

COXSACKIE-ATHENS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board of Education Meeting
October 20, 2009

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Garland

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Garland, Mr. Gerrain, Mrs. Tailleir, Mrs. Mercer, Mr. Petramale,
Mr. Wallace, Mrs. Hanse

Absent: Mr. Nadler, Mr. Cardinale

A motion was made by Mr. Wallace, seconded by Mr. Gerrain and unanimously passed to approve the following resolution:

Approval of Minutes

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education accept the minutes/action of the Committee on Special Education meetings of 9/3/09, 9/29/09; minutes of the Sub-Committee on Special Education meetings of 9/23/09, 9/24/09; minutes of the Preschool on Special Education meeting of 9/10/09; and minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of 9/15/09.

Public Input – Agenda Items

At this point in the agenda, members of the attending public are invited to address the Board on issues that the board will be considering **on this evening's agenda**. Individuals are asked to stand, to state their name, and to summarize their concerns for the Board. Any written documents may be given to the Clerk of the Board for distribution to Board members. We request that, if at all possible, comments be kept to three to five minutes in length to afford all interested parties the opportunity to speak.

Gene Hatton asked the Board to restore the late bus for the students from Athens.

Kirsten Fori read a statement from her father Richard Roberg, who was unable to attend the meeting. He would like to express his concern regarding the posting of the Chief of Curriculum & Instruction. Asked how can we fill this position in these economic times.

Chris Pfister – Athens resident and graduate of Cossackie-Athens. Students from Athens, in the upper grades from Athens, always have to plan for a ride home if they want to attend any evening activities. They don't have the advantage of the Cossackie students who can walk to and from the Cossackie campus. He fears that we will lose some of our student athletes from Athens if transportation isn't restored.

Mayor Andrea Smallwood. She just wanted to reiterate, the Town of Athens is in support of providing transportation for students after school/sports. She asked when was the ridership on buses monitored?

Leo Palmateer – resident of Athens. He appreciates the Board putting it on the agenda. Last month the public asked the Board to reinstate the sports bus. He calculated the cost to run a sports bus to Athens to be \$3,250 annually after aid – the district sends three students to Tech Valley HS at the cost of \$4,000. He asked the Board to make a motion this evening to reinstate the Athens sports bus.

Justin Pruiksma – graduated last year. He stated that without the sports bus he would not have been able to participate in any sports.

Lee Palmateer – resident of Athens. He stated that he is in support of reinstating the sports bus.

Madison Economos – student. She thanked the Board for coming up with a compromise with the clubs and sports.

Sheila Brady – parent. Two of her older children both used the late bus. It was a comfort to know that her children were being brought home, since she works out of town.

Bruce Ray – daughter plays sports. Why are we discouraging kids from participating in sports, by not providing transportation?

Robert Butler – Parent. Stated that it is not safe if we do not provide transportation. Not that long ago the Board was talking about a 23 million dollar renovation project, and now the Board is stating that they don't have enough money to provide a \$3,200 sports bus run.

April Pollack - What about the students who want to stay for extra help, how are they going to get home. What is more "green" one bus or thirty cars?

Mr. Garland explained that there is a bus that is provided after ninth period.

Robert Butler - How can the Board decide what his tax dollars are paying for? Not spending it fairly and evenly.

Amanda Boomhower – What is the mechanism to communicate the changes to the school community?

Dr. Gregory responded that he notified the staff and administrators in writing of the change.

Amanda Boomhower stated that she would like to see an improvement in communication.

Leo Palmateer – Was a bus added for the after club run?

Dr. Gregory - The bus is being provided at no additional budgeted cost. We are using the bus provided for administrative detention student to also bus the students attending clubs.

Public Input – Non Agenda Items

At this point in the agenda, members of the attending public are invited to address the Board on issues of general concern that the Board may wish to consider at **future** Board of Education meetings, if appropriate, or to provide information to the Board on matters of importance. Individuals are asked to stand, to state their name, and to summarize their concerns for the Board. Any written documents may be given to the Clerk of the Board for distribution to Board members. We request that, if at all possible, comments be kept to three to five minutes in length to afford all interested parties the opportunity to speak.

Paula Kalney – teaching assistant, taxpayer. She stated that she was speaking on behalf of the aides assistants/ clerical staff/custodial staff, all of whom are working without a contract. She has been told that the perception is that we do not have as much contact time with the students as the teaching staff does. This district is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated staff. It is insulting and disappointing to give to the teachers and not to the support staff.

Annette DeLuccy – teaching assistant for 9 years. She gave an example of what a teaching assistant day is like. She also stated that they are insulted that they are not being compensated for all that they do.

Melissa Durant – 4th grade teacher. Wanted to make the Board aware of a growing issue at Cocksackie Elementary. Many new children have been welcomed into Cocksackie Elementary this fall. Many students were special ed students and students receiving AIS services. Special ed teacher schedules are so overloaded that some AIS teachers are picking up some of the students. The services are spread to thin. Aides and Assistants spend 70 hours a week doing lunch and recess. Should look at hiring noon aides, that way assistants can work with students. Also bring in a half time special ed teacher to help with the overload.

Kathy Daoust – secretary Cocksackie Elementary. Stated that she would like to read a statement prepared by Kim Thomas, president of the clerical association. Thank you to the Board for the fair settlement given to the teachers. The Clerical unit is looking for the same fair settlement. There are 15 members in the clerical unit and feel that they are a dedicated and devoted unit. Please consider their appeal.

Kate DeFrancesco – teaching assistant CE, library grades K-2. She stated that she enjoys working here, but is extremely insulted. She invited any board member to come and shadow any assistant and aide.

Cheryl Lavallee – teaching assistant for twenty-six years, also a sub caller. Was always proud to work for C-A, always felt worthy of the work she did.

Diane Loughran – teaching assistant. She is Disappointed and disgusted about the way this has all played out. If money is an issue, than maybe the Board should look at cutting the position of Chief of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment.

Tony Loughran – teacher of Environmental Science along with Jen DeRose. He wanted to share some good news. They have 32 students enrolled in Environmental Science, two classes. The students traveled to the Cohate Preserve, to participate in “Day in the Life” which is in it’s 7th year. Students have a great opportunity in this course.

Mathew Sovern – son in 7th grade. He spoke about his volunteer time in the Edward J. Arthur Elementary Library when he was a stay at home dad. Maybe we should encourage parent volunteers to come in to the schools and help, especially with lunch and recess.

Kirsten Fori – She shared some problems middle school teachers are having with new schedule. One day a week is set aside for professional meetings and the remaining four days are for remediation of students. There is not enough time to cover an agenda, ie faculty meeting. 9th period is being used as a waiting room not just remediation; students who are participating in sports need to stay somewhere, so they are just “hanging out”, therefore taking time away from the student who is staying for extra help. Not long enough to accomplish what needs to be done with students 25 minutes is not enough time. So many programs that we used to offer students , that we are not able to do now, ie. Sports awards, high honors recognition, Twin County Science Expo. The current compromise is not serving the students at C-A.

Bart Wallace – spoke regarding the STAR volunteer program. We are beginning to implement the STAR program for retired residents to come in and work with classroom teachers.

Jean Cardany – 2nd grade teacher – She wanted to thank the clerical, aides/assistants, and custodial staff for all that they do. They are a dedicated staff who are committed to the district and the students. She appreciates all that they do.

Communications/Board Discussion

Board Member Recognition

Dr. Gregory thanked the Board for giving unselfishly of their time and for their dedication to the District.

Proposed Renovation Project – Representatives of CS Arch Architecture & Construction Management

Randy Collins and Hank Woller of CS Arch gave a brief overview of the proposed renovation project. The proposed project would cost 7.3 million. The total cost to the taxpayer would be .02% on the tax levy, estimated at .49 cents per year on a \$100,000 home. We also have an opportunity to apply for a grant through NYSERDA to fund alternative energy projects. They shared information about Photovoltaic (PV) Solar

Panel Arrays, which would be installed on the new roofs. Life of the panel and the roof is 25 years. They recommended going ahead with applying for the grant. The only space being addressed in the project is the entrance to the buildings for security reasons.

“Good News”

See attached

Committee Reports

The Policy Committee met earlier this evening and looked at three different policies which will be brought to the Board.

The Future Visions Committee is meeting tomorrow evening at 7 p.m. to discuss setting up an educational foundation. Hopefully the Committee will come to board in a few weeks with recommendation

Audit Committee meeting is scheduled tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m.

Athens Sports Bus Run

See attached. Mr. Petramale recommended making a motion to reinstate the Athens sports bus for the remainder of the year, second Mr. Gerrain.

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the reinstatement of the Athens Sports Bus run.

The motion passed with a 5 – 2 vote (no Mrs. Mercer and Mr. Garland)

It was agreed that there would be continued dialog to monitor the bus usage and to see how we can get service to the rest of our students as well.

Greene County School Boards’ Association

The Executive Committee has met. They are planning on having two meetings this year. The first one would be scheduled at the end of February early March, with a question/answer session with local legislators. The second one would be scheduled in May with the topic being an IDA update, business update.

Superintendent’s Staff Reports

Dashboard Lights Data–Mrs. Maureen Long

Mrs. Long gave an overview and shared the highlights from the Dashboard Lights Data (attached).

Advance Placement & Implications for the Future–Mrs. Diana Germain

Mrs. Germain shared her report on Advance Placement and Implications. See attached report.

External Audit Report – Mr. Scott Preusser

Mr. Preusser thanked the District Office for their cooperation. He stated that there were no significant deficiencies noted. The district became compliant with GASB45. The district has sound financial management by the District Office. Be sure to look at a three year plan when looking at the budget for next year.

Superintendent's Recommendations

Program Matters

Policies – 1st Reading

#5311.2 Automobiles

#5420 Health Services

#6055 Petty Cash Funds

#6650 Internal Claims Auditor

Policies – 2nd Reading

#4740 Policy Regarding Independent Educational Evaluations for Students with Disabilities.

Field Trip – Washington DC May 20 thru May 22, 2010

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mrs. Tailleir and unanimously passed to approve the field trip to Washington DC from May 20 thru May 22, 2010.

Personnel Matters

A motion was made by Mrs. Tailleir, seconded by Mr. Gerrain and unanimously passed to approve the following resolutions:

Resignations

April Brown – Teacher Aide

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accept the resignation of April Brown from her position as teacher aide in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective October 9, 2009.

Maureen Long – Chief of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accept the resignation of Maureen Long from her position as Chief of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective December 18, 2009.

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mrs. Tailleir and unanimously passed to approve the following resolutions:

Probationary Appointments

Erika Santiago – Special Education

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education Law, provide a probationary appointment to Erika Santiago who holds permanent New York State certification as a special education teacher to the Education of Children with Handicapping Condition-General

Special Education tenure area effective October 7, 2009 through October 6, 2012, remunerated in accord with the contract between the District and the Coxsackie-Athens Teachers' Association.

Jennifer Corso – English as a Second Language

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education Law, provide a probationary appointment to Jennifer Corso who holds permanent New York State certification as an ESL teacher to the English as a Second Language tenure area effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012, remunerated in accord with the contract between the District and the Coxsackie-Athens Teachers' Association.

Karen Boeri – Clerk-Typist

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Civil Service Law, provide a probationary part time (.5 FTE) appointment to Karen Boeri as a clerk typist in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective October 5, 2009 through March 28, 2010, remunerated in accord with the contract between the District and the Coxsackie-Athens Clerical Association.

Karin Taubman – Spanish 7-12

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education law, provide a probationary appointment to Karin Taubman who holds professional New York State Education certification as a Spanish 7-12 teacher to the Spanish 7-12 tenure area effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2012, remunerated in accord with the contract between the District and the Coxsackie-Athens Teachers' Association.

A motion as made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mr. Petramale and unanimously passed to approve the following resolutions:

Permanent Appointment

Agenta Russo – Teacher Aide

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Civil Service Law, provide a permanent appointment to Agenta Russo as a teacher aide in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective October 13, 2009 remunerated in accord with the contract between the District and the Coxsackie-Athens Teaching Assistants/Teacher Aides Association.

Appointment Change

Emily Pell – Art

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent change Emily Pell's appointment as art teacher in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District from .6 FTE to .63 FTE part time appointment effective September 1, 2009.

Other Appointments

Substitutes

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education and Civil Service law, approve the following as substitute personnel for the 2009-2010 school year:

Tiffany Kessler	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Janet Reilly	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Alison VanDenburgh	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Aaron Hutchins – Certified	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Nicole Vente	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Mary Marshall	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Amy Liberta	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Bill deSeve	Teacher/Tutor
Patricia Ashby	Food Service
Emily Hammond	Food Service
Guisseppina Agouino	Food Service
Steve Deyo	Cleaner
Megan Mazurek – Certified	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Chelsea Anderson	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Elizabeth Ferenczy	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Stephanie Casivant	LPN
Michelle Wyant	Teacher/Teaching Asst
Karen Griffiths	Food Service

Volunteer

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education Law, approve the following as volunteers for the 2009-2010 school year:

Peter Cardinale	Football
Scott Griffin	Boys' Soccer

Annual Appointments/Coaches & Advisors

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education Law, approve the following as coaches/advisors for the 2009-2010 school year:

Matt Seekamp	Boys JV & V Volleyball
Liz Ferenczy	Girls Varsity Basketball
Bo Favicchio	Girls JV Basketball
Fred Potts	Girls Modified Basketball
Rich Seebode	Boys Varsity Basketball
Shawn Mousseau	Boys JV Basketball
Ken Volpe	Wrestling
Curtis Wilkinson	Bowling

Carolyn Brook	Co-Advisor HS Newspaper
Pam Krajeski	Co 4 to 6 Teacher
Melissa Worden	Professional Partner
Rita Magee	Basketball Cheerleader ADDvisor

A motion was made by Mrs. Tailleir, seconded by Mr. Gerrain and unanimously passed to approve the following resolution:

Interim Appointment

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education approve the appointment of Linda Collett as interim middle school principal effective February 3, 2010.

Business Matters

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mrs. Tailleir and unanimously passed to approve the following resolutions:

Donation

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accept a donation of a stereo system to Cossackie Elementary valued at \$400 from the Cossackie Elementary PTO.

Utica National Award

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accept a \$500 check from Utica National for the Safety Award. These funds will be allocated to A1621-467-50-5000 and will be used to enhance our keyless entry system.

Textbook Disposal

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve of the disposal of the following textbooks:

13	Amsco Math B ISBN#1-56765-551-3
27	Merrill Math III ISBN#0-675-05548-2

Surplus Equipment

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the disposal of surplus equipment (list attached) in the best interest of the district.

Auditor's Report

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent accept the External Auditor's Report.

Tax Reductions

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following tax reductions:

TOWN	PARCEL ID	EXPLANATION	ORIGINAL ASSESSM.	CORRECTED ASSESSMENT	TAX REDUCTION	REFUND
Athens Bill # 392	140.06-1-8	Basic STAR \$21,690	\$ 186,200.	\$ 164,510.	\$ 510.72	Corrected bill sent
Athens Bill # 1407	104.00-6-10	Aged Senior Citizen \$ 30,060	\$ 59,140.	\$ 29,080.	\$ 707.80	Corrected bill sent
Athens Bill # 1798	105.11-1-20	Basic STAR \$ 21,690	\$ 195,100.	\$ 173,410.	\$ 510.72	Corrected bill sent
Coxsackie Bill #3535	88.18-5-46	Aged Senior Citizen \$ 70,000	\$ 58,380.	\$ 30,380.	\$ 602.64	Corrected bill sent
Athens Bill #261	122.18-1-12	Error in essential fact	\$ 149,700	\$ 140,700	\$ 211.92	Refund due \$211.92

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mr. Wallace and unanimously passed to approve the following resolutions:

Bill Schedule

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following bill schedule for September 2009:

General Account Bill Schedule #4 in the amount of \$1,252,062.51

Federal Account Bill Schedule #4 in the amount of \$42,158.46

School Lunch Fund Bill schedule #4 in the amount of \$39,124.66

Financial Reports

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following financial reports for the period ending September 2009:

Treasurer's Report

Revenue Budget Status Report – All Funds

Appropriations Status Report – All Funds

Trial Balances – All Funds

School Lunch Profit & Loss Statements

For the months of July, August & September 2009

Statement of Student Activities Accounts

Internal Claims Report

A motion was made by Mr. Wallace, seconded by Mr. Gerrain and unanimously passed to approve the following resolution:

Special Meeting

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent set a Special Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, October 27,

2009, at 7 p.m. to approve a SEQRA resolution and renovation project resolution leading to a referendum being placed in front of school district voters.

A motion was made by Mrs. Tailleir, seconded by Mr. Gerrain, and unanimously passed to rescind the previous motion

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mrs. Mercer and unanimously passed to approve the following resolution:

Special Meeting

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent set a Special Board of Education meeting on Monday, October 26, 2009 at 7 p.m. to approve a SEQRA resolution and renovation project resolution leading to a referendum being placed in front of school district voters.

Public Input

Jennifer Petramale thanked the Board for reinstating the Athens sports bus run. She would like to see us take the names of students riding the bus not just numbers of students. She also asked that we improve our communication of any changes and would like to see a survey at the beginning of each season to see what the need is for a bus.

Request for Reports/Information

Mr. Wallace asked if a representative from Twin County Services could come to a Board meeting and speak to the Board regarding what they are doing in the classrooms.

Establishment of Future Meeting

Board of Education Meetings

Special Board of Education meeting, Monday, October 26, 2009, 7 p.m. Middle School Library

Regular Board of Education meeting, Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 7 p.m. Middle School Library

Committee Meetings

Audit Committee, Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 6:30 p.m. District Office Conference Room

Future Visions Committee, Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 7:00 p.m. District Office Conference Room

Facilities Committee, Friday, October 23, 2009, 7:00 a.m. District Office Conference Room

Shared Decision Making Committee, Monday, October 26, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mr. Petramale and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judith Zoller, District Clerk

One District, One Mission, One Vision for Every Student