

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

Date of Meeting: May 12, 2008  
Kind of Meeting: Regular  
Place & Time: Croton-Harmon High School, 7:40 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 Beth Roth.

On the question: Katherine Brechner requested to move item F3 to New Business. Lynda Jones requested to move item B to New Business.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Tenure Recommendations A motion to approve the following tenure recommendations was made by Neal Haber and seconded by Eugene Perl:

- A. Grant tenure to Theresa Arturi, Elementary Teacher, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, effective September 1, 2008.
- B. Grant tenure to Denise Baker-Gasparri, Elementary Teacher, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, effective September 1, 2008.
- C. Grant tenure to Melissa Heckler, Elementary Teacher, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, effective September 1, 2008.
- D. Grant tenure to Esra Murray, Elementary Teacher, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, effective September 1, 2008.
- E. Grant tenure to Daniel Large, Elementary Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective September 1, 2008.
- F. Grant tenure to Gerald Ardito, Science Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective September 1, 2008.

- G. Grant tenure to Sally Barnes, Foreign Language Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective September 1, 2008.
- H. Grant tenure to Amy Marnell, Elementary Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective September 1, 2008.
- I. Grant tenure to Robert Shashoua, Foreign Language Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective September 1, 2008.
- J. Grant tenure to Eric Rosen, School Psychologist, Croton-Harmon High School, effective September 1, 2008.
- K. Grant tenure to Tanya Viola, School Counseling & Guidance, Croton-Harmon High School, effective September 1, 2008.
- L. Grant tenure to Nicole Kooney, Speech & Hearing Handicapped, Districtwide, effective September 1, 2008.
- M. Grant tenure to Kusum Sinha, Administrator (Director of Staff & Pupil Personnel Services), effective September 1, 2008.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Library Budget  
Presentation

Mary Donnery of the Croton Free Library presented their budget.

Public Budget  
Presentation

Diane Chaissan gave the budget overview.

Hearing of the  
Public (Budget)

A community member asked what is the Technology Staff Developer and is it a full time position?

President's Report

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Special Voter Registration: Wednesday, May 14, 2008, District Office, 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- B. Budget Vote & Board Election: Tuesday, May 20, 2008, Croton-Harmon High School, 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- C. On the Ballot: Budget, Library, Excel proposition, and Trustee Vote.
- D. ELL Dinner, 6:30 p.m., (May 21, 2008) & SEPTA Workshop (May 28, 2008) (3<sup>rd</sup> year running – Speech, Physical and Occupational Therapists offering ideas for summer activities).

- E. Neal Haber requested a press release and a notice at the senior center regarding parking in circle at CHHS for voting on 5/20.
- F. Work session on May 27 at 7:30 p.m., concentrating on math curriculum, grades K-12.

Hearing of the  
Public

The following was discussed:

- A. A parent of a 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, stated an interest in children working at own mathematics levels with teacher support, suggesting pre-assessment prior to engaging in math grade level.
- B. A parent of a 1<sup>st</sup> grader, requested 'just right' teacher.
- C. A parent of a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and 8<sup>th</sup> grader, who is also a teacher, supports the math program.
- D. A parent of a 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grader is in favor of assessments prior to engaging in each grade level mathematics unit of study and requested that all mathematics enrichment occur during school hours. She asked how and why was the current CET Math program selected.
- E. A parent of an incoming 1<sup>st</sup> grader is concerned about the math program being offered.

Board Liaison  
Reports

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Karen Zevin spoke about the John Hall presentation – how difficult to accomplish things politically-acknowledges the educational struggles within politics.
- B. Lynda Jones provided copies of the following reports: NYS Commission on property tax relief (a meeting is scheduled for 6/9) and NYS Commission on local government efficiency and competitiveness. A suggestion was made to have a board of Education Work Session on these two reports.

Polling of the  
Board

The following topics were discussed:

- A. Karen Zevin stated that Keane & Beane was to provide follow-up on items regarding tax certioraris updates.
- B. There is an Audit Committee meeting on May 20, at 7:30 p.m., in the Croton-Harmon High School Community Room, to meet with the external auditor, and review the internal audit report response.

- C. The Westchester/Suffolk BOCES presentation on demographic study possibilities is scheduled for June 9.
- E. The Administrative Retreat is scheduled for July 16, 2008.
- F. A Board Work Session is scheduled for June 16, at which time the Board will discuss the Reorganization meeting and retreat scheduling.
- G. Board of Education handbook comments will be forwarded and reviewed by all Board of Education members.
- H. "Fast Facts" will be made available to all Board members for individual use.
- I. Lynda Jones displayed a sample of the Yorktown version of Reflections.

Policy 6800,  
Payroll

A motion to adopt Policy 6800, Payroll Procedures, was made by Karen Zevin and seconded by Lynda Jones.

On the question: This policy is needed and requires further revision, should this be effective immediately.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Special Education  
Placements

A motion to approve the special education placements was made by Karen Zevin and seconded by Neal Haber: Student Nos. 11358, 11477, 11484, 11715, 1214, 1902, 2012, 1287, 11636, 1347, 11074, 11473, 11339, 1172, 1986, 1263, 10837, 11641, 3908, 21024, 1015, 11172, 3817, 11322, 11471, 11488, 1923, 1925, 1130, 11429, 10599, 11427, 3748, 1959, 1977, 1980, 10687, 21002, 1214, 20010, 3981, 11842, 1894, 21010, 11852, 11095, 11638, 22023, 10841, 10904, 10033, 1732, 1737, 1744, 1747, 10846, 1824, 1782, 23007, 11664, 1849, 1357, 9769, 10730, 20012, 11040, 1014, 1905, 10473, 10017, 11030, 11689, 10475, 1077, 23027, 21016, 11807, 11849, 11856, 2012, 1066, 1119, 1052, 10443, 11228, 11522, 11036, 10708, 3852, 11074, 1776, 1653, 1283, 1759, 1599, 10018, 1264, 1869, 0206, 3659, 11407, 1032, 11096, 11443, 1172, 20026, 1405, 3917, 10034, 1908, 1523, 20047.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

BOCES: Initial  
Contract of  
Services

A motion to approve the Initial Contract of Services with Putnam/No. Westchester BOCES, for the 2008-2009 school year, was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Neal Haber.

On the question: Neal Haber stated we are approving the use of these services at the rates set forth.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Personnel Appts.

A motion to approve the following appointments was made by Eugene Perl and seconded by Neal Haber:

- A. Approve the appointment of Diane Chaissan, Acting Clerk for the Budget Vote & Election (in case of the absence of the District Clerk).
  
- B. Approve the appointment of the following persons to serve as Chief Election Inspector, Election Inspectors, and Registrars for the Budget Vote and Election, on May 20, 2008, at a salary of \$8.25 per hour:
  - 1. Marjorie Gilbert, Chief Election Inspector;
  - 2. Shawn DeLonge, Election Inspector;
  - 3. Laurel DeLonge, Election Inspector;
  - 4. Megan DeLonge, Election Inspector;
  - 5. Charlene Devnet, Election Inspector;
  - 6. Rose Hubner, Election Inspector;
  - 7. Elana Brechner, Election Inspector;
  - 8. Helen McKiernan, Election Inspector;
  - 9. Margaret Cunningham, Registrar;
  - 10. William Reynolds, Registrar;
  - 11. Melany DeLonge, Registrar;
  - 12. Linda Potthast, Registrar;
  - 13. Lucy Agosta, Registrar;
  - 14. Ellen Bencivenga, Registrar;
  - 15. Mary Santella, Registrar;
  - 16. Michael Castro, Registrar;
  - 17. Joan Reynolds, Registrar;
  - 18. Lindea Whalen, Registrar;
  - 19. Estelle Calcutti, Registrar.
  
- C. Add the following persons to the following substitute lists:
  - 1. Catherine Savell, Substitute Lunch Aide and Substitute Teacher Aide.
  - 2. Andrew Cooke, Substitute Teacher Aide.

Ayes 6 Abstentions 1 (Katherine Brechner) Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Approve the appointment of Giuseppina Miller as Chairperson of the Budget Vote & Board Election, May 20, 2008.

- B. Approve the following interscholastic athletic mergers with the Hendrick Hudson School District:
  - 1. Girls Swimming – Fall 2008;
  - 2. Boys and Girls Skiing – Winter 2008-09.
- C. Approve the Agreement for Services between Suzanne Carlock, Special Education Teacher, and the Croton-Harmon School District, to provide services during the 2008-2009 school year, including summer services, in the amount of \$50.00 per hour.
- D. Accept, with regret, the notice of resignation submitted by Lisa Houston, Foreign Language Teacher, Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School, effective June 30, 2008.
- E. Approve the request for child care leave submitted by Dafna Stouber, Elementary Teacher, Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, effective September 1, 2008 to November 30, 2008.
- F. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, one position in the Elementary tenure area be abolished.

On the question: Beth Roth asked if any jobs were lost or was this one less staff being hired.
- G. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, two positions in the Special Education tenure area be created (one being the CSE Chairperson).
- H. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, one position in the Foreign Language tenure area be created.
- I. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, the number of positions in the Mathematics tenure area be increased by .5.
- J. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, the number of positions in the English tenure area be increased by .4.
- K. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, the number of positions in the Physical Education tenure area be increased by .2.

- L. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, the number of positions in the Science tenure area be increased by .5.
- M. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, the number of positions in the Art tenure area be increased by .2.
- N. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, the number of positions in the Social Studies tenure area be increased by .2.
- O. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, the Mathematics Enrichment program be increased by .4.
- P. Approve the leave replacement appointment of Linda Meo, Art Teacher, Croton-Harmon High School, at a salary of \$72,174 (Step 6MA), effective for the 2008-2009 school year (currently working as leave replacement).
- Q. Approve the appointment of Croton Cake Creations, Inc. (Jan Meryl Phair), for Kiddie Kakes, \$1495.00 (CET).
- R. Approve the appointment of Jeff Barlow as an Athletic Event Supervisor, at the rate of \$91.00 per sporting event and mandated Timekeeper, at the rate of \$139.00 per sporting event.
- S. Approve the addition of the following persons to the following substitute lists:
  - 1. Janice Noto-Helmets, Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teacher Aide.
  - 2. Lois Coggins, Substitute Teacher.
- T. Adjust the amount to be paid to the Fashion & Arts Exchange from \$900 to \$500 (approved at a prior meeting).
- U. Adjust the amount to be paid to John Khoury for Soccer Instruction, from \$500 per class to \$1,000 per class, totaling \$2,000 (\$500 per class was approved at a prior meeting).
- V. Accept, with regret, the notice of retirement submitted by Brenda Fish, Senior Account Clerk, Business Office, effective September 30, 2008.
- W. Consistent with the Board's budget resolution for the 2008-2009 school year, one position in the Cleaner tenure area be created.

X. Approval of Budget Transfers.

On the question: Lynda Jones discussed the revenue status report. Karen Zevin asked what is the importance of budget transfers.

Y. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Financial Reports.

Z. Acknowledgment of Receipt of Board of Education Minutes:

1. Regular Meeting of April 7, 2008.
2. Special Meeting of April 14, 2008.
3. Special meeting of April 28, 2008.
4. Special meeting of April 29, 2008.

aa. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Treasurer's Report for the period ending March 31, 2008.

bb. Acknowledgement of Receipt of Student Activities Fund Report for the period ending March 31, 2008.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

Hearing of the  
Public

There was no discussion.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. was made by Karen Zevin and seconded by Teri Lukin.

Ayes 7 Motion Carried

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Gabriella O'Connor  
Assistant District Clerk

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