

GALWAY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2015
6:30 PM – High School Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Mr. Schaperjahn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Eldeen, Thomas Rumsey, Mr. Schaperjahn, Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Slagle

OTHERS PRESENT

Shannon Shine, District Superintendent; Michael Healey, Jr./Sr. High Principal; Brita Donovan, Jr./Sr. High Associate Principal; Linda Jackowski, Director of Pupil Personnel Services; Galway school employees, community members, parents, students.

REGULAR SESSION

Motion made by Mr. Rumsey, seconded by Mrs. Crawford, to appoint Shannon Shine Clerk Pro Tem. Motion passed 6-0.

ADDITIONAS/REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Were noted.

PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent noted that the Foreign Exchange students slated to present this evening were rescheduled due to being so involved in extracurriculars and/or athletics this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – none

DISTRICT COMPONENT UPDATES – none

BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Superintendent noted that there is an upcoming Facilities Committee meeting and that the Policy Committee has been active, as evidenced by policies on the agenda, and also has another meeting scheduled.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent provided an oral synopsis regarding Response to Intervention (RTI) and noted the completion of the district RTI Reference Guide. The document will be printed as a reference document for teachers and will be available through the district website for parents and community members. Principals' latest electronic newsletters will also link to this document.

The K-12 Math Action Plan was introduced for a second time by the Superintendent as being open to discussion. Mr. Schaperjahn proposed that BOE members study the document and come up with questions/concerns, then email them to the Superintendent such that, on our next work session, Feb 12, we could discuss the action plan in more detail. All BOE members agreed to this plan. Additionally, the worksession will involve a summary and discussion of the 7th and 8th grade ELA and math "Labs". Both topics should be communicated to parents (6th, 7th, 8th grade) such that they would have an opportunity to hear more about them and to engage in a dialogue concerning them. Administrators would be present (as they are not normally at worksessions unless invited/required to be).

The Superintendent read the three options provided by the Regional Superintendent regarding the open BOE seat and also noted the law book references regarding this. Discussion regarding a best course of action ensued. Mrs. Crawford suggested filling the seat as there is important work to be done over the course of the next couple of months and several BOE members expressed affirmation regarding the work to be done, but also noted that by the time interviews were held for candidates, or if an election were to be held in the meantime that, either way, it would only leave the new candidate with a short time to serve before the May elections. Given this, it was decided, but not by a formal motion, to take no action and, by default, to not fill the seat until the May election.

The GTA Contract was brought up as the Board packets contained hard copies of the current contract. Mr. Rumsey said this had been on his suggestion such that BOE members might begin analyzing the document line by line to help determine the direction, and specifics areas/topics of concern, for the next GTA collective bargaining, which can begin anytime over the next year (contract expires 6/30/2016). Being proactive, as the contract is a lengthy and involved document, was recommended. The Superintendent brought the latest uncertainty regarding APPR up, in light of the recent remarks by the Governor at his State of the State address, and suggested that BOE members save the APPR section of the contract for last if/when they begin exploring the details of the contract, as there may be upcoming unilateral legislative action which might impact the APPR at the local level. Mr. Schaperjahn informally asked which BOE members might be interested in potentially serving on a negotiations subcommittee. Mr. Anderson, Mr. Rumsey and Mrs. Eldeen showed potential interest.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Mr. Rumsey, second by Mrs. Eldeen to approve the following Consent Agenda. Mr. Rumsey added Dominic Ricco to the original consent agenda as a Volunteer Wrestling Coach (no pay) beginning January 1, 2015. Mrs. Slagle added “with appreciation” to Charmaine H.’s resignation.”

Motion carried, 5-0 (Mr. Schaperjahn abstained as he is on the agenda as a volunteer coach.)

CONSENT AGENDA

FINANCIAL REPORTS

7/1/14 – 12/31/14	Student Activity Accounts Treasurer’s Report
January 14, 2015	Appropriation Status Report
Revised September & October 2014	Treasurer’s Reports, Trust and Agency Account
November 2014	Treasurer’s Report

MINUTES

January 8, 2015	Board Meeting Minutes
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PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT(S)

NAME	TITLE	RATE OF PAY	EFFECTIVE DATE
Jennifer Gerber	Junior Class Advisor	\$931.45 (pro-rated amount)	January 19, 2015 – until the end of the 2014-15 School Year
Ethel Rubley	After School ELA/Math and Homework Lab	\$42 per hour	2014-15 School Year
Rachel Montalbano	Elementary Chaperone	\$25 per hour	2014-15 School Year

Mallory O'Reilly	Elementary Chaperone	\$25 per hour	2014-15 School Year
Stuart Wilday	Modified Softball Coach	Level D \$4,050	March 1, 2015
Paula Canell	Varsity Softball Coach	Level C5 \$4,680	March 1, 2015
Stephen Hall	Modified Baseball Coach	Level A2 \$1,350	March 1, 2015
Sean Kennedy	JV Baseball Coach	Level A2 \$1,980	March 1, 2015
Mark Kalinkewicz	Varsity Baseball Coach	Level C4 \$4,680	March 1, 2015
Judy Horigan	Modified Track & Field Coach	Level C2 \$3,150	March 1, 2015
Ruthann Daino	Modified Track & Field Coach	Level C3 \$3,150	March 1, 2015
Geoffrey Maliszewski	Varsity Track & Field Coach	Level D \$5,580	March 1, 2015
William Brooks	Varsity Track & Field Coach	Level B3 \$3,780	March 1, 2015
Dennis Schaperjahn	Volunteer Track & Field Coach	-	March 1, 2015
Richard Poplaski	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	-	January 1, 2015
Jim Smith	Volunteer Softball Coach	-	March 1, 2015
Keith Burdick	Volunteer Baseball Coach	-	March 1, 2015
Bob Hartman	Volunteer Baseball Coach	-	March 1, 2015
Dominic Ricco	Volunteer Wrestling Coach	-	January 1, 2015

PERSONNEL RESIGNATION(S) / OTHER

NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Charmaine Hutchinson	Resignation from Elementary Teacher position for retirement purposes. With appreciation.	October 9, 2015
Carol Sniezyk	Resignation from School Nurse position for retirement purposes.	June 26, 2015

End of Consent Agenda

BOE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Anderson noted that the athletes at recent games have done a good job at representing Galway and should be commended.

Mr. Rumsey noted that 39 year wrestling coach, Mr. Birbilis, should be recognized. Mrs. Donovan noted planned recognition for this coach, as well as Mrs. Wilday for her 300th career win, as well as for others, as part of the annual Wall of Fame recognition ceremony.

Mrs. Slagle inquired as to the state of the district website, indicating some negative feedback and asked who handles the website and for a status report on it. Mr. Shine detailed who contributes to the website and thanked her for the feedback.

Mrs. Slagle also inquired about the fingerprinting and AESOP requirement for subs. Mr. Shine detailed the requirements and talked about unusual possibilities, such as retired teachers who were never fingerprinted, because it wasn't a requirement at that time, and now want to sub for the district. Mr. Shine indicated that in such cases they should be fingerprinted prior to serving in a sub capacity.

Socratic Seminar was inquired about and hope was expressed that Mrs. McDougall will provide more information about that at some point in the future.

Mr. Schaperjahn recounted his visit to the P-Tek program at Ballston Spa. He provides numerous examples of people and students he interacted with and questions he asked about the purpose of the program and the profile of student this program might be best for. He concluded that most students attending this program would wind up with a 2 year degree and then would likely be tempted into taking jobs they were then well prepared for, but also acknowledged this would not preclude a student from going further and earning a four year degree, yet that seemed less likely. He noted that the program is for students who don't really like "regular" high school and cited examples of students at the program who had poor previous attendance records, but attended regularly within the program because they liked it.

He further noted that 9th grade students involved in P-Tek were sampling the program and were not committed, but 11th graders who got involved were committed to finishing the program.

Mr. Schaperjahn also asked about the phone policy in the district. Mr. Shine indicated there is no policy and no direct reference in the Code of Conduct, but that there is a procedure. A larger discussion ensued. Mr. Healey described current procedures. NYC's recent drop of their cellphone ban was discussed. Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiatives were discussed. Teachers, coaches and parent use of cellphones were discussed. General consensus was that cellphones should not interfere with instructional time. Also, the topic is likely to be one the BOE and administrators will have to continuously revisit. Mr. Schaperjahn emphasized a need for consistency regarding cellphone usage.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Mr. Rumsey, second by Mrs. Eldeen to approve:
Following a 2nd Reading, adopt Board of Education Policy #4526 - Acceptable Use.
Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Rumsey, second by Mrs. Eldeen to approve:
Following a 2nd Reading, adopt Board of Education Policy #4770 - Graduation Requirements.
Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion was made by Mr. Rumsey, second by Mr. Anderson to approve:
1st Reading of Policy #9240 – Recruiting and Hiring & Regulation.
Discussion followed to table this until further language can be added regarding having a BOE presence or delegate(s) on warranting interview committees, such as when hiring for a District Clerk or an Administrator. Mr. Shine will add such language, get input/feedback from the Policy Committee and bring this policy and regulation back to the BOE for a first reading subsequently.
Motion to table carried, 6-0.

Motion was made by Mrs. Eldeen, second by Mr. Anderson to approve:
Establish a K-7 Life Skills Student Activity Club with student officers to be determined at a later date. [and to]
Appoint Jesse Radosti as a Volunteer K-7 Life Skills Student Activity Club Advisor for the 2014-15 school year.
Discussion followed regarding what a Life Skills Program or Club is. Superintendent noted there is a handout with a description of such in the BOE packet. Superintendent then reads some of this, describes such programs further and provides examples.
Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion is made by Mr. Rumsey, second by Mrs. Eldeen to:
Approve a trip to the Boston Museum of Science for approximately forty-five 8th and 9th grade Honor Science Class students to visit exhibits pertinent to their curriculum on Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at zero cost to the District.

There is a brief inquiry/discussion about whether there will be adequate chaperones and at what ratio. Mr. Healey affirms that chaperone coverage will be sufficient.
Motion carries, 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Parent Jay Matthews expressed concerns over the Living Environment class his child is in. Mr. Reynolds had been the teacher until his recent resignation. The parent noted the contrast with the substitute teacher, noting she is using a textbook, assigning homework, and holding his child academically accountable, while citing that Mr. Reynolds showed movies, did not use the textbook, assigned “no homework” and allowed students to “goof off”, sleep in class and not engage in their learning. The parent was thanked by Mr. Schaperjahn for providing his perspective. It was noted by Mr. Healey that he had never heard such parent concerns regarding Mr. Reynolds previously. He also confirmed there is a transition plan in place as Mr. Matthews expressed further concern that the students be appropriately prepared for the Living Environment Regents Exam.

Parent Nadine Behrens briefly corroborated Mr. Mathew’s assertions regarding the use of a textbook by the substitute and an increase in homework.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion is made by Mr. Rumsy, second by Mr. Anderson to move to Executive Session to consider CSE/CPSE recommendations
Motion carries, 6-0.

Motion is made to return to Regular session by Mr. Rumsey, second by Mr. Anderson.
Motion carries, 6-0.

CSE/SPSE RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion is made by Mrs. Slagle, second by Mrs. Crawford to approve CSE/CPSE recommendations for the following students: 3454, 6044, 4660, 5421, 5532, 3028, 5415, 6037, 6223, 6110, 3521, 3969, 6305.
Motion carries, 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Schaperjahn, second Mr. Rumsey, to adjourn.
Motion carries, 6-0.