

Board of Education Meeting

April 28, 2011

6:30 P.M.

High School Library

Draft until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM in the High School Library.

Quorum Check

All Board members were present except for Joan Slagle and Bradley Rooke. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: John Sutton, Cheryl Smith, Terry Ostrander, Bradley Rooke,
Janet Glenn, Mark Pribis

Board Members Absent: Joan Slagle, Bradley Rooke

Executive Session

Motion: Terry Ostrander Second: Janet Glenn All voted Aye. Motion Passed 5-0

To move to Executive Session at 6:35 PM. Superintendent LaBelle was present during executive session.

Regular Session

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Terry Ostrander All voted Aye. Motion Passed 5-0

To return to regular session at 7:00 PM.

Others Present: Superintendent LaBelle, Administrators, community members, students, teachers and other members of the public. Board Member Bradley Rooke arrived at this point in the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Were noted by Superintendent LaBelle.

Public Comment on Agenda

There were no public comments on the agenda.

Recognition

Board of Education members John Sutton, Cheryl Smith and Joan Slagle were recognized and congratulated for being recipients of Board Achievement Awards from the NYS School Boards Association. Mrs. LaBelle expressed sincere thanks and appreciation for their hard work and dedication on behalf of Galway Central School.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentation(s) at this meeting.

Superintendent's Report

The Budget Newsletter was mailed earlier in the week. It is also on the District's website. The Budget Hearing will be held on May 9th at 7 PM in the Auditorium; a Board Work Session will take place on May 12th at 7 PM in the High School Library; Election Day is on May 17th from 10-9 PM in the Auditorium Lobby; a Board meeting will also be held on May 17th at 7 PM in the High School Library. A packet is being prepared of required information available to the public. The Budget Notice will be mailed to district residents on May 10th-the day after the budget hearing.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: John Sutton Second: Terry Ostrander

All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0

To approve the consent agenda minus the February and March, 2011 Student Activity Accounts Treasurer's Reports which will be available at the next meeting; with tenure appointments removed so they can be voted on separately during the New Business section of the meeting; and with the addition of two personnel items – to accept the resignation of Teri Weber and to appoint Katherine Cusano as a Substitute Custodian/Cleaner.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Accept March, 2011 District Treasurer's Report

Accept Budget Transfers

MINUTES

Accept Board Meeting Minutes of April 7 and April 14, 2011.

PERSONNEL

Kerry Munn

Appoint Kerry Munn as a Substitute Teacher Aide, effective April 29, 2011, at a rate of \$8.25 per hour. She has fingerprint approval.

Dawn Leitheuser

Accept resignation from Dawn Leitheuser from her position of Teacher Aide - 2 hour position, effective April 29, 2011, in order to accept the position of Special Education Teacher Aide.

Dawn Leitheuser

Appoint Dawn Leitheuser as a Special Education Teacher Aide – 6.25 hour position, effective April 29, 2011, at a rate of \$8.91 per hour. She has fingerprint approval.

Amy Rehbit

Accept the resignation of Amy Rehbit from her Math Teacher position effective April 28, 2011.

Teri Weber

Accept the resignation of Teri Weber from her Elementary School Teacher position for retirement purposes effective June 30, 2011 with sincere thanks and appreciation for her many years of service with Galway Central School.

Katherine Cusano

Appoint Katherine Cusano as a Substitute Custodian/Cleaner at a rate of \$10/hour effective April 29, 2011. She has fingerprint clearance and is already a Cafeteria Substitute.

Joanne Donnan

Following Executive Session later in the meeting, the Board of Education voted to not extend a Leave of Absence to Joanne Donnan from her Technology Teacher position.

(See page 5 of these minutes.)

Board Member Comments

John Sutton stated that the property tax report card is on the District's website and in the Budget Newsletter and that he is concerned that the fund balance figure shown for next year is not the correct figure. The property tax report card says 9.42% and the State requires 4%. That figure of 9.42% is also in the District's website and is misleading to voters. He asked that the Superintendent of Schools look into it and report back to the Board. Cheryl Smith asked if the above was reported to the State Education Department and Mrs. LaBelle responded that it has been and that it was due by April 23, 2011. Cheryl Smith commented that this information is out there. Mrs. LaBelle said the State Education Department has an adjustment period to get information changed and will look into it and report back to the Board. The unappropriated fund balance is now the unrestricted fund balance. The fund balance will be only what is left over from this year.

John Sutton stated that the Board continues to have discussions with the GTA and look forward to continuing those discussions.

Cheryl Smith attended a Spring Law Conference and will be providing an overview to the board at the next meeting.

New Business

Motion: Terry Ostrander Second: Janet Glenn All voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To award **tenure** to Nicholas Morocco effective September 1, 2011 in the tenure area of Technology, who has initial certification that has a Time Extended expiration date of August 31, 2012.

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Bradley Rooke All voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To award **tenure** to Matthew Funigiello effective September 1, 2011 in the tenure area of Music, who has initial certification that expires August 31, 2013.

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Janet Glenn All voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0

School Calendar - To approve the 2011-12 School Calendar (see attached).

Mrs. LaBelle mentioned that she received an email from Joan Slagle stating that November 23, 2011, the day before Thanksgiving, has traditionally been a day off for faculty and students at Galway. She stated that this day off was very much appreciated and this tradition should continue and the district could switch various dates on the calendar to make this happen. Cheryl Smith stated that there have been years when this was not the case and it was not a day off. The Board voted to approve the calendar as submitted with November 23, 2011 not being a day off.

Youth Court – A follow-up discussion regarding implementing a Youth Court in the district took place. It was decided after considerable thought and consideration to not implement a Youth Court for various reasons. Joseph English, high school student, was congratulated and thanked for his efforts and hard work in researching the topic on behalf of the students of Galway and bringing this suggestion to the Board for consideration. He was encouraged to continue his efforts in bringing forth any matters that he feels may benefit the students at Galway for the Board to consider.

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Bradley Rooke All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To table Transportation Requests - Private/Parochial School Transportation Requests were tabled pending further information being made available to the Board of Education.

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Bradley Rooke All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
Board Petitions - To accept the following petitions for two vacancies on the Board of Education for four-year terms of office that begin on July 1, 2011 and end on June 30, 2015. Their names will appear on the ballot on Election Day- May 27, 2012 from 10AM – 9PM in the High School Auditorium Lobby: Jerri Ernst Thomas Rumsey Dennis Schaperjahn Nancy Lisicki

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Janet Glenn All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To approve a Niskayuna **Health & Welfare Services Contract** in the amount of \$511.11 for one student.

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Bradley Rooke All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
Accept the **resignation of Gregory Diefenbach** from School District Compliance Specialists for Internal Auditing Services effective 06/01/11.

Motion: John Sutton Second: Bradley Rooke All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
Authorize the Superintendent of Schools to solicit bids for an **RFP for Internal Auditing Services**.

Cheryl Smith asked if the RFP asks for a risk assessment and that we want more than what we had last year. The Board of Education asked to see the RFP which Mrs. LaBelle will email to them for review.

Mrs. LaBelle announced that Galway Central School was once again a recipient of the **Utica National Insurance Group Safety Award**. The district received a plaque that will be displayed in the school along with a \$500 check.

Motion: John Sutton Second: Cheryl Smith All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To table approval of the **Real Property Tax Report Card** because of fund balance questions that were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Motion: Bradley Rooke Second: Janet Glenn All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To approve extending the **Memorial Day Holiday** to include the Friday before Memorial Day, 2011 since all emergency snow closing days were not used in the 2010-11 school year.
The Board asked if this was a contractual item and Mr. Barkley responded on behalf of the GTA that this is a contractual item.

Capital Project – A financial update was provided by Mrs. LaBelle. Details can be obtained by contacting the District Office.

Motion: Janet Glenn Second: Terry Ostrander All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to move forward with completing an application for **Qualified School Construction Bonding** designed to provide low interest or no interest for the construction bond.

Motion: John Sutton Second: Terry Ostrander All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To authorize the District Treasurer to **establish a checking account** at Ballston Spa National Bank for the Capital Project and authorize Tammy Looman, District Treasurer as a signer on this account and Barbara Sleight, Deputy District Treasurer as a co-signer in her absence for bank transactions on this account.

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Janet Glenn All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To nominate Lynne Lenhardt as **Area 7 Director of the NYS School Boards Association** for a two-year term of office commencing 1/1/12. It was mentioned that she does an outstanding job in this role.

Public Comment

Laura Sakala reported that Meet the Candidates Night will be held on May 4, 2011 at 7 PM in the High School Auditorium.

Nancy Lisicki stated that the Board has been talking about various changes to the budget due to the fiscal crisis and asked when the district expects their goal end date to be to have more information available to the public about the changes. Mrs. LaBelle stated that it is hoped that the bulk could be completed by the end of June, that a lot of work has to be done over the summer and that she wants to get faculty and staff involved in the plans. Nancy Lisicki also asked if the Board may consider reinstating JV sports if they see other schools putting JV Sports back into their budgets. The Board responded that nothing from the administration has been brought to the board on this. Mrs. LaBelle said that there are no plans to reinstate JV Sports at this time.

Executive Session

Motion: John Sutton Second: Janet Glenn All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To move into executive session to discuss CSE/CPSE recommendations, bargaining unit negotiations, and specific personnel matters concerning specific individuals at 8:05 PM.
During the CSE/CPSE portion of executive session Mrs. Lin Jackowski was present.

Regular Session

Motion: Mark Pribis Second: John Sutton All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To return to regular session at 10:05 PM.

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Janet Glenn All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To approve CSE/CPSE placements as recommended by the CSE/CPSE for the following:
Student #4331, 4511, 4293, 2949, 6015, 5109, 5051, 42504, 472605, 5041, 5107, 4654, 2012007, 5033, 6016, 5079, 5080, 2602, 3247, 3452, 3405, 3521, 3248, 3222, 3197, 3028, 2879, 3054, 2978, 2985, 3003, 3195, 3325, 3085, 3280, 3004, 3015, 4650, 3081, 5113, 4538, 3544, 2490, 3490, 5223, 2999, 3557, 6030, 5049, 3633, 2599, 2948, 3251, 5027, 3631, 220303, 5266, 3473, 3780, 3346, 3513, 5201, 5261, 5063, 6049, 5404, 5001, 4645, 5001, 5406, 5261, 3473.

Personnel

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Terry Ostrander
To approve extending a Leave of Absence for Joanne Donnan from her Technology Teacher position to include the 2011-12 school year. She has been on leave of absence during the 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years.

The motion to approve the Leave of Absence was denied.

2 were in favor of approving the Leave of Absence.

4 were not in favor of approving the Leave of Absence.

Bradley Rooke and Mark Pribis voted Aye.

Cheryl Smith, John Sutton, Janet Glenn and Terry Ostrander voted Noe.

Adjournment

Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Bradley Rooke All Voted Aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To adjourn at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Casatelli

Linda M. Casatelli
District Clerk