

**ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ELMIRA HEIGHTS, NEW YORK**

CALL TO ORDER: The Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Harry Blish, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT Lisa Benedict, Harry Blish, Harvey Harris, Joseph Sullivan, Andrew Willard

OTHERS PRESENT Mary Beth Fiore, Debra Palmer, Tom Boyanowski, Dawn Hanrahan, Andy Lutz, Carol Cady, Barb Day, Carol Sullivan, David Crowley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

Agenda:

A motion was made by Lisa Benedict, seconded by Andrew Willard, and carried 5-0 to approve the agenda of the March 24, 2014 Board of Education regular meeting.

Minutes:

March 10, 2014 Regular Meeting - A motion was made by Harvey Harris, seconded by Joseph Sullivan, and carried 5-0 to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Order of Business:

A motion was made by Harvey Harris, seconded by Andrew Willard, and carried 5-0 to suspend the regular order of business to accommodate guests, special discussion topics and presentations in an order of business as deemed appropriate.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

Mary Beth Fiore - Superintendent ♦State Budget – all chips are related to driving More money downstate (UPK, tax credit et al) need people to call and state their position

Andy Lutz –Elementary School Principal ♦Thursday is 2nd grade mini play ♦ELA testing begins next week ♦Safety Committee meeting – plan review

Dawn Hanrahan - Middle School Principal/CSE/CPSE Chair ♦Observations are completed for the year ♦almost done with Marzano March Madness meetings with teachers ♦Dance last Friday had a St Patrick's Day theme

Tom Boyanowski – High School Principal ♦Finishing up Marzano meetings ♦conference at Hilton for team meeting was very good ♦working on updates to Code of Conduct ♦Pops Concert is Wednesday

Debra Palmer – Business ♦Met with Perry & Carroll on renewal of policy – rates are up 3% ♦New Copiers installed today ♦Health/Wellness Fair for employees is Thursday ♦PAARC money from Microsoft – we are not eligible to receive

Public ♦Mr. Crowley (a Horseheads resident) commented that he has been following the consolidation process with Horseheads and thinks that Horseheads is doing it for the money and the Heights is doing it in the best interest of the students (referenced a Cornell study)

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Lisa Benedict, seconded by Andrew Willard, and carried 5-0 to approve the following recommended personnel items F-1a through F-2a as presented, and being further resolved that upon receipt of final clearance from the State Education Department, any conditional appointments shall be changed to regular appointments, reflecting the effective date of said Board meeting.

F-1 Appointments

a. Substitutes – for the 2013-14 school - approved

Substitute Teacher Robert Oldroyd
Substitute Support Staff Joyce Winton

b. Guidance Intern

Amanda Dunbar

Approved Amanda Dunbar from Elmira College, for a 120 hour Guidance Counseling Internship between April 21 and May 28, 2014. Ms. Dunbar will be under the supervision of Guidance Counselor, Christin Bresett.

F-2 –Coach Stipend/Season - Golf

a. Lenny Smith

The Board approved the recommendation to cancel the remainder of the 2014 Golf season, effective March 15, 2014, due to lack of student participation. The stipend for Lenny Smith should be pro-rated to \$367.68 as payment for his service from March 3, 2014 through March 14, 2014.

FINANCIAL

No Reports

FACILITIES

Fire Reports have been submitted – report to be presented next month

Maintaining Buildings

Capital Outlay proposal from Hunt \$20,750 fee and still reviewing.

Cohen Cafeteria –Some money for the project may come from the Lunch fund to cover fees

OLD BUSINESS

Policy 7222: Diploma and/or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities. – revised – approved

A motion was made by Harvey Harris, seconded by Joseph Sullivan and carried 5-0 to approve revised Policy 7222: Diploma and/or Credential Options for Students with Disabilities as presented at the March 10, 2014 Board of Education Meeting.

Policy 7223: Phase in Graduation Standard of 65 on Required Regents Examinations. TABLED

A motion was made by Lisa Benedict, seconded by Andrew Willard and carried 5-0 to TABLE the approval of revised Policy 7223: Phase in Graduation Standard of 65 on Required Regents Examinations as presented at the March 10, 2014 Board of Education Meeting due to new regulations to be forthcoming.

Policy 7210: Student Evaluation. – revised – approved

A motion was made by Harvey Harris, seconded by Joseph Sullivan and carried 5-0 to approve revised Policy 7210: Student Evaluation as presented at the March 10, 2014 Board of Education Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy 5410: Purchasing, (Purchasing: Competitive Bidding and Offering) – revised – first reading - accepted

A motion was made by Andrew Willard, seconded by Harry Blish and carried 5-0 to accept the first reading of revised Policy 5410: Purchasing, which in addition to changes will now be known as Policy 5410: Purchasing: Competitive Bidding and Offering.

Policy 5411: Procurement of Goods and Services. . – new – first reading - accepted

A motion was made by Harvey Harris, seconded by Lisa Benedict and carried 5-0 to accept the first reading of new Policy 5411: Procurement of Goods and Services (sections of this policy were originally part of former policy 5410: Purchasing)

Policy 5413: Alternative Formats for Instructional Materials. . – new – first reading - accepted

A motion was made by Andrew Willard, seconded by Harvey Harris and carried 5-0 to accept the first reading of new Policy 5413: Alternative Formats for Instructional Materials (sections of this policy were originally part of former policy 5410: Purchasing)

Local Government Efficiency Grant Contract T100034 - approved

A motion was made by Harvey Harris, seconded by Joseph Sullivan and carried 5-0 to approve the Local Government Efficiency Grant contract T1000343, for the purposes of conducting the Elmira Heights/Horseheads Consolidation Study

SEQRA - Elmira Heights/Horseheads Consolidation Study - approved

A motion was made by Lisa Benedict, seconded by Andrew Willard and carried 5-0 to approve the following resolution designating the Elmira Heights/Horseheads Consolidation Study as a Type II action under SEQRA 6 NYCRR, Part 617.5 not requiring environmental review:

WHEREAS, Elmira Heights Central School District and Horseheads Central School District have agreed to undertake a school district consolidation-feasibility study with the Elmira Heights Central School District being the lead agency, and

WHEREAS, the School Districts have applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$49,500.00 from New York State Department of State, Division of Local Government Services, to hire a consultant to undertake the consolidation-feasibility study, and

WHEREAS, a requirement of the grant is a State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) determination be made as to whether and environmental review is required for this action,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED< by the Elmira Heights Central School District Board of Education that:

- 1) The Board of Education determines that the joint school district feasibility study is a Type II Action under 6 NYCRR, Part 617.5, not subject to SEQRA review.
- 2) The basis for this determination is that the feasibility study is "information collection including basic data collection and research" (6 NYCRR, Part 617.5 (C)(18) and "conducting....economic feasibility and other studies and preliminary planning and budgetary process necessary to the formulation of a proposal for action provided those activities do not commit the agency to commence, engage in or approve such action" (6 NYCRR, Part 617.5 (C)(21).
- 3) That 6 NYCRR, Part 617.5 excludes these actions from environmental review requirements.
- 4) The Superintendent is directed to give written notification of this determination to New York State Department of State.

Testing Procedures

A motion was made by Harvey Harris, seconded by Andrew Willard and carried 5-0 to approve the following resolution outlining responsibilities under Education Law §101 and the establishment of testing procedures:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and the Elmira Heights Central School District is a municipal corporation created by the state and is governed by federal and state law and regulation;

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents for the State of New York is charged by Article XI of the New York State Constitution and state law (Education Law § 101) with the "general management and supervision of all public schools" in the state, and the Commissioner of Education is empowered to "enforce all general and special laws relating to the educational system of the state and execute all educational policies determined upon by the Board of Regents" and to "have general supervision over all schools," and that the Elmira Heights Central School District is subject to such laws and educational policy as determined by the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education;

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Education has been quoted on multiple occasions to the effect that there is "no opt out" of the state's grades three through eight English language arts and mathematics testing;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is aware of only two state educational mandates that have "opt out" procedures: health and hygiene education that conflicts with the religion of the student's parents (Education Law §3204(5); 8 NYCRR §16.2) and dissection of animals (Education Law §809), but such exceptions have been duly authorized by the appropriate legislative body and are clearly stated in law and regulation;

WHEREAS, the Elmira Heights Central School District receives federal funding and is, therefore, bound to various federal statutes relating to education, including but not limited to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, popularly known as No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

WHEREAS, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires state assessments in grades 3 through 8 in English language arts and mathematics (see, e.g., 20 USC sec. 6316(a)(1)(A));

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education have issued regulations requiring such assessments (8 NYCRR §§100.3(b)(2), 100.4(b),(e));

WHEREAS, such regulations have required a state English language arts elementary assessment in 4th grade since the 1998-1999 school year (8 NYCRR §100.3(b)(2)(i)(a));

WHEREAS, such regulations have required state mathematics elementary assessments in 3rd and 4th grades since the 2005-2006 school year (8 NYCRR §100.3(b)(2)(i)(a));

WHEREAS, such regulations have required state English language arts and mathematics assessments in 5th and 6th grades since the 2005-2006 school year (8 NYCRR §100.4(b)(2)(ii));

WHEREAS, such regulations have required state English language arts intermediate assessment in 8th grade since the 1998-1999 school year (8 NYCRR §100.4(e)(2)(1),(2));

WHEREAS, such regulations have required state mathematics assessments in 7th and 8th grades since the 2005-2006 school year (8 NYCRR §100.4(e)(2));

WHEREAS, the Elmira Heights Central School District, in conformity to federal and state law, has been required to and has implemented such testing and testing procedures since the 1998-1999 school year for English language arts assessments and the 2005-2006 school year for mathematics assessments;

WHEREAS, to the knowledge of the Elmira Heights Central School District, no student has ever refused to take such tests (especially at the direction of his/her parent or guardian);

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has not been provided with any compelling rationale why such testing procedures should be changed or why any such change should be made more than 8 or 15 years after such testing came into existence;

WHEREAS, the District must attain 95% participation in such testing to avoid adverse consequences in the form of additional (and in this case, unwarranted) corrective action plans;

WHEREAS, state law requires that the scores from such tests are used in the evaluation of teachers and principals (Education Law §3012-c), and parental and/or student refusal to participate in such testing will unfairly and adversely affect such teachers and principals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT:

1. The Board of Education supports the District administration in the establishment and implementation of the testing procedures associated with the New York State Grades 3 through 8 mathematics and English language arts assessments for the past eight or fifteen years, respectively.
2. The Board of Education supports the continuation of such testing procedures. Specifically, students will have such assessments placed in front of them. When the first student in such testing session has completed his/her assessment, s/he will be permitted to read a book in accordance with the state teachers' administration manual for such assessments (at which time a student who refuses to participate in such assessment will be permitted to read a book). Such procedures will be followed for any make-up dates of such testing.
3. The Board of Education encourages residents who are concerned about state testing to contact their elected state or federal representatives.

CONSENT

A motion was made by Joseph Sullivan, seconded by Lisa Benedict and carried 5-0 to approve the following consent agenda item K-1 through K-2

K-1 CSE Recommendations and Funding - approved

Approved recommendations and funds to support placements for determinations made at March 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 2014 CSE meetings.

K-2 Health & Welfare Services – Horseheads School District - approved

Approve the health and welfare services contract with the Horseheads Central School District, to provide services for eleven (11) Elmira Heights student, attending non-public schools located in the Horseheads Central School District, at a rate of \$292.70 per student for the 2013-14 school year at a total cost for eleven (11) students of \$3,219.70.

DISCUSSION

- ◆ 2014-15 Budget Development
Latest set of numbers presented.
- ◆ 2014-15 School Calendar
Looks good but will confer with DLT regarding switching the take back days so as not to impact Good Friday which is a contractual holiday
- ◆ 2014-15 Board of Education Calendar / 2015-16 Budget Development Calendar
Board is in agreement with the change of day for the Board meetings and the suggested schedule.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:15pm a motion was made by Harvey Harris, seconded by Lisa Benedict and carried 5-0 to enter executive session to discuss personnel.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 8:52pm a motion was made by Joseph Sullivan, seconded by Harvey Harris and carried 5-0 to adjourn executive session

NEXT MEETING

Mon. April 7, 2014	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00pm Community Rm
Tue. April 8, 2014	GST BOCES Annual Meeting	Coopers Campus
Wed April 23, 2014	Regular Board Mtg & BOCES Admin vote	7:00pm Community Rm

ADJOURNMENT – At 8:55pm a motion was made Lisa Benedict, seconded by Andrew Willard and carried 5-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Clerk