



GALWAY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT
MINUTES

Saturday, August 8, 2015
9:00 AM – Scotch Church, West Charlton

CALL TO ORDER

Board President MelodyeEldeen called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM in the lower level meeting room of the Scotch Church at 1331 Sacandaga Road, West Charlton, NY.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

MelodyeEldeen, Jay Anderson, Dennis Schaperjahn, Joan Slagle, Tom Rumsey, Anita Crawford, Lin Jackowski

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Shannon Shine, Superintendent of Schools; Tim Hilker, School Business Administrator

REGULAR SESSION

After opening the meeting and stating what the objectives were for the retreat, Board President MelodyeEldeen gave the floor to Superintendent Shannon Shine to begin presenting the agenda items.

Mr. Shine presented the “Then vs. Now” document that was put together in collaboration with the administration of the district. The document highlighted many accomplishments over the course of a few years and contrasted them with the state of the district prior to the time period being evaluated. Mr. Shine asked that all attendees take some time to read the document and then to wrap up the agenda item with questions or comments about the contents of the document. Feedback was all positive, and the suggestion was made that the contents of the document be used in various marketing strategies for the district, of which one specific outcome would be a marketing brochure.

Mr. Shine presented a comprehensive document containing STAR testing results for the district, along with a summary of the data being presented. Several board members asked for the corresponding data from previous years (1 to 2 years, if available) so that comparisons could be made and, to the extent that such data exists, conclusions could be drawn about how to respond to the data. The board also discussed how to effectively utilize the data with respect to RTI/AIS and what impact that might have on the number of special needs designations of Galway students.

On the next agenda item, Mr. Shine presented an overview of graduation rates and Regents testing results. The board members discussed the results in the context of BOE goals, commenting on possible explanations for the results (cohort, teacher, outlying variables, etc.). The suggestion was made that, going forward, Grade Level Leaders and Department Heads should have an understanding of these variables and that they should be presenting to the board on a fairly regular basis. There was a discussion about various courses which are offered in both a general course and a Regents course; the resulting recommendation was that the Guidance Department should be guiding students to the appropriate course.

The BOE discussed the upcoming process of negotiating with the teachers' union. There was a discussion about who should serve on the negotiating team and what the process would look like. They agreed that board members should submit their suggestions to the negotiating committee for consideration in the negotiating process. There was a common thread of comments about the need for positive, constructive interactions with the union during the negotiating process. The board also established a committee to negotiate the new requirements of the APPR legislation.

Mr. Shine presented to the board on what changes have occurred with APPR requirements for both teachers and administrators. He noted that some items would be subject to negotiations.

There was a presentation of a revised Organizational Chart to the board. A version with less detail had been presented to the board at the last board meeting, but a more detailed document was requested. This tied into the next agenda item, which was to discuss the current configuration of the administration of the district. Specifically, multiple solutions were offered to address the need for the availability of an administrative level position to address the needs for curriculum, instruction, and professional development. There was further discussion about the current vacancy for Director of Pupil Personnel Services and the possibility of an interim.

Some census data was provided by Mr. Shine related to home school and private/parochial school students. Several possible explanations were given for the number of students in these categories. The board also discussed some possible remedies to the underlying cause(s). There was a need established to market the district's success over the last several years.

Lastly, there was a discussion about Shared Decision Making. A specific need was identified in the area of curriculum and instruction, but the consensus seemed to be that this need could possibly be addressed with a different administrative configuration. There was also a need identified to inform the community about the potential capital project coming up and to involve community members in the process of developing its scope.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made at 2:45 PM by Dennis Schaperjahn, seconded by Jay Anderson, to adjourn to Executive Session for discussion of the Superintendent's contract for employment. A motion was made at 3:25 PM by Dennis Schaperjahn, seconded by Jay Anderson, to come out of Executive Session. A motion was made immediately by Tom Rumsey, seconded by Anita Crawford, to end the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim M Hilker (Clerk pro-tem)