

EAST AURORA UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Digest for Tuesday, May 17, 2011

President Daniel Brunson called the public session of the Board of Education meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Board members present included James Whitcomb, Eric Sweet, Kathyann Lorka, Steven Zagrobelny and MaryBeth Covert.

Superintendent Russ commented:

"Congratulations to Parkdale student Kendall Ertel, who won second prize in the grade four division of the Share A Story Contest from the Buffalo News. After June 20, the work will be on the News' website: www.buffnews.com/education.

Middle School Ben Davis has notified the District that on Saturday, May 14, the Symphonic Band participated in the Darien Lake Music Festival. In a class of seven bands, the Symphonic Band earned 2nd place and a rating of "Superior," with a score of 96.8--only 1/4 of a point away from 1st place! Comments from the adjudicators complimented the balance and blend of the group, as well as the students' energy and attentiveness.

Superintendent Russ introduced Art Curriculum Coordinator Thomas Kegler and art staff members Michele White, Ron VanOstrand, David Walleshauser, Sarah Buttino and Mary Cotton, who presented their students with work selected for the 2011 Superintendent's Art Collection. Students included Maren Johnson, Leah Zacaroli, Holly Jackson, Seneca Phillips, Emily Neu, Andrew Sarafin and Matthew Izzo. The selected art will be on permanent display in the District.



Board members' comments and committee reports:

Daniel Brunson commented on a letter from Christine Peters regarding the sculptures on the Middle School lawn, and mentioned another communication from a district resident regarding speeding on Sweet Road near the High School. Mr. Brunson also thanked the League of Women Voters for hosting the candidate forum on May 11, and mentioned his visit to a Kiwanis meeting with Mr. Russ regarding the proposed budget. Mr. Brunson also said that the new superintendent will be appointed at the June 8 meeting of the Board of Education.

Kathyann Lorka reported on a second tie in the BOCES 2 board election. The winner now will be chosen by lottery. She also reported that the DECA club sent three students to national

competition in Florida, and the students were excited to have the opportunity to attend. Also, she reported on a successful Post-Prom celebration.

James Whitcomb also thanked the LWV for the opportunity to attend the candidate forum and welcomed the seniors present at the meeting. He said that the art presentation that evening reminds board members why they serve. He also noted the passing of Mr. Schindler on Sunday.

Steven Zagrobelny remarked on the candidate forum and the substance of the discussions, and proposed that more frequent and comprehensive information sessions be held with the public.

Administrators' comments:

Colleen Klimchuck congratulated the PTO on the success of Trivia Night, with 160 in attendance and proceeds to benefit elementary programs. Also, on May 25 from 6 – 8 PM, the Parkdale Community Garden will have an Open House for the community, with a free clinic on the fundamentals of gardening. Local gardening expert Ken Brown will be featured.

Mrs. Klimchuck also announced the Parkdale Friendship Celebration from 6 – 8 on May 26 at Parkdale, the culminating event in the 2010-11 Gowanda High School's Seneca Language/Parkdale cultural partnership. All school families are invited to attend the evening with Native crafts, storytelling, traditional food and dance.

William Roberts commented on the success of the Prom and Post Prom, thanking the organizers and helpers.

Visitor comments:

Nicole Morris-McLaughlin announced a \$2000 grant from Lowes for a composting program at the Parkdale Community Garden.

The Superintendent recommended that the Board of Education:

- Accept the resignation of Richard Natalzia, Custodian at the High School, effective May 20, 2011;
- Approve of Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting of April 28, 2011 and the Public Hearing and Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 4, 2011 and the Special Board of Education Meetings of May 5 & 10, 2011;
- Approve of recommendations of the Committee on Special Education as detailed in the minutes of April 29, 2011 and May 2, 2011;
- Approve the rate for health and welfare services for East Aurora students attending private and parochial schools in the Buffalo City School District of \$368.00 per student for the 2010-2011 school year;
- Approve the following resolution:
 - *RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the East Aurora Union Free School District hereby approves the recommendation of Acting Superintendent Brian Russ to terminate the services of probationary teacher Tammy Furman-Schwab effective June 30, 2011, in accordance with the Education Law and Collective Bargaining Agreement between the District and EAFA.*
- Approve the following resolution:
 - *Resolved, that the Board of Education of the East Aurora Union Free School District hereby agrees to enter into the attached contract with the Erie #1 BOCES for a five-year period commencing on June 8, 2011 to authorize the Western New York Regional Information Center to furnish certain computer services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950 (4) (JJ) for an amount not to exceed \$23,880 and authorizes 60 monthly payments to be made to the Erie #1 BOCES in the amount not to exceed \$398. Be it further resolved, that the Board of Education of the East Aurora Union Free School District hereby authorizes the Board President or District Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the District.*

The Board of Education entered into a second Executive Session to discuss matters related to the employment status of two particular individuals as well as negotiations with the East Aurora Civil Service Personnel Association.

Upon reconvening the public session at 9:15 PM, the Board of Education accepted the results of the May 17, 2011 Annual Election Proposition #1 Budget and Election of Board Trustees.

Proposition 1: Proposed Budget Yes - 916 No - 402

Vote tallies for candidates for Board of Education (winners in bold):

James W. Whitcomb (i) 453

Judith A. Malys 524

Jessica B. Armbrust 779

Nicole Morris-McLaughlin 492

Stephen Zagrobelny (i) 692

Daniel Brunson (i) 644

Board members then reentered executive session to finish work on a contract matter.

Next regularly scheduled regular Board meeting, June 8, 2011.



Members of the Board of Education:

Front row, left to right: Eric Sweet, Vice-president Kathyann Lorka, President Daniel Brunson, MaryBeth Covert, (back row) S. Dennis Holbrook, Stephen Zagrobelny, James Whitcomb

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