

THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY, NY

**TODAY'S
STUDENTS.**



**TOMORROW'S
LEADERS.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: March 27, 2013
Type of Meeting: **WORKSHOP**
Location: Troy High School

MINUTES

6:00 pm - The Board of Education held a brief reception for the THS Boys and Girls Basketball teams recognizing them for the following championship titles:
Boys Basketball – 2013 Section II Class AA Regional Champion (last held title in 2002).
Girls Basketball – 2013 Section 2 Class A Champions; 2013 NYS Class A Regional Champions; 2013 NYSPHSAA Class A State Champions; 2013 NYS Federation of Secondary School Athletic Association Finalist. (Troy has not held these titles since 1989).

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 6:30 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
Mrs. Carol Harvin
Mr. Tom Mayo
Mr. Jason Schofield
Ms. Martha Walsh

Members Absent: Mr. Michael Tuttmann

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

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

CAC Absent: Mr. Richard Ellis
Mr. Tom Meyer

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

School 2 SIG - Dr. Howard, Interim Superintendent, reported that the District was awarded a School Improvement Grant ("SIG") for School 2. This is wonderful news and we will not have to take money for the 2013-14 budget needed for other areas in the District. With the grant we will make a difference to students who have been in need.

Options to receive the grant were (1) replace principal and 50 percent of staff; (2) close School 2 and re-open as a charter school; (3) close School 2 when there is no hope of improvement; or (4) transform School 2 which requires a change in leadership and behavioral change by instructional personnel. The best choice for all was to transform. A tentative timeline begins in early April with faculty and community meetings; May through July - move forward with mandates under transformation model.

Transformation model includes replacing principal; reward staff who are increasing student outcome; implement an instructional model based on student needs; provide professional development; provide increased learning time and social-emotional and community-oriented services.

Dr. Howard stated School 2 must change because 84 percent of our students are not receiving a quality education. We have a mandate that we have to change. Our obligation is to all students and this grant has given us the opportunity to make these changes.

He stated that Ms. Martin, Principal of School 2, is involved with her community and cares deeply for her students. Dr. Howard stated he has a high regard for Ms. Martin and it is unfortunate that the grant requires new leadership; he wishes to thank her.

IV. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

(1) Janet Morandi (School 2 teacher) - Ms. Morandi stated she has been a teacher for 32 years and the last 11 years at School 2. She stated the following: No one wants to improve achievement more than the principal; faculty and staff at School 2. No one is opposed to the intent of the SIG grant and we have been asking for support for many years. Test scores have fallen in past two years due to recent changes to State assessment and this is happening across the New York with hundreds of schools with similar demographics. She believes the District leaders owe PS2 principal, staff and faculty an apology for the way this grant was developed and kept secret. She feels Ms. Martin deserves a separate apology for negative statements made. She stated that the Union representative did not read the grant before signing it.

(2) Jeffrey Shanno (School 2 teacher) - Mr. Shaney continued to read statement prepared by Ms. Morandi. He read that there were other reform options besides the grant. Transformation could have been done as a collaboration with School 2 faculty. An extended school day is a breach of contract. It is a shame that the person fighting for our students for years has been forced to leave.

(3) Lorenzo Davis (PS2 grandparent) - He believes there is a conflict with TTA President and BOE Ms. Walsh. Mr. Davis stated he is in School 2 everyday and the real problem is the students who are in need of professional mental assistance. The teachers need help with the students they have; we love Miss Martin. He does not think people in the community are happy about this. Our school needs a playground.

(4) Catherine Amazon (PS2 teacher) - She has taught for 20 years and most of her career has been at School 2 because she chose to be at School 2. The grant said it was a collaboration but that is not true. TTA union leader did not read the grant but signed it. Leaders have attempted to damage our reputation. She sent an email to BOE to read at School 2 but did not receive a response. Please stop statements to the press which put us down.

(5) Mark Walsh (TTA President) - Mr. Walsh stated that for years money has been pulled back and forth. He said he signed the grant because he saw it as an opportunity for students. He looks forward to a true collaboration that should have been done sooner. We should respect the feelings of School 2 faculty. He

ACTION ITEMS

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION - HUMAN RESOURCES

A. Staff Matters - Classified (Reviewed by K. Miaski)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, NY, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following classified personnel actions:

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

Second: Mr. Strang

Carried: 8-0

1. Classified Employee - Probationary Appointments

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION TITLE</u>	<u>% SERVICE</u>	<u>ASSIGN</u>	<u>PROB START DATE</u>	<u>PROB END DATE</u>	<u>SALARY RATE</u>
a. Theresa Kaniff	Secretary	100%	District (Technology Dept)	4/15/13	10/14/13	\$32,172 (S-1, Gr 9)

VI. BOARD RESOLUTION

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Item A.

Second: Mr. Strang

Carried: 7-0-1 (Mrs. Harvin abstained)

A. Settlement Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy hereby approves a settlement agreement concerning the subject employee identified on confidential schedule "A", and authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the written settlement agreement.

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Item B.

Second: Ms. Walsh

Carried: 7-1 (Mr. Schofield voted no.)

B. New Policy (Addendum I)

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy hereby approves the creation of the following policy:

Conflict of Interest 9120.1

NON-ACTION ITEMS

VII. 2013-14 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT - DRAFT 4

Mr. Carmello discussed Draft 4 of the budget and reported that the District received notice of State Aid to be an increase of \$559,297 and bullet aid of \$100,000. He felt our advocacy efforts paid off and thanked everyone who assisted with the letter campaign to our legislators. There is an error in State's calculation of number of charter school students reported; we will have this corrected.

School 2 SIG - Mr. Carmello reported that the School Improvement Grant (SIG) for School 2 will amount to \$4.25 million over three years. This will benefit the entire District because we will not have to use general funds which would deplete sources from other schools to make changes necessary at School 2. Without the grant, SED still required changes to School 2 by 2013-14 including extending the school day.

Draft 4 - Mr. Carmello stated we have made all possible cuts without negatively impacting students. Savings from Draft 3 include: no YMCA expense for gymnasium space for ALC students; re-negotiated savings with Star & Strand contract; not replacing physical therapist; not renewing Drug Free Program in elementary schools; eliminate German in THS; reducing budget for building supplies by 40 percent and reducing charter school tuition costs by 20 students (savings of \$319,720). Total savings from Draft 3 is \$754,346.

Currently Draft 4 shows an increase in aid and tax levy of 3.97%. By law Troy can go up to 4.01% tax levy. To reduce levy to 3.48% we need to cut additional expenditures: do not replace custodian who is retiring; athletic reduction (reduce number of non-league games); co-curricular reduction; reduce one music FTE; and equipment reduction. This will result in additional savings of \$162,566.

Discussion:

Mrs. Adams asked about verification of charter students. To date 90 students have not been verified after three attempts by Trinity Alliance. She recommended with collaborate with other districts who have the same problem.

Mrs. Rounds would like a list of priorities if we are able to reinstate any of the cuts. Equipment cuts and Special Ed reductions are not specific at this time. Dr. Howard said we are already on skeletal crew and further cuts would hurt students. We would like to see charter school savings in January. Mrs. Harvin in not in favor of cutting freshman basketball. She would like a list of part-time positions. Mr. Strang asked about impact of Futures Study and projections for students coming back to the District. We will know this after annual reviews at end of this school year. Mr. Mayo would like to see duties for Assistant Athletic Director.

The Board expressed concern that the City's new assessment will make it more difficult to pass the school budget. Mrs. Steigler said tax levy of 3.48% would be difficult to pass. She suggested Troy look at access cards for public transportation. Mr. Carmello had a conversation with CDTA and will meet with them in June.

Mrs. Rounds stated that she wanted to make a clarification from previous budget discussions regarding the Marching Band. She is not against having a March Band; she requested stipends be reviewed for all activities. Mrs. Adams suggested that professional development be paid for with grant funds when possible. We need to look at savings generated from Zak House and School 1 when vacant.

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Carmello requested a special budget meeting on April 3rd (over spring break). It will be held at School 1 at 6:00 pm.

- April 10, 2013 (PS14) - Business Meeting at 7 pm
- April 23, 2013 (PS1) - Workshop at 6 pm (Tuesday)

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 pm the Public Session was adjourned and Mrs. Rounds made a motion to move to Executive Session for an appeal matter. Kathy Ahearn, School Attorney, also attended.

X. ADJOURN

The Executive Session was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Beth Bruno
Board Clerk