

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

11/17/10

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Margaretville Central School District was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 in the Board Room.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Barbara Funck, Randy Moore and Joe Moskowitz.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Agnes Laub and Robbie Martin

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Tony Albanese (Superintendent), Karen Dietrich (Treasurer) and Teresa Goodchild (Clerk).

**ROLL CALL**

At 7:00PM, President Moore called the Regular Meeting to order.

**CALL TO ORDER**

From the Board of Education, Ms. Martin commented that school spirit week was great and that her children loved it.

**COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

From the Superintendent, Mr. Albanese commented on the following: Congratulated the Boys and Girls Soccer Teams and coaches for their successful seasons and thanked the community and parents for their support; Participated in a meeting with component districts at CVCS regarding current affairs at SED and the upcoming changes; the final scope of work was submitted on Race to the Top and are awaiting word on the evaluation template for teachers and principals; Veteran's Day celebration was outstanding, special thanks to all who assisted; First quarter report cards will be mailed/distributed 11/17-11/19; MCS hosted a telephone conference to discuss increasing communication between the County, Municipalities and school districts during times of potential emergencies, particularly weather related; Annual fire code inspection was held and there is some follow-up work to be done; Basketball season has begun and skiing is not far behind - Go Blue Devils; and a Happy Early Thanksgiving to all.

**COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

From the Public, several parents were present to express their concern regarding the atmosphere in the school building and the demeanor of the faculty and staff. Mrs. Minervini asked, "why is everyone so miserable? No one seems happy." Mr. Goodell expressed that the local districts are being bombarded with students leaving MCS and that there is a lack of communication. He also expressed that kids feel shut down and stepped on and that we can't have kids quit because of issues with the administration. Mrs. Auchmoody expressed that she has had to enroll her son in a school 4 hours away to get the education he requires for dyslexia as she didn't feel he was receiving what he needed at MCS. Mrs. Falco expressed that she agreed with everything being said and also commented that a teacher had stopped her in the hall to say how miserable she was and how awful things were at MCS.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mrs. Morrison expressed that teachers at MCS are not friendly and do not smile and wondered why they are teaching if they don't like children. She feels the teachers are not working hand-in-hand with the students. Mrs. Gonzalez expressed that MCS has been more than accommodating for her child with special needs. She also commented that schools are different now than they were years ago and that some teachers may not be happy or are feeling stressed with new testing and job duties. She feels the community should band together, need to break down the walls, and talk about everything in order to work it out. Mrs. Morrison commented that MCS is a very caring community and she's not trying to put down the school, but something is wrong. "Talk is good if everyone listens." Mrs. Conroy expressed that her children are happy, in sports and music and on principal's list. She had the option to take her children elsewhere, but chose not to. She feels that the tone in the building is due to an adversarial relationship between the administration and teachers. She also expressed to everyone that teachers teach because they love children. If they face barriers in trying to do their job, it makes it difficult. She expressed that perhaps teachers are being asked to do jobs that aren't possible.

Mr. Goodell asked the Board for their response to the comments. Mr. Moskowitz thanked all for coming and stated that he knew it took a great deal of courage to do so, but expressed that for the Board to give a response would be premature. The Board will discuss the matter. He then stated that the Board takes it extremely seriously.

**IT WAS MOVED** by Mrs. Funck, seconded by Mr. Moskowitz to accept the Minutes of 10/20/10. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**IT WAS MOVED** by Mrs. Funck, seconded by Mr. Moskowitz to approve the Treasurer's Report and the Activity Fund Report for October 2010 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Board audited the Warrants and the Internal Claims Auditor Reports for Warrant #10 and #11.

**WARRANTS**

In communications, Mr. Moore commented on the article in the Catskill Mountain News regarding the types of forums that have been established. He expressed that they are a great place for parents to attend and voice their opinions.

**COMMUNICATIONS  
Forums**

The Board received a letter from the Fire Commissioners that the automatic alarm service is no longer available for anyone in the fire district. The District can contract with a private vendor or the county. The change was made due to the size of the equipment and the fire department being volunteer.

**Automatic Alarm**

The Board received a letter from the Margaretville Teachers Association regarding curriculum mapping and the expectations of it.

The Board received a thank you note from the Varsity Girls Soccer Team for allowing them to play in sectionals and a thank you note from the Pumpkin Patch President for the elementary trip to the pumpkin patch.

Reports from the following Forums:

Policy - Mrs. Funck commented that there are policies to be adopted and read this month. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 12/1 at 8:30AM. The policy that spiked some interest last month (#6410 Staff Use of Computerized Information Resources) - a meeting will be set up in January for faculty input.

Finance - Ms. Dietrich commented that Mrs. Laub had been brought up to date on the budget process. The next meeting date has not yet been scheduled.

Facilities Forum - Mr. Moore commented that the facilities forum met earlier this evening and they have set up a walk through to take place at 6:30PM prior to the December Board Meeting. They discussed possibly setting up a reserve fund for equipment purchases. They are waiting on the building condition survey before determining how to use the EXCEL leftover money.

Birgitte Bentivenga gave a report on the Cafeteria. She expressed that vendors have not gone crazy with food prices and they are still trying new items with the kids - who always want chicken nuggets, burgers and pizza. The breakfast participation numbers have gone up - approximately 60+, but much higher on egg mcMargaretville day. and lunch is at approximately 270. Mr. Albanese complimented the cafeteria staff on going above and beyond for the conference day and Veteran's Day Celebration.

Beth Johnson gave a presentation on her Technology Report. She updated the BOE on her duties, the equipment and software used at MCS, upcoming projects, and IT recommendations. Mr. Moskowitz complimented her on an excellent job upgrading the district and questioned whether the district was in good shape if we have to "stay frozen" and she indicated the district is in fairly good shape. Mrs. Funck inquired as to teacher access and Ms. Johnson explained that each teacher has a computer that can only be accessed by them. Mr. Albanese thanked Ms. Johnson as her responsibilities continue to grow and the district may have to consider additional technology support in the future.

Jeremy Marks gave a presentation on his Summer Staff Development Project on the Athletics Phase II Project. He has gone through all of the scorebooks for every sport, compiling stats, scores and records; however, several books/years are missing. He hopes to have the information available online at some point. Coaches will now provide the information on an annual basis.

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Funck, seconded by Mr. Moskowitz to appoint Joy Holden as a Mentor for the 2010-11 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Moskowitz, seconded by Mrs. Funck to accept the resignation from Stacey Johnson as AM Cafeteria Duty Aide and to appoint Lisa Palazzolo as the AM Cafeteria Duty Aide. Motion carried unanimously.

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Funck, seconded by Mr. Moskowitz to approve Andrew Underwood as a Substitute Teacher for the 2010-11 school year.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Moskowitz, seconded by Mrs. Funck to approve the following Volunteer Coaches for the 2010-11 school year: Jasmin Desic, Ed Sanford and Scott Shaffer. Motion carried unanimously.

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Funck, seconded by Mr. Moskowitz to accept the Tax Collector's Report for the 2010-11 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Albanese asked the Board if anyone had questions regarding the Race to the Top information in their packets. There were none.

Mr. Albanese asked the Board if anyone had questions regarding Ken Slenz's Presentation.

Mr. Moore commented that it was enlightening to have a member of SED show a lack of understanding. There were no other questions.

Mr. Moore commented that the Board will review their goals and where they're at in January. He will email out the form for Board Self-Evaluation to each member to be completed January/February.

A discussion took place regarding the forum meeting dates and times and possibly holding them prior to BOE Meetings to make it easier for public participation. Also report on what was done, rather than on what they want to do.

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Moskowitz to adopt the following Policies: #6180 Staff-Student Relations, #6210 Certified Personnel, #6211 Employment of Relatives of BOE Members, #6212 Certification and Qualifications, #6214 Incidental Teaching, #6215 Probation and Tenure, #6216 Disciplining of a Tenured Teacher, #6217 Professional Staff: Separation, #6310 Appointment-Support Staff, #6320 Supplementary School Personnel and #6430 Employee Activities.

The Board received the following Policies for Reading: #6420 Employee Personnel Records and Release of Information, #6450 Theft of Services or Property, #6460 Jury Duty, #6510 Health Insurance, #6520 Workers' Compensation, #6550 Leaves of Absence, #6560 Employment Status and #6562 Employment of Retired Persons.

## **MTA Letter Curriculum Mapping**

### **Thank You Notes**

## **REPORTS - FORUMS**

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **CAFETERIA REPORT Birgitte Bentivenga**

### **TECHNOLOGY REPORT Beth Johnson**

### **SUMMER STAFF DEVELOPMENT Jeremy Marks**

### **PERSONNEL MENTOR Joy Holden**

### **AM CAFETERIA DUTY**

### **SUBSTITUTE TEACHER Underwood**

### **VOLUNTEER COACHES**

### **FINANCIAL**

#### **TAX COLLECT RPT**

### **OTHER-DISCUSSIONS**

#### **RACE TO THE TOP**

#### **KEN SLENZ**

### **BOARD SELF EVALUATION**

### **FORUM MEETING DATES & TIMES**

### **POLICY**

#6180, #6210, #6211,  
#6212, #6214, #6215,  
#6216, #6217, #6310,  
#6320, #6430

#6420, #6450, #6460,  
#6510, #6520, #6550,  
#6560, #6562

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Funck to move to Executive Session at 8:17PM to discuss a personnel matter and CSE recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Regular Meeting resumed at 9:40PM.

IT WAS MOVED by Mrs. Funck, seconded by Mr. Moskowitz to approve the CSE Recommendations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CSE  
RECOMMENDATIONS

IT WAS MOVED by Mr. Moskowitz, seconded by Mr. Moore to adjourn the meeting at 9:42PM. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Approved: 12/15/10 Clerk: Teresa K. Stodolinski