 - 1. Katerine (Ketti) North, Afterschool Program, Sewing, CET, \$650;
 - 2. Judith Leire, Adult Education Program, Pottery, \$1,000;
 - 3. Runhong Chen, Adult Education Program, Chinese, \$500;
 - 4. Alison Stewart, Adult Education Program, Watercolor, \$300;
 - 5. Bonnie Hanson, Adult Education Program, Quilting, \$500.
- T. Approve the following Afterschool Program Instructors for the Summer of 2008:
 - 1. Robin Cook, Volleyball, not to exceed \$1,500;
 - 2. Sara Worden, Camp Strad, not to exceed \$3,000;
 - 3. Christine Chu, Camp Strad, not to exceed \$3,000;
 - 4. Patrice Davidson, Tennis, not to exceed \$1,800;

5. Kazuko DiCroce, Japanese Art and More, not to exceed \$2,000;
6. Kevin Flynn, Flag Football, not to exceed \$1,750;
7. Megan Weiss, Fun with Food (2 sessions), not to exceed \$1,800 for both sessions;
8. Jan Meryl Phair, Cake Decorating (2 sessions), not to exceed \$6,000 for both sessions;
9. Kevin Flynn, Lacrosse, not to exceed \$2,100;
10. Jon Khoury, Summer Soccer, Sessions I and II, not to exceed \$5,000 for both sessions.
11. Gwenveria Sargeant, Fashion & Arts Exchange, not to exceed \$3,000.

U. Approve the addition of the following persons to the following substitute lists:

1. Alyssa Tanner, Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teacher Aide lists (emergency conditional).
2. Matthew Cooke, Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teacher Aide lists (emergency conditional).
3. Debby Gullery, Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teacher Aide lists.

V. Semi-Annual Teacher Salary Advancements.

W. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Ms. Edith Masopust has been absent on leave of absence for a period of at least one year pursuant to Civil Service law Section 71; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Edith Masopust has been provided a pre-termination opportunity to be heard pursuant to Section 71 of the Civil Service law; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Edith Masopust attended the meeting scheduled for her to provide information as allowed for under Section 71 of the Civil Service law and provided information, a record of which was provided to the Board of Education, along with the report of the meeting held on May 28, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District has reviewed the report of May 28, 2008;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Edith Masopust's employment as a Bus Monitor for the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District is hereby terminated pursuant to Section 71 of the Civil Service law, subject to the reinstatement rights provided for therein, effective June 9, 2008.

- X. Approve the appointment of the following Summer Custodial Workers, at a salary of \$7.15 per hour, effective July 1, 2008 to August 16, 2008:
1. Christopher Curtin;
 2. Anthony Daugherty;
 3. Vincent Guido;
 4. Joseph Intrieri;
 5. Erik Swanson;
 6. Chris Calcutti;
 7. Gregory Carroll;
 8. James DiChiara;
 9. Robert Ledee;
 10. Phillip Vislocky.
- Y. Approval of Budget Transfers.
- Z. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports.
- aa. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Board of Education Minutes:
1. Regular Meeting of May 12, 2008.
 2. Special Meeting of May 20, 2008.
- bb. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Treasurer's Report for the period ending April 30, 2008.
- cc. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Student Activities Fund Report for the period ending April 30, 2008.

Ayes 5 Motion Carried

Hearing of the
Public

There was no discussion.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 9:50 p.m. into Executive Session to discuss personnel was made by Neal Haber and seconded by Beth Roth.

Ayes 5 Motion Carried

A motion to move out of Executive Session was made by Katherine Brechner and seconded by Teri Lukin.

Ayes 5 Motion Carried

Dr. Marjorie Castro acknowledged the presence of Matthew Pucci.

A motion to move to Executive Session was made by Teri Lukin and seconded by Katherine Brechner.

Ayes 5 Motion Carried

Gabriella O'Connor
Assistant District Clerk

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