

**Hoosick Falls Central School
Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes**

February 17, 2011

Call to Order at 7:03 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Sutton, President.

Emergency Exit Review reviewed by Mr. Sutton, President.

Board Members Present were Mr. R. Ferrannini, Mrs. L. Gormley, Mr. J. Helft, Mr. D. Skott, Mrs. B. Stacy, Mr. D. Sutton and Mr. D. Wilwol. Also present was Ms. P. Cottrell, District Clerk, Mr. K. Facin, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. P. Hatfield, School Business Admin, Mrs. K. Philpott, Director of Spec Ed, Mr. P. Dailey, K-6 Principal and Mrs. S. Vadney, 7-12 Principal.

Board Presentations:

1. Lynda Bilow Huba: Junior Prom

- Junior class officers presented the itinerary for the Junior Prom which will be held at the Desmond on May 21, 2011. Tickets will be \$65 with students paying \$50 and junior class funds contributing \$15. Transportation is being provided by Yankee Trails. The grand march will be held at the school from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm.
- Mr. Facin stated that this is a self-contained event and ensuring that our students will be safe once again this year.

*** A motion was made by Mr. Skott seconded by Mr. Helft allowing the Junior Prom on May 21, 2011 to be held off campus at The Desmond in Albany as presented.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

2. Gina Harrison: Senior Trip

- Senior class officers presented the itinerary for the senior trip which will be held from June 3 to June 4 at Hershey Park, PA. The cost per student will be approximately \$180 with class fundraising further helping to defray per student costs. Transportation will be provided by Wade Bussing.
- Mrs. Stacy asked what would happen if a student could not afford this trip.
- Mr. Facin stated that the class has been fundraising since they were in 9th grade and students have had ample opportunities to defray the costs of the trip. Anyone with a financial hardship should speak with him.

Mr. Facin stated that he would like to see each class having the same fundraising event each year as this would result in less confusion and less competition amongst the classes for fundraising ideas.

Mr. Facin also stated that the suggested dates will not have any impact on the important AP exams, but may impact baseball and softball sectionals. He strongly recommended that the board approve the trip.

*** A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mrs. Gormley allowing the Senior Trip on June 3 and 4, 2011 to Hersey Park, PA as presented.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

3. Maryann Strauss: Youth Summit

- Twenty students in grades 7-12 serving as members of the SADD (students against destructive decisions) Club reviewed their club's work in the school. Students spoke about the many and varied means they have used to educate their peers about proper decision making.
- Students presented the most recent survey results on alcohol and drug use. The presentation was revealed how many students are not using or experimenting with drugs and alcohol. The results show marked improvements in most areas.
- Mr. Facin and all board members thanked each member for having the courage and commitment to be alcohol and drug free.
- Aelish Nealon, Youth Center Director, thanked Mr. Facin and the board for their continued support.

Public Comment Session: Started at 7:49 pm and Ended at 7:49 pm.

- None

Board President's Report:

1. Congratulated two wrestlers for moving onto the NY State Wrestling competition in Albany.
2. Remarked on a wonderful performance by our Senior Chorus students and their teacher Ambigay Yudkoff, at Troy City Music Hall.
3. Congratulated Anthony Chaponos on being a "Student to Student" Ambassador

Board Forum: This is an opportunity for Board Members to ask clarifying questions and discuss issues. - None –

Approval of Minutes:

1. A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mr. Wilwol to approve the Board Minutes for January 20, 2011 regular meeting.
Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried

Superintendent's Report:

1. Congratulations were extended to Joe Wolfrum and the sectional championship bowling team, as Joe is going to Syracuse for the NY State Bowling competition.
2. Congratulations were also extended to both the boys and girls basketball teams going on to sectional play.
3. We will have a "mock drill" lock down next week with the Rensselaer County Sheriff officers and dog. Trooper Murphy evaluated our last lockdown drill and has made recommendations for improvement. Trooper Murphy will be presenting an assembly on "sexting, texting" and bullying in March. We are working closely with law enforcement for the well being and safety of our students and staff.
4. A thank you was extended to the students and faculty for the presentations that the Board has allowed to have at each meeting.
5. District newsletter was mailed and was well received.
6. 2011 – 2012 Budget Presentation:
 - Mr. Dailey, Elementary Principal presented the elementary budget:
 - review of projected enrollment for 2011-2012 shows a decrease
 - an increase in class size to approximately 20 students per class
 - K-6 reading and writing workshops will continue
 - Academic Intervention classes will continue
 - Standardized testing will begin in Kindergarten as required by NYS
 - Mrs. Vadney, High School Principal presented the high school budget:
 - review of projected enrollment for 2011-2012
 - moving to an 8 period schedule will allow students to continue to be able to take courses that they need and want to take without increasing the classroom size dramatically
 - continue offering AP courses and college credit courses
 - Mrs. Philpott, Director of Special Education presented the special education budget:
 - continue the co-teaching model in elementary classrooms which consist of a special education teacher in the room with a regular education teacher with some rooms will also having a teaching assistant
 - main-streaming in the high school classrooms
 - outside placement is minimal currently, but we will have to make allowances if the need arises
 - all outside transportation is provided by the district

- Mr. Facin stated that if the district retains and rolls over the same budget as this year, the district is looking at a 20+% tax levy increase. This first draft budget of the 2011-2012 school year shows an 8.7% tax levy increase which was a result of a reduction of \$1+ million in several areas listed below:
 - Curriculum Development
 - Conferences
 - Supplies
 - District Newsletter through BOCES
 - NYS Arts Program work study program for special education students
 - Academic Tutorial Program
 - Superintendent and Administration salary freeze
 - Grant writing stipends
 - UPK program to be held on campus
 - Class size increase
 - 10.5 teaching positions
- The district is offering a retirement incentive to all employees to seek additional savings.
- 7. Areas of budget reviewed by Mrs. Hatfield:
 - o Teachers Retirement System and Employees Retirement System rate reflects a significant increase
 - o Health insurance is up 7.7%Mr. Helft asked how the increase in health insurance is predicted
Mrs. Hatfield answered that the health insurance consortium that the district is in informs us of our increase
Mr. Facin stated that being in the consortium with other schools helps to reduce costs
 - o Bus Replacement Plan: replace and purchase 3 buses to maintain the plan
- 8. Mr. Facin discussed the "Sunday Practices" as he is opposed to having them and the community having use of the school building on Sundays. The board tentatively agreed with a no Sunday practices rule but did not commit as of yet and would revisit this issue at a further date.

School Business Administrator's Report:

1. Telephone and internet services are on the agenda for approval early this year so that we qualify for e-rate. Audit services will cost less next year with the RFP process is saving the district money.

Administrator's Report:

- Special Education: budget presentation
- K-6 Elementary School: budget presentation
- 7-12 Secondary School: budget presentation

HFTA Report by Jenn McDonald

1. The budget cuts and layoffs are a very big concern.
2. Negotiations are moving forward.
3. The APPR committee will begin working with the administration on a new teacher evaluation instrument.
4. March 23, 2011, there will be a "Beat the Winter Blues" gathering at Guisseppies from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and the board is invited.

Committees:

- a. Facilities / Green: D. Sutton, Chair (rotating members)
 - Feb. 9, 2011 @ 6:00 PM (Dave, Rick, John) (cancelled)
 - March 9, 2011 @ 6:00 PM (Dave, Laurie, Beth)
- b. Academic Review: J. Helft, Chair (rotating members)
 - Feb. 17, 2011 @ 6:00 PM (John, Don, Dave)
 - The College Process was reviewed by Ms. Vadney. Mr. Helft commented on how our school uses English 12 classes for students to complete their college essays and how bringing students for college visits helps expose students to the opportunities that a college education can provide in life.
 - March 17, 2011 @ 6:00 PM (John, Rick, Beth)

c. Audit: L. Gormley, Chair; D. Sutton, J. Helft

- Mrs. Gormley commented on the agenda item to approve our audit service provider will be markedly less than our previous provider.

d. Policy: L. Gormley, Chair; R. Ferrannini, B. Stacy

Feb. 2, 2011 @ 6:00 PM (cancelled)

March 2, 2011 @ 6:00 PM

- Mrs. Gormley mentioned that this will be the 2nd and final reading for several policies on our meeting agenda tonight.

PTA: March 16, 2011 @ 6:30 PM

Old Board Actions: None

Board Correspondence: None

New Board Actions:

A. Miscellaneous:

1. A motion was made by Mrs. Stacy seconded by Mr. Helft to approve the Leave of Absence for Lori Burdo, Teacher of Special Education, effective on or about May 5, 2011 through on or about June 30, 2011.
Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mrs. Stacy to approve the Leave of Absence for Lisa Bundrick, School Social Worker, effective on or about June 16, 2011 through on or about June 30, 2011.
Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

B. Appointments:

The use of a consent agenda permits the Board of Education to make more effective use of its time by adopting a single motion to cover those relatively routine matters which are included. Any member of the Board who wishes to discuss a particular piece of business on the consent agenda may request that item to be transferred to the regular agenda for consideration and a separate vote.

- A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mr. Wilwol to approve by Consent Vote, items #1 through 4.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

1. To approve the Appointment of the following Tutors for the 2010-2011 school year:

- Tutors (Medical Reasons)
Debbie Mabey
John MacDonald
Ambigay Yudkoff
Christina Stebbins
- Tutors (Discipline Reasons)
Debbie Mabey
John MacDonald
Ambigay Yudkoff
Christina Stebbins

2. To approve Peter Coon as custodial worker for 12 months, 8 hours per day, effective February 1, 2011, at the appropriate rate set by the Hoosick Falls Support Staff Contract. Mr. Coon has been working as a substitute custodial worker since August 20, 2009.
(vice: D. James)

3. To approve the appointment of the following NYS Certified Substitute Teachers at a rate of \$85 per day. All have been cleared by NYSED.
 - Darlene Barry effective November 15, 2010
 - Eliza Bouplon effective November 5, 2010
 - Tiffany Stratton effective December 1, 2010
4. To approve the appointment of the following HVCC student teachers for observations in classrooms for the Spring 2011 (March 1, 2011 to May 13, 2011):
 - Michelle Rondeau
 - Laura Smittle

C. Miscellaneous:

1. A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mrs. Gormley to approve the 2nd and Final Reading on the following Policies:
(1st reading was done at the January 20, 2011 BOE meeting.)

5300	Code of Conduct
5405	District Wellness
5550	Student Privacy

Vote: 7 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mrs. Gormley to approve the following low bids for the 2011-2012 school year:
 - Internet Access Services for T-1's to Cornerstone Telephone Co. at \$21,300 per year.
 - Internet Access Services for cable to Time Warner Cable at \$1,739.40 per year.
 - Telephone Services to Cornerstone Telephone Co. at \$5.00 per month/per line, \$0.01 per minute for local calling, and \$0.03 per minute for regional and state-to-state calling.

Bids were opened on February 8, 2011 at 2:00 pm, and are e-rate eligible.
Vote: 7 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.
3. A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mrs. Gormley to approve the lowest External Auditor bids to The Bonadio Group for the 2010-2011 school year, in the amount of \$15,000.
Bids were opened on February 8, 2011 at 2:00 pm.
Vote: 7 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.
4. A motion was made by Mrs. Gormley seconded by Mr. Wilwol to approve the following school tax refund as authorized by Rensselaer County Bureau of Tax Service:

Georgia Main – Town of Petersburg	\$483.53
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Vote: 7 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

CSE Recommendations:

A motion was made by Mr. Wilwol seconded by Mrs. Stacy to have the Board of Education approve the appropriate special education programs and services to be provided to students with disabilities as recommended by the Committee on Special Education.
Vote: 7 ayes 0 nays; motion carried.

Subsequent Meeting Dates:

- The Board of Education will hold a Budget Worksession on March 3, 2011 @ 6:00 PM in the high school library.
- The Board of Education will hold the Regular Meeting on March 17, 2011 @ 7:00 PM in the high school cafeteria.

2nd Public Comment Session: Started at 10:09 pm and Ended at 10:15 pm.

1. A member of the audience spoke on an incident involving her grandchild and a teacher as she described as “bullying” and is not satisfied with the action taken by the school district.

Board Forum: This is an opportunity for Board members to ask clarifying questions.

1. Mrs. Gormley mentioned how helpful the guidance department has been in parent meetings in regard to developing student schedules and beginning the college preparation process.
2. Mr. Skott discussed the “Sunday practices” and is in support of not having them. Stressed that if the community wants to have them, they need to come out and say so.
3. Mrs. Stacy agrees on not having “Sunday practices” as students and family need “down time”.
4. Mr. Sutton agrees, no “Sunday practices” with an exception that must be approved by the Superintendent.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mr. Sutton to go into Executive Session at 10:21 pm for reason to discuss personnel issues and contract negotiations.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

* There will be no board actions following this executive session.

A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mrs. Stacy to return to Regular Session at 10:59 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Helft seconded by Mrs. Stacy to Adjourn the meeting at 10:59 pm.

Vote: 7 ayes 0 naves; motion carried.