

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL
GREENE, NEW YORK
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015**

A Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:00 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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Mark Rubitski, Business Manager
Mr. James Walters, High School Principal
Mr. Timothy Calice, Middle School Principal
Mr. Bryan Ayres, Intermediate School Principal, Director of PE and Athletics
Mrs. Shelly Richards, Primary School Principal
Mrs. Ramona Luetzger, Director of Special Services
Mr. Jordon Lilley, Transportation & Buildings & Grounds Supervisor

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Donna Utter, District Clerk

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Day, to adjourn to Executive Session for the following at 7:01 p.m.:
 - Special Education Placements
 - Negotiations Update
 - Confidential Personnel Matter

Yes-7, No-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, a motion was made by Hunsinger, seconded by Hendershott, to approve the following placement(s):
#710123213; #710123377; #710123595; #710125286;
#710125188; #710123352.

Yes-7, No-0

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
PLACEMENTS**

- Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Strenkert, to adjourn Executive Session at 7:44 p.m.

Yes-7, No-0

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE

- Due to the number of public present, the meeting was moved to the auditorium.

- President Boeltz reconvened the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

RECONVENE

- 4. EDUCATION AND PERSONNEL
Delete: 7. Adopt 2015-2016 Proposed Academic Calendar

**ADDITIONS/
DELETIONS TO
AGENDA**

- Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Hunsinger, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on March 4, 2015 and Executive Session held on March 4, 2015 as presented.

Yes-7, No-0

**APPROVE MINUTES
3/4/15 & EXEC.
SESSION**

CALENDAR

- March 19 – Kindergarten Parent Information Night – 6:30 – Primary School
- March 21 – All-County Concert in Afton – 3:00 in Afton Gym
- March 25 – Robotics Competition 9:00 – 12:00 - Auditorium
- March 25 – Budget Committee Meeting – 4:00 p.m.
- March 26 – Music In Our Schools Concert – 7:00 p.m. - Auditorium
- March 30 – April 3 – Spring Recess
- April 1 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- April 8 – Red Cross Blood Drive – Auditorium Lobby
- April 17 – Workers' Compensation Consortium Mtg. – 6:30 p.m.
- April 28 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – *Date Change to Coincide w/BOCES Vote*
- April 30 & May 1 – Screen Free Nights/Wellness Fair
- May 2 – Prom & After-Prom Party
- May 4 – Staff Development Day

**PUBLIC COMMENT:
MARIE SCOFIELD**

- Marie Scofield, GTA President, thanked the Board for the creation of the 3rd grade teaching position. She also stated that the GTA is willing to waive any contractual time line and posting requirements in order to expedite filling the position.

**MOLLY NOLAN –
MARCHING BAND**

- Molly Nolan, Band Booster President, sent out a letter to parents and community regarding re-instating marching band. She apologized stating she had misinformation when sending out the letter and that marching band was never cut from the budget, it was just unfunded due to the low number of participants. Ms. Nolan stated that there is good student interest at this time with 25 students interested in marching band and she would like to see it reinstated/funded.

**KYRA YANUSAS-
MARCHING BAND**

- Kyra Yanusas, President of Band, stated that she has spoke with both the middle school and high school band members and they are interested in marching.

**JAMES DEHAAN-
3RD GRADE POSITION**

- James deHaan, Teacher and parent, stated that he was grateful that the Board decided to create the 3rd grade position and asked when the position would be filled and what impact that will have on current 3rd grade students. He also stated that he hoped it was not a temporary fix.

- President Boeltz responded that the intention is to fill the position as quickly as possible.

**JACKI BARTON-
SUPT. INCREASE**

- Jacki Barton stated that she received a letter home on March 5th (dated February 25th) regarding concerns with the state funding for schools. She stated that if the district was worried about state funding and the district's financial obligations, maybe they should not have approved the raise for the Superintendent.

**SCOTT YOUNGS-
BUSINESS MANAGER'S
CONTRACT**

- Scott Youngs stated that he felt a 5 year contract was an awful long time to mandate a position, in light of financial difficulties facing the district in the coming years. He requested that the Board not approve the contract for 5 years at this time.

**JOHN SININGER-
MARCHING BAND**

- John Sininger, instrumental teacher, thanked the Board for their support of the marching band program as well as other fine arts programs. He stated that having a marching band for Memorial Day is important and a meaningful way to show support to the veterans in our community.

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- Vice-President Day stated that having a marching band does not require Board approval. The Board has voiced their support and there should be plenty of time to reinstitute the marching band program for Memorial Day.

**REPORT(S):
JANUARY REGENTS
REPORT**

- Mr. James Walters, High School Principal, reported to the Board on the recent January Regents. The ELA Regents is the most significant regents taken in January and involves all 11th grade students. Passing percentage this year was less, 73%, than in the past. Historically in the 80% range and the mastery level was also lower this year. The state changed scoring as well as the exam itself, requiring students to do more reading than in the past. The Common Core ELA exam is more of a reading test and we allow students to take both exams but they need only pass one. When grading, staff developed a chart showing strengths and weaknesses based on the exam. The weaknesses will be areas targeted before students take the exam again in June. In June the Common Core ELA exam will be given prior to the ELA regents exam. If students pass the Common Core exam they will not need to take the traditional ELA exam.

Board member Tammie McCauley stated that student exposure to the Common Core exam thus far is limited. Mr. Walters stated that until a class has had exposure to Common Core ELA from K-12, we will not have valid test results.

- Ramona Luetzger, Director of Special Programs, gave a quarterly report to the Board. Her report outlined the following:
 - Current population-261 (preschool, school age, 504 students)
 - Break down of population based on disability
 - Population by school (in district and out)
 - Transfers in and out so far this year
 - Program happenings which included technology providing access to audio books for those students needing them; 60 annual meetings completed to-date; on-going training to improve IEP development by special education staff.
- The Enrollment Report for the period ending February 28, 2015 with a total ending enrollment of 1072 was noted.

EDUCATION & PERSONNEL:

- **The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following board action:**
 - Motion made by Strenkert, seconded by Hendershott, to stay the probationary appointment of Thomas Fargo as a custodial worker from March 4, 2015 meeting, pending NYSED TEACH reaching a final fingerprint clearance determination.
Yes-7, No-0
 - STAY APPOINTMENT
THOMAS FARGO-
CUSTODIAN**
 - Motion made by Strenkert, seconded by Day, to abolish the temporary elementary teacher position created on March 4, 2015 effective immediately.
Yes-7, No-0
 - ABOLISH POSITION-
TEMPORARY ELEM.
TEACHER**
 - Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by Strenkert, to create a teaching position in the tenure area of Elementary Education effective immediately based on the needs of the current third grade class.
Yes-7, No-0
 - CREATE POSITION-
ELEM. TEACHER**
 - Motion made by Day, seconded by Hendershott, to appoint the following individuals as coaches for the Spring 2015 season:
 - SPRING COACHES**

- Sue Carlin – Modified Softball Coach
- Pete Mansheffer – Modified Baseball Coach
- Alex Kenyon & Gage Crumb – Modified Baseball Assistant Co-Coaches

Yes-7, No-0

**MODIFY BOARD
MTG. DATE**

- Motion made by Hendershott, seconded by Crumb, to modify Board meeting dates for April by moving the April 15 meeting to April 28 to coincide with the BOCES Annual Budget Vote as required.

Yes-7, No-0

**MODIFY 2014-2015
ACADEMIC CALENDAR**

- Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Strenkert, to approve modifying the 2014-2015 academic calendar to change May 4, 2015 to a Staff Development Day with no students in attendance.

Yes-7, No-0

**RATIFY BUSINESS
OFFICIAL'S
AGREEMENT**

- Motion made by Day, seconded by Hunsinger, in accordance with Section 204-a of the New York State Civil Service Law, funds are hereby provided to implement the Agreement between the Greene Central School Business Official, Mark Rubitski, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Greene Central School District for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020, and authorize the Superintendent to sign the necessary Memorandums of Understanding to complete the Agreement.

Yes-6, No-1 (McCauley)

**BUSINESS & FINANCE:
MARK RUBITSKI
COMMENT**

- Mark Rubitski, Business Manager, thanked the Board for approving his contract.

**REVENUE & BUDGET
STATUS REPORTS**

- Motion made by Strenkert, seconded by Day, to accept the Budget Status Reports for February 2015 for the General Fund, School Lunch Fund, and Federal Grants & Capital budgets as presented.

Yes-7, No-0

**TREASURER' REPORT
FOR ACTIVITY FUNDS**

- Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by Strenkert, to accept the Treasurer's Report for the Extracurricular Accounts for February 2015 as presented.

Yes-7, No-0

**INTERNAL CLAIMS
AUDIT REPORT**

- Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by Day, to accept the Internal Claims Audit Report for February 2015 as presented.

Yes-7, No-0

**SCHOOL LUNCH FUND
PROGRAM UPDATE**

- Budget figures through February 2015 were reviewed with the Board. The program was projecting a \$14,000 deficit this year. To-date, the program is operating at a \$2,200 deficit. Participation has been steady and discussions are occurring regarding possible funding options. The fund balance has been covering the deficits for the past few years, but is diminishing rapidly.

**REVISED DISTRICT
INVESTMENTS POLICY
#5220 – FIRST
READING**

- Motion made by Hunsinger, seconded by Crumb, to accept the second reading and adoption of revised Policy #5220-District Investments as read.

Yes-7, No-0

- Motion made by Day, seconded by Crumb, to authorize the Board President to sign the NBT Bank application to initiate the Reciprocal Deposit process.

Yes-7, No-0

**NBT BANK
RECIPROCAL DEPOSIT**

- Mark Rubitski, Business Manager, updated the Board on the Budget Committee's work to-date and where we are in the process.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE
UPDATE**

- Budget Committee has completed their review of the specific line items within the budget
- Reduction in retirement system amount - \$237,000
- Payment on Capital Bonds reduced - \$340,000
- The overall proposed budget is \$122,359 below last year's budget
- Revenue Budget is based on governor's budget with no increase in state aid
- Current budget gap between revenues and expenses is \$389,862
- NYS Property Tax Cap Estimate - .3% = \$19,777
- There are "wish list" budget items totaling \$800,00

- Mark Rubitski stated that we are still waiting for information from NY State as to state aid and internally we are prioritizing possible add back items.

- Mark Rubitski updated the Board on the Capital Project. Phase I has been approved by SED and work will begin this summer. April 6th is the pre-bid meeting and April 10th opening of bids.

**CAPITAL PROJECT
UPDATE**

- Phase II has been sent to SED for approval. The estimated turn around time for approval is 26 weeks.

- Mark Rubitski also reported that the Comptroller's Office will be coming to do an audit of the student activity accounts. Mark will be meeting with the auditors on March 30, 2015 to Set up timelines and requirements of the audit.

**ACTIVITY ACCOUNT
AUDIT**

**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
12/17	iPad Classroom Use Update		Ongoing
1/7	Non-Resident Policy		Spring 2015

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

- **The Superintendent was absent, but the following items were brought up to the Board at the Superintendent's request:**

1. Elementary Report Cards – Shelly Richards, Primary School Principal, stated that K-5 are looking at changing their report cards to 3 times a year. This would align more closely with their testing and allows more time for improvement in between reporting periods. A concern was raised regarding possible gaps between reporting periods. Mrs. Richards stated that teachers will still notify parents of concerns especially at the times between report cards. They are also looking into possibly changing when parent conferences are held. Mrs. Richards was polling the Board to see if they would be in support of such a change.

- Board member Hendershott stated that if the staff is supportive then the Board would be open to such a change.

2. Track Assistant Coach – Bryan Ayres, Director of PE and Athletics, stated that track participants are up to 43 with one coach and one assistant. He would like to add a second assistant coach to help with supervision and possible safety issues. The Board was in agreement that the added position is needed.

3. Lacrosse Club – Bryan Ayres, outlined a letter received from Jessica Tropa regarding a Lacrosse Club that would like to run the club through GCS. The club would pay all expenses, but the district would need to supply a coach. The season begins March 23rd and does not look to be feasible this year. There are a number of considerations that need to be reviewed prior to proposed approval: i.e. Title IX implications, insurance coverage, loss of athletes to other programs, certified coach and facilities. The possibility of merging with another school team (Whitney Point) was also discussed. Further review and information will be gathered on the possibilities, but not feasible to implement this year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:
HEATHER KRIESEL-
INSTRUMENTAL
SUMMER LESSONS**

- Heather Kriesel, Instrumental Music Teacher, asked how she would have known that the marching band and/or her summer lesson program was just not funded and not cut? She stated that she was told that she could not have students sign up for the summer lesson program last year.

SCOTT YOUNGS

- Scott Youngs stated that it seems that there is some miscommunication/confusion regarding when budget items are cut and when they are just not funded. He asked that someone answer Ms. Kriesel's question.

PRESIDENT BOELTZ

- President Boeltz stated that there is a chain of command which applies to communication issues also.

CONNIE WHITTAKER

- Connie Whittaker, 3rd grade teacher, thanked the Board for supporting the additional 3rd grade teaching position. She asked that class size continue to be in any budget discussions.

SCOTT YOUNGS

- Scott Youngs also thanked the Board for creating the 3rd grade position and asked if the position is in the budget for the coming school year.

MARK RUBITSKI

- Mark Rubitski stated that the additional teaching position is on the "wish list" of items to possibly add back into the budget.

GEORGE MARR

- Mr. George Marr on behalf of the American Legion thanked the Board for refunding the marching band. He stated that it means a lot to the veterans to have a band on Memorial Day.

CHRISTINE PASKE

- Mrs. Christine Paske stated that she would like to see improvements in communication. Her children were involved in a club swim program offered by the YMCA with the coach coming to our facilities for practices. Mrs. Paske received a letter stating that the program will not be offered this year due to "facility issues". She stated that over the past 3 years, there have been incidents when the pool was not open for scheduled practices even though facility requests had been filed and other occasions when the pool was closed for maintenance/health reasons, but no one contacted the coach in Norwich and she subsequently drove to Greene before finding the pool closed. It is unfortunate that we are losing programs such as this due to a lack of communication.

- Jordon Lilley, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, stated that he was not aware of any admittance issues. He also stated that when the pool is closed he thought that Mr. Platta was the liaison between Greene and the YMCA and that Mr. Platta communicated with the YMCA.

RESPONSE

- Kelly Browning, 3rd grade teacher, thanked board member, Tammie McCauley, for coming in two times a week to help her in the classroom. 25 students is a lot to work effectively with. She would like the Board to realize that it is not just numbers, but also unique needs within those numbers.

KELLY BROWNING

- Chris Mack, Kindergarten teacher, stated that she supports the elementary going to mark reporting 3 times a year. She stated that with the frequency of the mark reporting now, it is overwhelming to try to do assessments before each reporting period as well as instruction. The fewer reports will allow for other activities besides assessments to occur in the classroom.

CHRIS MACK

- Jessica Trepas stated that she is in support of longer periods of time between report cards at the elementary level. She also stated that as a parent she struggles with the common core requirements.

JESSICA TREPA

- Marie Scofield, GTA President, praised all those involved in the Footlights production this past weekend. She also clarified that Mr. Platta is not in charge of facility requests regarding the pool and if that is the presumption then clarification in that area needs to be made. She also commented that during the building project presentations, moving the board room to an existing classroom was not in the original scope of work that was presented.

MARIE SCOFIELD

- Scott Youngs commented on the approval of a 5 year contract for the Business Manager, when the teachers' contract has not been settled yet and would like to see those negotiations move forward. He stated that it is frustrating as a community member that we don't know what the issues are that are preventing a settlement. He also commented on the lack of freedom of speech due to concern of backlash.

SCOTT YOUNGS

- Colin Evans, teacher, asked if the Intermediate School Student Council was cut or unfunded. He stated that when he was in Charge of the Student Council, he found the activity to be beneficial to students. He stated that his understanding is that it was a paid position and then it was cut.

COLIN EVANS

- Jessica Trepa asked who do individuals go to when they have a concern if not the Board.

JESSICA TREPA

- Board member Karen Hendershott responded that there was an article in the recent newsletter (also available on the web page) of the chain of command to follow when concerns arise.

RESPONSE

- Vice-President Day commented that at Board meetings the public is permitted to comment, however it is not a question and answer. The Board hears the comments and may look into the issues further if warranted.

RESPONSE

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Strenkert, to adjourn to Executive Session for a particular personnel matter at 9:38 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION - Motion made by Strenkert, seconded by Day, to adjourn Executive Session at 10:08 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0

RECONVENE - President Boeltz reconvened the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion made by Crumb, seconded by Strenkert, to adjourn the meeting at 10:09 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Marie Utter
District Clerk