

Minutes

Board of Education Meeting

March 24, 2011

7:00 P.M.

High School Library

Draft until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM in the High School Library.

Board Members Present: John Sutton, Cheryl Smith, Janet Glenn, Terry Ostrander, Mark Pribis, Joan Slagle and Bradley Rooke (Janet Glenn was present via Skype.)

Administrators Present: Trent Clay, Linda Jackowski, Paul Berry, Peter Bednarek, Norman Griffin, and Kimberly LaBelle

Other Present: Tammy Looman, Community Members, Staff and Students

At 7:00 PM the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda were Noted

Mrs. LaBelle introduced Denise Martin, Interim District Clerk to the Board of Education and the public.

Consent Agenda:

Financial Reports

Remove February, 2011 Student Activity Accounts Treasurer's Report - was not available at the time of the meeting

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Fourth Grader Hanna Thompson read a prepared statement in which she implored the Board to keep the educational program at Galway Central School in tact, allowing all students to strive for excellence, enabling them to find their passion.

Recognition

The 2nd Quarter Lions Club Citizenship Awards presentation occurred at this point in the meeting. Those honored were: Madison DesPres – Elementary Student; Erica Culbert – Middle School Student; and Elizabeth Horstmann – High School Student. Each Building Principal announced the name and identified academic achievements, as well as community service activities of their student.

Mr. Bednarek announced that seniors Sarah Goderie, Katie Farry, Rachel Mueller, Karennia Martin, and David Goldstein were honored as Outstanding Seniors for their academics and extra curricular activities at the YMCA Recognition Breakfast; Gary Barrow was also honored for Outstanding Educator.

Educational Presentation

Student Joe English distributed a handout and gave a detailed presentation of the proposed Student Court Program. He answered questions regarding the program, and sought Board feedback and potential approval of the program

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent LaBelle gave a budget update. Mrs. LaBelle noted there were over 200 participants at the last "Community Chat". She noted 138 people filled out the survey; and results will be posted to the website. The top five items the public did not want to have eliminated are: Art, Athletics, Music, Transportation, and Elementary Teachers; In regard to acceptable tax levy increases, the majority favored no increase, while other acceptable rates ranged from 5 to 12%. The top five ideas for additional cuts were in the area of Athletics, BOCES Administration, Transportation for after-school activities; and Administrative/Teacher salaries. Since the Board only received the compiled survey information tonight, they will be considering all comments and suggestions. Mrs. LaBelle also noted there is no new information regarding revenues or restoration of aid from the State. In order to reduce the current 11% proposed tax levy, the Administrative Team is reviewing suggestions to make further reductions/realignments in order to make additional cuts of \$500,00 to \$600,000. The Board and Administration will continue to work diligently to present a budget which is educationally sound and can be supported by the community.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: Terry Ostrander Second: Bradley Rooke All voted aye. Motion Passed 7-0
(Cheryl Smith stated that she was present at the February 10, 2011 Meeting, and those Minutes should be so amended)

CONSENT AGENDA

Galway Central School District Board of Education Meeting Thursday, March 24, 2011

Financial Reports

Accept February, 2011 District Treasurer's Report – will be available at the meeting

Minutes

Accept Board of Education Meeting Minutes of February 10 (as amended to reflect Cheryl Smith Present), February 17 and March 10, 2011.

Personnel

Pauline Muth

Approve the appointment of Pauline Muth as Long-Term Substitute Science Teacher effective March 21, 2011 - December 22, 2011, replacing Emily Flores at the same step placement and salary she is currently on. She has fingerprint clearance and is certified in the area of Biology and General Science 7-12.

Regina Hanson

Approve the appointment of Regina Hanson as a part-time Substitute Family and Consumer Science Teacher effective March 14, 2011 – April 15, 2011 at the substitute teacher daily rate of pay and per the terms and conditions of the SASIE Agreement replacing Susan Slater who is on a leave of absence. She has fingerprint clearance and is certified in Family and Consumer Science.

Jill Miller

Approve the appointment of Jill Miller as a part-time Substitute Family and Consumer Science Teacher effective March 14, 2011 – April 15, 2011 at the substitute teacher daily rate of pay and per the terms and conditions of the SASIE Agreement replacing Susan Slater who is on a leave of absence. Jill is also a part-time Family and Consumer Science Teacher in the District.

Margaret Signor

Approve the appointment of Margaret Signor as an uncertified Substitute K-3 Teacher effective April 1, 2011, per the terms and conditions of the SASIE Agreement. She is currently a Substitute Teacher Aide in the District.

Andrew Forneris

Approve the appointment of Andrew Forneris as a Substitute Bus Driver at a rate of \$15 per hour and as a Substitute Auto Repairer at a rate of \$14 per hour effective March 25, 2011. Andrew has fingerprint clearance.

Camilla Colangelo

Accept the resignation of Camilla Colangelo from her Assistant Food Service Helper position effective March 18, 2011 in order to accept a Food Service Helper position in the District.

Camilla Colangelo

Approve the appointment of Camilla Colangelo as a Food Service Helper for 4 hours per day at her same hourly rate of pay effective March 21, 2011 replacing Amy Trigg. She is also a Typist for 6 hours week and has fingerprint clearance.

Jennifer Tretiak

Accept the resignation of Jennifer Tretiak from her Teacher Aide position effective March 18, 2011.

Sean Fitzgerald

Accept Sean Fitzgerald as a Varsity Baseball Unpaid Assistant for the 2010-11 school year. He has fingerprint clearance.

Stuart Wilday

Appoint Stuart Wilday as a substitute scorekeeper (shot clock) for the 2010-11 school year at a rate of \$66/event.

CONSENT AGENDA CONTINUED

Barbara Agresta

Appoint Barbara Agresta as an unpaid Interim Student Activities Account Treasurer effective March 22, 2011 for approximately 6 weeks replacing Linda Casatelli. She has authorization from Ballston Spa National as an additional signer for bank transactions on this account.

Denise Martin

Revise the following to reflect a start date of March 15, 2011 versus March 22, 2011 due to days of training.

Approve the appointment of Denise Martin to the following positions effective March 22, 2011 for up to 6 weeks at a rate of \$20 per hour replacing Linda Casatelli who will be out on Workers Compensation leave.

- Interim Sr. Stenographer (Interim Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools)
- Interim District Clerk
- Interim Records Access Officer
- Interim Records Management Officer

Board Member Comments

In regard to the proposed Budget, Board President Sutton stated the Board is considering all suggestions, and may be forced to look deeper than Tiers 2 & 3; too many variables continue. The Board is receiving a lot of emails, comments...this is an emotional process. The Board continues talks with union representatives regarding savings items; these talks remain cordial. There was mention of a possible three tier system for voting on the Budget; i.e. have a basic budget and add additional propositions. The legality/appropriateness of this will be posed the School District Attorney. He also went on to say conversations regarding aspects of a contingency budget need to occur sooner than later.

Mark Pribis proposed letting taxpayers know ahead of time; of what other scenarios of the budget would entail; be transparent. More work needs to be done on the Contingency Budget; i.e. what it includes, what is cut out, what the school will look like, and what taxes will look like. The Board needs to have a discussion in advance on their position on a Contingency Budget in order to anticipate the outlook, ramifications, and to make it understandable to community.

It was stated there is \$5,000 allotted in the Budget for running an election.

Cheryl Smith stated that in the past when there was a proposition vote, people were confused. She agrees with the concept of outlining the various options.

Mark Pribis urged those present to run for the School Board.

New Business

Adopt 2011-12 School Calendar

Motion: John Sutton Second: Joan Slagle Roll Call was taken.

Motion was DENIED

4-3

Motion: To adopt the 2011-2012 School Calendar.

Cheryl Smith voted: NO

Mark Pribis voted: NO

Bradley Rooke voted: NO

Janet Glenn voted: NO

John Sutton voted: YES

Terry Ostrander voted: YES

Joan Slagle voted: YES

Mrs. LaBelle explained the specifics of the proposed calendar. Discussion surrounded the number of instructional days. Mrs. Smith would like to see 186 days in the calendar, since staff are paid for that number of days. She also asked if the District is aided past 180 days. Mrs. LaBelle will research this.

Approve Senior Class Trip

Motion: Terry Ostrander Second: Janet Glenn All voted aye.

Motion was carried.

7-0

Mrs. LaBelle stated this was a day trip; the annual trip by the Senior Class, which occurs with no cost to the District. Due to the mileage, there is a requirement to have it approved at the Board level.

Review of Policy 5100 – Ex Officio Student Membership on the Board of Education

Mrs. LaBelle elaborated on changes made to the proposed policy, which noted the Constitution of the Student Senate. Joan Slagle stated there was a student constitution long ago, which should be investigated. Discussion ensued. Mrs. LaBelle stated that this policy needs to be formalized by April 14th, in order to be placed on the ballot in May.

Approve Ballston Spa Health & Welfare Services Contract

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Bradley Rooke All voted aye

Motion was carried. 7-0

Internal Audit Report

Mrs. LaBelle updated the Board on the progress of recent corrective actions being instituted as a result of the Internal Audit done by Gregory Diefenbach. Areas identified were: Payroll, Student Activities Accounts; Accounts Payable; Asset Management, Transportation, and Board Policy Manual. Some items/changes have been accomplished, while completion in other areas are long term and have fiscal impact, and will be implemented in the near future.

Election Information

Mrs. LaBelle read the following information regarding the upcoming Election of Board Members:

The Galway Central School District has two vacancies on the Board of Education. Both are four-year terms of office that expire on June 30, 2011. One seat is currently held by Terry Ostrander. The other is currently held by Mark Pribis. All seats are "at large" which means that each nominee for a seat on the Board is eligible for every vacancy rather than only for a specific seat.

To qualify for membership on a school board, an individual:

- Must be able to read and write
- Must be a qualified voter of the district, that is, a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years or older; and not a convicted felon or adjudged an incompetent
- Must be and have been a resident of the district for at least one year prior to the election, but need not be a taxpayer
- May not have been removed from any school district office within the preceding one year, or the preceding three years in the case of New York City community school board members removed for malfeasance or criminal conviction while serving as a member of a community school board
- May not reside with another member of the same school board as a member of the same family
- May not be a current employee of the school board
- May not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office
-

If you are interested in running for a seat on the Board you will need to file a petition with the District Clerk, Mrs. Linda Casatelli, no later than 5:00 P.M. on Monday, April 18, 2011. Nominating petitions are available in the Clerk's office located in the Board of Education Room of the High School or by calling that office at 882-1033 Ext. 3224.

The petition must be signed by at least 25 eligible voters and must carry the name and address of the candidate seeking a seat on the Board. Each eligible voter signing the petition must include his/her name and full address. Prospective candidates are urged to use the petition forms provided by the District and to obtain more than the minimum number of signatures required in the event that one or more signatures is challenged.

Public comment

Many community members and students were in attendance. Many spoke in support of maintaining the high quality of the educational program at Galway Central Schools. Some favored that a more detailed survey be sent to garner more detailed information, and also having the budget document on the website. Discussion/suggestions included embarking on reinventing the school by evaluating current programs; dollar value of items in order to raise funds to operate certain programs; ascertaining donations from Global Foundries; surveying graduates; parent volunteers for extra curricular clubs; creative ways to advertise the School District so as to accept tuition students; and contacting local and state officials to increase funding for education.

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Executive Session

9:22 p.m. Motion: Terry Ostrander Second: Joan Slagle All voted aye. Motion Passed 7-0
Resolved that the Board of Education of the Galway Central School District enter into executive session to discuss under the exemption provision of Open Meetings Law CSE/CPSE recommendations which are confidential by law and exempt from Public Meetings Law; contract negotiations, and to discuss materials which may lead to particular individual(s) losing their positions at the school or the otherwise change in their position at the school.

Mrs. LaBelle was present during executive session.

Regular Session

Motion: Terry Ostrander

Second: Cheryl Smith

All voted aye.

Motion Passed

7-0

To return to regular session at 11:35 p.m.

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Motion: Terry Ostrander

Second: Cheryl Smith

All voted aye.

Motion Passed 7-0

To arrange placement of the following students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Pre-School Special Education: #3053, 3598, 3869, 3848, 5177, 5118, 3777, 4633, 2705, 6038, 5043, 5404, 5311, 4588, 3183, 027620503, 3848, 6023, 2786, 3600, 4310, 022110501, 4281, 2790, 2321, 4307, 7057, 2119996, 4564, 4541, 4490, 2207, 2324, 4588, 27480304, 2820, 2724, 2502, 4581, 3787, 536, 22160797, 2825, 3819, 3868, 3874, 5061, 2679, 5287, 5277, 2685, 2696, 3407, 24870199, 25540900, 2711, 32720804, 2700, 2757, 5216, 3836, 4550, 4325, 3233, 2501, 2561, 25920604, 2778, 2782, 3201, 2463, 2846, 2462, 3454, 3514, 5076, 2870, 4652, 4599, 2659, 4601, 3068, 3069, 3765, 3334, 3488, 5093, 4641, 3024, 5120, 3167, 3497, 3183, 2834, 3046, 3276, 3404, 3064, 3159, 3538, 3362, 4611.

Adjournment

Motion: Terry Ostrander

Second: Mark Pribis

All voted aye. Motion Passed 7-0

To adjourn at 11:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise J. Martin

Denise J. Martin
Interim District Clerk