

Galway Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
MINUTES
Thursday, November 17, 2011

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board President Cheryl Smith at 6:30 PM in the Large Group Instruction Room.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Nancy Lisicki, Thomas Rumsey, Dennis Schaperjahn, Joan Slagle
Cheryl Smith, John Sutton,

Board Members Absent: Janet Glenn (Was not able to attend the meeting via video conference from Florida due to the inability to make the connection.)

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle, Superintendent of Schools; Linda Jackowski, Director of Pupil Services; Peter Bednarek Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Paul Berry, Director of Assessment, Technology & Student Affairs; community members, parents, students and teachers.

Pledge of Allegiance

Was recited.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Mrs. LaBelle noted additions/revisions to the Agenda.

Public Comment on Agenda

None

Superintendent's Report

Mrs. LaBelle recently attended the NYS School Boards Association Annual Convention. She felt that although the offerings were satisfactory, she did not think it was the same quality that it has been in the past. She does not know if she would attend next year's convention which is being held in Rochester. Cheryl Smith also attended the conference representing Galway School and BOCES as a member of both Boards of Education.

The district asked the community to respond to the November 9, 2011 Community Chat. This information, including questions and answers, will be posted on the district web site. The next Community Chat will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2012 followed by the regularly scheduled Board Work Session.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion: Nancy Lisicki Second: Dennis Schaperjahn All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0

To approve the November 17, 2011 Consent Agenda with the following revisions:

- to reflect Dennis Schaperjahn seconding the motion to the Capital Project resolution on the October 25, 2011 Board meeting minutes;
- to add to the Board Member Comment section of the October 25, 2011 Board meeting minutes that there was a brief discussion about the Friday morning program in response to concerns raised by some community members per Nancy Lisicki's request;
- to remove an unpaid leave of absence request from Christine Buskey, Teacher Aide.

There was a question about a budget transfer from grade 8 to grade 5 that Mrs. LaBelle is going to look into.

CONSENT AGENDA

**GALWAY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 17, 2011**

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Approve the October, 2011 District Treasurer's Report.
- Approve October, 2011 Budget Transfers.
- Approve the October, 2011 Student Activity Accounts Treasurer's Report.

MINUTES

- Approve October 25, 2011 Board Meeting Minutes.

PERSONNEL

Teachers

Approve a paid/unpaid maternity leave of absence for Sara Korona from her full-time Reading Teacher position effective on or around January 30, 2012 through on or about March 9, 2012 for up to 6 weeks.

Approve a two-week unpaid leave of absence for Sara Korona from her full-time Reading Teacher position effective on or about March 12, 2012 through on or about March 23, 2012 to run consecutively with her maternity leave.

Support Staff

Appoint Candy Hunter as a Substitute Teacher Aide and as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher Aide replacing Hadley Jacobs effective November 14- June 25, 2012 at a rate of \$8.50. Candy has fingerprint clearance.

Accept the resignation of Carol Symonds from her Bus Driver position effective December 31, 2011 for retirement purposes.

Accept the resignation of Kelsi Litchfield from her Bus Monitor position effective December 2, 2011.

Other

Appoint Regina Culbert as a Substitute Chaperone-Dances/Rec Night for the 2011-12 school year at a stipend of \$92/night. She has fingerprint clearance.

Sports

Appoint Pamela Wilday as Scorekeeper for Girls' Varsity Basketball for the 2011-12 school year at a stipend of \$69/night. She has fingerprint clearance.

Amend the following 2011-12 Winter Sports appointments to reflect the corrected annual stipend per the GTA contract indicating that Varsity Cheerleading be paid as a Jr. Varsity Winter Sport and Jr. Varsity Cheerleading be paid as a Modified Winter sport. In error their stipend was based on their title.

<u>Cheerleading</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Varsity	Diane Verrigni	A5	\$4,000 \$3,000
Jr. Varsity	Karen Moffatt	A5	\$3,000 \$2,000

Rescind the following winter coaching appointment for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Boys Basketball</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
JV	Andrew Meyers	A2	\$3,000

Approve the following winter coaching appointments for the 2011-12 school year:

<u>Boys Basketball</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Modified	Andrew Meyers	A2	\$2,000
Unpaid Assistant Modified	Sean Fitzgerald	NA	Unpaid

Board Member Comments/Stakeholder Council Update and Discussion

Nancy Lisicki stated that two weeks ago she mentioned that she attended an educational summit and everyone took notes and distributed information to the Board to get some dialogue going. Copies pertinent to stakeholder committees were provided.

Cheryl Smith stated that she has results of annual meeting resolutions for those interested in seeing what passed and what did not. The board received an invitation from a law firm in the area to attend a breakfast meeting December 15, 2011 with the topic being Electronic Communications. She asked that Board members let her know if interested in attending.

Joan Slagle reported that the Transportation Stakeholder Council met and toured the bus garage facility. Discussion about seating took place. Although school bus guidelines show our busses as 72 and 66 passenger (three/seat) busses, the more realistic seating capacities (due to secondary student size) are 48 and 44 respectively in order to sit comfortably and safely in the seats.

The Transportation Stakeholder Council will be completing a cost comparison of one bus run vs. two to determine if one run is actually less expensive. They will be looking at cost savings, time saved, mileage and pros and cons of one bus run vs. two. After the defeat of the bus referendum, Mrs. LaBelle recommended two runs for this year, initially reducing two routes (consolidation), but then reinstated one of those routes due to special education needs. John Sutton stated that Duaneburg has had one bus run for many years and has received some good information from them. Schoharie also has one bus run. Discipline and bullying concerns have not been as part of their discussions because they haven't heard that it has been a problem with these districts. It was noted that Duaneburg has a smaller bus fleet, slightly smaller enrollment, and a much smaller district size.

Mr. Sutton stated that the district knew how many students were on bus runs but not how many were actually riding the bus on every run. Therefore, a log was done for one week. Mr. Sutton stated that he was surprised at how few students were riding in busses.

The Transportation Council wants a clearer explanation of how to keep up with next year's information including fuel, salaries, wear and tear, etc. Joan Slagle stated that Michael Sherman, Transportation Supervisor, doesn't have enough time to be the Transportation Supervisor because he is doing so many other duties. He doesn't have the time to get needed information to the committee. She said that Michael Sherman's title doesn't fit with what he is doing, and is expected to do, and that it needs to be addressed. She stated that cost effectiveness information could come from Mr. Sherman if he had the time to do it. Mrs. LaBelle stated that the change in Michael Sherman's duties is the result of budget cuts. The District cut a mechanic from full time to part time and secretarial support went from 12 months to 10 months +20 days. Nancy Lisicki asked about savings on insurance if the district went with one run instead of two. Mrs. LaBelle will look into this. Discussion of funding for transportation for extracurricular events took place and clarification of Transportation line items and funding (Garage Helper and Bus Office Staff) took place.

The Athletic Stakeholder Council will be looking at comparisons of coaching salaries, transportation expenses to athletic events, chaperones, use of volunteers, etc. The topic of the use of reconditioned or used athletic equipment was brought up. Johnstown or Gloversville School District may be using used or reconditioned equipment. They will be contacted for further information.

The Academic Stakeholder Council met and broke off into groups. They are a dedicated group that is putting forth a lot of time in effort. They will be meeting three times this month.

New Business

A first reading of Policy #1500 Public Use of School Facilities and Regulation #1500 took place. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the fee schedule for use of the school facilities and the importance outside groups to have insurance. The Board decided to go with the following fee schedule. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting where a second reading of the policy and regulation will occur.

FEE SCHEDULE

Jr./Sr. High School Gym with Bleachers \$50 Based on 4 hours

If staff is needed for your specific event, the rates are as follows:

<u>Special Use Fees</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Kitchen Service	\$22
Cleaner / Helper	\$20
Custodial Service *	\$28
Traffic Control Service *	\$20

* Required if 300 or more in attendance.

Money Savings Strategies

Dennis Schaperjahn stated that every department should meet as a group every year and that it is time for everyone to talk. He said that the Board needs additional information from faculty and staff and feels that a lot of people are holding back and that they need to know where they see opportunities for cost savings. Lengthy discussions followed. Mrs. LaBelle will send a message all employees requesting their input. Another suggestion was that if representatives from the faculty and staff wanted to meet and discuss this topic or other topics with Board members to let Mrs. LaBelle know and she would coordinate that meeting.

Negotiations Discussions

Three contracts expire at the end of June – the Galway Teachers Association, the Administrators Association of Galway and Management-Confidential. A labor relations specialist was hired through a cross contract with the Capital Region BOCES for Galway Teachers Association contract negotiations. It was stated that it is important to provide a contract that reflects benefits and wages reflective of our economic times and provides the best education for our students. Mr. Sutton stated that the GTA amount of increase in steps over the course of the three year contract range from 15% to 21 ½%. This contract was settled before the whole world changed in 2008. After that the stock market crashed, banks went under, etc. We have to look at the school and community perspective and it is not inappropriate to ask our teachers to consider going back a year. He supports the first bargaining position that takes us back to the wages made in 2010-11. That would allow us to keep almost all of our faculty members. He doesn't think it's an unfair place for our board to start with talking to our faculty, considering the amount of compensation when the cost of living hasn't gone up that much. We can get that back to today's income in the next two years. We can have an inflation factor in there in case anything goes haywire. That's where we need to start.

Mark Pribis's draft policy regarding a 10 day viewing period for the community before contract ratification was discussed. It was also brought up at the recent Community Chat. The community feels that they don't know what's in the contract and have no say in it until it's a done deal. Cheryl Smith spoke to an attorney at a recent convention she attended. A concern is that it would appear that the district is not having intent to come to an agreement. It could run afoul if something influences someone to vote no. It is also an issue of trust. Dennis Schaperjahn agreed. Thomas Rumsey asked how teachers could feel that negotiations were taking place in good faith if we implemented this policy. If 10 days are given to the public to review the proposed contract, the public will want to provide their input and this is not fair to put teachers in this position. Joan Slagle reminded everyone that the community often voiced their dissatisfaction with the process happening without their input. Mrs. LaBelle and the Board discussed how there will be more community chats to keep the public informed along and many other means of communication to the public in an attempt to keep them informed. The Board of Education agreed to not go forward with a first reading of this policy.

Motion: John Sutton Second: Joan Slagle All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
Approve establishing a Galway Swim Team for the 2011-2012 season and appoint Nancy Spagnola of the Amsterdam School District as the unpaid Amsterdam Head Varsity Swim Coach. This is per the agreement below that has been signed by Ronald Smith, Amsterdam Athletic Director, Nancy Spagnola, Amsterdam Head Varsity Swim Coach and Thomas Perillo, Amsterdam Superintendent of Schools.

Per Mr. Bednarek, Galway Athletic Director, this includes both training and competition for the 2011–2012 season. Establishing a team and appointing a coach is the only action required by Section II Athletics and the New York State Public High School Athletics Association. Jordan Gregg would train with Amsterdam (under the supervision of their coach) and would compete separately from their team but at contests according to their schedule. There is no cost to the Galway Central School District.

Agreement

The Greater Amsterdam School District is in agreement with the Galway Central School District to have Jordan Gregg compete in Varsity Swim as a team of one for the winter sports season. Jordan will use the Amsterdam pool and facilities. He will also travel on the Amsterdam sport bus. The Amsterdam swim coach is in complete agreement and is willing to take responsibility for the student-athlete. As a sport team from Galway, Jordan will sign Galway School's code of conduct and be governed by your school rules.

Motion: Thomas Rumsey Second: Dennis Schaperjahn All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
Accept the donation of a Bushnell telescope to be used in the Science Department from Kraig Armstrong, 1088 Sacandaga Road, Scotia, NY 12302 with thanks and appreciation. It has an estimated value of \$275.

Public Comment

It was mentioned that the format of the recent community chat was awesome; the hand outs were great; people liked that they could ask questions and make comments; they liked that the district wanted to know about their concerns and ideas on how to save money.

Those in attendance agreed with the importance of obtaining information from all faculty and staff regarding ways to save the district money. It was suggested that instead of sending out a survey that the Board take time to meet with various departments and come to their meetings to talk with employees personally and listen to what they have to say. The transportation department feels forgotten about and said it would be nice to see Board member faces. Possibly a meeting within each department would be a good idea. It was stated that if any department wants to invite a board member to come in to meet that they choose a date and time and let Mrs. LaBelle know to make the arrangements. Possibly one or two board members could come in to meet with them.

Mr. Darlington invited the community to attend a rocket launch that his students have been working on in class. Details are available on the district website.

Jeannine Flinton asked if the district has the quantity of buses we have in case of an emergency situation. Mrs. LaBelle responded that it is no longer a requirement to have a seat for every student on the bus.

The Galway Teachers Association's K-5 STAR reading program is underway. The goal of the GTA STAR Bag of Books Program is to assist parents in encouraging a love of reading while spending quality family time together. The program provides families with the opportunity to have access to 500 books that students can read or have read to them. The STAR Bag of Books Program provides quality literature for the children while fostering a connection between home and school.

The Galway Teachers' Association afterschool STEM (*Science, Technology, Engineering and Math*) Enrichment Initiative was discussed. It is aimed at increasing the awareness and thus the number of students studying and entering technical careers in science, engineering, mathematics, technology and computer sciences.

Carrie Herron and Geoff Maliszewski spoke on behalf of the GTA and presented and distributed a written proposal to hire a consultant at a cost of \$5,000 funded by GTA. The consultant would review academic practices and make recommendations for academic improvements primarily in the K-6 building, but also 7-12. The consultant is currently the elementary principal of Geysers Road Elementary School (Saratoga School District) who is retiring in December and is a resident of our community. Mrs. Lisicki stated that it is exciting to hear this out of the box thinking. The Board listened to the request and mentioned that they needed time to discuss this as a Board before making a decision about the proposal. Below is the initiative presented to the Board:

GTA Educational Consultation Initiative

The GTA firmly believes that with the current educational reforms and our goal to continue to prepare students to be successful in our highly competitive and global workforce that it is imperative that we strive to bring the best teaching practices, educational programs and ideas to our classrooms. With the use of educational consultation services provided by Melodye Eldeen we plan to explore ways that our school can improve and help our students increase their achievement. We feel that Ms. Eldeen has an outstanding reputation, proven positive results in the education field and a vested interest in our district as a resident. She is the Principal of Geysers Road Elementary School, Saratoga Springs, a retiree as of January 2012 and a resident of the Galway Central School District.

- 20 days of consultation services starting in January
- \$250 per day = \$5,000
- Written report at culmination of the 20 days.
- Fully funded by the Galway Teachers Association.

Executive Session

Motion: Nancy Lisicki Second: John Sutton All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To move into executive session at 8:07 PM for CSE/CPSE recommendations and specific personnel matters.

CSE/CPSE Recommendations

Motion: Nancy Lisicki Second: Thomas Rumsey All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To arrange placement of the following students as recommended by the CSE/CPSE: 5055, 2157, 5061, 2778, 3346, 3054, 5327, 6062, 6033, 5051, 3544, 3197, 6012, 3848, 6009.

Regular Session

Motion: John Sutton Second: Nancy Lisicki All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To return to regular session at 9:50 PM.

Adjournment

Motion: Thomas Rumsey Second: John Sutton All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To adjourn at 9:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Casatelli
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District Clerk