

Superintendent – Thomas W. Abraham
Elementary Principal – Bethellen Mannix
High School Principal – Andrew Cook

HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hartford, New York

Minutes of Regular Board of Education Meeting March 21, 2011

Board Members Present: – Mr. Brian Getty, President, Mrs. Beth Steves, Mr. Philip Jessen and Mr. Adam Fish

Board Members Absent: – Vice-President Mrs. Janine Thomas

Guests: – Mr. Farley and members of Mr. Farley's history class, 30-35 members of the community, Mr. Dana Haff, Town Supervisor, Mr. Capone, Mr. Terry Blanchfield, BOCES.

1.0 Call to Order – Mr. Brian Getty, Board of Education President at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 Prayer – Mr. Fish

3.0 Welcome – Mr. Getty

***3.1 Student Recognition** - There are a number of students to recognize this evening. The girl's varsity basketball team has been recognized as a scholar athlete team by the New York State Public High Schools Athletic Association. I would ask that the following students come forward to receive their certificate and pin: **Gwenn Harsha, Kayla Casey, Molly Spear, Christina Petteys, Brittany Brayman, Morgan Wicks, and Jaclyn Lavin.**

The Boy's Varsity Basketball Team also received recognition as a Scholar Athlete Team and I would ask that the following individuals come forward to receive their pin and certificate: **Phillip Cassella, Ethan Wincowski, Joel Wincowski, Thaddeus Jones, Ethan Farley, Robert Petit, Cody Beck and Jonathan Louie.**

There are also two students receiving individual recognition this evening as well: **Charles Cornell** was recognized by the New York State Assembly as an individual who has given exemplary service to his community. The citation was sponsored by Assemblyman Tony Jordan and approved by the NYS Assembly on March 8, 2011.

Kalissa Haff has been selected as Hartford's representative to the Annual Capital Region Business and Education Partnership Scholars Recognition Program.

I would also like to announce the accomplishments of a former Hartford Student, **Felicity Jones**. As a student at Cazenovia College and member of the Visual Communications Department, Felicity won a national poster contest.

3.2 BOCES Presentation – Each year, representatives from the BOCES address the Board of Education regarding program and plans for the upcoming year. This evening we have the privilege of having Mr. Terry Blanchfield and Patrick DeLaCruz, a student representative from the BOCES.

3.3 Public to be Heard – Candace Combs thanked faculty for giving back to the community. She was concerned as to what cut backs there were. She is still not happy with the website. Also, is there a way that the public could see what is in the Board Packet? Russell Wade concerned taking a lot of money from Fund Balance. Tom spoke about not burning the fund balance in one year. Dana Haff changed town board meeting for public hearing in May. Youth Commission – reskin lower infield at no cost to district. Would volunteers be able to work on new property? Tom will be looking into recommendations. There is \$24,000 set aside to work the field.

4.0 Review and Approval of Minutes

- *4.1 Minutes from the February 14, 2011 Board of Education Meeting** – The Board of Education approved the minutes from the February 14, 2011 Board of Education Meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

5.0 Review and Approval of Financial Reports

***5.1 Treasurer's Report**

***5.2 Warrants**

- *5.3 Cafeteria Report** – The Board of Education approved the financial reports as presented. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

6.0 Superintendent's Report

- 6.1 Health Consortium Update** – As I indicated to the board earlier this month, the Health Consortium has been negotiating with Empire Blue Cross regarding rates for the next school year. These results have paid off with an increase in rates under 3%.

- *6.2 January English Regents Results** – This past January, English 11 students took the New York State Regents Exam in English Language Arts. I have included in your packet a copy of the state grade report on the test. 94% of the 33 students taking the test scored at a Level 3 or 4. Two students scored at Level 1. The Quality Performance Index for the test would be a score of 188 out of a possible high score of 200.

- *6.3 State Education Department Nutrition Audit** – On March 16th, a representative from the State Education Department visited our food services department to do an audit on free and reduced meals (breakfast and lunch), food offerings and a general review of our program.

She met with Mrs. Howe and me after she had completed the audit and generally speaking she was impressed with the operations of the cafeteria. She would like to see that we serve more warm food selections for breakfast versus concentrating on cold cereal. She recommended we not expand the cold cereal option beyond what we are doing now. She also approved of the fruit selections offered as well as the use of cheese sticks specifically for breakfast (actually recommended increasing such offering).

One glaring area that she brought to my attention was the lack of high school student participation in the breakfast program, which she felt was directly related to the high school students not being allowed to eat in the cafeteria for breakfast. She recommended keeping the elementary students to one location during breakfast and having an area designated for high school students.

- *6.4 Informational Packet** – There are a number of items for your review this month.

Item #1 – Legal Notes for Education

Item #2 – School Law Bulletin (2)

Item #3 – Pending Legislation On School Lunches

Item #4 – Senate Bill on Administrative Salaries

Item #5 – Commissioner's Decisions – You will notice the lack of commissioner's decisions in this month's packet. The Commissioner heard ten appeals this month, most dealing with residency and transportation. All appeals were dismissed. I believe this is the first time in recent memory this has actually occurred.

Item #6 – VESID 2009-10 Parent Questionnaire – As a part of the state monitoring process of our special education program, the District is responsible for submitting survey responses to the state regarding parent satisfaction. As you can see from the results of the survey, there is a great deal of satisfaction with the way our programs are being run.

I would like to point out the state requires 90% of the parents who receive surveys return them. As you might have guessed, our parents have not met that threshold and we are therefore required to do the same survey over again next school year.

Item #7 – College and Career Readiness Survey – The State Education Department also conducted a survey of all NYS High Schools regarding College and Career Readiness. The final results of the survey are in your packet for review.

Item #8 – Letter from Charles Cornell – This is a thank you note from Charles for supporting his attendance at NYSSMA this year.

6.5 Board of Education Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

7.0 Principals' Reports

7.1 Elementary Report – Mrs. Mannix - Winter Enrichment information displayed by Allison Ward. Students' writing printed in the Chronicle. February Bus Riders of the Month. Winter 2011 Edition of *The Hartford Star*. February 17th and 18th: Martial Arts instructor did a presentation for PE classes. March 2nd: Dr. Seuss' Birthday - I read books to Pre-K through 3rd grade and had 4th and 5th graders answer Dr. Seuss trivia questions. March 3rd: PARP Kick-Off Assembly - DAX and a Phantoms Hockey player came to read a story to our elementary students. DAX was also available for class photos after the book reading. March 3rd: Language Club held an Elementary Activity afternoon for grades 4-6 in the cafeteria. March 17th: Dale Christopher, son of Matt Christopher, held a presentation for K-6 students sharing his father's dreams and life with our students. He also signed books for students. (His uncle, John Christopher, was an administrator at HCS many years ago.) March 18th Superintendent's Conference Day: Dr. Penny Axelrod provided training to elementary teachers, assistants and aides on strategy instruction, as well as interventions. Greg Loan, from Utica National, provided Playground Safety Training to elementary teachers, assistants and aides. He noted a need for signage. One area of concern is our liability after the school day has ended. March 21-29th STARS will be visiting K-6 classrooms to talk about personal safety and decision making, good touch/bad touch, assertiveness, and support systems. PARP: Guest Readers are visiting this week; students continue to answer Trivia questions related to our sports theme. Budget Cuts: Elem. Teachers and Special Ed. Teachers – all supplies have been cut by 50% or more. Special Ed. Programs – Utilizing quality programs in other districts.

7.2 Secondary Report – Mr. Cook - Wednesday, March 9th we held the Winter Sports Desert Reception. I would like to offer my congratulations to our student-athletes who participated in the winter sports season on a successful year. I would also like to thank Mr. Capone for all his hard work in organizing and setting up for the reception. I am very proud to announce that for the second year in a row, both our winter varsity teams have been acknowledged as Scholar-Athlete teams, which means that the overall GPA of the team is at least a 90% - this is a wonderful honor and we should be very proud. Congratulations to one of our alumni: Felicity Jones who won the "2011 Lend a Hand" national poster contest at Cazenovia College. Congratulations to Kalissa Haff on her poem "Villanelle" inclusion in the WSWHE BOCES "Talent Unlimited 2010". Congratulations to Ms. Stewart and the FFA for conducting the "Team Up to Fight Hunger" Challenge. Hartford won two prizes: most food collected per student population and most creative campaign. There was a nice article in Friday's "Post Star" that discussed the event and in today's paper within the "Boos and Bravo" section, we received a "Bravo." Also, the FFA Parliamentary Procedure Team placed 2nd at District competition and will be advancing to the Regional competition in Greenville on Saturday, April 2nd Upcoming events: March 25th - Senior Play - 6:30p.m. March 26th - Tip-a-Teacher fundraiser for the sophomore class at Pizzeria Uno. April 1st - The Senior Class Talent Show. And, believe it or not, our Baseball and Softball team's first game is scheduled for next week.

8.0 Old Business – No Old Business to Conduct

9.0 New Business

***9.1 CPSE/CSE Recommendations** – There are a number of recommendations for your consideration this month. As always, should a board member have a question regarding any of the recommendations, the specific item should be tabled for discussion in Executive Session. – The Board of Education accepted the recommendations of the CPSE/CSE Committee. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.2 Letter of Resignation Announcing Retirement** – Mrs. Mary Stewart has submitted her resignation to the board for the purpose of retiring. Mrs. Stewart has worked for the District for 31 years teaching at the elementary level and since 1988 Pre-K. – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. Stewart with regret and deep appreciation for her service to the District. The

resignation is to be effective June 30, 2011. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.3 Letter of Resignation Announcing Retirement** – Mrs. Charlene Whitney has submitted her letter of resignation to the board for the purpose of retiring after 30 years of employment with the District. – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Mrs. Whitney with regret and appreciation for her service to the District. The resignation is to be effective July 1, 2011. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.4 Overnight Field-trip Request** – The Key Club has submitted a request for an overnight field-trip April 8-April 9, 2011. The trip would enable selected members of the organization to attend leadership training in Albany. – The Board of Education approved the request of the Key Club for an overnight field-trip April 8-9. Approval is contingent upon all Board of Education Policies and Procedures being followed. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.5 Overnight Field-Trip Request** – The FFA has submitted a request for an overnight field-trip to Lancaster, PA for April 21-22, 2011. – The Board of Education approved the request of the FFA for the overnight field-trip to Lancaster, PA. The approval is contingent upon all Board of Education Policies and Procedures being followed. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.6 Review and Approval of 2011-12 School Budget** – Over the past few months, the Board has reviewed several recommendations regarding next year's school budget. The process came to conclusion last week and I am ready to make a recommendation to you. – The Board approved a 2011-12 School Budget in the amount of \$10,331,959 with a tax levy of \$3,167,459 (which represents a 0% increase in the levy).

In addition, it is recommended the board approved one transportation proposition for the purchase of a new van not to exceed \$20,000. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.7 Resignation – Cafeteria Worker** – The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Ms. Beth Smith from her position as cafeteria worker effective April 1, 2011. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.8 Leave of Absence Under FMLA** – The Board of Education approved a leave of absence for Mrs. Linda Breault. The leave of absence would extend from March 31, 2011 through May 16, 2011. The leave is consistent with provisions under the Family Medical Leave Act. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.9 Appointment of Volunteer Coach – Varsity Baseball** – The Board of Education appointed Mr. James Sipowicz as an unpaid volunteer for the Varsity Baseball Team for the 2010-2011 Season. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.10 Appointment of Volunteer Coach – Modified Softball** – The Board of Education appointed Mr. Scott Hasemann as an unpaid volunteer for the modified softball team for the 2010-11 Season. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.11 Approval of Senior Class Trip** – At the last board meeting, the board gave tentative appointment for a senior class trip. There has been a slight modification for the trip. But the final itinerary has been enclosed for your review. –The Board of Education approved the Senior Class trip for the period April 18-21, 2011. Approval is contingent upon all board policies and procedures being followed. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

***9.12 Appointment of Substitute Teacher Aide** – With the leave granted to Mrs. Breault, it is necessary to appoint a substitute for her position. – The Board of Education appointed Mrs. Shirley Miller as a

substitute teacher aide for the period of March 31-May 16, 2011. Rate of pay was established during reorganization. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0

10.0 Executive Session – Recommend the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Motion made by Mr. Jessen and seconded by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0 at 8:43 pm.

11.0 Adjournment – Board returned to open session at 9:40 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen second by Mr. Fish. Approved 4-0. Mr. Getty announced the board discussed specific personnel issues and matters pertaining to litigation. No further action taken by the board. Board adjourned at 9:41 pm on a motion from Mr. Jessen seconded by Mrs. Steves. Approved 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Durling
District Clerk