

COXSACKIE-ATHENS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 15, 2009

A reception was held at 6:45 p.m. to welcome new staff.

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. Mercer, Mr. Cardinale, Mr. Wallace,
Mr. Petramale, Mrs. Hanse and Mr. Nadler

Absent: Mrs. Tailleux

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mrs. Mercer 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 meeting of 5/28/09, 7/30/09 and 8/31/09; Sub-Committee on Special Education meeting of 8/31/09, 9/2/09; Committee on Preschool Special Education meeting of 9/3/09; minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of 8/25/09.

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.

None

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.

Erica Goldson a senior at C-A. This year she is doing Early Admit at HVCC. She understands that teachers signed a contract stating that they need to be available 9th period for student help. This has pushed clubs to sports times. This has caused a conflict for students who like to do clubs and sports. Clubs develop leadership skills, responsibility, organizational skills, and gives a passion to the student.

Madison Economos, administrators and parents tell students to be well rounded, especially if they want to get into a good college. Believes it is impossible for students to be involved in sports and clubs with the new schedule.

Regina Peterson a senior. She agrees with previous students. If this is something we can't get around, maybe a compromise could be made. Maybe one day a week the students could have an excused absence from attending a practice.

James Fraunberger a junior. The thing that he loved about the school system the previous two years, was that you were never made to choose what you wanted to be involved in. Now you are forced to choose between a club or a sport. There are one hundred signed letters from people who don't approve of L period and the sports conflict.

Lily Dayter, senior. She has a problem with L period. She has participated previously in six to eight clubs per year. She feels that clubs are not going to be able to continue because of low enrollment due to the choices the students are forced to make. Colleges look for well rounded students. School is here to serve all the students.

Jennifer Donovan, junior. She is an active member of student council, foreign language club, drama club and tennis team. She was unable to attend student council meeting because she had a tennis game. It is very difficult to make the choice. Colleges look for well rounded students. There is no transportation home from any club meetings if they stay after 3:10 p.m.

Dan Kirby, senior. He is a member of the golf team. He has enjoyed being in a lot of clubs since he was a freshman. Students learn a lot from clubs, such as interacting with different people.

Rebecca Pacuk, sophomore. Clubs and sports are very important to students. There is a lot being done for the under achievers, what about the overachievers.

John Robert Hammerer, senior. Clubs enrich the students.

Brittany Williams, junior. Clubs are very important. You learn how to work with others. She is not able to join all of the clubs she had wanted to. Maybe we should have a student representative on the Board.

Stephanie Puorro presented to the Board letters from students.

Priscilla Court. Listed some activities that different clubs have brought to the school.

Patrick Benson, eighth grade. He participates in sports which is after ninth period. There is no transportation provided after school clubs.

Cole Hilscher, freshman. He is only involved in one club, Future Cities. He is mostly concerned that during the next four years, he won't be able to try any new things because of the schedule.

Margaret Benson. She was going to join student council, but is unable to because she has no way to get home.

Laurie Williams. She is a former student and her child is a junior this year. No transportation is an issue for her child to participate since she and her husband both work.

Mr. Garland spoke regarding clubs. He explained that unfortunately when changes are made we might need to look at different alternatives to see if we can work through this and improve the situation. He asked the students and parents to give them some time to look at the situation

Eugenia Brenna, asked how much time is needed?

Mr. Garland said to give them about a month to relook at the situation. It will be placed on the Board agenda for next month.

Mr. Hilscher asked if it would it be out of order to explain briefly what caused the change in the schedule.

Dr. Gregory responded that it was a strong feeling that the district wished to have more instructional time for students. L period (9th) is being used for instruction, also additional time has been added by doing away with homeroom and shortening the lunch periods at the high school.

Vernon Baldwin , senior. More instructional time has caused her to not be able to take another class.

Regina Peterson stated that she likes the longer day.

Mr. Garland told the public that if there is something the Board can do to alleviate this faster than in a month, that may take place.

Erica Goldson. She understands that more instructional time does help with education. She thinks that that the students who should stay L period for the extra help are not. A lot of these students don't care.

A parent asked if someone keeping track of who is staying ninth period.

Dr. Gregory responded that there is a requirement of the State Education Department to take attendance..

Lee Palmateer, graduate of C-A. Sports was a big part of his high school. He would like to see the sports bus for the Athens students brought back. The school is the most important institution for Athens and Cocksackie. There is an incredible amount of students participating in sports. He thinks we are denying students from Athens access to the sports programs due to no transportation being provided. He has to leave work early to pick up his children, which is a hardship. Athens always has had a sports bus until this year. Since school is in Cocksackie, would

like to have transportation to Athens, to make it fair and equitable. He wants to support the school district, but this is a little bit of lack of recognition to the Athens community.

Denise Hartmann, parent. She is concerned about the lack of a bus to Athens and the effect it might have on self-starter students whose parents may not be supportive of extra-curricular activities.

Amanda Boomhower (Athens parent). Without transportation being provided, her children are not able to participate in the clubs. She does not have the luxury of leaving work early to transport her children. She apologized to the students, that she did not pay attention earlier when the change in schedule was being discussed..

Marcus Frisbee, senior. Could a smaller bus be used for the Athens run?

Jennifer Petramale, parent. She is concerned about the bus issue. It has been a hardship to run her daughter back and forth to participate in sports. (Athens resident) She stated that research shows that students are more involved in academics if they are involved in clubs and sports.

Rebecca Pacuk stated that she lives in Hannacroix, about a 20 minute ride, if there is a bus for Athens students, shouldn't there be one for Hannacroix students?

Amanda Boomhower , parent. Asked how many students would make it worthwhile to run a bus? Is it reviewed every year?

Mr. Garland responded that this is reviewed every year.

Lee Palmateer, parent. He asked if we could canvass students to see who would utilize the Athens bus. Maybe have the coaches could check with students to see who would ride the bus if provided.

Leo Palmateer, parent. His son is a senior and has ridden the Athens late bus for the last three four years. Not having his bus is a definite hardship for a number of students in the Athens community. He asked the Board to reconsider running the Athens sports bus. As transportation costs are being evaluated, and we transport a very small amount of students out of county, how can we justify cutting the run to Athens.

A student asked why is bus being provided for students who participate in Administrative Detention?

Dr. Gregory responded that this has been in place probably since the school opened.

Communications/Board Discussion
Committee Meetings

The Negotiating Committee is scheduled to meet on September, 17 at 3:30 p.m.

The Audit Committee needs to establish a date for a meeting with the internal auditor.

The Policy Committee met earlier this evening. They worked through several policies.

The Facilities Committee met recently with the architects to discuss infrastructure items that could be taken care of using Excel monies.

The Future Visions Committee has agreed do more fact finding regarding the start up of an educational foundation.

Board Education Retreat

Neither January 9 or January 23 will work for the full Board. Would the Board be interested in a late afternoon/evening meeting in January? Would probably be scheduled from 4 to 9 p.m. Dr. Gregory will check with the facilitator to see when he is available.

Draft Internal Audit Report

Mrs. Copleston stated that a date needs to be established so the Internal Auditor could meet with the Audit Committee. After that meeting it will then be presented to the whole Board. It was agreed that Mrs. Zoller will poll the Audit Committee to see when they would like to schedule the meeting.

Dr. Gregory informed the Board that the “Good News” will be sent with the update this week.

Dr. Gregory also told the Board that he has given them a list of Board presentations to be completed this year.

Superintendent’s Staff Reports

Brighter Futures Program Report – Mrs. Maureen Long

Since Mrs. Long is out ill today, Mr. Hughes, Mrs. McLarnon, Mrs. Evers and Mrs. Berlin will present the report on the Brighter Futures Program. Mr. Hughes thanked the administrators for their willingness to offer this program. He explained that it was a program held over the summer to help some incoming kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students. Peggy McLarnon, EJA worked with six incoming kindergarten students. If program continues next year she would like to see it run four weeks and schedule it a little bit closer to the opening of school to avoid regression. Robin Evers, CE worked with incoming 1st and 2nd graders. All of the students went up one reading level.

Summer Regents Examination Report – Mrs. Diana Germain

Mrs. Germain was not in attendance at the meeting. Dr. Gregory reviewed the Summer Regents Examination Report with the Board. (attached)

Title I Summer Program Report – Mr. Joseph Posillico

Mr. Posillico gave a brief report on the summer program. (attached)

Facilities Report – Mr. Eric Besenfelder

Mr. Besenfelder reviewed his Facilities Report. (attached)

Superintendent's Recommendations

Program Matters

Policies – 1st Reading

#4740 Policy Regarding Independent Educational Evaluations for Students with Disabilities

A motion was made by Mr. Cardinale, seconded by Mr. Gerrain and unanimously passed to approve the following policy.

#4705 Special Education Impartial Hearing Officer Selection and Compensation

A motion was made by Mr. Cardinale, seconded by Mr. Petramale and unanimously passed to approve the following policy.

Policies 2nd Reading

5313.1 – Student Ineligibility

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

Superintendent's Conference Day (Half Day)

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve a half day on October 9, 2009 for a Superintendent's Conference Day.

Personnel Matters

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

Resignations

Jennifer DuBois – Spanish 7-12

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and pursuant to Education Law, accept the resignation of Jennifer DuBois from her position as Spanish teacher in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective August 31, 2009.

Donna Kenny – Clerk Typist

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and pursuant to Civil Service Law, accept the resignation of Donna Kenny from her position as clerk-typist in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective August 3, 2009 for the purpose of accepting another position in the district.

Susan McLaughlin – Clerk Typist

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Civil Service Law, accept the resignation of Susan McLaughlin from her position as part time clerk typist in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective August 31, 2009, for the purpose of accepting another position in the district.

Judith Zoller – Director of Community Classroom

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Civil Service Law, accept the resignation of Judith Zoller from her position as Director of Community Classroom effective December 30, 2009.

Mathew Sovern – Teacher Aide

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Civil Service Law, accept the resignation of Mathew Sovern from his position as teacher aide in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective October 2, 2009.

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

Probationary Appointments

Joy Smith – Social Worker

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education Law, provide a probationary appointment to Joy Smith who holds permanent New York State certification as a social worker to the Social Worker tenure area in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective September 21, 2009 through September 20, 2012, remunerated in accord with the contract currently in effect between the District and the Coxsackie-Athens Teachers Association.

Kelli Chamberlin – Food Service Worker

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Civil Service Law, provide a probationary appointment to Kelli Chamberlin as food service worker (3.25 hours per day) in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective September 1, 2009 through March 1, 2010, remunerated in accord with the contract currently in effect between the District and the Coxsackie-Athens Food Service Employees Association.

Regular Substitute Appointment

Courtney Wheat – Special Education

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education Law, provide a regular substitute appointment (.65 FTE) to Courtney Wheat who holds initial New York State certification as a special education teacher in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective September 1, 2009 through January 1, 2010, remunerated in accord with the contract currently in effect between the District and the Coxsackie-Athens Teachers Association.

Part Time Appointments

Larry Geberth – Spanish 7-12

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education Law, provide a part time appointment (.6FTE) to Larry Geberth as a Spanish teacher in the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District effective September 3, 2009 through June 30, 2010, remunerated in accord with the contract currently in effect between the District and The Coxsackie-Athens Teachers' Association.

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

Tenure Appointment

Anna Cooper – English/Reading

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and pursuant to Education Law, appoint Anna Cooper who holds initial New York State certification as a reading teacher and permanent New York State certification as an English teacher and who has satisfactorily and competently completed her probationary period which shall expire in the district on September 30, 2009, to tenure in the English/Reading area in the Cossackie-Athens Central School District effective October 1, 2009.

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

Change in Appointment

Patricia Peck – Teacher Aide

Be it RESOLVED the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve an increase from 3 hours per day to 3 hours and 15 minutes per day for Patricia Peck as teacher aide in the Cossackie-Athens Central School District effective September 1, 2009.

Other Appointments

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

Substitute Personnel

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 substitutes for the 2009-2010 school year:

Josh Pray – Certified	Teacher/Tchg Asst
Caroline Holm – Certified	Teacher/Tchg Asst
Karin Taubman- Certified	Teacher/Tchg Asst
Ina Griffin-Guilzon	Teacher/Tchg Asst
Emily Hammond	Food Service
Christina Fiero	Food Service
Cassandra Miller	Teacher Aide
Teresa Musso	Food Service
Oakley Bathrick III	Cleaner
Mary Romagnano-Spooner	Cleaner

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mr. Petramale, and passed with a 7-0 vote (one abstention, Mr. Garland).

Substitute Personnel

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

Carolyn Garland	Teacher/Tchg Asst
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A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mr. Cardinale, and passed with a 7-0 vote (one abstention, Mrs. Mercer).

Substitute Personnel

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

Timothy Mercer	Teacher/Tchg Asst
Rebecca Mercer	Teacher/Tchg Asst

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

Volunteer

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

Sean Blair – Modified Football

Vince Multari

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

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 individual as coach/advisor for the 2009-2010 school year:

Jacqueline Wolfson	CE Student Activities
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Business Matters

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

Special Board of Education Meeting

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent set a Special Board of Education meeting on September 29, 2009 at 7 a.m. to take action on a resolution to put forth a proposed construction and renovation project to the voters of the district.

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

Resolution for Benetech to Serve as Administrator for Vision Plan

WHEREAS, the Coxsackie Athens Central School District (District) provides a Health Reimbursement Plan (Plan) with defined vision benefits for eligible employees, and

WHEREAS, the District wishes to designate Benetech, Inc. with business offices at 1 Dodge Street, Wynantskill, NY 12198 as the Third Party Claims Administrator of the District Plan, and

WHEREAS, Benetech, Inc. has agreed to serve as the Third Party Claims Administrator of the Plan (Plan Administrator) for the District, it is now therefore

RESOLVED, that effective July 1, 2009, the District designates Benetech, Inc. as Plan Administrator of the District's Health Reimbursement Plan under the terms and conditions set forth in the Health Reimbursement Arrangement document, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein with said Plan Administrator services to be provided at a cost not to exceed \$1.25 per member, per month for a term of one year, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent and/or his designee are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver one or more copies of the Health Reimbursement Arrangement document together with a copy of this resolution to the Plan Administrator for implementation.

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

Bid – Copy Paper

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent award the bid for copy paper to the lowest bidder meeting specifications per the attached summary.

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

Disposal of Textbooks

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent dispose of the following French textbooks and the chemistry textbooks listed on the attached list:

18 - Allez Vienz French II – ISBN# 0-03-036943-6

11 – Allez Vienz French I – ISBN # 0-03-036492-8

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mr. Cardinale 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 August 2009:

General Account Bill Schedule #3 in the amount of \$730,232.03

Federal Account Bill Schedule #3 in the amount of \$42,632.60

Financial Report

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following financial reports for the period ending August 31, 2009:

Treasurer's Report

Revenue Budget Status Report – All Funds

General Fund Appropriation Status Report

Federal Fund Appropriation Status Report

Trial Balances – All Funds

Internal Claims Report

Public Input

Jennifer Petramale asked about what safety precautions are used when applying products such as the weed and feed applied to the football field..

Our Director of Facilities is licensed to apply pesticides. We follow all regulations and precautions.

Request for Reports/Information

Establishment of Future Meetings

Board of Education Meetings

Special Board of Education meeting September 29, 2009, 7 a.m., District Office Conference Room

Regular Board of Education meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 7 p.m., Edward J. Arthur Elementary School

Committee Meetings

A motion was made by Mrs. Mercer. seconded by Mr. Cardinale, and unanimously passed to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. for discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.

A motion was made by Mr. Gerrain, seconded by Mr. Cardinale and unanimously passed to adjourn Executive Session at 9:35 p.m.

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

Oppose Property Tax Certioraris in Town of New Baltimore and/or Town of Coxsackie

Be it RESOLVED, the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve that the Coxsackie-Athens Central School District partner with the Town of New Baltimore and/or the Town of Coxsackie to oppose property tax certioraris in these towns.

Board Discussion

Provision for School Clubs

Board members conducted a discussion about the options available to afford students the opportunity to participate in school clubs outside the school day.

Sports Bus to Athens

Board members discussed the prospect of providing a sports bus to Athens for the 2009-2010 school year.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Cardinale, seconded by Mr. Gerrain and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Zoller, District Clerk

One District, One Mission, One Vision for Every Student