



GALWAY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 12, 2014
8:00 AM – LGI Room

CALL TO ORDER

Board President Dennis Schaperjahn called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM in the LGI room.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

President Dennis Schaperjahn, Vice-President Melodye Eldeen, Anita Crawford, Joan Slagle

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jay Anderson, Thomas Rumsey, Laura Sakala

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Healey, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Glen Decker, Parent; eight students

COMMENTS

Mr. Schaperjahn stated that the Board of Education has the option of conducting a special board meeting when there is school business that needs to be brought up and taken care of. This does not happen very frequently. This is the case with today's special meeting.

Discussion took place regarding appointing Junior State of America (JSA) Volunteer Parent Co-Advisors and the approval of a Junior State of America (JSA) trip to Boston, MA later in the meeting.

Mr. Schaperjahn stated that it is hard to get advisors and sometimes students have to recruit advisors early and not be afraid to be persistent in getting things done. Mr. Shine stated that usually teachers are advisors but when no faculty member is interested, parents can be appointed. The position was advertised and he doesn't have an answer as to why no one was interested. Last year two parents were board appointed as parent-volunteer advisors. These parents chaperoned all three overnight JSA trips last year. Parents also chaperoned the JSA trips the year before. They were not able to chaperone this year.

The Board was very concerned with the trip, especially since it is an overnight trip, and this was the first time they heard anything about it. They were concerned with the liability involved and wanted to make sure that the parent chaperones are fully aware of what they are getting into. They wanted to be sure that students were well chaperoned. Mr. Healey and Mr. Shine informed the Board that once a parent advisor is appointed by the Board they are covered under the District's insurance for any liability issues. This information was confirmed with the District's insurance company and the District's School Attorney. Mr. Healey offered the Board written confirmation of such from our School attorney.

Bonnie Dunleavy and Glen Decker were personally interviewed by Mr. Healey, Mrs. Donovan and Mr. Shine and are highly recommended by the administration. They feel that students will be properly and sufficiently chaperoned. It was noted that specific concerns were discussed and everyone is well aware of what is expected of them. Each advisor will have a packet of information with them containing color photos of each student, ID cards, emergency contact information, medical information, etc. of each student going on the trip. Students will be busy and there will not be a lot of down time. Glen Decker was present at the meeting and stated that he is very comfortable chaperoning the students as he knows the kids and the families and has been on outings with them outside of school in the past. He is confident that they will be well chaperoned.

COMMENTS (Continued)

Mr. Healey and Mr. Shine explained the circumstances which led to why the Board was not informed of the trip earlier. The District could not find a faculty advisor at the beginning of the school year. It has been only very recently that two parents volunteered to serve in this capacity as co-advisors and chaperones for the trip. The club president, Renee Rossi, tried to get this trip approved earlier but was blocked by Mr. Healey as there was no advisor or adults involved and there were administrative concerns if not properly chaperoned. Mr. Shine was kept informed from the beginning. The trip was to be discussed at the November 13th Board meeting, however, the meeting was rescheduled to November 20th which is the day before the trip. Our Board policy references a six week lead time for Board approval of trips. The District has, in the past, approved trips that were not within the six week lead time when necessary. In the future, as the Policy Committee revises and updates policies, Mr. Shine suggests that this policy be placed ahead of others to tighten up the policy and procedure.

If the trip were to be denied, students would be able to get their money back. The Board emphasized to the students that they recognize the value in these trips but the timeline of six weeks advance notice, as stated in Board Policy, must be followed. This includes following Board policy for the upcoming for the Winter JSA trip. They stated that trip requests cannot be taken lightly and we need to get it right by following Board policy.

Students thanked the Board for approving the trip and reassured them that Galway will be well represented at the Convention. The Board of Education thanked the advisors for volunteering to be JSA Co-advisors. (See NEW BUSINESS below). One student asked a question regarding permission to go on the trip that was deferred to the administration as it was not a function of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion was made by Joan Slagle, second by Melodye Eldeen to approve the appointment of Bonnie Dunleavy and Glen Decker as Junior State of America Volunteer Parent Co-Advisors for the 2014-15 school year.

All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion passed 4-YES 0-N0

Motion was made by Joan Slagle, second by Melodye Eldeen to approve a Junior State of America trip to Boston, MA to attend an annual Fall State Convention on Friday, November 21, 2014 – Sunday, November 23, 2014 at an estimated cost of \$250 subsidized by fundraising initiatives currently underway.

(Note: Students were not able to fundraise this year but are already working on having a book drive and candy gram fundraiser before Christmas to raise money for next year. No students were denied going on the trip because they couldn't afford to go.)

All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion passed 4-YES 0-N0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Melodye Eldeen, second by Joan Slagle to adjourn at 8:45 AM.

All voted aye to approve the motion. Motion passed 4-YES 0-N0

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Casatelli

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District Clerk