
Present: Mrs. Jennifer Rosen, President; Mrs. Dina Brantman, Vice President; Mr. Michael Haberman; Mr. Paul Wasserman

Absent: Mr. Jonathan Satran

Also Present: Mr. James Kaishian, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Stuart Matthey, Asst. Superintendent for Finance & Operations; Dr. Kusum Sinha, Asst. Sup't for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment and H.R.; Mr. David Shaw, School Attorney; Juanita Brockett, District Clerk

The Briarcliff Manor Board of Education held a meeting on Monday, February 23, 2015 in the Middle School Theater and it was called to order by Mrs. Rosen at 7:05 P.M.

On motion by Mr. Haberman, seconded by Mr. Wasserman and passed 3-0, the Board moved to adjourn into executive session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular persons, and Taylor Law negotiations.

Mrs. Brantman arrived at 7:05 P.M.

On motion by Mrs. Brantman, seconded by Mr. Haberman and passed 4-0, the Board moved to adjourn executive session and return to public session at 8:17 P.M.

Presentations

- Athletics Director, Mr. Chris Drosopoulos, provided an overview of the Athletic program budget.
- High School Principal, Mrs. French; Middle School Principal, Mrs. Howard & Todd School Principal, Mrs. McDermott provided an overview of their building budgets.

The following work-session items were discussed:

- Options for School Calendar 2015-16
- WPSBA Advocacy Resolutions
- Follow-up discussion on one-to-one technology

The following financial work session item was reviewed:

- Claims Audit Report January 2015.

Approval of the Minutes

RESOLVED, that upon the Board of Education does hereby approve the minutes of the Board of Education meeting held on February 23, 2015 as presented.

Consent Agenda

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education does hereby approve the following consent agenda items:

Personnel

- (a) RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education does hereby approve the appointment of Ms. Corinne Crain as Advisor for the Middle School Co-Curricular, Coding Club for the 2014-2015 school year.
- (b) RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education does hereby approve the appointment of the following Spring 2015 coaches:

Coaching Assignment	Coach	New	Incumbent	Stipend
V Girls Lax Coach	Jessica McDonough	X		\$6,189
JV Girls Lax Head Coach	Daniel Perito		X	\$4,839
V Track Asst. Coach	Wendi Bean	X		\$4,600
Mod Softball Head Coach	Edwin Dow	X		\$3,153

Surplus Material Facilitator

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education does hereby approve the seller agreement with The Public Group LLC., (dba Public Surplus) for auction management services in relation to declared surplus and/or obsolete equipment at no cost to the district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes the Board President to execute the agreement between the District and the above listed contractor. A copy of such agreement shall be incorporated by reference within the minutes of this meeting.

Claims Audit Report – January 2015

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby accept the Claims Audit Report submitted for January 2015.

Medical Examination of Employee

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is hereby authorized to direct a comprehensive medical examination and evaluation, including additional examinations and evaluations, if necessary, of Employee No.2025, in accordance with the provisions of Section 913 of the Education Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby directs that Employee No. 2025 submit their medical records, if any, from the last two years to the designated physician(s) at or before such examination/evaluation.

Action Items

NYS Release of 2015-16 State Aid Proposal & Corresponding School Aid Runs

On motion by Mrs. Brantman, seconded by Mr. Haberman and passed 4-0, the Board of Education does hereby approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New York State Educational Conference Board – comprised of the seven leading educational organizations representing parents, classroom teachers, school-related professionals, school business officials, building administrators, superintendents and school boards – calls upon the state to immediately release a 2015-2016 state aid proposal and corresponding school aid runs allocating the approximate \$1.1 billion increase as presented by the Governor last week; and

WHEREAS, in our collective memory, it is unprecedented for the state to withhold the release of executive budget aid runs. These aid runs are not simply a state budget “tradition”, they are necessary and indeed critical to the local budget development process for hundreds of school districts across the state; and

WHEREAS, just like at the state level, the budget process begins well before any voting deadlines. All stakeholders in the school district community, including taxpayers, parents, teachers, students, school boards and other school leaders play an important role. Without projected aid runs, school districts cannot responsibly develop their budgets or adequately involve our communities in the process; and

WHEREAS, in fact, the property tax levy cap, first proposed and enacted by the state in 2011, requires school districts to utilize the executive budget aid runs that are currently being withheld to formulate a tax levy calculation. Under the law, school districts are required to submit a “2016 Proposed Levy” to the state by March 1st in order to calculate a district-specific tax levy limit figure. Establishing a proposed tax levy is impossible without knowing projected state revenue; and

WHEREAS, in order to establish the tax cap calculation as of March 1st, State Education Department guidance directs school districts to use “applicable executive budget computer runs” to estimate anticipated building aid and transportation aid. The withholding of aid runs makes this impossible; and

WHEREAS, the budget bills released Wednesday, January 21, 2015, also do not include any language regarding how any potential state aid would be distributed. Even if a school district had the time and capability to decipher the state’s traditionally complex school aid formula, they would still not be able to estimate their aid based on the information missing from the executive proposal; and

WHEREAS, this is not a matter of politics or even a policy debate. This is a matter of basic government function and an informed decision-making process for our communities. School districts should not be held hostage in this process. The current situation is chaotic and dysfunctional.

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Briarcliff Manor School District hereby calls on New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to amend his Executive Budget proposal to include a state aid proposal that allocates and distributes to school districts the approximate \$1.1 billion school aid increase cited in his recent State-of-the-State address. For school districts, until that is done, the Executive Budget is simply incomplete. The Governor should release a state aid proposal and associated aid runs without delay; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Reform Governor Cuomo's 2015 Opportunity Agenda for Education

On motion by Mrs. Brantman, seconded by Mr. Haberman and passed 4-0, the Board of Education does hereby approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, there is agreement with Governor Cuomo that “access to education, from pre-kindergarten through college, can pave the way to economic and social opportunities- to better jobs and more successful lives,” many of the proposals in the Governor’s 2015 Opportunity Agenda are untenable and will have significant negative consequences.

WHEREAS, most schools in New York State successfully educate our children and prepare them for college, career and good citizenship, the Governor’s proposals are based on a premise that our schools and our teachers are failing our students. While failing schools and the link to issues of poverty require special attention, this one size fits all approach is inappropriate, costly, and counter-productive.

WHEREAS, the Governor states that there has been an unprecedented increase in state education aid over the last three fiscal years, in reality, the State dramatically cut education aid in 2010 and, has continued to underfund education while addressing its own deficit by redirecting state education funding through the Gap Elimination Act (GEA). In Westchester and Putnam, 47% of school districts received less state aid this year than in 2008. Since its inception, \$8.8 billion statewide, and \$403 million in Westchester and Putnam, has been lost to the State under the GEA; the Briarcliff Manor School District alone has lost \$2.85 million.

WHEREAS, the State has a surplus this year, there is no indication that the GEA will end in 2015-16. In point of fact, the \$1.1 billion which the Governor promises if his reform agenda is approved could cover the \$1.04 billion in GEA outstanding statewide for 2014-15.

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo asserts that his proposed reforms would encourage the most talented college graduates to consider teaching as a career, the proposed lock-step, standardized evaluation system which has no parallel in any other profession, would dissuade, not encourage, the most talented.

WHEREAS, Congress, in working to re-authorize ESEA, is looking to de-couple high stakes assessments and teacher evaluations, address the punitive aspects of NCLB, and allow for more local accountability and flexibility, the Governor is proposing a rigid, standardized test-oriented model that will further diminish local authority.

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo proclaims that the State will “enhance the teacher evaluation system to accord teachers and the profession the respect they deserve,” he sets forth an evaluation system that denigrates the professionalism of teachers and administrators and establishes a narrow, one-size-fits-all model. For grades 4-8, the proposed evaluation system would base 50% of the score on an annual state assessment (with a sample size of approximately 25) and 50% on at least two observations, one of which must be done by a trained administrator, independent evaluator or SUNY/CUNY faculty member and will be weighted at 35% of the 50%, with the remaining 15% allocated to an observation by a school administrator. A class score on the standardized test must equate to effective or higher for the teacher to be rated effective or highly effective (thus the tests core trumps everything else). Effective teaching is more than the sum of one standardized assessment and two formal observations. School boards and communities trust their local school district officials to implement an accountability system that appropriately evaluates staff and incorporates comprehensive professional supports. The requirement to employ an independent evaluator establishes a new, expensive unfunded mandate that compromises administrator authority and will siphon school district funds from the classroom and/or professional development.

WHEREAS, the Governor is proposing a new teacher tenure process which will require five *consecutive* years of an effective or highly effective rating, the evaluation system measures are problematic and policies such as LIFO remain in effect. Nevertheless, a five year probationary period is more appropriate, and the proposed language indicating that districts retain authority to dismiss probationary teachers at any time for any reason is a necessary clarification to 3012c.

WHEREAS, the current “expedited” 3020-a hearing process remains costly, time-consuming and often ineffective, the proposed changes would shift the presumption in favor of the administrator, strengthen evidentiary standards, and streamline the process. The same presumption of trust for the local administrator should be incorporated into the teacher evaluation proposal.

WHEREAS, we share a commitment to universal high-quality early education, the current practice of reimbursing districts rather than providing seed money makes it difficult for high need school districts to initiate or expand a pre-K program. It is imperative that future initiatives include start-up funding and a front-loaded payment schedule.

WHEREAS, Westchester is home to six Special Act School Districts which cannot appropriately meet the needs of their unique student population under the current tuition methodology, and there is no language in the 2015-16 NYS budget to address their needs, we support the inclusion of language establishing annual increases to the tuition rate.

WHEREAS, Governor Cuomo’s 2015 Opportunity Agenda includes the Education Investment Tax Credit which defacto shifts money from public education to private while public school districts are underfunded by NYS, we support using public dollars for public education.

WHEREAS, charter schools were initially intended as lab schools for innovation, have not proven to out-perform regular public schools and many do not mirror the local community in their enrollment and retention practices, and whereas, NYS grants the charter but local school districts are financially impacted, we rebuff the Governor’s proposal to raise the charter cap by 100.

WHEREAS, mayoral control has had mixed results nationally, we support the concept of local control and reject the Governor's suggestion that it be expanded beyond New York City.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Briarcliff Manor School District urges State Legislators to review these proposals in details, gather input from research and from those in the field, and rebuff the elements of the Cuomo Education Reform Agenda which will instill inappropriate measures of accountability and negatively impact the classroom learning environment and local control.

Practice Field Project Environmental Engineering Services – HDR, P.C.

On motion by Mrs. Brantman, seconded by Mr. Haberman and passed 4-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education continues with its practice field remediation project related to the requirements of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) order on consent #20010816-113, and

WHEREAS, the current infrastructure of the storm water system located in proximity to the practice field is negatively effecting the stabilization of the western slope of the practice field;

BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby approves the proposal from Henningson, Durham & Richardson Architecture and Engineering P.C to evaluate and formulate options for modification to the existing storm water system located upgradient of the Practice Field in an amount not to exceed \$19,840.

Transfer to Capital Fund

On motion by Mrs. Brantman, seconded by Mr. Haberman and passed 4-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education continues with its field remediation activities related to the requirements of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's to NYSDEC) order on consent #20010816-113, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has previously approved change orders totaling \$80,330.00 related to the Practice Field project for the site contractor Landscape Unlimited Inc., and
WHEREAS, the remaining balance in the Property Loss and Liability Reserve Fund is \$75,067.04, and

WHEREAS, the Practice Field project is funded from both borrowed and Property Loss and Liability Reserve funds accounted for in the Capital Fund;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to transfer \$75,067.04 from the Property Loss and Liability Reserve Fund to the Capital Fund.

SW BOCES Cooperative Bid

On motion by Mrs. Brantman, seconded by Mr. Haberman and passed 4-0, the Board of Education approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS it is the desire of the participating school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services, adopting this Resolution to bid jointly in those supplies, commodities, materials and equipment set forth below.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Briarcliff Manor Unified School District agrees to participate with other school districts of the Southern Westchester Board of Educational Services, Westchester County, New York adopting this in the joint bidding of:

	Please check either	
	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Art Supplies	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
2. General School Supplies	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
3. Office Supplies	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
4. Fine Paper Supplies	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
5. AV Supplies & Equipment	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
6. Bakery Goods	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
7. Cafeteria Food Supplies	<u> </u>	<u> x </u>
8. Custodial Supplies	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
9. Custodial Paper Supplies	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
10. Lumber Supplies	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
11. Laser & Ink Jet Toners	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
12. Laser/Ink Jet Toners	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
13. Microcomputer Hardware	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
14. Office & Classroom Furniture	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>
15. Graphing Calculators	<u> x </u>	<u> </u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall remain in effect until: June 30, 2016 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is agreed that the specifications as presented will be used, and that this Board agrees to bid its required amount of said commodities jointly with other participating school districts in Southern Westchester and the Southern Westchester Board of Cooperative Educational Services. The recommendation of the Purchasing Steering Committee will be considered when this Board acts on the purchase of said Commodities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the invitation to bid will be advertised by BOCES in the Journal News in accordance with the provisions of Section 103 to the General Municipal Law.

On motion by Mrs. Brantman, seconded by Mr. Haberman and passed 4-0, the Board of Education moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 P.M.

Juanita Brockett, District Clerk

Jennifer Rosen, Board President