

Minisink Valley Central School District
Board Meeting – December 7, 2006

A meeting of the Minisink Valley Central School District Board of Education was held in the intermediate school auditorium on December 7, 2006.

BOE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. John Lenane, President
Mr. Wayne Hawkins, Vice-president
Mr. David Dirks
Mrs. Gina Richichi
Mrs. Joan Romanyschyn
Mr. Tracy Sutera
Mr. Victor Vignola

BOE MEMBERS ABSENT: Mrs. Michelle McDonald
Mr. Shawn O'Connor

DIST. PERSONNEL PRESENT: Dr. Martha Murray, Superintendent
Mrs. Priscilla Holden, Asst. Superintendent for Business
Mr. Sean Michel, Asst. Superintendent for Curr. & Instr.
Mrs. Ruth Zulich, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Brian Monahan, Director of Personnel
Mrs. Nancy Szymkowicz, District Clerk

VISITORS: 260
PRESS: 2

President Lenane called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Mrs. Richichi gave the opening prayer.

Mrs. Szymkowicz gave the oath to appointed board member, David E. Dirks, for a term to expire on May 15, 2007. *Note:* Mr. Dirks is replacing Mr. Sauchuk who resigned September 14, 2006.

Oath

A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by Mr. Sutera and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, approves the minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2006. (7-0)

Minutes

President Lenane welcomed comments from community members. Community members discussed a recent newspaper article and a bus stop issue. Also, two community members and several members of the teachers' union expressed their dissatisfaction with the superintendent's leadership of the district.

Visitors

President Lenane reported on the senior citizen tax exemption hearing and asked for a motion to approve the raise in income level for this exemption.

Senior
Citizen
Tax
Exemption

A motion was made by Mr. Sutera, seconded by Mr. Vignola and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, approves an increase in the base limit from \$18,500 to \$22,500 to the Age Exemption Schedule for the Senior Citizen Tax Exemption Limits. (7-0)

Dr. Murray welcomed Mrs. Barbara Lewis, Minisink Valley Elementary Principal, who distributed a packet and gave a presentation on the assessment system used in the K-2 grades. Mrs. Lewis said that the steps taken and continuing efforts being made at the K-2 level to prepare students for NYS Assessment Program that begins in grade 3 are AIS and other services to special

ES
Assessment
System

education students, the AIS/AISM program, Junior Great Books reading, listening and writing enrichment program, curriculum re-alignment, summer curriculum work in reading and math, piloting a new math program in grade 2, work with a math consultant, work with intermediate school math teachers, adoption of an updated balanced reading program, pre-K and post-K summer experience program, parent involvement, IST/SBIT training, and revision of the assessment folders for each student.

Dr. Murray updated the board on the enrollment projection report that had been prepared by Dr. Bruce Bothwell. She said that the district would be working with the middle range numbers as recommended by Dr. Bothwell and that these numbers will be provided to the Growth Task Force, Town Supervisors, as well as the State Education Department as required for any future building projects.

Enrollment
Projection

A motion was made by Mr. Vignola, seconded by Mrs. Romanyschyn and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent accepts the following resignations: (7-0)

Resignations

Brenda Crawford, a school bus driver assigned to the transportation department, effective 12/1/06.

Jessica Pfitzner, a temporary special education teacher assigned to the middle school, effective 12/8/06.

Michael Zwicker, a custodial worker assigned to the building and grounds department, effective 12/8/06.

A motion was made by Mr. Sutera, seconded by Mrs. Romanyschyn and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, approves the following leaves of absence: (7-0)

Leaves of
Absence

Lisa Alliegro, a reading teacher assigned to the intermediate school, a child care leave of absence, effective on or about 3/31/07 and ending 6/30/07.

Patricia Barrett, a math teacher, assigned to the middle school, a childcare leave of absence extension, effective 1/29/07 and ending 6/30/07.

A motion was made by Mrs. Richichi, seconded by Mr. Vignola and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, approves the following appointments: (7-0)

Appointments

Jessica Pfitzner, a probationary appointment as a special education teacher assigned to the middle school, effective 12/11/06, with probation ending on 12/10/09, step 2MA, compensation in accordance with the current negotiated agreement between the MVTA and the BOE as listed.

Lisa Reyes, a temporary appointment as a special education teacher assigned to the middle school, effective 12/11/06, step 1BA, compensation in accordance with the current negotiated agreement between the MVTA and the BOE as listed.

Michael Zwicker, a probationary appointment as a custodial leader assigned to the buildings and grounds department, effective 12/11/06, with probation ending 12/10/07, step 7, compensation in accordance with the current negotiated agreement between the CSEA and the BOE as listed.

Jonathan Bond, extracurricular appointment as ASD II, step 4, group 3, .5 stipend.

Kasi Crantz, extracurricular appointment as ASD II, step 1, group 3.

Kevin Murphy, extracurricular appointment as ASD II, step 1, group 3, .5 stipend.

Chip Jaeger, extracurricular appointment as ASD I, step 5, group 4, .25 stipend.

Kasi Crantz, extracurricular appointment as ASD I, step, 1 group 4, .25 stipend.

Lauren Murray, extracurricular appointment as ASD I, step 2, group 4, .5 stipend.

Joan Vernooy, extracurricular appointment as ASD I, step 4, group 4, .25 stipend.

James Fox, extracurricular appointment as middle school play director, step 1, group 3.

Alaina Vitoulis, extracurricular appointment as middle school music director, step 1, group 3.

Kasi Crantz, extracurricular appointment as high school student council advisor, step 1, group 1, pro-rated.

Seth Johnson, extracurricular appointment for FBLA, step 1, group 3.

Mr. Michel reported on the Regent's examination schedule for January 2007 and the number of students expected to take the various exams.

Curriculum

A motion was made by Mrs. Romanyschyn, seconded by Mrs. Richichi and unanimously carried that the board of education, having reviewed the minutes of the Committee on Preschool Special Education held on November 15, 2006, pertaining to students #19253, 19627, 17637, 19058, 18652, 19363, 19345, 19699, 17594, 19186, 18522, 18205, and 18512, arranges for student placement as determined by the Committee on Preschool Special Education. (7-0)

CPSE

A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by Mrs. Richichi and unanimously carried that the board of education, having reviewed the minutes of the Committee on Special Education held on November 14, 15, 20, 21, 27 and 28, 2006, pertaining to students #17986, 17162, 10238, 19684, 19675, 17922, 18689, 19689, 12949, 9865, 8773, 19693, 12040, 10271, 19499, 19476, 11588, 16341, 19628, 14468, 10245, 11827, 15852, 11066, 12779, 10234 14392, 11185, 17278, 15232, 12747, 16928, 14717, 18272, 15547, 18688, 19018, and 13774, arranges for student placement as determined by the Committee on Special Education. (7-0)

CSE

A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by Mrs. Romanyschyn and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, accepts the Claims Auditor's report and approves the warrants for checks dated December 7, 2006 and for handdrawn checks in the month of November. (7-0)

Finance

A motion was made by Mr. Sutera, seconded by Mr. Hawkins and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, acknowledges receipt of the Treasurer's Reports for the month of October. (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Sutera, seconded by Mr. Vignola and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, approves the Capital Fund warrant for checks issued in the month of November. (7-0)

A motion was made by Mrs. Richichi, seconded by Mr. Dirks and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, accepts a donation of two Epson Powerlite 76C LCD projectors and 25 book stands, valued at \$2400, from the Tech Prep program at SUNY Orange to be used in our high school technology based courses. (7-0)

Donation

Dr. Murray discussed the EXCEL funds approved by the New York State legislature earlier this year. She explained that the state approved this additional funding specifically to cover the local share of capital improvement costs. Minisink's share is approximately \$1.5 million. Dr. Murray said that a building condition survey completed last year would help guide the capital improvement projects. She said that the administration would be working with the growth task force to review the options over the next few months.

EXCEL
Funds

A motion was made by Mr. Sutera, seconded by Mr. Hawkins and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, approves the recommendations of the transportation committee on the bus stops reviewed on Schoolhouse Road and Orchard Crest Drive. (7-0)

Trans.
Comm.

A motion was made by Mr. Sutera, seconded by Mr. Hawkins and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the Audit Committee, appoints the firm of Vanacore, DeBenedictus, DiGovanni and Weddell as the internal auditor for the district for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount of \$8,500, and for the 2007-2008 school year in the amount of \$3,400. (7-0)

Internal Auditor

Mrs. Holden reported on the Menu Advisory Committee meeting that had been held on November 14. She said that the committee was made up of administrators from each building with parent and student representation. She said that wellness initiatives have been implemented and now they must come up with creative ways to encourage students to make healthy choices. Mrs. Holden said that efforts are being made to help move the lines in the middle school cafeteria along at a faster pace.

Menu
Advisory
Committee

The board discussed giving the Town of Mount Hope ownership of the 8-inch sanitary sewer outfall along Mount Hope Road and granting the district permanent sanitary, sewer and water main easements.

Otisville
Project

A motion was made by Mr. Sutera, seconded by Mr. Hawkins and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, approves the following resolutions: (7-0)

WHEREAS, the Minisink Valley Central School District is in the process of a capital project regarding the construction of a new elementary school building on Mount Hope Road, in the Village of Otisville and the Town of Mount Hope, on property transferred to the School District by the Town of Mount Hope; and

WHEREAS, the School District requires sanitary sewer and water main easements over and upon the lands of the Town of Mount Hope, as depicted on the maps of Bolton Land Surveying, P.C., and Thomas Associates, annexed hereto and made a part of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the County of Orange Department of Public Works requires that the Town of Mount Hope assume ownership and maintenance of an 8-inch sanitary sewer outfall within the right-of-way along Mount Hope Road to the outfall located approximately 400 feet north of the new Elementary School driveway; and

WHEREAS, at the Town Meeting on November 27, 2006, the Town of Mount Hope approved an Agreement, dated November 27, 2006, providing the School District with permanent sanitary sewer and water main easements, while also agreeing to assume ownership and maintenance of the 8-inch sanitary sewer outfall, as described above;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the board of Education hereby approves the Agreement, dated November 27, 2006, wherein the Town of Mount Hope grants the School District with permanent sanitary sewer and water main easements, as well as assumes ownership and maintenance of the 8-inch sanitary sewer outfall, as described above, and ratifies the execution of such Agreement by the Board Vice-President on November 27, 2006, in order to expedite the commencement of the construction work. The Agreement, with attachments, is incorporated by reference.

Dr. Murray discussed a petition that had been submitted at the November 2, 2006 meeting to request a proposition to change the length of board terms and said that the proper number of signatures had been validated and that the proposition would be on the ballot on May 15, 2007.

Proposition

Dr. Murray discussed a plaque to memorialize the middle school project. The plaque will be located in the lobby of the middle school cafeteria.

MS Plaque

Dr. Murray updated the board on plans for the senior citizens' prom. She said that a date of Saturday, June 9, 2007, was scheduled and that the location would be the high school. She said that the meal will be a buffet this year.

Sr. Citizen's Prom

President Lenane said that Mr. Dirks would be assigned to the athletic committee and the transportation committee as Mr. Sauchuk's replacement.

Board Committees

Dr. Murray spoke about moving the baccalaureate ceremony in June to a week night instead of Sunday, Father's Day. The board asked Dr. Murray to have the high school survey the senior class to find out their opinions on the proposed change.

Baccalaureate

Mrs. Romanyschyn reported on the OCSBA delegates meeting of December 6. She said that at the meeting they had discussed property tax reform, frustration at the length of time taken by the state to get testing results back to the districts, and also a change in the OCSBA dues.

OCSBA

Mr. Hawkins said that he had enjoyed the concerts at Otisville Elementary and the middle school and President Lenane remarked on the capable tech crew's efforts during the middle school concert.

District Events

A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by Mrs. Romanyschyn and unanimously carried that the board of education, upon recommendation of the superintendent, enters into executive session at 10:10 PM to discuss the discipline of a particular employee, the employment histories of particular employees, and contract negotiations. During executive session, the board discussed the the discipline of a particular employee, and the employment histories of particular employees. (7-0)

Exec. Session

A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins, seconded by Mr. Dirks and unanimously carried to resume public session at 12:40 AM. (7-0)

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Mrs. Richichi seconded by Mrs. Romanyschyn and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:40 AM. (7-0)

Adj

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Szymkowicz
District Clerk