

Galway Central School District  
**Board of Education Work Session**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 12, 2013**

5:30pm – High School Library

**Board Members Present:** Dennis Schaperjahn, Vice President, Joan Slagle, Melodye Eldeen, Jay Anderson, Laura Sakala.

**Board Members Absent:** Thomas Rumsey, President.

**Others in Attendance:** Shannon Shine, Superintendent, Mike Healey, Jr./Sr. High School Principal, Lin Jackowski, Director of Pupil Services, Michelle McDougall, Elementary School Principal, community members, teachers, students.

Meeting was called to order by Dennis Schaperjahn, Vice President at 5:35pm.

Interviews for a vacant Board of Education seat were conducted due to the resignation of Nancy Lisicki. A decision will be made as soon as possible.

**“Co-K” (Developmental Kindergarten)** teacher, Marcie Page, presented a short video of her classroom. This program was developed in hopes of allowing students an additional year to grow before entering our traditional kindergarten program. The Co-Kindergarten class has a lesser number of students which allows the teacher to individualize the curriculum to match each child’s strengths and weaknesses; better preparing them for the following year. The program focuses on developing each child’s language, concepts and fine/gross motor skills in order to give them a solid foundation in which to build upon in the following years. Mrs. Page has been a teacher for 35 years and said early intervention was the key to saving students academically. Since this was the first year this type of program was implemented in Galway, Mrs. Page had a “wish list” of things that she would like to see for her classroom such as, more services and push-in services for proper foundation skills. She also stressed the importance of consistency in her classroom. Right now there are 4 different teacher aides coming and going at different times. She appreciates the aide coverage, however, the lack of continuity causes havoc with the students in the classroom. Ideally, her “wish” would be to have a special education teacher designated solely to kindergarten or one consistent teacher aide, and have additional push-in support from OT, PT and speech.

**The Safety Audit of Facilities/Practices** was presented by Cynthia Holmes, BOCES Safety Specialist. Mrs. Holmes reviewed the audit results. She met with Mr. Shine the end of October to discuss the audit. There were several areas that needed improvement including student supervision after hours, awareness/safety training for staff, additional district camera coverage and some other miscellaneous items. Many objectives have been put in place or in the process of being implemented such as modifying the School Facility Form to specify parameters and

expectations, convex mirrors for hallways and stairwells and having a satellite office for law enforcement within the school. Mrs. Eldeen would like to have a table top exercise conducted.

**Annual Special Education Report and Action Plan** was presented by Lin Jackowski, Director of Pupil Services. As of the close of the 2012-13 school year, there were 126 special education students in grades K-12, 5 outside placements, 1 student in residential and 12 CPSE students. There were a total of 263 CSE meetings, 28 new referrals, 17 CSE student who transferred into the district last year, 5 homeless students and 3 students that moved into the Galway District who are in foster care. Related service providers include 1 full time in-house speech pathologist, 1 (.35) BOCES speech pathologist/assistive tech, 1 (.8) occupational therapist and 1 (.6) physical therapist. From 2009-2010 to now, Mrs. Jackowski stated that we are serving more students in-district.

The Local Assistance Plan Committee met and looked at the data we have, current practices, classroom observations, student/parent interviews, IEP reviews, areas in need of improvement were identified and developed the action plan.

The Actions that have already taken place are STAR assessments to determine skill deficits and benchmarks to assign reading groups by identified target skill, Encore math and reading, AIS teachers assigned to K-6 to maximize supports to one grade level at the same time, Academic Support Lab during the extended day period, co-teaching model for the current school year, related services push-in to kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, new materials ordered to support the curriculum, professional development and data discussion at grade level/department meetings. There is more detailed information on the pupil services portion of the school website.

The 3-year plan for the Pupil Service Department is to hire an additional full time special education teacher and a full time life skills teacher, increase related services (OT, PT, speech, assistive technology) to support at risk students and designate a staffed testing room.

Mrs. Sakala asked if there were currently any programs for high school students struggling to pass the Regents exams. There is nothing formally in place however, Mrs. Vandenberg Jr./Sr. high school social studies teacher said that she is always willing to help any student during 8<sup>th</sup> period and occasionally will seek students out to come to her room so that she can help them. Mrs. Jackowski said that the web-based Compass Learning may be helpful for those students.

Motion was made by Jay Anderson, seconded by Joan Slagle to approve the following consent agenda.

Aye – 5

No - 0

Motion Carried

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Accept October, 2013 and November, 2013 Student Activity Accounts Treasurer's Reports.  
Accept Budget Status Report  
Accept Budget Transfers if Applicable

**MINUTES**

Accept the October 24, 2013 and November 14, 2013 Board Meeting Minutes.

**PERSONNEL**

Accept the resignation of Carl VanCuren from his Bus Driver position effective November 18, 2013 and appoint him as a Substitute Bus Driver instead effective November 19, 2013 at a rate of \$16.01 per hour.

Accept the resignation of Amanda Bailey from her Teacher Aide position effective December 20, 2013.

Accept the resignation of Karin Bombard from her 3 hour per day Teacher Aide position effective November 15, 2013.

Appoint Mary Bezio as a Teacher Aide for 3 hours per day at a rate of \$8.67 per hour effective November 8, 2013. She is also a Bus Monitor in the District.

Appoint Paulina O'Hara as a Substitute Cleaner at a rate of \$11.11 per hour effective December 1, 2013. She is also a Bus Monitor in the District.

Appoint the following to After School ELA/Math and Homework Lab for the 2013-14 school year at a rate of \$42/hour:

Mary Baker	Laura Moore	Katrina Barr	Janis Palsgraf
Jennifer Coombs	Regina Culbert	Mariann Gribben	

Approve the extension of a parental leave of absence for Katherine Huszar from her Special Education Teacher position to March 28, 2014.

Appoint Deborah Wilday as a Mentor to Sean Kennedy for the 2013-14 school year at a rate of \$29.00 per hour.

*End of Consent Agenda*

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Motion was made by Laura Sakala, seconded by Melodye Eldeen to appoint Saratoga Care - Galway Family Health as the District's School Physician for the 2013-14 school year at a rate of \$11,000/year.

Aye – 5

No - 0

Motion Carried

The resolution below was tabled until the next meeting when Mr. Rumsey, Board President, will be there.

*Health and Welfare Services Contract*

*Authorize the Board President to sign a Health & Welfare Services Contract with Corinth CSD in the amount of \$696.67 for 2 students who reside in the Galway CSD and attend non-public schools in the Corinth CSD.*

Motion was made by Joan Slagle, seconded by Jay Anderson to approve the following class trips:

Aye – 5

No - 0

Motion Carried

Approve a High School Band trip to Six Flags New England on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at a cost of approximately \$55 - \$80 per student. The company, Music in the Parks, provides opportunities for music ensembles to perform and be adjudicated throughout the country. The Galway Band will perform at Holyoke High School (MA), and then enjoy the remainder of the day at Six Flags.

Approve a trip for students and staff members involved in EMC<sup>3</sup>, Eagles Media Center, to New York City to attend the annual Columbia Scholastic Press Association Conference at a cost of approximately \$325 per person. This is a national gathering of students, editors, and faculty advisors held at Columbia University from Wednesday, March 19, 2014 through Friday, March 21, 2014.

Approve a 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Science Class Trip to the Boston Museum of Science on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at a cost of approximately \$65 per person to visit exhibits and sites pertinent to their curriculum.

There was some discussion regarding the ratio of chaperones to students for the field trips. Mr. Healey will check into this.

Mrs. Sakala suggested purchasing books from the New York State School Boards Association and creating a resource library for the Board members rather than everyone purchasing copies individually. It was suggested that Mrs. Sakala go to NYSSBA and perhaps preview the books before they are purchased.

Motion was made by Laura Sakala, seconded by Melodye Eldeen to adjourn at 8:05pm.

Aye – 5

No - 0

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Barbara A. Agresta*  
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District Clerk