

# THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY, NY

**TODAY'S  
STUDENTS.**



**TOMORROW'S  
LEADERS.**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: March 20, 2013  
Type of Meeting: **WORKSHOP**  
Location: School 1

## MINUTES

### I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 6:00 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds, President, called the meeting to order.

### II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mrs. Anne Wager-Rounds, President  
Mr. Bill Strang, Vice President  
Ms. Ilene Clinton  
Ms. Elizabeth Denio  
Mr. Tom Mayo  
Mr. Jason Schofield  
Mr. Michael Tuttmann

Members Absent: Mrs. Carol Harvin  
Ms. Martha Walsh

Also Present: Dr. Brian Howard, Interim Superintendent  
Mr. John Carmello, Assistant Superintendent  
of Curriculum and Instruction  
Ms. Mary O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Ms. Kristen Miaski, Human Resources Director  
Ms. Kathleen Cietek, Treasurer  
Ms. Kathy Ahearn, School Attorney

Citizens Advisory Committee: Mrs. Mary Ellen Adams  
Mr. David Heyward  
Mr. Ken Hughes  
Mr. Tom Meyer  
Mrs. Jeannie Steigler

CAC Absent: Mr. Richard Ellis

### III. DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Wager-Rounds announced the Girls Basketball Team will be playing on Friday morning at the Times Union Center in Federation Tournament. She thanked Elizabeth Denio for delivering over 1500 letters to the Legislature from the Troy community.

### IV. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

### ACTION ITEM

#### V. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION - BUSINESS FINANCE (Reviewed by M. O'Neill)

**Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Item 1.**

**Second: Mr. Strang**

**Discussion: Mr. Tuttmann said the savings will we see in this contract is excellent considering our financially difficult times.**

**Carried: 7-0**

#### 1. Addendum to Agreement - Star & Strand Transportation, Inc. (Addendum I)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a five-year contract extension with Star & Strand Transportation Inc., through June 30, 2019 per the terms of the attached agreement.

### NON-ACTION ITEMS

### VI. GE ENERGY PRESENTATION

Dr. Howard introduced Tim Schmehl of GE Energy, Cris Schrader of SEED, Professor Michael Jansen, and Professor Terrace McGovern discussed a collaboration of secondary and post-secondary academia and local business in a solar lighting project at Troy High School.

Mr. Schmehl described the scope of the project to surround students with a renewable energy experience. Solar photovoltaic panels will provide low cost energy and high efficiency lighting fixtures in selected areas. The primary focus of the project is educational content with a modest economic benefit for Troy High School.

The District's role will be to designate a specific location for the panels; obtain necessary permits and approvals; provide facility maintenance staff for support; participate in installation and commissioning; assume operation and maintenance responsibility and involve teachers to incorporate the solar electric and lighting systems in the classroom curriculum.

The project would be at no cost to the District. There are twelve 3'x5' solar panels. The District would own the panels. There is no warranty on the panels but GE Energy would support project down the road. The proposed location for the panels are front upper floor of THS. RPI students would like to work with Troy teachers to incorporate solar energy into the curriculum and expose our students to additional career choices as they go to college. This is a great educational opportunity for Troy students.

The project will require BOE approval for NYSERDA grant. The goal is have panels operational by the end of the year. School attorney will prepare a MOA and project will be placed on future BOE agenda for approval.

## VII. BUSINESS FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer's Report - Ms. Kathy Cietek sent February 2013 reports to Board members in the Friday packet. She stated that all accounts have been reconciled. There were no questions.

## VIII. 2013-14 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Carmello made a power point presentation of Draft 4 of the 2013-14 budget. He showed additional savings from Draft 3 in the amount of \$253,869. Mr. Carmello has found other avenues to close the gap besides reducing personnel and impacting the education of our students. These include Ms. O'Neill re-negotiating the contract with Star and Strand for transportation (approved by BOE on this agenda) which will result in savings of \$180,000. We will not be replacing vacant physical therapist which will save \$68,869. Kathy Burns has confirmed we can adequately serve special education students with current staffing. We will also see savings next year because the Alternative Learning Program at School 1 will not need to utilize the YMCA for physical ed classes, resulting in savings of \$8,000

Discussion Items: At the Board's request, Mr. Carmello researched coaching stipends based on 2010-11 which were \$217,552. Most assistant coach positions were eliminated several years ago by combining with four other sports. Stipends for Clubs and Activities for 2010-11 were \$211,283. \$11,000 is paid to Junior/Senior Advisors (proms and special activities). Mr. Mariano will look into this Marching Band is \$20,000 (parades).

Board would like to see savings of 20% in club stipends and \$25,000 savings in athletics. Mr. Mayo requested detail for sports.

Savings in 2013-14 budget would include the Rensselaer County's Drug Free program counselor is each elementary building one day per week. Half of this salary is paid by the County; the other half by the District in the amount of \$34,800. The German program has 7 students this year at a cost of \$20,770. Reducing school supplies by \$62,780. Two THS positions changing from Full Time to Part Time for \$22,932 savings (budget already reflected not replacing one of these positions).

Centralized bus pickup was discussed and could save \$30,000 in fuel costs. This would not need voter approval. Elementary enrichment and remediation costs range from \$7,000 to \$18,000 but removing this could make charter schools more attractive. Mrs. Steigler, CAC member, suggested block scheduling to save money. Dr. Howard has seen this in other districts but it did not result in much savings.

Mr. Carmello handed out a report of elementary sections and class sizes. Class sizes have been reviewed and we will make decisions on best education for our students. When 6th grade is moved into the Middle School, we will reduce staff by one.

Mr. Carmello stated the biggest increase in the budget is charter school tuition. We have begun to plan efforts to bring back our students. We will need support from BOCES to assist with the brochure. We will give parents an informed choice for their child's education. Ms. Clinton would like to see the number of students moving to Charter Schools based on re-districting. Mrs. Harvin asked if data showed students who leave and come back. She would also like us to look at part-time positions to save money.

Board members asked the following questions: Who gets athletic admission fees? (goes to general fund). Do college classes need to meet every day? (classes meet every other day and there would be no savings here). Is Assistant Athletic Director mandated? (no). Do we need Freshman teams? (we have always had Freshman teams). Football has large coaching staff (these positions are split). Only savings would be to reduce a sport.

State Aid - We are still waiting for final numbers. Our advocacy efforts resulted in 1567 letters delivered to our legislators! Thank you to everyone for a very successful campaign. Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin has sent a response to the BOE. We will begin earlier next year to contact legislators.

Tax Levy - Board indicated they would not like levy higher than 2.99%. This will be difficult to balance education and financial. Mrs. Rounds said she was concerned that new City assessment would result in angry voters in May. Assessment does not mean more money for the District.

## IX. POLICY

### Conflict of Interest Policy 9120.1

The Board did a second review of new policy addressing potential conflict of interest situations with regard to employee/supervisory issues such as supervision, evaluation or hiring of a relative. Language "in confidence" will be removed from sample policy.

## X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The March 27th workshop meeting will be held at Troy High School so Board may recognize Girls and Boys Basketball teams prior to meeting.

- March 27, 2013 (THS) - Workshop Meeting at 6:30 pm
- April 10, 2013 (PS14) - Business Meeting at 7 pm
- April 23, 2013 (PS1) - Workshop at 6 pm (Tuesday)

## XI. ADJOURN

At 8:15 pm, Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Strang and carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Beth Bruno  
Board Clerk