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Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Byram Hills School District
Armonk, NY

Meeting: 7:00 p.m. (Proposed Executive Session)
Audit Committee: 7:15 p.m.
Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
Special Report: Budget Hearing III

DATE: March 28, 2017

TIME: 7:30 p.m. Public Meeting

PLACE: Board Room in District Office

PRESENT: Board of Education Members Present

Ms. Robin Glat
 Mr. Brett Summers, President
 Ms. Mia DiPietro
 Mr. Michael Sanders
 Mr. Ira Schulman

Absent

Mr. Scott Levy, Vice President
 Ms. Lara Stangel

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

Action: 1.1 The meeting is called to order by Board of Education President, Mr. Brett Summers

At 8:00 p.m., the public meeting was called to order by Board President, Mr. Summers.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

3. Proposed Executive Session Upon Board Approval

Procedural: 3.1 Legal Matter - Individual Employee

The Board met at 7:07 p.m. for Executive Session and discussed the following item:

3.1 Legal Matter - Individual Employee

Executive Session was followed by an Audit Committee meeting.

4. Comments from the Public

Recognition: 4.1 Public Comments (if any) will be heard at this time

There were no comments at this time.

5. Revision and Adoption of Agenda

Action: 5.1 Revisions (if necessary) and adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. DiPietro to adopt the agenda as presented. Vote: 5-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Glat 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 presented. Vote: 5-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

Mr. Schulman noted on the Consent Agenda, teacher Janet Thompson's upcoming retirement and commented that she will be missed. Mr. Summers reiterated Mr. Schulman's sentiment.

6. Consent Agenda - Personnel

Action (Consent): 6.1 Personnel Items

6.1 Teacher Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement:

1. Janet Thompson, Elementary (Grade 5), WA, effective 6/30/17

6.2 Teacher Resignations:

1 Matthew Jones, Special Services, BHHS, effective June 30, 2017

2. Fred Yannantuono, English, BHHS, effective June 30, 2017

3. Jaime Chahalís, Special Services, HCC, effective June 30, 2017

6.3. Spring Coaching Appointment:

1. Meg McNally - Head JV Girls Lacrosse

6.4 Substitute Teacher Appointment:

1. Karen Halperin, effective 3/23/17

7. Consent Agenda - Special Services

Action (Consent): 7.1 CSE/SubCSE/CPSE Recommendations

8. Consent Agenda - Business

Action (Consent): 8.1 Business Items

8.1 Acceptance of Donation from Eagle Scout Candidate Michael Carcano for Improvements to the Wampus Nature Trail

Resolved, that the Board authorized the execution of the Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal by Michael Carcano.

8.2 Approval of Boys Swim and Dive Team Merger for 2017-18 School Year

Resolved, that the Board approved the Boys Swim and Dive Team Merger for 2017-18 and authorize the Board President and Superintendent to sign the applicable documents.

8.3 Approval of Contract for Health & Welfare Services with the Rye City School District for the 2016-17 School Year

Resolved, that the Board authorized the Board President, Superintendent, and District Clerk to execute a contract for health and welfare services with the Rye City School District for the 2016-17 school year.

8.4 Authorization to Execute Consultant Contract with Andrea Rackow of East West Math LLC for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year

Resolved, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to execute a consultant agreement with Andrea Rackow of East West Math LLC for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

8.5 Authorization to Participate in the Cooperative Bid with Clarkstown Central School District for Diesel Fuel for the 2017-18 Fiscal Year

Resolved, that the Board authorized participation in the cooperative bid for diesel fuel with the Clarkstown Central School District for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

8.6 Rescind Appointment of O'Connor Davies, LLP as Independent Auditors for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year

Resolved, that the Board rescinded the appointment of O'Connor Davies, LLP as the District's Independent Auditor for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

8.7 Appoint Nawrocki Smith, LLP as Independent Auditors for the 2016-17 Fiscal Year

Resolved, that the Board appointed Nawrocki Smith, LLP as Independent Auditors for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

8.8 Place a Proposition on the Ballot at the Annual District Meeting Asking Voters to Authorize the Board to Establish a Capital Reserve Fund

Resolved, that the Board adopted the following resolution in order to place the proposition to establish a Capital Reserve Fund on the ballot at the Annual District Meeting.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the following proposition be placed on the ballot at the Annual District Meeting of the voters of the Byram Hills Central School District, to be conducted on May 16, 2017:

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PROPOSITION

Shall the Byram Hills Central School District be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law, to be designated as the "Buildings and Facilities Improvement Reserve Fund," which shall be for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs of renovation, construction, reconstruction and improvements to the District's buildings, facilities, and athletic facilities, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, planning costs, site improvements, and incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith; the maximum amount of such fund shall be \$10,000,000 (plus accrued interest and investment earnings thereon), with a maximum term of 10 years; the source of the funding to be unexpended unassigned fund balances in the general fund at the end of each fiscal year and/or legally available funds available to the District.

If necessary, due to space constraints on the ballot, said proposition may be presented in substantially the following abbreviated form:

CAPITAL RESERVE FUND PROPOSITION

Shall the Byram Hills Central School District be authorized to establish a capital reserve fund, to be designated as the "Buildings and Facilities Improvement Reserve Fund" for renovation, construction, reconstruction, improvements, and equipping of District buildings, facilities and athletic facilities, including site improvements, and incidental improvements and expenses, at a maximum amount of \$10,000,000 and a maximum term of 10 years; to be funded with appropriations from surplus fund balances at the end of each fiscal year and other available funds to such reserve fund.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk is authorized and directed to cause this proposition to be published in the legal notices for the Annual Meeting in the designated newspaper(s) in accordance with Section 2004 of the Education law.

9. Special Report: Budget Hearing III: Technology, Facilities, Transportation and Revenue Discussion, Information, Presentation, Report: 9.1 Budget Hearing III: Technology, Facilities, Transportation

Dr. Donohue opened the discussion for Budget Hearing III at 8:01 p.m. Budget Hearing III is the third of five budget hearings. Mr. Carlson then introduced Dr. Andrew Taylor, Director of Technology, Mr. Steve Thompson, Director of School Facilities and Operations and Maintenance and Ms. Patricia Kristoferson, Supervisor of Transportation. Mr. Carlson mentioned that these administrators oversee three areas that play an instrumental role for the success of the operations of the District. He noted the District has invested much in technology under Dr. Taylor's leadership. Mr. Thompson will discuss his department's Cap Asset Preservation Plan to maintain the facilities and Ms. Kristoferson will review opportunities available for improvements in transportation services.

Discussion, Information, Presentation, Report: 9.2 Technology Department's Budget Presentation

Dr. Andrew Taylor, presented the Technology Department's proposed budget for 2017-2018. His budget includes salaries, equipment, contractual and other BOCES services and materials and supplies. He noted that the department's budget is a representation of where the instructional program is headed and will help the District meet its state and federal requirements, including E-rate, which has the District moving from 100 megabytes to 1000 megabytes. He explained how the District is increasing bandwidth incrementally to assure satisfactory capacity. He also reported that BOCES has changed their delivery model and is now a managed service model which effects cost of services. Dr. Taylor also reported that the District's managed printing service was re-evaluated, which reflects an increase as well.

Dr. Taylor reported that the Installment Purchase Agreement plan is under review with the possibility of changing from a five year plan to a four year plan, noting that the revision would increase the overall IPA for the year. The IPA that is being considered includes the purchase of Promethean Boards with a plan to install 100 boards in the classrooms over the summer and 200 boards in the following year. He also reported that touch-screen Chromebooks will be reviewed; they can also be folded down and used as a tablet. Mr. Sanders asked if Dr. Taylor is sacrificing anything in order to keep the budget under

control and did he think there were any constraints when creating the department's budget. Dr. Taylor responded that there was no sacrificing or constraints this year, however, next year infrastructure will need to be addressed, such as switches and routers. Mr. Sanders asked about cyber security concerns and costs. Dr. Taylor explained that the department will be implementing Cloud Lock, which will secure the District's data privacy in Google Apps, Google Docs, etc., and it has the ability to monitor key words, such as "IEP" or "password." If certain key words are being shared beyond the Byram Hills community, Cloud Lock will notify the recipient and notify him (Dr. Taylor), as well, if it concerns critical or confidential information. He noted that one large privacy issue is the sharing of passwords. Dr. Taylor is working on creating a single sign-in portal so that students can access all their information. Ms. DiPietro asked how the students authenticate their sign-in and Dr. Taylor responded that it will be on each student's E-School Data information and will be known as MyByram.

Ms. Glat asked about the four-year plan versus the five-year plan. Dr. Taylor responded that the District still has a five year plan, however, the IPA is a four-year plan for desktops and ChromeBooks. He noted that the Promethium Boards have an eight to ten-year lifespan and access points, and switches and Chromebooks would be on the four-year plan. Ms. DiPietro asked what happens when a student brings their own device to school. Dr. Taylor stated that the portal supports Novell and Google. Dr. Taylor noted that double authenticating can be implemented at the higher grade levels. Mr. Summers asked if the District needs to supply software for students using their own device. He responded that they do not and that Cloud Lock opens up the network, as opposed to locking it down. Dr. Taylor stated that Google does have access to names, however, he noted that Google does have a strong "sharing" policy, which he is able to monitor to be sure critical data is not shared through the applications.

Mr. Summers stated that it is amazing what technology affords students and how students have become so engaged in the technology. Mr. Summers mentioned to Dr. Taylor how pleased the Board is about his new title change from Director of Technology to Director of Technology and Professional Development.

Discussion, Information, Presentation, Report: 9.3 School Facilities, Operations and Maintenance Department's Budget Presentation

Mr. Carlson introduced Mr. Steve Thompson, Director of School Facilities, Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Thompson reviewed the Operation and Maintenance proposed 2017-18 budget and reported that the two main budget lines in the department's budget are Operation of Plant and Maintenance of Plant. He reported that the overall proposed budget increase for Operations of Plant is 0.6%. and a 56.9% increase is proposed for the Maintenance of Plant. Mr. Thompson reported that the CAP (Capital Asset Preservation) Plan has a substantial increase of \$1,195,000 or 246.4%.

Mr. Thompson stated that the total proposed budget for Operation and Maintenance increased by 11.5%. He reported that the District is utilizing LED lighting and is investigating the efficacy of a co-generator for the high school. He explained that a co-generator turns excess heat into energy by taking heat from the classroom and converting it into electricity. He noted that this could save approximately \$100,000 a year in electrical costs. Mr. Thompson reported that he does not have all the information on this topic but is something worth researching. Mr. Thompson reported that his department is currently reviewing the District's oil consumption and electricity costs. Mr. Sanders asked if the \$700,000 set aside for electricity costs would be reduced. Mr. Thompson stated that it's possible and plans to speak with the power authority. He reported that there is also a decrease in furniture costs, as there were items funded

through the Byram Hills Education Foundation, so his department's proposed budget for furniture is mainly for the purchase of desks and chairs. Regarding vehicles, Mr. Thompson's budget includes the purchase of a van and a pick-up truck.

Mr. Thompson then discussed some proposed projects in his CAP Plan. Coman Hill will undergo renovation to their computer lab and library and the installation of LED lighting, noting that the maintenance on LED lighting is minimal. Ms. Glat asked if LED lighting is more of a natural light and Mr. Thompson described it as a clean, whiter light. The Wampus School has proposed renovations planned for the Computer Hub and H. C. Crittenden M.S. will need more parking in the area between Special Education and Transportation to handle parking overflow during school events. He noted the expense for this is approximately \$175,000. Ms. Glat asked if this was part of the Transportation Facility budget. Mr. Carlson stated that it originally was but because of the cost involved it wasn't feasible. Mr. Thompson reported that the high school has many upgrades and in the CAP Plan, over the next five years, there will be needed water tanks, and oil tank removals and replacements, etc. He noted that these matters change year-to-year based on the District's need.

Mr. Thompson then reported on the synthetic turf field, reporting that the current cost involved to replace the turf field along with the pellets is \$500,000. He noted that when the athletic field is completed, the track around the field should be addressed. Mr. Thompson is suggesting doing the field and the track at the same time. He reported that the cost to replace the track is approximately \$250,000. Mr. Thompson mentioned that his department will begin grooming the fields in a few weeks, which includes some repairs. Mr. Carlson stated that at the present time, there is no money in the budget to replace the turf field, but the Board will have the opportunity to allocate funds for these purposes. Mr. Carlson is recommending to earmark some funds, up to \$2,000,000, for that purpose. The voters will also need to approve spending of that money. He explained that with proper planning, the District could have this in the form of a proposition for next year. Mr. Thompson stated that the field is 14 years old, and its original life expectancy was estimated at 10 years. Mr. Summers added that the field was rejuvenated which extended the life of the field, however, that can only be done once. Mr. Summers stated that the District can have a proposition to establish a fund for capital projects. Mr. Carlson stated that there is a \$10,000,000 limit on a proposition and money can only be held for ten years. Mr. Summers stated that once that money is set aside, it can only be used through a proposition. Mr. Carlson explained that one of the biggest factors in making this method so desirable is that it does not increase taxes. Dr. Donohue said it keeps the District under the tax cap, and in this period of the tax cap, it is very hard for school districts to pay for large projects. Dr. Donohue stated that some districts are borrowing money and Mr. Summers added that because of the tax cap, some districts are creating mid-year bonds to pay for normal operational expenses. Ms. Glat asked if anything is being done about the high school parking lot, as it is difficult to park because of the width of the parking aisles, particularly with snow on the ground. Mr. Thompson stated that it could be widened up to the tennis courts, however, the matter of a retaining wall will then need to be addressed. Mr. Thompson stated that he will look into the matter. Mr. Sanders commended Mr. Thompson for the snow removal during the past snow storm and Mr. Schulman also thanked him.

Discussion, Information, Presentation, Report: 9.4 Transportation Department's Budget Presentation

Ms. Patricia Kristoferson, Supervisor of Transportation, presented the Transportation Department's proposed 2017-18 budget. Ms. Kristoferson presented the department's budget in two sections: First -

involved getting students to school safely; Second - involved the bus garage and the equipment utilized.

Ms. Kristoferson is proposing an overall budget increase of 5.3%. She reported a 37.7% increase for the Bus Garage Building, mostly for equipment, and a 0% increase for Contract Transportation and Vehicles. She reported that there are some issues with bus cameras and radios, and these problems are being addressed and remedied by moving antennas and relays. She reported that repair costs include any body work needed for buses and the department is also proposing purchasing a used skid steer.

Regarding \$450,000 for the replacement of vehicles, this is the same amount budgeted for in past years. Ms. Kristoferson has included in her budget the purchase of two large buses and three vans. She noted that the larger buses corrode more quickly than the vans and we need to replace two buses that have over 250,000 miles and have been in use for 14 years. She noted that one bus was lost due to corrosion to the main beam. She also noted that the vans are used more for out-of-district trips so these buses have only accumulated approximately 130,000 miles. Mr. Summers asked if there is a way to avoid corrosion. Ms. Kristoferson explained that extra undercoating can be purchased, but hopefully with the District's new bus garage wash facility, items such as salt from the roadways can be removed regularly to prevent corrosion. Mr. Sanders asked if it is ever typical to lease buses. Mr. Carlson replied that it is and it is becoming more of an option around New York State and it is a viable option if you don't have many buses to replace. Mr. Carlson reported that some of the District's vehicles were purchased as used vehicles from BOCES, however, as those vehicles age out, he can look into leasing as an option in the future.

Ms. Glat asked if Ms. Kristoferson noticed any trends in bussing. Ms. Kristoferson stated that she will conduct a ridership survey next week. Mr. Summers asked if cameras are in place in the parking area of the Transportation Facility. Ms. Kristoferson replied that they are and more lighting and cameras have been added. Mr. Sanders asked if the budgeting for oil is largely because of the volatility of oil and she responded that it was and it's a factor hard to project.

Mr. Summers thanked the directors for attending the meeting. Mr. Carlson added that the directors did well in creating their budgets and answering the Board's questions.

A brief recess was taken at 8:43 p.m. to allow guests to leave. The budget meeting resumed at 8:44 p.m.

Discussion, Information, Presentation, Report: 9.5 Projected Revenues and Tax Rates

Mr. Carlson briefly reviewed the budget process, noting that there are still four important budget hearings scheduled. He reported that the proposed 2017-18 budget has a 0.8% budget-to-budget increase and a tax levy increase of 1.1% overall. He noted that the 1.1% tax levy increase is below the tax levy cap.

Mr. Carlson reviewed the budget in terms of three components. The first is Program making up 69.3% of the proposed budget, the second is Capital making up 19.1% of the proposed budget and the third is Administrative making up 11.6% of the proposed budget. Mr. Carlson reviewed that the budget includes all programs and services that have supported student success, all state and federally mandated programs, all athletic programs, all extracurricular programs, and all transportation services.

Mr. Carlson discussed projected revenues, which are \$90,590,230 and which must equal the budget appropriations. He noted that the majority of revenue is derived from Real Property Taxes (86.7%) with additional revenue coming from State Aid (4.1%), PILOTs (4.7%), Fund Balance (3.3%) and Other Revenue (1.2%). He noted that these percentages have stayed fairly consistent over the years.

Mr. Carlson discussed Other Revenue, which includes County Sales tax, Refund of BOCES Aided Services and Tuition from other NYS Districts. There are currently three PILOTs: IBM, Swiss Re and Engel Burman. He noted that IBM is in its final year and the District shares PILOT revenue with the Town of North Castle. Mr. Carlson explained the variances of the revenues from the 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. Carlson provided a review of the tax levy cap calculation which can be found on the District's web site. The proposed tax levy is \$38,488 below the tax levy cap. He then explained the tax levy cap components which illustrate how far below the tax levy cap the District has been in years past. He explained that Districts were under the misinterpretation that if you are under the tax levy cap, the money saved could be carried over, however, that was not the case, therefore, no district in the state was eligible for any carryover relief.

Mr. Carlson then explained Fund Balance, which he compared to savings. He presented the figures of what was accumulated from 2011-12 to 2015-16 and also presented how the District has been using the Fund Balance. Mr. Carlson explained that at the end of each year, the District reviews the Fund Balance in order to properly classify it.

Mr. Carlson then noted that apportionment of taxes for towns within the Byram Hills School District and this will be made available on the District's website.

Mr. Carlson explained the projected equalized Full Value totals as follows: North Castle - 85.78%; Mount Pleasant - 13.21%; Bedford - 0.42%; and New Castle - 0.59%. He noted that these figures are based on the market value which is based on assessment and equalization rates. Mr. Carlson then presented the five years of equalized Full Market Value which explains how the market has fluctuated over time, noting that the District has no control over these figures. Mr. Schulman added that the dollar value on each town is different and the majority (85%) is paid by North Castle. Mr. Summers invited the public to view this on the District's website.

Mr. Carlson then reviewed the estimated tax rates, which are estimates until the assessed amounts are known. He noted that, historically, the finalized tax rates are lower than the estimated tax rates. North Castle has an estimated increase of 0.15%; New Castle has an estimated increase of 3.30%; Bedford has an estimated increase of 1.38% and Mt. Pleasant has an estimated increase of 1.41% from last year. These numbers will change somewhat, but not significantly. Mr. Carlson then reviewed the Tax Rate Percent Variances from 2013 to 2018.

Lastly, Mr. Carlson discussed the True Value Tax Formula, which allows for comparison between school districts. For Byram Hills, the true value tax rate is \$15.29 per thousand of full value. Mr. Schulman noted the true value rate is an apples to apples comparison. Mr. Carlson said Byram Hills' tax rate ranks 46 out of 54 Westchester County school districts, meaning 46 other districts have higher tax rates and only 8 other districts have lower tax rates.

In summary, the Administration's Proposed 2017-2018 Budget has a 0.8% budget-to-budget increase, a tax levy increase of 1.1%, and the estimated tax rates vary by town.

Mr. Schulman said that the information is excellent but, ultimately, there is a day of reckoning, as far as what districts can do without relief. Mr. Summers added that Byram Hills is fortunate, in that it has a longer runway than most other districts in the area. He noted what happened when a neighboring district ran out of money and became the third most financially stressed district in the state. Mr. Summers and Mr. Schulman thanked Mr. Carlson for his budget presentation and thanked Ms. Palamarczuk, District Treasurer, as well. Mr. Summers reviewed the upcoming budget dates.

Budget Hearing III concluded at 9:20 p.m.

Discussion, Recognition: 9.6 Other Considerations, Questions

No additional considerations or questions were discussed at this time.

Recognition: 9.7 Comments from the Public

There were no additional questions or comments from the public at this time.

Information, Recognition: 9.8 Board Member Requests for Further Information Regarding Changes to the Budget

Mr. Summers asked if anyone has any requests to add or delete from budget.

Ms. Glat asked about the costs of covering the AP examination fees which would cost approximately \$65,000. Mr. Schulman asked Dr. Donohue if there was anything he could analogize to that. Dr. Donohue explained that students purchase their own advanced calculators and other similar instructional materials. Mr. Schulman also found it as fundamentally disingenuous that the District promotes AP classes, however, the student must pay for it. Mr. Summers added there are ways to fund the exams if a family finds it a hardship financially. Mr. Schulman stated that he appreciates the gesture. Dr. Donohue said the history has been that the student will pay the cost, and, to date, there have not been any parent complaints about this practice. The cost to the District would be over \$60,000, which is significant. Mr. Schulman added that a student doing well on the exam earns college credit. Ms. Glat stated that the District requires the exam be taken if a student takes the class. Mr. Summers stated that it is philosophical and that the Board reviewed this matter some years ago. Mr. Schulman asked to hear from Mr. Levy and Ms. Stangel on this matter. Mr. Summers said the point of the next meeting is to discuss it and we come to a decision on this matter. Ms. DiPietro said she would want to see exactly what it affects. Dr. Donohue will provide the Board with a report at the next meeting.

Information: 9.9 Budget Steps from Here

9.9.1 April 4, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing IV, 7:30 p.m.

9.9.2 April 25, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Adoption of 2017-2018 Budget, 7:30 p.m.

9.9.3 May 9, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing V, 7:30 p.m.

9.9.4 May 16, 2017: Budget Vote /Trustee Vote, HC Crittenden M.S., 6:30 a.m. 9 p.m.

10. New Business**Action: 10.1 Acceptance of Byram Hills Board of Education 2017-2018 Proposed Meeting Calendar****10.1 Acceptance of Byram Hills Board of Education 2017-2018 Proposed Meeting Calendar**

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. DiPietro to accept the Byram Hills Board of Education 2017-2018 Proposed Meeting Calendar Vote: 5-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

Mr. Summers discussed the spacing between some of the meetings seemed long, but it was mentioned that it is very similar to this year's schedule. It was also noted that the Board calendar can be changed if needed, and everyone was in agreement. Mr. Schulman provided a reminder of the organization meeting, scheduled for 7:15 a.m. in the morning.

11. Unfinished Business**Action: 11.1 Review of Policies: First Read: 1900 (Parental involvement); 4526 (Technology and Network Acceptable Use and Personal Privacy)****11.1 Review of Policies: First Read: 1900 (Parental involvement); 4526 (Technology and Network Acceptable Use and Personal Privacy)**

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. Glat to approve Policies 1900 (Parental Involvement); and 4526 (Technology and Network Acceptable Use and Personal Privacy) as First Reads. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

Mr. Summers said the Policy Committee and Ms. Lamia have done much work on the technology policy with the directors and counsel. Ms. Lamia said the District originally had four different policies for technology but thought it would be beneficial to have all the information under one technology policy. Regarding the policy on Parental Involvement, the District is receiving some Title I funds, however, we do not have Title I programs, therefore, after conferring with the District's counsel about revisions to this policy, some new language was inserted. Regarding Policy 4526, Mr. Schulman suggested changing the adjective "maliciously" to another word, still meaning a "wrongful" act, but something not so severe. Mr. Summers said that they would take that under consideration and review it at the next Policy Committee meeting.

12. Staff Reports**Information, Report: 12.1 Superintendent**

Dr. Donohue provided an update on the status of the Board goals that were developed by the Board at the beginning of the school year. Their first goal focused on Teaching and Learning. Thus far, they have had eight discussions on different topics, such as Character Education, Technology, 21st Century Skills and new high school course offerings.

Regarding the Board goal on Succession Planning, the Board has had five discussions primarily focused on the openings for Superintendent and the elementary and middle school building principals and the transition for all three positions.

Regarding the goal on Education Reform, they have held four brief discussions on this topic.

Regarding the Board goal on Fiscal Communication, there have been seven discussions on topics such as retirement incentives, declining enrollment, the upcoming Budget Information Committee meeting, as well as the appointment of a new auditing firm.

Dr. Donohue stated that these four goals were the right choices for the Board this year. They also had an informal goal this year to review transportation. He reported that the consultants report has just been completed. The consultant reviewed all routing and pick-up schedules and found one area near Pleasantville that can be improved upon by adding one more bus run in the morning. It was noted that by doing this, it would save 215 student minutes a day and will add 45 minutes of driver salary cost. Other than that, the consultant could not find any other needed changes to the District's current plan that would be helpful. The consultant did point out that any other significant changes would come from the transportation of students to out-of-district and private schools. He reported that the District has 188 students that are transported out-of-district. As a point of reference, Dr. Donohue reported that 32 drivers transport students to the District schools, and 31 drivers are used to transport 188 students to out-of-district schools; 50% of District bus driver salaries are going toward the out-of-district bus runs. Mr. Summers stated that districts lobbied for a change in the law to reduce the number of miles to transport a student, but were defeated by special interests.

Information, Report: 12.2 Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services, District Clerk

Mr. Carlson's report consisted of his budget presentation.

Information, Report: 12.3 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Dr. Kaltenecker provided an update on the Grades 3-8 ELA State Tests. Today marked the beginning of the testing season. He noted it was the first day of student testing and, overall, the feedback was that it seemed the state ELA test was fair. The level of rigor seemed appropriate, although it was reported by the Wampus School that there were many critical thinking questions which are challenging for younger students. He reported that the state was successful in reducing the number of items on the test, as well as the time of the test taking, noting that the test took about 90 minutes to complete. Dr. Kaltenecker mentioned that the tests are now un-timed, therefore, students could complete the test at their own pace.

Dr. Kaltenecker reported that the opt-out numbers were down. He reported that the Wampus School opt-outs were at 9%, down from 15% last year and HCC opt-outs were at 24%, down from 30% last year. He noted that there was a higher number of opt-outs in the middle school which might have to do with the fact that the students are older and openly voice their opinion, and peer pressure may have also played a role in last minute opt-outs. Dr. Kaltenecker stated that he and Ms. Lamia were in the schools during the test taking and found students surprisingly relaxed about the testing. Ms. Glat asked what accommodations were made for the students who

chose to opt-out and Dr. Kaltenecker reported that the Wampus School students met in the school library and HCC students met in the school cafeteria, where they were supervised.

Information, Report: 12.4 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Ms. Lamia discussed certification requirements in tenure areas. The District reviewed its enrollment decline and made reductions accordingly, noting that five full time reductions are needed. She explained that a review is being conducted of the current teaching staff to determine certifications for re-allocation of staff. She thanked the department chairs and principals for thoroughly reviewing the certification areas and noted that although it may be a significant change for some teachers having taught for many years in a certain grade level or subject area, adjustments will be made if needed.

13. Board Reports

Information: 13.1 President

Mr. Summers discussed last week's Westchester-Putnam School Boards Association meeting. He noted that Mr. Levy will be taking his place next school year on the WPSBA board, noting that each district can only have one Board member sit on the WPSBA Board of Directors. Mr. Summers has been encouraging Mr. Levy to become more involved in the WPSBA, and commended him for his involvement and willingness to take on the role.

There was also some discussion on the Lower Hudson Education Coalition and their lobbying efforts.

Information: 13.2 Committees / Board Members

There were no other committee reports.

Information: 13.3 Topics for Future Agendas / Requests for Information

13.3.1 April 4, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing IV, 7:30 p.m.

13.3.2 April 25, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Adoption of 2017-2018 Proposed AND Adoption of Southern Westchester BOCES 2017-

2018 Budget and Trustee Vote, D.O., 7:30 p.m.

13.3.3 May 9, 2017: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing V, 7:30 p.m.

13.3.4 May 16, 2017: Budget Vote /Trustee Vote, HC Crittenden M.S., 6:30 a.m. 9 p.m.

14. Communications to the Board

Information: 14.1 Communications to the Board

Mr. Summers received a communication that he shared with the Board, however, it was something that was most likely intended for the Town and not the school district.

15. Approval of Board of Education Minutes

Action: 15.1 Approval of Board of Education Minutes: March 7, 2017

A requested revision under Item 9 of the March 7, 2017 minutes was made, changing the time from a.m. to p.m.

With the revision noted, a motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. Glat to approve the Board of Education Minutes of March 7, 2017. Vote: 5-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

16. Executive Session

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

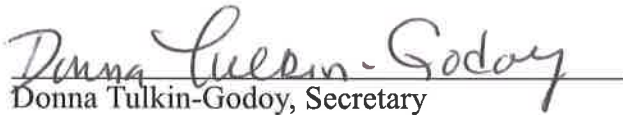
3.1 Legal Matter - Individual Employee

17. Adjournment

At 9:42 pm a motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Sanders to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 5-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

The public meeting ended at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Donna Tulkin-Godoy, Secretary

April 25, 2017
Date

