

**PORT JERVIS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES**

April 23, 2015

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held April 23, 2015, in the High School Cafeteria.

Members Present: Judith Amato
Michael Bello
Noeleen Casey-Tomasi
Tammy Myers
Reyes Torres Jr.
Robert Witherow

Members Absent: William Onofry
Florence Santini
William Smith

Others Present: Thomas Bongiovi, Superintendent
Cynthia Benedict, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction
Lorelei Case, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Dawn Lasch, Clerk of the Board

Others Absent: Student Representatives – Alison Buzzelli and Timothy Shearer

Call to Order – Agenda Item 1

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Bello.

Motion to Enter into Executive Session – Agenda Item 2

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to enter into executive session at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 absent (Onofry, Santini, Smith) vote.

Motion to Enter into Regular Session – Agenda Item 3

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Tammy Myers to return to regular session at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 absent (Onofry, Santini, Smith) vote. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Judy Amato followed by a Moment of Silence.

Public Comment – Agenda Item 4

Christine Addy and Christa Hoovler – run the Rachel's Challenge Club. Mrs. Hoovler explained that Rachel's Challenge is an organization that was started by Rachel Scott's family after the April 20, 1999 Columbine shooting. Rachel was the first victim of Columbine. The family wanted to follow the words that were found in her diary which was to start a chain reaction of kindness and compassion. The mission of Rachel's Challenge is to bring that to schools and communities to begin this chain reaction. It began here in Port Jervis about 7 years ago. There are a number of programs that Rachel's Challenge offers, but the one we use is "Chain Reaction". It is a 6 hour, all day intensive program. We bring 100 students into the gym with 25 community members who assist and participate with the students in a program that two presenters from Colorado bring to our school. It starts out very high energy and fun to get the kids comfortable. As the day progresses the presenters lead all the participants through progressively more in-depth, intense situations that eventually winds up helping these kids and adults alike understand the different struggles in everyone's lives. We try to give them hope and encouragement that we can work

together to get them through their hardships and teach them that they don't have to pick on others to make themselves feel better or pick on somebody because it is easy to do. Mrs. Addy distributed a packet of letters from former students, community, and staff member participants. Mrs. Hoovler said the letters in the packet are from students that went through the program and state that they never imagined that the kid that they were standing next to may be struggling with the things that they divulged during that day. They have a new respect and appreciation for other kids and the struggles they may have through different eyes. That is the goal of the day, not to judge somebody on the surface but really see into them and be more gentle, kind, and compassionate towards their peers. I know we are asking \$9,000 to be budgeted for this program, which works out to be approximately \$50 per kid. When you read these letters and talk to folks that have participated in the day, they would say it's worth ten times that amount.

Administrative Reports – Agenda Item 5

Ms. Case said during the spring break much work was completed throughout the district. Some cabinetry issues at the high school guidance office were addressed, windows and new fans went in at the middle school gym, and district-wide IT upgrades continue. In addition to the district-wide spring break work, preparation for bidding of the summer 2015 projects is ongoing. SED has approved all of our projects now and we are optimistic that all the projects will be bid for summer 2015 work. There is one bid on tonight's agenda to be approved.

The community budget presentation schedule has been prepared and presentations have begun. If you are a community organization and would like administration to present to your group, please contact my office. If anyone has any questions about the budget, please feel free to call my office as well. All the documents are available to the public in our school buildings as well as the district office and the library.

Mrs. Benedict said the Grades 3-8 NYS ELA assessments were administered last week and the math assessments were administered yesterday, today and Friday. Districts across the state are reporting a rise in the number of students refusing to take the exams. In the Board's informational items I have included a memo that outlines the number of Port Jervis students at each grade level that refused to take the ELA assessment last week. The number of refusals have increased for the math assessments compared to the ELA numbers. I will update the Board at our next meeting with final numbers from both assessments.

I would like to update the Board on the progress of our HBE/ASK Elementary Report Card PLC. We have been meeting periodically throughout the past year and a half and are currently working with the MHRIC to generate a new standards based report cards for grades K-6. This report card will replace our current report card that is more than 35 years old. Our goal is to have a final draft of our K-6 report cards for the teachers to review in June and over the summer, and to implement them for the first report card in the 2015-2016 school year. We have generated Parent Guides for each grade level to provide supportive information. We should have the guides ready for printing in the next week or so. Also, we are in the process of planning our Parent Involvement Nights scheduled for Tuesday, June 2nd and Wednesday June 10th. The events will be held at ASK in the cafeteria, computer lab and library. This is a wonderful opportunity for our parents to learn about the NYS standards and standards based grading. After an overview of the standards and standards-based grading, we plan to have stations led by HBE and ASK teachers to explain standards on each grade level and to review the 4,3,2,1 grading system. We will also have stations available to provide parents with information about what they can do to help their child at home. Compass Learning presentations will be held in the computer room and in the library where teachers will review guided reading and leveled books. To help out our parents' ability to attend one of the nights we will provide child care in the gym and refreshments will be offered.

Last week the HS Drama Club performed 5 shows of *Peter Pan*. This was a wonderful production that included amazing singing, dancing, acting and flying!! Congratulations to all the students involved in the musical, on and off the stage. Bravo to producer Mrs. Gordon and orchestra conductor Mrs. Long, and a

huge thank you to all the volunteers. Without them a production of this magnitude would not have been possible. I am sure our students will never forget their memories of Neverland.

Mr. Bongiovi – said this morning I had the pleasure of attending the Annual Senior Scholar Athlete breakfast at Kuhl’s Highland House. Every school in the OCIAA chooses one male and one female athlete to be their scholar athlete. This year the female athlete for Port Jervis was Taylor Johaneman who ranked 6th in the class. She participated in soccer and softball and plans on attending the University of Denver and majoring in environmental sciences. Robert Cal was our male recipient and participated in soccer, indoor track, and baseball. He plans to attend John Hopkins or Vassar and major in biology perusing medicine. Congratulations to those students.

Our award season has started. We are having the Kuykendall Award Ceremony May 8th at 9:30 am at HBE. This award goes to one student from each building to celebrate community service.

Mr. Bongiovi said under informational items in your Board packet I gave you a draft copy of the presentation that I was prepared to present tonight. It was suggested at the agenda review that since we would be possibly missing several Board members tonight, that I wait and present at the May 5th meeting when all nine members could be present. These are the items that are still under consideration by the Board: athletic trainer, certified occupational assistant, Friends of Rachel Chain Reaction assembly, and the Laptop Program. In addition to the presentation there are memos giving further explanation. There is separate memo on Friends of Rachel Chain Reaction Day with additional information and answers to some questions from some Board members in regards to the day. You will also find some information on the Laptop Program. Please take some time to read them before the next meeting.

Mr. Bongiovi said tonight we are voting on the BOCES Administrative Budget and BOCES Board members. I have written a memo talking about our participation with BOCES. We have 96 student slots at BOCES. Our students are eligible beginning in the sophomore year. We do fill all 96 slots each year and we presently have students enrolled in 38 different programs at BOCES.

Consent Agenda Items – Agenda Item 6

Judy Amato moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to approve the following items:

- a. **Minutes from the March 24, 2015 Meeting of the Board of Education (Section 1)**
- b. **Minutes from the April 14, 2015 Special Meeting of the Board of Education (Section 1)**
- c. **FMLA, Intermittent and Leave of Absences per Enclosures (Section III Personnel)**
- d. **CSE/CPSE Minutes (enclosure no. 1)**
CSE Minutes: 02/06/15R; 02/06/15 (15-16); 03/10/15 (15-16); 03/13/15 (15-16); 03/18/15 R;
03/20/15 (15-16); 03/26/15 (15-16); 03/27/15 (15-16); 03/30/15; 04/07/15;
04/07/15 (15-16); 04/08/15; 04/09/15; 04/10/15
CPSE Minutes: 03/25/15A; 04/06/15; 04/08/15; 04/13/15; 04/15/15

Motion carried with 6-0-3 vote.

Appointment (s) – Agenda Item 7

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to approve the following appointments:

a. Instructional Staff

Name:	Erica Gibbs
Position:	Special Education Teacher
Assignment:	HBE School

Reason: Vacancy No. 1825 – (Leave replacement)
Effective: April 20, 2015 – May 29, 2015
Salary: \$52,871 – Step 1 (Pro-rated)

Name: Sarah Grieb
Position: Literacy Teacher
Assignment: HBE School
Reason: Vacancy No. 1826 – (Leave replacement)
Effective: May 11, 2015 – June 25, 2015
Salary: \$52,871 – Step 1 (Pro-rated)

b. Extension of Previously Approved Appointments

Name: Victoria Guaragno
Position: English Teacher
Assignment: High School
Reason: Vacancy No. 1819 (Leave replacement)
Effective: May 11, 2015 through June 25, 2015
(Previously approved 1/26/15-5/8/15 at the 2/24/15 BOE meeting)
Salary: \$52,871 – Step 1 (Pro-rated)

Name: Jennifer Scannell
Position: Guidance Counselor
Assignment: High School
Reason: Vacancy No. 1823 (Leave replacement)
Effective: April 20, 2015 – April 24, 2015
(Previously approved 3/12/15 – 4/19/15 at the 3/11/15 BOE meeting)
Salary: \$56,869 – Step 1
1,500 – Masters
2,208 – Credits (48)
\$60,577 – (Pro-rated)

c. Support Staff

Name: Joelynn Amato
Position: Teacher Aide – Substitute
Assignment: District Wide
Effective: April 24, 2015
Salary: \$14.08 – Step 1 (2012-2013)

d. Substitute Teachers/RN's *Denotes College Students Bold=Home Tutor

A= Certified
Douglas Straebler
Jennifer Scannell

No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Tenure Appointment Recommendations – Agenda Item 8

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jennifer Curreri	Music K-12	September 1, 2015
Kelly Decker	Social Studies 7-12	September 1, 2015
Nicole Ey	Assistant Principal	July 1, 2015
Lou Puopolo	Special Education K-12	September 1, 2015
Scott Reed	English 7-12	September 1, 2015

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Tammy Myers to approve the aforementioned employees recommended for tenure. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote. Vice-President Bello recognized and congratulated the tenure recipients.

Approval of Questar III Fund for Surplus Resolution and Release – Agenda Item 9

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to approve the Questar III fund for surplus resolution and release. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Approval of the Port Jervis Baseball Club '82 Scholarship – Agenda Item 10

Judy Amato moved, seconded by Rey Torres to approve the aforementioned scholarship. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Approval of the Port Jervis Softball Scholarship - Agenda Item 11

Tammy Myers moved, seconded by Rey Torres to approve the aforementioned scholarship. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Policies – Agenda Item 12

Noeleen Casey-Tomasi moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to approve the following policies:

First Reading

Policy No. 5672 Information Security Breach and Notification
Policy No. 7530 Child Abuse

Mr. Bongiovi explained that these are two policies that we received from Erie I BOCES. There were no problems with either one of them, just some changes in wording. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Resolution to Approve the BOCES Administrative Budget for the 2015-2016 School Year in the Amount of \$5,612,994 – Agenda Item 13

Bob Witherow moved, seconded by Rey Torres to approve the BOCES Administrative Budget for the 2015-2016 school year in the amount of \$5,612,994. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Election of BOCES Board Members – Agenda Item 14

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to re-elect Michael Bello and Eugenia Pavek to fill two three-year term vacancies on the BOCES Board. **Mr. Bongiovi** thanked Mr. Bello and Ms. Pavek for continuing to serve BOCES, Orange County and the students. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote. **Mr. Bello** thanked the Board for continuing to support him and Mrs. Pavek, who he has served with for the last nine years and for also supporting the BOCES Administrative budget.

Resolution to Adopt School Property Tax Report Card for the 2015-2016 School Year – Agenda Item 15

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Tammy Myers to approve the aforementioned resolution. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Approval of Contract Health Services Between Port Jervis City School District and Pine Bush Central School District for the 2014-2015 School Year – Agenda Item 16

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Judy Amato to approve the aforementioned contract. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Approval to Pay NYSASCSD Dues Before June 30, 2015 – Agenda Item 17

Bob Witherow moved, seconded by Rey Torres to approve to pay the NYSASCSD dues before June 30, 2015. This will enable the district to get a discount if paid before June 30th. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Resolution for PJSCD to Appoint Orange-Ulster Cooperative Bid Committee to Represent the District to Bid Jointly for General Supplies, Paper Supplies, Cafeteria Supplies, Custodial Supplies, Health Supplies, Milk, Ice Cream, Bread and Building Materials for the Period Beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 – Agenda Item 18

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Tammy Myers to approve the aforementioned resolution. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Approval of 2015 Earth Day Grant in the Amount of \$750 for ASK Sixth Grade – Agenda Item 19

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Judy Amato to approve the \$750 Earth Day Grant for ASK sixth grade. **Mr. Bongiovi** explained that this is a joint venture between Mr. McCarthy at the HS and Mrs. Intranuovo at ASK. The students are reading two books about conservation and water quality called *Flush* and *World Without Fish*. The grant will be used to purchase water quality tests. The students will be testing the water in the Neversink and making a real life connection between what they are reading and what happens in the world. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Approval of HBE Sixth Grade Overnight Trip to Philadelphia June 18-19, 2015 – Agenda Item 20

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Bob Witherow to approve the HBE sixth grade overnight trip to Philadelphia June 18-19, 2015. **Mr. Bongiovi** said this is an annual trip at HBE. I would like to just thank Mrs. Korycki and all the teachers and parents that go on the trip. It is a wonderful trip and a great educational experience for them. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Approval of Capital Project Casework Labor Bid – Agenda Item 21

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Noeleen Casey-Tomasi to approve Northeast Interior Systems for the Capital Project Casework Labor bid. **Ms. Case** explained that this is part of the casework of the summer project for 2015. Northeast was the lowest qualified bidder at \$158,000. No discussion. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Approval of Transportation Contract Extension Resolution Coop with BOCES – Agenda Item 22

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Judy Amato to approve the aforementioned contract with BOCES. **Mr. Witherow** asked about the additional costs for the new routes and the other cost not to exceed the lesser of 2% over the current rate of the CPI. **Ms. Case** explained that this is not part of our district contract with Quality. We have two components that are contracted. One of them is with Quality Bus where they do all of our runs directly for us, where we have the CPI as part of that contract. The other is we are in coop with BOCES for some shared runs because there are some children that go to the same places as we do. Sometimes they do it all year and sometimes they only do it for a couple months. This is just approval of the contract extension. Motion carried with a 6-0-3 vote.

Board Member Comments – Agenda Item 23

Mrs. Casey-Tomasi said I had the pleasure of attending the BOCES Budget Presentation Dinner and sitting with three of our students for that dinner. I do believe if you are a member of the BOE, and if you're here for three years, you should go to this dinner at least once. It's really a worthwhile experience to see what these students are doing and learning.

On the BOCES Administrative Budget, I just want to mention that they are dropping an Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

The *Peter Pan* play was wonderful. There was a total of 5 productions, 3 hours plus per each production. For a HS play and the fact that they had the elementary students incorporated made it an incredible production. What a job well done by everybody involved in it.

I give HBE credit for taking the elementary students to Philadelphia each year. It is a lot of work and a very wonderful trip.

Reminder to all that the Delaware 5K River Run/Walk is coming up May 2nd. Elementary students will receive a discount if they register through their gym teacher. Otherwise it will cost \$15 on the day of the race.

Thank you to both Christine Addy and Christa Hoovler for coming to speak this evening about Rachel's Challenge. I do have a lot of questions on that program. I hope you can come back and do a presentation with us because I would like to share my questions with the Board. It is something we really need to talk about.

Mr. Bello said he was able to attend the BOCES Budget Presentation along with Mrs. Casey-Tomasi and Mr. Bongiovi. It was a great evening and great sitting with our PJ students that are attending BOCES programs. I was struck by the goals and passion that they have for the field that they are very much interested in. The displays by the students in all the academies were very impressive.

Informational Items – Agenda Item 24

All informational items were acknowledged and received.

Dates to Remember – Agenda Item 25

Vice-President Bello read the Dates to Remember.

Adjournment – Agenda Item 26

Rey Torres moved, seconded by Tammy Myers to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm with a 6-0-3 vote.

The next regular Board Meeting/Public Budget Hearing will be held on **Tuesday, May 5, 2015** at 6:30 p.m. (executive session) and 7:30 p.m. (open business meeting) in the High School Cafeteria.

Transcribed by *Dawn R. Lasch*
Dawn R. Lasch, Clerk of the Board
Port Jervis Board of Education

04/23/15