

(116)

NOT BOARD APPROVED

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Worksession – October 12, 2010
High School Auditorium

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Vice President, Mr. Gregory Meyer; Mrs. Kathleen Berezny; and, Mrs. Amelia Lantz.

LATE: Ms. Angela DeVito and Mr. Jeffrey Falisi.

ABSENT: Mr. Timothy Griffing.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Nancy Carney.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Call to Order

A motion was made by Mrs. Lantz, seconded by Mr. Meyer, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel.

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 4 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 6:11 p.m.

Mr. Falisi arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Ms. DeVito arrived at 6:33 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Ms. DeVito, to return to open session.

Return to
Open Session

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 6:51 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:02 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were about 25 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Lois Etzel, Mr. Joseph Ogeka, Jr., Mr. Michael Ivanoff, and Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

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Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse announced that the Board of Education will return to the practice of holding two (2) regular Board meetings per month. A resolution reflecting this change will appear on the next Board agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to adopt the agenda as published.

Adoption of Agenda
As Published
-Approved

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

Ms. Debra Rodgers, Principal at the Phillips Avenue Elementary School, along with representatives of the Student Management Team, gave a presentation on a new comprehensive plan of behavioral expectations and consequences that are firm, fair, and consistent across all K-6 buildings. The K-6 student management plan is based on three fundamental beliefs:

Rules for Schools
Presentation
-Student Management Team

- We are Safe
- We are Respectful
- We are Responsible

Expectations include enhanced communication and support between school, staff and home, and the hope that all children will be immersed in these beliefs from the time they go to bed at night and wake up in the morning. Students who abide by these tenets in school, in the hallways, in the cafeteria, on the bus, at assemblies, on field trips, and at home, will be rewarded in consistent ways throughout the district while students who do not will face prescribed levels of consequences. Professional discretion will be used to make individual judgments on how to handle specific situations. The use of posters will act as visual reminders and the development of new referral forms will assist in documenting behavioral/discipline problems. The posters will also be scaled down in size and sent home with the students so that they can be put on refrigerators at home. The district will now have a comprehensive, uniform plan in place and everyone will be on the same page. A video presentation will be available intranet for parents.

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Comments from the Board of Education include:

- The language is pretty sophisticated for review by a child. (Ms. Rodgers stated that the team was comfortable with the wording and that it was age appropriate. Posters will provide visual reminders and the heart of the plan will be reinforced with conversations between teachers and students.)
- Anything you put into place needs to be evaluated...what then, is the evaluative tool to be used to mark progress and success of the program? (Ms. Rodgers stated that it will be the teachers and their professional discretion.)
- The housing of in-school suspension and home-school within the building is being worked upon to keep the connection between home and school.
- When will this plan make its debut/entry in the schools? (Ms. Rodgers stated that the plan has been well-received by parents and they are ready to roll tomorrow).
- Could the elementary referrals be done electronically since familiarity with the child is important when that child advances to another building? (As per Ms. Rodgers, the possibility of tracking via E-school will be looked into).
- Inquiry as to the potential cost of implementation and recommendation to examine a possible COSER with ESBOCES which would help reduce costs and is aidable (Ms. Rodgers stated that they are still in the process of a cost analysis and examining doing things at the building level versus solicitation of bids for professional services.)
- After a year of implementation, will the data collected be tweaked? (There will be a review in May/June 2011).
- This plan creates a positive culture and the entire Student Management Team is to be commended for the efforts they put forth during the summer to develop this plan.

Comments from the community include:

- What is considered a "party" in terms of praise? (Depending on the number of compliments, this could be marbles in a jar, popcorn, or something akin to promote team unity within the classroom).
- What constitutes "rewards"? (This would be at the teacher's discretion and could be stickers, pencils and things of that sort.)

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- When rewarding a student, the nutritional aspect should be considered and candy or other goodies should be curtailed.
- The familiar poster of the *Golden Rules* should be displayed in every classroom as it is repetitive and can be easily memorized.
- Compliments for the development of this unified and consistent K-6 plan. This individual volunteered to meet with representatives of the committee to ask questions in a private setting and provide input based on his gained experience in years of service to our schools. (Ms. Rodgers welcomed community input and the opportunity to meet.)
- Suggestion that the term "party" be clarified and perhaps changed to *learning celebrations*.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lantz, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District increases the 2010-2011 budget by \$14,529. The amount approved in the June 30, 2010 audit is to be transferred to the Capital Reserve Account (A9950-980-00-1000 transfer to Capital Reserve Fund account).

It was noted that this money is interest earned on the Capital Reserve Fund.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

Financial
-Budget Increase
(earned interest on
Capital Reserve Fund)
-Approved

A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Falisi, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following Professional Personnel recommendations be approved per Supplemental File Personnel Report and are subject to Board Policy #9310:

Professional Personnel
Recommendations
-Approved

Tenure Appointments

Amy Doucette – Family & Consumer Science Teacher, effective 10/14/10.
Rebecca Ramsey – Special Education Teacher, effective 10/23/10.

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

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Comments heard from the community include:

Community Comments

- If the transfer of funds to increase the budget is a result of interest earned from the Capital Reserve Fund, it would be precedent to indicate as such in future resolutions.
- Questions regarding two district policies currently under review were not entertained because they are not included on tonight's approved agenda.
- Request that the Board follow past practice of attaching the original policy to revised policies being considered for approval.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mr. Falisi, to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk