

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

DATE: September 19, 2011

WHERE HELD: Monroe E. Haas Instructional Media Center

PRESENT: Sheri Zarkower, Glen Schuster, Nancy Barr, Jeffrey Diamond, Steven Kaplan, William Stark, Jonathan Ross, Harry Burg, Tracy Taylor, Colin Byrne, Gina Healy, Patricia Lambert, James Spano, Todd Richard and Tamara Oppenheimer

The Board met in Executive Session at 7:00 PM. and reconvened at 8:05 PM.

The Meeting was called to order by Sheri Zarkower and the Pledge was recited.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

1. Mr. Stark reported great success in the opening of school on September 6th.
2. He announced the PRSS Open Houses will be on 9/20, 9/21 and 9/22 – 6:30 – 8:00 PM and BBMS Open House will be on October 6th at 7:00 PM
3. Mr. Stark reported that the Rain Garden construction at PRSS would begin this week.
4. He also wanted the community to know that this year's first Community Conversation with the Superintendent will be on Thursday, September 22nd at 9:00 AM in the PRSS Conference Room
5. Mr. Stark reported that the Columbia Press Gold Medal was given to BBHS FOCUS staff for their critiques.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Barr called for a community-wide commitment to civility among all. She wants all to be more respectful towards one another in the weeks and months ahead. It is okay to disagree – let's make this a year for respectful conversations and discussions.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Stark gave a PowerPoint presentation on the District Goals for 2011-2012.

Mr. Schuster was concerned about facilities/space impact on the budget. He commended the action research goal and noted that other districts are doing the same. He suggested a summit. Mr. Schuster also stated the need to use technology to help students improve learning. He queried how are we going to measure success?

Ms. Barr- wanted to hear about the progress of District goals throughout the year particularly the World Language goal.

Mrs. Zarkower wanted to know about research activities in the areas of the Homework Policy and the Honor Code.

Mr. Kaplan wants more discussions/meetings about presentations in the public forum. Also wants more interaction with community members.

Mrs. Zarkower noted that the Board wants to make better use of the Shared Decision Making Teams to help the Board get the word out.

Mr. Kaplan – Major Goal – Math – wants emphasis on the interdisciplinary relationships between core curriculum subjects including technology. Mr. Stark explained that this does occur naturally at times. Mr. Schuster supports the concept that Mr. Kaplan speaks of. Mr. Kaplan queried what set of standards do we want to follow with technology? The Board must determine standards. He spoke about the 7th grade project wherein cell phones were used to discuss student thoughts and understanding of “family” which was done today.

Mr. Diamond – the end goal should be improving student achievement. He queried if there will be short term goals; milestones; how will they be measured? He stated that he was glad that his own children interact with teachers and other students. They really use technology outside of the classroom. He does not want to see technology become a distraction.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Dick Hubert, Doral Greens – noted the drop in enrollment at Blind Brook where Port Chester and Rye’s have gone up. Wanted to know why? Mr. Stark responded and related to the drop to a stagnant real estate market. He also cited the small numbers of Blind Brook students going to private schools so when the economy is poor we do not see an increase in public school enrollment as perhaps theirs do.

Wendy Adler, 19 Talcott Road – Are there significant changes to integrating technology in the classroom?

Mr. Stark said it is an ongoing process. He referred to the ongoing technology audit currently being done. Mrs. Adler agreed with Mr. Kaplan that we need more presentations and dialogues throughout the year.

The discussion on Charges to the Advisory Committees will be on the agenda for the October 3, 2011 Board Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Resolutions are recommended for action by the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye UFSD:

A. Certified Personnel Resolutions

Salary figures may be subject to the outcome of negotiations

1. Reduction of Full-time Art Teacher 1.0 to .9 – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education approves the reduction of a Full-time Art Teacher (1.0) – Meghan Petras to a .9FTE position effective August 31, 2011 at a salary of MA 10 + 60 Hours \$109,789 – pro-rated \$98,810.

Upon motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr this resolution was passed unanimously.

B. Other Personnel Resolutions

Salary figures are subject to the outcome of future negotiations

1. Resignation – Part –Time Aide – Recommended Motion – The Board of Education approves the resignation of Lissette Vilato-Pineda as a part-time Teacher aide at the Ponterio Ridge Street School, effective August 30, 2011.
2. Payment of Unused & Accumulated Vacation Days – Karen Bronson - Recommended Motion – The Board of Education approves the payment of unused & accumulated vacation days to Karen Bronson in a total \$7,093.20 per ABBA collective Bargaining Agreement.
3. Approval of Teacher Lane Movements & Salary Increases – Recommended Motion – The Board of Education approves the following Lane Movements & Salary Increases per 2010-2011 Teachers’ salary schedule listed in Appendix A-2 of the Teachers’ Federation Contract, effective September 1, 2010.*

TEACHER	CURRENT LANE/STEP	CURRENT SALARY	NEW LANE STEP	NEW SALARY	NET INCREASE IN 2011-2012
Naz Flory	MA 11 + 0 Hrs.	\$98,751	MA 11 + 15 Hrs.	\$102,731	\$ 3,980*
Martha Rosen	MA 15 + 45 Hrs.	\$124,744	MA 15 + 60 Hrs.	\$128,511	\$ 3,767*
Maggie Brennan-Juana	MA 10+ 45 Hrs.	\$106,467	MA 10 + 60 Hrs.	\$109,789	\$ 3,322*

4. Termination – BBMS Secretary to the Principal – Recommended Motion
The Board of Education does hereby terminate Carla Murrell as Secretary to the Blind Brook Middle School Principal, effective September 16, 2011.
5. Payment of Unused & Accumulated Vacation Days – Carla Murrell
Recommended Motion – The Board of Education approves the payment of unused & accumulated vacation days to Carla Murrell in a total amount of \$1,396.50.
6. Salary Adjustment 2011-2012 – District Treasurer – Phil Silano
Recommended Motion – The Board of Education approves the increase of \$2,000 in salary for Philip Silano for the period 9/1/11 to 8/31/12.
7. Part-time Hourly Kindergarten Aide – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education approves the appointment of Jaclyn Valentino as a Part-time Hourly Kindergarten Aide at Step 15 \$19.04 per hour (not to exceed 19.5 hours
8. Part-time Hourly Teacher Aide at PRSS – Recommended Motion: the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mary Ann Gorman as Part-time Hourly Teacher Aide at Step 14 - \$17.71 per hour (not to exceed 15 hours per week), effective September 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Upon motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr Resolutions 1-8 were passed unanimously.

9. Appointment of Mentors for 2011-2012 - Recommended Motion – The Board of Education appoints the following individuals as Mentors for the 2011-2012 School year:

	<u>Stipend</u>
Judy Mella for Paula Sanchez-Kukukozer	\$1200
Elise Ryan for Nick Bianculli	\$1200
Nelcy Lange for Matt Castelli	\$1200
Christine Keegan for Mariann Schirizzo	\$1200

Upon motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr this resolution was passed unanimously. Mr. Diamond voted in favor but does not believe there should be a stipend provided to Mentors. Mr. Stark stated that Mentors are paid using Title II Funds.

10. Appointment – Substitute Nurse for 2011-2012 – Recommended Motion: -
The Board of Education approves the appointment of Frances French as a substitute nurse for the Blind Brook School District at a contractual rate of \$39.92 per hour for the 2011 – 2012 school year.
11. Appointment – Special Consultant – Recommended Motion – The Board of Education approves the appointment of Karen Bronson as a Special Consultant effective September 1, 2011 and ending December 30, 2011 at \$709.32 per diem not to exceed seven (7) days.

12. Substitute Other Than Teacher PRSS – Recommended Motion: the Board of Education approves Aimee McClain to be substitute other than teacher during the 2011-2012 school year as needed.

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr resolutions 10-12 were passed unanimously.

13. Appointment Grade Leaders – PRSS – Recommended Motion: The Board of Education approves the appointment of the following Grade Leaders at the Ponterio Ridge Street Elementary School for the 2011-2012 school year:

<u>GRADE LEVEL</u>	<u>GRADE LEADER</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Kindergarten	Shannon LaRoche	\$1950
First Grade	Karen Tagliaferri	\$1950
Second Grade	Maureen Jackson	\$1950
Third Grade	Allyson Bal	\$1950
Fourth Grade	Tom Pesce	\$1950
<u>GRADE LEVEL</u>	<u>GRADE LEADER</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Fifth Grade	Amy Blumstein	\$1950
Specials Leader	Joanna Hellman	\$1850
Pupil Services	Penny Litchfield	\$1950

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr this resolution was voted 4-1. Mr. Diamond voted no because of the stipend issue and does not believe that the District is bound to the contract to make these appointments. Mr. Stark stated that District counsel is investigating the contractual obligation matter.

14. Appointment Substitute Teachers – PRSS - Recommended Motion: the Board of Education approves the following individuals to be substitute teachers during the 2011-2012 school year as needed:

Matilda Autiero Rebecca Benichak

15. Reduction of Additional Teaching Assignment – Recommended Motion: the Board of Education approves the reduction of the additional teaching assignment for Elvira Morse, effective September 19, 2011.

16. Additional Teaching Assignment – Recommended Motion: the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individual to work an additional teaching assignment in the 2011-2012 school year starting September 20, 2011:

<u>TEACHER</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>
Matthew Castelli	Italian	.2 FTE	\$10,633 (pro-rated)

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr Resolutions 14-16 were passed unanimously.

C. Educational Resolutions

1. District-Wide School Safety Plan and District-Wide School Safety Team-Recommended Motion- The Board of Education accepts the District-Wide School Safety Plan for 2011-2012 and appoints the following as members of the District-Wide School Safety Team:

School Board Representative – Steven Kaplan
Teacher Representatives – Dr. Michele Sugantino & Steve Turkewitz
PTA Representatives – Kevin Chason and Marilyn Tokayer
Superintendent of Schools – William J. Stark
Ass't. Supt. (Emergency Coordinator) – Dr. Jonathan Ross
BBHS Principal – Gina Healy
BBMS Principal – Patricia Lambert
PRSS Principal – Tracy Taylor
Ass't. Principals – Todd Richard & Tamara Oppenheimer
Nurses – Hildie Kalish & Nancy Garretto]
School Safety Monitor – David Centofanti
Maintenance Foremen – Vincent Camporeale & Luis Rodriguez
Village of Rye Brook – Lt. Eugene Matthews

2. Approval of Committee on Special Education Recommendations -
Recommended Motion: The Board of Education approves the following Special Education Committee recommendations submitted for review as as of September 12, 2011:

Case numbers: 51993, 51535, 51196, 51430, 51382, 50989, 50751, 50903, and 60027.

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr Resolutions 1-2 were passed unanimously.

D. Other Business Resolutions

The following Resolutions are recommended for action by the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education of the Blind Brook-Rye UFSD:

1. Approval of Minutes – Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education accepts and approves the Minutes of the August 12, 2011 Board Meeting.

2. Acceptance Treasurer's Reports – July 2011 & August 2011 – Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education accepts the Treasurer's Report for the Months of July 2011 & August 2011
3. Approval Revised 2011-2012 Tax Warrant - Recommended Motion: that the Board of Education approves the 2011-2012 Tax Warrant with a total gross levy of \$33,667,821 which is comprised of \$ 2,502,368 from STAR and in actual taxes collected of \$31,165,453 (as revised).
4. Approval Girvin & Ferlazzo – Legal Counsel for Special Educational Services – Recommended Motion: the Board of Education approves Girvin & Ferlazzo as Legal Counsel for Special Educational issues at the hourly rates of \$160-\$180 (litigation or non-litigation) for 2011-2012.
5. Resignation Member of the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee – Debbie Faust - Recommended Motion: the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Debbie Faust as a member of the Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee, effective immediately.

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr resolutions 1-5 were passed unanimously.

6. Authorization for Attorneys to Pursue an Appeal: Recommended Motion The Board of Education authorizes and directs its attorneys to pursue an appeal to the State Review Officer from the September 4, 2011 Hearing Officer's Findings of Fact and Decision issued in the matter involving Student No. 51535.

Upon Motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr this resolution was passed unanimously.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Michael Borelli, 175 Betsy Brown Road – Stated that he was appearing as a taxpayer and parent. He received a series of e-mails between Jeff Diamond and Debbie Faust which he read aloud to the community. Mr. Borelli subsequently asked a series of questions to the Board and provided a copy to all Board members. The Board took the questions under advisement and addressed the need for Counsel's review before responding.

Mrs. Zarkower explained that the Board was deeply disturbed by these e-mails and that the first Board meeting was cancelled as a part of these e-mails. Mr. Stark explained that the purpose of the meeting he had with Mrs. Zarkower and Mr. Schuster on September 9th was to discuss board agendas and how agendas are established for board meetings. This is a common occurrence and standard practice. Mrs. Zarkower explained the protocol of meetings with the Superintendent – part of which was to report back to other Board members on what the meetings were about.

Mr. Borelli requested that all questions be addressed in public at the next meeting of the Board.

Michael Rosenblut, 14 Holly Lane – stated that he was devastated about these revelations and requested more information on the spying matter. He also requested that a formal outside investigation be conducted.

Mr. Diamond responded and said, “I jumped to a conclusion and I have apologized for it.”

Mr. Kaplan saw no problem with the meeting and told Mr. Diamond that – Mr. Diamond confirmed this.

Mrs. Zarkower said that we are still working on the matter.

Mr. Rosenblut requested that the Board vote authorizing outside counsel to do a total investigation of this matter.

Kim Palumbo, 11 Reunion Road – stated that this was ridiculous and disgusting. She wanted to know what is going on.

Mr. Borrelli and Mr. Rosenblut went back and forth requesting answers and an outside investigation.

Mr. Schuster said while he had been silent during the exchanges he was astounded by the whole situation.

Mrs. Zarkower called for adjournment – Upon motion by Mr. Schuster and second by Ms. Barr the Board moved to adjourn this meeting without entering Executive Session at 10:12 PM.

Jonathan Ross, District Clerk

Date

Sheri Zarkower, President

Date