

**BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**ARMONK, NY**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Meeting: 7:15 p.m. (Proposed Executive Session)**  
**Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m.**

**Special Report #1: School Board Recognition (October 26-30, 2015)**  
**Special Report #2: Enrollment Report - BEDS Day: October 7, 2015**

**DATE:** October 20, 2015

**TIME:** 7:30 p.m. Public Meeting

**PLACE:** Board Room in District Office

**PRESENT: Board of Education Members Present**

Ms. Robin Glat, President  
Mr. Brett Summers, Vice President  
Mr. Scott Levy  
Ms. Joyce Meiklejohn  
Mr. Michael Sanders

**Absent**

Mr. Ira Schulman  
Dr. Alban Burke

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. William Donohue, Superintendent  
Mr. Gregory Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services, District Clerk  
Dr. Tim Kaltenecker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Ms. Jen Lamia, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

**1. Call to Order**

At 7:30 p.m. the Board met in Executive Session. At 7:47 p.m., the public meeting was called to order by Board President, Ms. Glat.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**3. Proposed Executive Session upon Board Approval**

The Board met in Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the following two items:

- 3.1 Personnel Matter - Individual Student
- 3.2 Board of Education Matter - Board Retreat

**4. Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**5. Revision and Adoption of Agenda**

Consent Agenda Item 9.4 (Award/Reject Bid(s) for the Transportation Facility Improvement Project) was removed from the Consent Agenda and moved to New Business: Item 12.2.

A motion was made by Mr. Summers and seconded by Mr. Levy to adopt the agenda as amended. Vote: 5-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

A motion was made Ms. Meiklejohn and seconded by Mr. Sanders to adopt **Item 6: Consent Agenda - Personnel; Item 7: Consent Agenda - Special Services; and Item 8: Consent Agenda - Business** as amended. Vote: 5-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

**6. Special Report #1: School Board Recognition (October 26 – October 30, 2015)**

**6.1 Board of Education Recognition: October 26 - October 30, 2015**

Dr. Donohue stated that October 26 - October 30, 2015 is School Board Recognition Week. Once a year, it is appropriate to recognize the members of the Board and express appreciation for their work. Dr. Donohue added that the current Board displays the perfect example of civic responsibility in how they offer their time, voluntarily, to take responsibility for the important work of leading the school district. The Board members were presented with some token gifts. Ms. Glat thanked Dr. Donohue, as well as her fellow Board members.

**7. Consent Agenda - Personnel**

7.1 Teacher Leave:

7.1.1 Jean Garner, ESL, CH & WA, Personal Leave, effective 11/02/15-6/30/16

7.2 CSEA Resignations:

7.2.1 Timothy Foreman, Custodian, O & M, effective 10/07/15

7.2.2 Rayon Grierson, Bus Driver, Transp., effective 10/15/15

7.3 CSEA Appointment:

7.3.1 Robyn Silverstein, Office Assistant (Automated Systems), Spec. Svcs., effective 10/23/15

7.4 Additional Teaching Assignment:

7.4.1 Deborah Levy, ESOL .4 FTE, DW, effective 11/02/15-6/30/16

7.5 Substitute Teacher Appointments:

7.5.1 Jaclyn Wagner, effective 10/06/15

7.5.2 Evelyn Bauer, effective 10/21/15

7.6 Wampus Extracurricular Appointments for 2015-16 School Year:

VIP, Jr. – Frances Poniatowski, Janet Thompson, Antoinette Addonizio

7.7 HCC - Extracurricular Rescission:

Stacey Iskovitz - Newspaper (.5)

7.8 HCC Extracurricular Appointments:

Megan DiDomenico - Newspaper (.5)

Levi Litman - Robotics (.5)

Dawn Selnes - Robotics (.5)

7.9 BHHS Extracurricular Appointments for 2015-16:

See Attached List

7.10 Learning Communities Facilitator Rescission:

Jill Berner, effective 10/15/15

7.11 Learning Communities Facilitator Appointment:

Stacey Iskovitz, effective 10/15/15

8. Consent Agenda - CSE/SubCSE/CPSE Recommendations

9. Consent Agenda - Business

- 9.1 Authorization to Execute Agreement for Architectural and Engineering Services with KG&D Architects for Transportation Facility Fuel Tank Replacement Project  
*Resolved*, that the Board authorized the Board President, Superintendent and/or District Clerk to sign any applicable contracts with KG&D Architects for the transportation fuel tank replacement project.
- 9.2 Authorization to Execute Change Order Number One for the Transportation Facility Fuel Tank Replacement Project  
*Resolved*, that the Board authorized the Board President to execute Change Order Number One with American Petroleum Equipment & Construction Company Inc. for the transportation facility fuel tank replacement project.
- 9.3 Authorization to Execute Change Order Number Two for the Transportation Facility Fuel Tank Replacement Project  
*Resolved*, that the Board authorized the Board President execute Change Order Number Two with American Petroleum Equipment & Construction Company Inc. for the transportation facility fuel tank replacement project.
- 9.4 Moved to New Business: Item 12.2.
- 9.5 Acceptance of Treasurer's Report for August 2015  
*Resolved*, that the Board accepted the Treasurer's Report for August 2015.

10. SPECIAL REPORT II: Enrollment Report: BEDS Day - October 7, 2015

10.1 Enrollment Report: BEDS Day, October 7, 2015

The Superintendent reviewed the official BEDS enrollment information which will be provided to the state as the official enrollment for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Donohue noted that there were no significant changes to enrollment since the opening of school in September 2015.

SCHOOL	GRADE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL ENROLLMENT AS OF 10/7/15 (BEDS DAY)	DEMOGRAPHIC PROJECTION
COMAN HILL	K	81	66	147	166
	1	91	78	169	170
	2	82	89	171	173
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>254</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>509</b>
WAMPUS	3	95	97	192	194
	4	88	86	174	171
	5	76	76	152	157
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>259</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>522</b>
HCC	6	92	109	201	201
	7	102	94	196	197
	8	97	94	191	192
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>291</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>590</b>
BHHS	9	123	95	218	217
	10	107	105	212	209
	11	101	111	212	220
	12	119	114	233	230
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>450</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>876</b>
<b>DISTRICT TOTAL</b>		<b>1,254</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>2,497</b>

## 11. Unfinished Business

### 11.1 Review of Policies: First Read: 5150 (School Admissions); 5151 (Homeless Children); 5420 (Student Health Services); 6240 (Investments)

A motion was made by Mr. Summers and seconded by Mr. Levy to approve Policies 5150 (School Admissions); 5151 (Homeless Children); 5420 (Student Health Services); and 6240 (Investments) as first reads. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

Ms. Lamia provided the following information on the policies being reviewed: Policy 5151 (Homeless Children) is a newly required policy; Policy 5420 (Student Health Services) now provides language to authorize medical providers and language concerning asthma and diabetes. Mr. Summers asked about the insertion of the wording in Policy 5420 “or as permitted by state law” into the Student Health Services policy. Ms. Lamia explained that this allows for changes that may occur in state law to override District policy. Mr. Levy asked about the insertion of the wording “and other investment interest provided by law” in Policy 6240 (Investments). Mr. Carlson recommended the deletion of that wording and the Board was in agreement.

## 12. New Business

### 12.1 Resolution Concerning APPR

Dr. Donohue noted that since the implementation of Race to the Top (RTTT), the District has been required to negotiate aspects of the evaluation process with the Byram Hills Teachers Association (BHTA). The current Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) was negotiated when RTTT came into play. He noted that in April 2015, the Governor passed new laws regarding APPR, therefore, the District needs to begin negotiations again with the BHTA. Dr. Donohue reported that negotiations have begun. The state is requiring that the completion date for the new evaluation system is November 1, 2015. Dr. Donohue reported that negotiations will not be resolved by November 1, 2015, therefore, the District will be submitting a waiver with the New York State Education Department, as required by the state. Dr. Donohue explained that within the waiver request the District has documented that the District and the BHTA have attempted, in good faith, to negotiate all that was required, but was unable to come to an agreement by the November 1, 2015 deadline.

The Board approved the following resolution to authorize the Superintendent to submit an APPR Hardship Waiver to the state:

**BE IT SO RESOLVED** that, despite meeting with our collective bargaining units to negotiate in good faith regarding establishment of a new APPR plan under Education Law 3012-d, we have been unable to reach agreement in the time period necessary to complete our APPR Application, therefore, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education authorizes the District to submit an APPR Hardship Waiver to the New York State Education Department, on or before the October 30, 2015 deadline and consistent with the provisions of Education Law 3012-d.

A motion was made by Mr. Summers and seconded by Ms. Meiklejohn to approve the resolution concerning the waiver for APPR. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

### 12.2 Award/Reject Bid(s) for the Transportation Facility Improvement Project

**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Board President, Superintendent and/or District Clerk to execute contracts with the recommended contractors for the Transportation Facility Improvement Project.

A motion was made by Mr. Summers and seconded by Ms. Meiklejohn to award/reject bids for the Transportation Facility Improvement Project. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

Mr. Carlson provided information on the Transportation Facility Improvement Project. He reported that the community has already voted twice for repairing the Transportation Facility. However, the need for repair still remains. The District has approached the renovation by dividing the project into different phases, Phases 1-4. Phase 1 dealt with parking, water runoff and drainage - this phase was approved in a timely manner and came in well-under budget. Phase 2 was the installation of a bus wash facility (Quonset Hut) which included bus washing equipment. He noted that the various chemicals used on road surfaces erode the frames of the buses causing the need for bus replacement. Phase 3 is the renovation of the Transportation Department offices for the dispatcher, secretary, Director of Transportation, as well as an area for drivers which can also be used as instructional space. Mr. Carlson reported that while waiting for Phase 2 to begin, the Quonset hut collapsed due to weather conditions, therefore, delaying the project's timeline.

Mr. Carlson explained that the District decided to combine the remaining Phases as one project, therefore, in July 2015, the District went out for bid to complete the remaining Phases. He reported that only one general contractor submitted a bid for general construction, however, that bid exceeded the District's funds for all four phases. Thus, the District went out for bid a second time. Mr. Carlson provided a breakdown of the remaining costs, noting the District has the available funds. Dr. Donohue reported that specific funding will be discussed at the next Board meeting, however, noting that there will not be any tax implications.

### **13. Staff Reports**

#### **13.1 Superintendent**

Dr. Donohue announced that the District is proud of Senior Dominick Rowan who has been named a finalist in the prestigious Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology. Dominick is Byram Hills' first student finalist in the Siemens Westinghouse competition. He received \$1,000 in scholarships.

Dr. Donohue shared information on the Class of 2015 College Admissions Report. He noted 52% of students were accepted into Tier 1 colleges. He congratulated the students and the faculty on this achievement.

Dr. Donohue mentioned that the Byram Hills Education Foundation is having an event at the Modern Barn to recognize donors that have been particularly generous and loyal to the Foundation.

Dr. Donohue reported on a seminar he attended featuring State Education Department's Commissioner Elia and Chancellor Tish during the NYSSBA Annual Conference on October 19. He reported that Commissioner Elia unilaterally decided that standardized testing this spring will be shorter and that she is leading a review of the Common Core. Dr. Donohue mentioned that he will send a link of that review to the community when it is available.

#### **13.2 Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services, District Clerk**

Mr. Carlson reported on the Government Efficiency Plan that the District applied to the state for on June 1, 2015 and was informed on October 14, 2015 that it was approved. He noted that STAR eligible tax payers will receive a rebate for this year and last year's taxes.

#### **13.3 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

Dr. Kaltenecker offered a brief presentation on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). He focused the discussion on the middle school Technology curriculum. He

discussed the move from the traditional classroom to the innovative classroom, which is more collaborative, group oriented and problem-centered. Dr. Kaltenecker provided an example of problem-based learning in robotics. Students learned how to program the robots by watching a video and then worked collaboratively on actually programming the robot. The students then tested and revised it, if necessary, so that their robots were able to perform a specific challenge.

Dr. Kaltenecker reported that the STEAM program is based on an innovative classroom model. He presented a brief video of an eighth grade technology classroom using this model and noted the students were not asking for the teacher's help. Instead, students were trying to figure out the problem on their own. Dr. Donohue added that through wireless technology they can create more opportunities than before with focus being placed at the middle school level. They are also looking at the increasing demand at the high school level for STEAM. At the middle school, there is a Coding Club and a Robotics Club with over 30 students in each club. The Board discussed the classroom model, noting the collaboration and partnerships taking place. Mr. Levy added this style of learning is more analogous to how students will have to work. The Board thanked Dr. Kaltenecker for his presentation.

#### **13.4 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources**

Ms. Lamia reported on Title IX compliance, a federal law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex. It was noted that Jill Boynton, Director of Special Services and Ms. Lamia were Board appointed as the Title IV officers. As Title IV officers, both had to attend training in which they were taught how to handle complaints, investigations, confidentiality, as well as how to train staff members. Ms. Lamia reported that there is currently a federal case in a Westchester school district for sex-based harassment, and there are new issues concerning transgender students. She noted that employees need to be aware of the behavior they are exhibiting and the types of behavior they should be reporting. Ms. Lamia mentioned that all staff received a presentation on the topic of transgender students and law, as well as an annual training on sex-based discrimination and harassment.

### **14. Board Reports**

#### **14.1 President**

Ms. Glat, Mr. Summers and Mr. Levy met with Assemblyman David Buchwald and the Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association members to discuss legislative priorities and noted they will be meeting with Senator George Latimer in the near future.

#### **14.2 Committee/Board Members**

##### **14.2.1 October 30, 2015: Town/School District Liaison Committee, Town Hall, 7:45 a.m.**

Mr. Levy reported that the Byram Hills Education Foundation is preparing a fundraising campaign for the STEAM initiative. Mr. Levy also commented on the meeting he attended with Assemblyman Buchwald and how he believes they have come a long way in the past 6-9 months, noting that further progress is possible - at least in reducing the role of high stakes testing and the evaluation process.

Mr. Summers added that he attended a panel discussion on *Crisis in K-12* in Rochester, NY and SED Commissioner Elia was a panel member. The discussion included information that some schools in New York State have 48% graduation rates, 20% absentee rates, 4% Math Proficiency in Math and 1% proficiency in ELA. Mr. Summers mentioned that it is important to continue to have our voices heard.

Mr. Summers reported on the voting of resolutions during the Annual Meeting at the NYSSBA Conference on October 20. He reported that those Resolutions passed included creating a law to modify the schedule and frequency of state testing, granting public schools the same exemptions as charter

schools, redesigning a valid APPR process that promotes student learning, and urging state lawmakers to pass a law to assume the costs of the veteran tax exemption. He also noted that all of the resolutions that were not recommended for adoption by the Resolutions Committee did not pass.

#### **14.3 Topics for Future Agendas/Requests for Information**

There were no requests for additional information.

#### **15. Communications to the Board**

There were no communications to the Board.

#### **16. Approval of Board of Education Minutes: October 6, 2015**

With a minor revision, a motion was made by Mr. Summers and seconded by Mr. Levy to approve the Board of Education Minutes of October 6, 2015 as amended. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

#### **17. Executive Session**

The Board met in Executive Session earlier and completed discussion on:

- 3.1 Personnel Matter - Individual Student
- 3.2 Board of Education Matter - Board Retreat

#### **18. Adjournment**

At 8:53 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Summers and seconded by Mr. Levy to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 5-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donna Tulkin-Godoy, Secretary

November 3, 2015  
Date