

Galway Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
MINUTES
Thursday, October 18, 2012
6:30 PM – Jr./Sr. High School Library

Draft until approved by the Board of Education at their next meeting.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. in the Jr./Sr. High School Library.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board members present: Cheryl Smith, President; Thomas Rumsey, Vice-President; Janet Glenn, Nancy Lisicki, Dennis Schaperjahn, John Sutton

Board members absent: Joan Slagle

Others Present: William F. Scott, Superintendent of Schools; Linda Jackowski, Director of Pupil Services; Brita Donovan, Associate Principal Gr. 7-12; Michelle McDougall, Elementary School Principal; Michael Healey, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Tim Hilker, School Business Official; Community Members; Students; Dorene Seelow-Podolec, Management-Confidential Employee; Barbara Sleight, Management-Confidential Employee

Cheryl Smith said that the Management-Confidential handbook would not be looked at since they did not have a copy of it at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA

None

AWARDS

Certificates will be awarded to two students being recognized as Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program at the next meeting instead of this meeting.

In honor of School Board of Education Week, thanks and appreciation were extended to the Galway Board of Education. A small gift of appreciation was given to them.

PRESENTATIONS

An administrative update was provided on Data Collections and Data Evaluation Software.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Scott talked about the need for mandate relief in New York State. See attached article.

Mr. Scott stated that he is very pleased with the administrative team at Galway. He said that he has worked with many teams of administrators over the years and feels that Galway has the best team of administrators he has ever worked with and it is working out great. He said that when he came to Galway School in July, 2012 there was basically no administrative team in existence other than Linda Jackowski, Director of Pupil Services. He said that he can't express enough appreciation to them. They know how to work together as a team and they do a great job, all of them. Sometimes they are emailing work to him late at night or very early in the morning. They are an invaluable team of administrators.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)

Mr. Scott provided an APPR update. Areas of concern in the APPR Agreement were addressed. Information will be re-entered for approval by the State.

Mr. Scott received just received a letter from the GTA concerning cuts made to various groups that he has not been able to look at yet. He will do so as advisement.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Thomas Rumsey, seconded by Nancy Lisicki to approve the consent agenda below with the exception of approval of Board minutes which were tabled to the next meeting.

All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion Carried 6-yes 0-no

CONSENT AGENDA

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Accept the September, 2012 Student Activity Accounts Treasurer's Report.
(July-September, 2012 District Treasurer's Reports will be available at a future date.)
Accept Budget Transfers if applicable.

MINUTES

Were tabled to the next Board meeting for approval.

PERSONNEL

Approve a paid/unpaid maternity leave of absence for Kristyn Akin from her Math Teacher position effective on or around her due date of November 19, 2012 for 6 weeks

Accept the resignation of Ellen Moran from her Teacher Aide position effective October 23, 2012.

Appoint Chelsea Slosberg as a .67 FTE English Teacher effective October 16, 2012 at Step M1 of the of the salary schedule \$44,177/year @ .67 pro-rated and has fingerprint clearance.

Appoint Kelsi Litchfield as a Substitute Bus Monitor effective September 12, 2012 at rate of \$8.50 per hour. She has fingerprint clearance.

Appoint Maria Rescelo Pecor as a Substitute Teacher Aide effective September 21, 2012 at a rate of \$8.50 per hour. She has fingerprint clearance.

Appoint Nicolle Robitaille as a Substitute Cleaner effective October 19, 2012 at a rate of \$11.11 per hour. She has fingerprint clearance.

Appoint Cheryl Sisler as a Substitute Cleaner effective October 19, 2012 at a rate of \$11.11 per hour. She has fingerprint clearance.

Appoint Michael Francisco as a Substitute Bus Driver effective October 19, 2012 at a rate of \$16.01 per hour. He has fingerprint clearance.

Appoint Robin Mulvena as a Substitute Teacher Aide at a rate of \$8.50 per hour, a Substitute Cafeteria Worker at a rate of \$8.86 per hour and a Substitute School Secretary at a rate of \$14.00 per hour effective October 19, 2012. She has fingerprint clearance.

Rescind the following co-curricular appointments for the 2012-13 school year who were appointed in error:

Rec Night Supervisor	Cathy Malakauskas
Footprint Layout Editor	Karen Decker
Marine Biology Advisor	Jim Reynolds

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Continued)

Approve the following co-curricular appointments for the 2012-13 school year as shown below:

Chaperone-Dances/Rec Night	\$ 83/night	Terri Atwell
Fitness Center Supervisor	\$ 21/hour	Terri Atwell, Diane Sartin, Michael Sartin
Camp Chingachgook Coordinator	\$203/year	Paula Canell
Freshmen Class Advisor	\$1,139/yr. shared	Jim Reynolds & Carrie Herron
Chaperone-Basketball/Wrestling/Volleyball	\$81/night	Greg Birbilis, Tracy Smith
Ticket Sales	\$62/night	Tracy Smith

Approve the following Winter Sports Coaches for the 2012-13 school year:

Varsity Girls Basketball	Deborah Wilday	Level D	\$6,300
JV Girls Basketball	Phil Meashaw	Level B5	\$3,600
Modified Girls Basketball	Stuart Wilday	Level D	\$4,500
Modified Boys Basketball	Jason Louder	Level B4	\$2,700
Wrestling-Varsity	Michael Sartin	Level B4	\$4,500
Varsity Cheerleading	Diane Sartin	Level B1	\$3,600

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Dennis Schaperjahn wants to start to begin meeting with employees again this year to gain input and suggestions on where the district can save money. He read that Edinburg School District will be looking for a place to send their high school students to next year and expressed his concerns with the distance involved if Galway were asked.

Thomas Rumsey said that the Board never had a discussion on merging or consolidating Galway School and if the Board were to discuss this they would be very transparent. He asked that this be in the minutes of the meeting in an attempt to end rumors taking place.

Nancy Lisicki talked about Galway students leaving the district; where are they going and why. Mr. Healey is looking into this. In the next couple of months a survey may be sent out, or possibly families will be called to obtain this information. That information will then be given to the Board for review. She talked about zero based budgeting and suggested that the Board look at what committees did last year and look at what we want, what we need, etc.

Cheryl Smith talked about how PERSONNEL are a part of the Consent Agenda and the Board shouldn't have discussion on a consent agenda. She suggested the Board approve PERSONNEL separately which the Board agreed to.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion took place regarding the District's Building Use Policy. Various questions, for example, how far in advance can someone request the use of the school building, if the policy included the on-line process of obtaining building use, etc. Christine DeCristofaro may be asked to attend a Board meeting to explain the on-line process for requesting Building Use. A sample policy on Building Use will be provided to the Board from the NYS School Boards Association for review. Discussions will continue.

Public participation at Board meetings was discussed. They talked about possibly imposing a time limit when necessary and if so, how long the time limit should be. Discussions will continue.

Mr. James Dexter, WSWHE BOCES District Superintendent of Schools, arrived at this point in the meeting for a continuation of the Superintendent of Schools search. Information will be posted on the school website as it becomes available.

Motion was made by Thomas Rumsey, seconded by Janet Glenn to approve the following:
Resolved that the Galway Central School District Board of Education authorizes District Superintendent, James P. Dexter, to be the Search Consultant to the Board for the purpose of recruiting a Superintendent of Schools, and to furthermore, reimburse the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES for expenses related to the process. The Galway Central School District agrees to defend and indemnify Mr. James P. Dexter with respect to any claim and/or civil action rising out of the performance of such duties to the maximum extent permitted by law.
All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion Carried 6-yes 0-no

The Management-Confidential Handbook appeared on the Board agenda but was not brought up at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Questions, comments and concerns were heard from those in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Nancy Lisicki, Seconded by Janet Glenn
To move into executive session for CSE/CPSE recommendations at 9:06 PM.
All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion Carried 6-yes 0-no

REGULAR SESSION

Motion was made by Nancy Lisicki, Seconded by Janet Glenn
To return to regular session at 9:36 PM.
All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion Carried 6-yes 0-no

CSE/CPSE RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion was made by Janet Glenn, seconded by Thomas Rumsey
To approve CSE/CPSE recommendations for the following students: 5277, 6129, 2999, 6156, 5201, 5107, 5409, 4583, 4652, 6138, 6157, 3248, 2832, 2825, 6033, 5037
All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion Carried 6-yes 0-no

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Nancy Lisicki, seconded by Dennis Schaperjahn
To adjourn at 9:38 PM.
All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion Carried 6-yes 0-no

Respectfully submitted,
Linda M. Casatelli
Linda M. Casatelli
District Clerk

See Attached Mandate Relief Article

A Push for Mandate Relief in New York

Many districts in New York will experience an even greater financial strain since the state legislature imposed a 2 percent cap on school budget increases. If a district seeks a budget for next year that is more than 2 percent higher than the current year's budget, the district will need a super majority vote, or 60 percent or more of voters, to pass it.

In most districts, about 70 to 80 percent of the budget is dedicated to salaries and benefits, leaving little room for expanding academic programs.

"As a result, high-needs, low-wealth districts, many of which are rural, are facing academic insolvency," says Robert Reidy, Jr., executive director of the New York State Council of School Superintendents (NYSCSS). "There have already been thousands of job cuts in education over the last few years and districts are becoming less able to provide quality offerings to educate children under this cap."

Seeing this coming a couple of years ago, Reidy's group formed a coalition of business, local government and educational organizations to fight back. Because school district budgets are often impacted by unfunded state mandates, the coalition, "Let NY Work: A Common Agenda for the Common Good," focuses on mandate relief from the legislature. The group's five-point program calls for:

- Redefining compulsory arbitration. The key element here is to add transparency to the arbitration process. Currently, an arbitration panel deliberates and renders its decision behind closed doors. Making these proceedings subject to the Open Meetings Law will add a level of accountability to a process that lacks any degree of transparency.
- Freezing step increases when contracts expire. Salary step increases would be held when no contract is in place. This will allow teachers to come to the table to negotiate if they don't get an automatic raise, which has been the case for years.
- Reducing the costs of construction on public/private projects. The coalition calls for using a specific wage table to determine the regional prevailing wage rate for projects. It also seeks passage of the Public Construction Savings Act, which will allow local governments to enter into project labor agreements in which participation is optional for bidders; a bidder can choose to bid with or without participation in the agreement, and the municipality shall pick the lowest bid consistent with other laws. This will save districts money if they are undergoing construction, but construction is not likely to be booming over the next few years, Reidy adds.
- Establishing minimum health insurance contributions for employees and retirees. Employers will cover no more than 85 percent of a single healthcare premium or 75 percent of a healthcare premium for families or retirees. This will be phased in over a three-year period. Health costs are "big cost drivers" now, contributing to increases in district spending by 2.5 percent, Reidy says. The minimum contributions also would give districts a "predictable budgetable amount" on which to count, according to Robert Lowry, deputy director of the NYSCSS.
- Ending new mandates. Passage of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act would require a super-majority, or three-fifths of legislators, to enact new unfunded mandates.

Reidy adds, "Something has to change. We will not survive with 'business as usual'. And we can't cut our way out of this thing."

Without at least some of these remedies, the future looks difficult for hard-pressed districts. Some are planning to consolidate with nearby districts to share costs. Schools may have to limit or even end popular programs such as extra-curricular and interscholastic sports, Advanced Placement courses and even kindergarten if the reforms aren't enacted. "We're already close to offering a barebones program," Reidy says.