

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL
GREENE, NEW YORK
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2014**

A Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President, Richard Boeltz, in the Board of Education conference room, High School/Middle School complex, 40 South Canal Street, Greene, N.Y.

CALL TO ORDER

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Richard Boeltz, President
Mr. Ethan Day, Vice-President
Mrs. Karen Hendershott
Mr. Timothy Crumb
Mr. James Strenkert
Mrs. Helen Hunsinger
Mrs. Tammie McCauley

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Jonathan Retz, Superintendent
Mr. Mark Rubitski, Business Manager
Mr. James Walters, High School Principal
Mr. Timothy Calice, Middle School Principal
Mr. Bryan Ayres, Intermediate School Principal
Ms. Ramona Luettger, Director of Special Services
Mr. Jordon Lilley, Transportation/Building & Grounds Supervisor

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Donna Utter, District Clerk

- Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by Day, to adjourn to Executive Session for the following at 7:05 p.m.:
 - Special Education Placements
 - Confidential Personnel Matter
 - Negotiations Update

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Yes-7, No-0

- Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, a motion was made by Hendershott, seconded by Crumb, to approve the following placement(s):
#710023265; #710023302.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
PLACEMENTS**

Yes-7No-0

- Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Hendershott, to adjourn Executive Session at 7:53 p.m.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE

Yes-7, No-0

- President Boeltz reconvened the meeting in the MS/HS Auditorium due to the number of people in attendance at 7:58 p.m.

RECONVENE

- 5. BUSINESS & FINANCE

Add: 6. Contract Award for Environmental Testing

**ADDITIONS/
DELETIONS
TO AGENDA**

- Motion made by Hendershott, seconded by Crumb, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on October 15, 2014 with the following correction:
Page 4, Workers' Compensation Meeting Update: replace the last two sentences with "*One of Greene's outstanding cases has been settled.*"

**APPROVE MINUTES
10/1514**

Yes-7, No-0

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CALENDAR**

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- November 21 – ½ Day for K-5 Students (Parent Conferences PM)
- November 21 & 22 Area All State Chorus @ SUNY Oneonta
- November 24 – G.C.S. Band & So. Tier Concert Band – Auditorium – 7:30 p.m.
- November 26-28 – Thanksgiving Recess
- December 2 – HS Band & Chorus Concert – 7:00 p.m.
- December 3 – Blood Drive 8:00-1:30 – Auditorium Lobby
- December 3 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- December 5 – Hometown Holiday Concert @ Zion
- December 9 – MS Band & Chorus Concert – 7:00 p.m.
- December 10 – Budget Cmte. Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
- December 13 – PTO Kids Day Out – 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- December 13 – PTO Family Movie Night – 5:00 p.m.
- December 16 – Intermediate Winter Holiday Concert – Auditorium – 7:00 p.m.
- December 17 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- December 22 – January 2 – Holiday Recess

**PUBLIC COMMENT:
MARIE SCOFIELD**

- Marie Scofield, President of the GTA, stated that GTA concerns had been previously shared with Board members and as a result of those unresolved concerns, the GTA requested that the Board not extend the Superintendent's contract at this time and instead address the GTA's concerns prior to extending the contract.

RENEE LAPORTE

- Renee LaPorte, parent, former employee, and taxpayer in the Greene Central School District requested that the Board not approve the extension of the Superintendent's contract citing the following reasons:

- Current contract does not expire until 2016 and to extend 3-5 years beyond that at this time and end up possibly buying him out before the expiration of his contract is expensive and not in the best interest of the district;
- Teachers are currently working without a contract and are the individuals responsible for properly preparing our students for the future;
- The district needs a leader who leads by example;
- Board members have an obligation to listen to the community and members of the school community and do what is right.

BETH DANIELS

- Beth Daniels, teacher and taxpayer, stated that she is opposed extending the Superintendent's contract.

DEB KRUPP

- Deb Krupp, teacher, parent, and taxpayer stated that she is opposed to the extension of the Superintendent's contract.

SANDRA ACEVEDO

- Sandra Acevedo, parent and taxpayer, requested that the Board take more time to consider the contract extension and not vote on the contract tonight.

JACKI BARTON

- Jackie Barton, parent and taxpayer, stated that she had asked at the October 1, 2015 board meeting if Civil Service requirements had been met in combining the buildings & grounds and transportation supervisor positions. The district informed her that they follow and work within Civil Service guidelines, which require an applicant to take a test and finish in the top 3. Ms. Barton checked with Civil Service and Mr. Lilley's title has not changed from Head Bus Driver. She also asked that the Board not extend the Superintendent's contract.

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- Colin Evans, teacher and taxpayer, stated that he was opposed to extending the Superintendent's contract.

COLIN EVANS

- Stacey Diamond, teacher, parent and taxpayer, stated that she was opposed to extending the Superintendent's contract, and asked that the district find ways to correct current problems rather than create new ones.

STACEY DIAMOND

- Kyra Yanusas, a senior and President of the Band, reported on recent band activities that she felt were a good educational experience for band members. They included:

KYRA YANUSAS

- On November 1st the attended a Syracuse football game to play during the half-time show with the Syracuse University Band.
- A recent dress rehearsal with the Southern Tier Concert Band in preparation for their upcoming concert on November 24th.

- John Sininger, teacher and resident, spoke regarding the upcoming Southern Tier Band/GCS High School Band concert. He stated that the Southern Tier Band's mission is to encourage young musicians by playing with them and allowing them the opportunity to hear what a professional ensemble sounds like. It is a great educational opportunity for students. He also stated that several conductors with be directing the bands include Heather Kriesel.

JOHN SININGER

- Kelly Meagley, expressed frustration over recent custody and discipline issues regarding her son. She filed a FOIL request for some information from the District Office, but has yet to receive that information. She also is not happy with a recent letter from the Board regarding a discipline matter and her request to have the matter rescinded and removed from her son's records, which the Board denied. Mrs. Meagley informed the Board that she has an attorney and if need be, will get him involved to obtain the information she has requested. In light of her interactions with the Superintendent, she also requested that the Board not extend the Superintendent's contract.

KELLY MEAGLEY

- President Boeltz responded to Mrs. Meagley that personal student issues would not be discussed in public session.

- None.

**REPORT(S):
EDUCATION & PERSONNEL:**

- **The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following board action:**

- Motion made by Day, seconded by Crumb, to extend the current Superintendent's Contract for one year, resulting in the contractual agreement covering a three (3) year period commencing on July 1, 2014, and terminating on June 30, 2017, and authorizing the Board President to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
CONTRACT**

- A discussion amongst the Board members followed:

- Board member, Ethan Day, stated that the Board has an oversight responsibility prior to voting on items. Approving an important, binding personnel document requires careful thought and consideration. Mr. Day does not feel sufficient time to review the Superintendent's contract was provided. Mr. Day also stated that he thought the Board had agreed on a process and a timetable to address ongoing issues, and for reasons that are unclear, that did not happen. He asked that board members use caution when considering this vote.

ETHAN DAY

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TAMMIE MCCAULEY**

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- Board member, Tammie McCauley, stated she felt it is important to keep in mind the specific concerns brought to us by the GTA. She stated that it had also been brought to her attention, on more than one occasion, that other faculty are afraid to speak up for fear of retaliation. This is a serious concern.

PRESIDENT RICH BOELTZ

- Board President, Rich Boeltz, stated that he felt there was some confusion and misinformation and he is not sure how to go about addressing that. He stated that rolling over the Superintendent's contract for one more year is standard procedure. He also stated that the vote could be tabled.
The board then voted on the original motion.
Yes-3, No-4 (McCauley, Hendershott, Day, Strenkert)

**EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE -
MATTHEW FARGO-
CUSTODIAN**

- The Superintendent has recommended that Mr. Matthew Fargo be dismissed from custodial worker service with the district. The employee was given notice of this meeting but failed to respond.
- Motion made by Crumb, seconded by McCauley, IT IS RESOLVED that the employment of Mr. Matthew Fargo is hereby terminated effective immediately.
Yes-7, No-0

**TRIP REQUEST(S):
SENIOR TRIP
DESTINATION
REVISION**

- Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by McCauley, to approve the change in destination of the previously approved (10/15/14) Senior Trip from Sandusky, OH to Virginia Beach, VA on June 9-12, 2015.
Yes-7, No-0

**7th GRADE TRIP
TO ALBANY, NY**

- Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by McCauley, to approve the trip request of the 7th grade class to go to Albany, NY on May 1, 2015, pending approval of transportation by Greene's Transportation Supervisor.
Yes-7, No-0

**RESCIND APPOINTMENT
RAMONA LUETTGER
AS A LEAD EVALUATOR**

- Motion made by Day, seconded by Hendershott, to rescind the previous appointment on October 15, 2014 of Ramona Luetzger as a Lead Evaluator.
Yes-7, No-0

**RESIGNATION(S):
DAVID SZELKOWSKI
BUS DRIVER**

- Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by Crumb, to accept th resignation to retire of David Szelkowski, Bus Driver, effective December 31, 2014 with appreciation.
Yes-7, No-0

**APPOINTMENT(S):
SUBSTITUTE ROSTERS
2014-2015**

- Motion made by Day, seconded by Crumb, to appoint the following individuals to the Substitute Rosters for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year effective November 20, 2014:

- Anthony Bertoline – Substitute Maintenance Worker
- Andrew Pier – Substitute Custodian
- Christopher Dunlap – Substitute Custodian
- Karen Wasser – Substitute Bus Driver & Substitute Bus Monitor

Yes-7, No-0

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL
SICK BANK REQUEST-
VALERIE WEIR – AIDE**

- Upon the recommendation of the Non-Instructional Sick Bank Committee, a motion was made by McCauley, seconded by Crumb, to approve the request of Valerie Weir, Teacher's Aide, for the withdrawal of forty (40) days from the non-instructional sick bank to cover a medical leave of absence from November 17, 2014 through January 29, 2015.
Yes-7, No-0

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**BUSINESS & FINANCE:
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS**

- Interest earned was divided and put into Student Council Accounts for the Middle and High Schools and the Education Enhancement account for the Primary and Intermediate schools. These accounts benefit all students in each of the buildings.

- Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by Day, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the Extracurricular Student Activity Accounts for October 2014 as presented.

Yes-7, No-0

- Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Hendershott, to accept the Budget Status Reports for October 2014 for the General Fund, School Lunch Fund, and Federal Grants & Capital Budgets as presented.

Yes-7, No-0

**REVENUE & BUDGET
STATUS REPORTS**

- An email from DCMO BOCES Central Business Office explaining the reason for the larger than normal number of corrections (change in personnel) was explained to the Board.

- Motion made by Day, seconded by Crumb, to accept the Internal Claims Audit Report for October 2014 as presented.

Yes-7, No-0

**INTERNAL CLAIMS
AUDIT REPORT**

- Mark Rubitski shared information regarding this program with the Board over the previous two meetings. He is going to have John Deierlein from NBT come to the next board meeting to further discuss this item.

**DEPOSIT PLACEMENT /
RECIPROCAL DEPOSIT
PROGRAM**

- The Board reviewed materials provided at a recent meeting of the BTB Health Insurance Consortium. The consortium had their annual audit performed and it was a clean opinion. Greene is one of six members of the twenty total members with a marginal fund balance. Costs are continuing to be driven by increasing prescription prices. Mr. Rubitski is continuing to meet with our management company to seek recommendations for controlling our health costs and alternative options available.

**BTB HEALTH INSUR.
CONSORTIUM**

- Mark Rubitski shared information regarding the environmental Testing RFP that TetraTech sent out and received bids on. This is necessary in order to move forward in the project.

**AWARD ENVIRON.
TESTING BID-
ALECS, LLC**

- Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Day to award the bid for Environmental Testing to ALECS, LLC in the amount of \$14,122 as the low bidder, and to authorize the Board President to sign the contract on behalf of the district.

Yes-7, No-0

- Mark Rubitski gave an update on the Capital Project. Meetings have been occurring with affected parties regarding the auditorium, kindergarten wing, locker room items, as well as asbestos work to be done.

**CAPITAL PROJECT
UPDATE**

- Board member McCauley asked if a representative from the Board's Buildings & Grounds Committee has been involved in meetings. Mr. Rubitski stated that once the basic items are ironed out that they will then be included in the discussions and then brought before the entire Board for their review and approval.

- Mark Rubitski informed the Board that 4 new touch pads have been ordered at a cost of \$4,520 which will be transferred from the pool maintenance fund. Other equipment involving the timing system will be ordered in the fall. **POOL UPDATE**

- Board member, Tammy McCauley, expressed concern that we are waiting to fix the timing system. She stated that replacing the touch pads does not fix the timers as they are two different systems. She asked if the money is available in the maintenance fund, why are we waiting to repair the entire system?

- Superintendent Retz stated that more information on this would be gathered before the next meeting.

- Mark Rubitski, Jordon Lilley and Superintendent Retz will be meeting with a representative from Direct Energy who has been discussing natural gas possibilities with Raymond.

**OUTSTANDING BOARD
ACTIONS LIST**

<u>Bd. Directed</u>	<u>Task To Be Completed</u>	<u>Responsibility Of</u>	<u>Report Back</u>
3/7/07	Policy/Procedure Manual	Board and Superintendent	Ongoing
6/18	iPad Classroom Use Update	5 th Grade & Staff	2 nd December

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

- **Superintendent, Jonathan Retz, reported on the following:**

1. Board Self-Evaluation Plan – Mr. Retz shared this with the Board which was based on recommendations submitted by the Board self-evaluations. He asked for feedback from board members.

2. Discussion Items from BOCES Superintendents' meeting -

- Greene will receive 1.4 million dollars from the Smart Bond, however there has been no direction or guidance from NYS as of this date.

- Fingerprinting will no longer be done through BOCES. The State sent out RFP's to enlist a third party to perform that process. There will be designated sites throughout the state where individuals will have to go to be fingerprinted as of July 1st. This will affect new hires.

3. Voting Machines – Use of lever voting machines has been Extended until December 2015, however Superintendent Retz is Recommending that we go to paper ballots and pilot that process this year. Donna Utter, District Clerk, polled all area districts in our BOCES and they are all going with a paper ballot process.

4. iPad Roll Out – Going well with some grades using them daily and good cooperation amongst staff members.

5. Veterans' Day Assembly – The Veterans' Day program during Morning Program was nice and appreciated by the 20 or so veterans that attended and were recognized.

6. Rotary Christmas Baskets – Middle/High School Student Councils are leading the canned food drive. Superintendent Retz thanked the advisors for their coordination.

7. Middle School Footlights – Seussical production was phenomenal.

- Chris Mack, Primary School teacher, reminded everyone that the kindergarten Thanksgiving feast is November 21st with feasting beginning at 11:15.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- BETH DANIELS** - Beth Daniels, teacher and former club advisor, stated that she remembers when advisors would receive monthly treasurer's reports with interest being allocated to each individual account, based on a percentage of the whole.
- SCOTT YOUNGS** - Scott Youngs, community member, applauded the Board for not approving the Superintendent's contract extension. He also asked what the process is moving forward regarding any extension.
- President Boeltz responded that another extension can be done at any time.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Motion made by Day, seconded by Crumb, to adjourn to Executive Session for negotiations and a personnel matter at 9:00 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0
- ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Motion made by Day, seconded by McCauley to adjourn Executive Session at 10:32 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0
- RECONVENE** - President Boeltz reconvened the meeting at 10:32 p.m.
- ADJOURNMENT** - Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Strenkert, to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Marie Utter
District Clerk