

<u>March 6, 2006</u> Date	<u>Special Meeting</u> Type of Meeting	<u>MESMS Cafeteria</u> Where Held	<u>J. McCoy</u> Presiding Officer
Members Present:	<u>A. D'Alessandro</u>	Members Absent:	<u>T. Perrino</u>
	<u>M. Drexel</u>		
	<u>P. Faigle</u>		
	<u>P. Harris</u>		
	<u>J. Miller</u>		

Also present: Dr. Bruno, G. Heller, T. Cole, E. Cariello, staff, community and press.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Ms. McCoy.

Ms. McCoy led the Board in the pledge to the flag.

Public Comment

Cathy Russell, resident/Webmaster/parent, questioned the need for Connect-Ed (a parent notification system) and stated that there would still be the need to send information home with students. \$20,000 per year is a lot of money.

Ed Ciffone, resident, UTY President, talked about the budget, and how the Finance Committee should continue throughout the year to review each department to see how much is spent and how services are used. He also spoke of the bond vote and how he could not support it – there was too much money set aside for contingencies.

Dan Lefkowitz, parent, stated that school districts in Chicago have been teaching Mandarin and that Yorktown should become competitive by offering a new language. Mr. Lefkowitz also spoke to a new law regarding the use of environmentally safe cleaning products and paint products. He recommended that whatever paint the district may have left should be used in the administrative offices and not in classrooms.

Jackie Carbone, parent, stated that she had watched a presentation on Connect-Ed. Since there were two emergencies in the schools regarding power outages, she asked what would happen to the Connect Ed process if there were a power outage in a school. She talked about how hard the Facilities Committee had worked on the bond, trying to include needed projects. She asked all to vote “YES” on the bond.

Dr. Bruno stated that Connect Ed would not replace all forms of communication. He explained that the rapid change in the weather conditions from the previous week shows a need for this type of service. There is also the fact that cell phones do not work throughout the middle and high schools.

Mr. Cole added that there are several phones that are not connected to a system that can be used in emergencies. If there are regional outages, Connect Ed has many towers across the nation. The District looked into other systems, but Connect Ed was the most reliable. There is a one-time fee of \$1,600. People could be trained and become able to send out messages within 24 hours. The SASI System is integrateable into the Connect Ed database.

Mr. Miller explained that the contingencies built in the bond are there so that the District would not have the same problem as with the last bond. The Facilities Committee believed that it was prudent to put those contingencies in the bond. If the \$51.6 million is approved on March 14, 2006, the work will begin in the summer of 2007 and run through 2013.

Board Subcommittee Progress Reports

Legislative Committee: Ms. Faigle stated that Andrea Aboulafia attended a the NYSSBA Legislative Breakfast. She will be meeting with her to discuss what transpired.

Audit Committee: Mr. Drexel stated that the Audit Committee met to review resumes of community members with a specific background. The Committee is looking for someone with current auditing experience in a management and organizational capacity. It was agreed that the candidates should be as independent as possible with no connection to the school district. The committee discussed getting together with other school districts to provide the internal auditing functions on a shared basis. There would be a need to find out how to get a handle on how the District's needs would be met with this type of consortium. Mr. Miller stated he would reach out to the Hendrick Hudson School District to find out the results of their survey of local school districts regarding sharing auditor services. Once he receives the information, he and Mr. Drexel will report to the Board whether the District should become involved or not.

Mr. Miller asked for a resolution regarding the addition of a community member to the Audit Committee.

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Drexel, that the Board of Education accept the expression of interest to join the Audit Committee made by Ms. Judith Huntington and allow her to join the committee.

6 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

Mr. Miller will contact Ms. Cariello to notify Ms. Huntington and those that were not approved.

Facilities Committee: Ms. McCoy stated that there was a meeting at the middle school on March 7th to respond to questions and answers for the architects to prepare for the bond vote on March 14th. She stated that a newsletter would be going to all YCSD residents explaining what is included in the two propositions.

Superintendent Search: Ms. McCoy stated that the superintendent search was moving along and that someone from Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates would be at the meeting to give an update on the firm's various meetings with the community.

YHS Weight Room Equipment Purchases: Mr. Cole, following his phone conversation with the athletic director, stated that the committee did a lot of research and decided on a particular brand of equipment. Only two vendors offered that brand and the selected vendor was the lowest responsible price. Mr. Miller asked for back up material on why this particular vendor was selected. Mr. Cole stated that the information could be obtained from the Athletic Director.

Connect-ED Services: Mr. D'Alessandro asked how many school districts use Connect-Ed. Mr. Cole stated that nationwide about 5,000 use the service and locally, there are three districts: Peekskill, Somers and Hendrick Hudson. Some are also in Putnam County.

Mr. Drexel suggested that the Board committees should be more diligent in telling the community what transpires at their meetings so that the public will have a better understanding of the decisions that need to be made. He stated that the Audit Committee would be the first to do that.

Report on Condition of School Elevators: Dr. Bruno stated that the elevators at Crompond and the middle school are both working. They were fixed on the very day of the complaint.

Culture Club Sponsorship Question: Ms. Harris asked for clarification regarding the salary stipend for the Culture Club advisors since the numbers do not work out equally. Mr. Heller explained that there are instances where the stipends are not equally split, as with DestiNation ImagiNation.

Ms. McCoy stated that they would change the agenda to have the Board vote on the resolutions and then follow that with the Superintendent's Budget.

Dr. Bruno made a quick announcement regarding a new Federal Law requiring public school districts to put in place a wellness policy by the beginning of the next school year, one that deals with nutrition as well as physical fitness. We are required to charge a committee with citizens and parents, students and staff members to put together this policy. Ms. Faigle stated that Ms. Aboulafia would be meeting with Assemblywoman Sandra Galef regarding nutrition and that she would be an ideal candidate for the committee. Dr. Bruno stated that he had already spoken to her, and she agreed to be a co-chairperson for the committee.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Faigle to approve the Substitute List.

6 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

SUPPORT

Termination

Motion by Ms. Faigle, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the termination of Donald DeSilva, second shift cleaner at Yorktown High School, effective February 27, 2006. Mr. DeSilva has abandoned his position since December 13, 2005.

Technical Support Specialist

Motion by Ms. Faigle, seconded by Ms. Harris, to approve the vacated position of Network Support Specialist, previously held by Patrice Hatyjgeorge, to be redefined as Instructional Technology Facilitator as per the job description dated March 6, 2006; and that the incumbent of said position be an employee of the P/NW BOCES assigned full-time to the Yorktown Central School District.

Discussion: Dr. Bruno stated that it is an effort to be prudent in spending using our BOCES as was done with Ms. Hatyjgeorge's position. Mr. Heller said that both positions come from the original salary of Carol Lomascolo and that both salaries are less than the one salary received by Ms. Lomascolo.

3 aye, 3 nay, Motion Denied
(A. D' Alessandro, T. Faigle, J. McCoy Aye; M. Drexel, T. Harris, J. Miller, Nay)

Comment: Mr. Miller stated that the motion warranted more discussion by the Board. Mr. Drexel stated that he wanted more details as to why there was a need for this facilitator position. Ms. McCoy asked how the Board wanted to proceed. The Board will contact Mr. Heller with their concerns. Ms. Faigle stated that it might have been better if questions had been addressed to the Superintendent so that the item might have been pulled until the information was received.

YHS WEIGHT ROOM EQUIPMENT PURCHASE/CURRY DONATION

Motion by Ms. Harris, seconded by Ms. Faigle, that in accordance with previous actions of the Board of Education on July 25, 2005 and August 2, 2005 specifying that the \$25,000 gift from the Curry Corporation be used to purchase weight room equipment at Yorktown High School, the Board now approves the purchase of the following equipment from Life Fitness as recommended by the Athletic Director to the Superintendent of Schools, pending verification of multiple bids:

QTY	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE
3	OHDRPR8	HRM STR OLYMPIC HEAVY DUTY POWER RACK - 8	\$1,899.00
5	OHDAJ	HRM STR OLYMPIC HEAVY DUTY ADJUSTABLE BE	799.00
1	OHDR	HMR STRENGTH OLYMPICK HEAVY DUTY HALF RA	1,399.00
5	OH-UPGRADE-UP	OLYMPIC HRM UPGRADE UPH	100.00
1	PLCALF	SEATED CALF RAISE	999.00
1	FWAC	ARM CURL, SEATED	699.00
1	FSMP-1008-002	FS MULTI PRESS – WHITE	2,199.00
1	PLLHP	LINEAR HACK PRESS	2,499.00

1	PSSLPSE	P2-SE SEATED LEG PRESS	4,999.00
1	PWBE	BODY WEIGHT BACK EXTENSION	699.00
1	PLSM	SMITH MACHINE	2,799.00
1	FWMAB	MULTI-ADJUSTABLE BENCH	799.00
4	TROY ATR-36	TRICEP ROPES	80.00
2	TROY GCT	CHINNING TRIANGLE	40.00
2	TROY GTVB	TRICEPT PRESS	40.00
		SUBTOTAL:	\$27,443.00
		MINUS DISCOUNT:	(6,413.38)
		FREIGHT & INSTALLATION:	3,970.38
		TOTAL:	\$25,000.00

6 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

CSEA Memorandum of Agreement

Motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Drexel, to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board hereby ratifies the provisions of a Memorandum of Agreement executed between the negotiating teams for the District and the CSEA Custodial Unit, dated March 3, 2006, with the further condition that said ratification is based upon the Mediator's intended recommendation on overtime pay during the summer months and mid-year recess periods as presented to the Board this date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board appropriates those monies necessary to fund the terms of the 2004-2008 Collectively Negotiated Agreement between the parties consistent with the overtime provision set forth above.

Discussion: Mr. Cole stated that the contract provides for a retroactive payment for the 2004-05 school year for 3.8%; the two years henceforth at 3%; provides payments to custodians for differentials for out of title pay; provides greater stipend activity. For the school district, it provides custodial contributions for health insurance premiums and flexibility in terms of number of hours needed to be worked before overtime payment.

Mr. Miller stated that the contract is fair both to the custodial unit and the District. The information regarding the overtime pay during summer months and during the year recess periods was being worked out with the attorneys in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement.

6 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

Connect-Ed Notification System

Motion by Ms. Harris, seconded by Ms. Faigle, to approve the contract with ASAP Software for the Connect ED notification system for the period of March 7, 2006 through June 30, 2006. Such cost to be a one time fee of \$1,846.93 for set up and fees and a per student cost of \$5.00 per student annual cost pro-rated for the balance of the 2005-2006 school year. The Board of Education hereby authorizes the Board President to execute said agreement after review by legal counsel.

Discussion: Ms. McCoy asked about the duration of the contract and if the Board would have the opportunity to review the success of the program before agreeing to its use for the 2006-07 school year. Mr. D'Alessandro asked if other districts had been contacted regarding the cost for this service. Mr. Cole stated that the cost of \$5.00 per student was the standard rate.

6 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

Draft of Superintendent's Budget

Ms. McCoy stated that this was a preliminary budget and that the Finance Committee was still working to finalize it for the next meeting. Dr. Bruno stated that the process was significantly different for this budget. He directed the administrators to prepare a budget that could be supported by the community. Dr. Bruno indicated that the current budget had a tax impact of 6.9%.

Mr. Cole did a Power Point presentation beginning with the Board's Budget Assumptions for the 2006-07 school year. He stated that enrollments have stabilized and that 2.91 FTE new hires are in the budget. The total budget is \$78,612,000 with a budget-to-budget increase of just over 7.3%.

The contingent budget, if the budget vote failed twice, would bring the budget-to-budget increase to 4%, which translates to a decrease in spending of \$1.7 million. The CPI at 120% would be greater than the Governor's 4% cap mandated level of budgetary increase.

Ms. McCoy asked about the new copiers. Mr. Cole stated that they have been very well received by staff and the service has been excellent. She stated that the Board members should get their questions and concerns concerning the budget to the Superintendent prior to the Finance Committee meeting the following week.

Motion by Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. Miller to have a five minute recess at 9:00 p.m.

6 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

Motion by Ms. Harris, seconded by Ms. Faigle, to reopen the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

6 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

Hazard Young Report on Superintendent Search

Dr. Bruce Dennis was introduced. Dr. Dennis reported on his two-day findings on the search for the Superintendent of Schools. He met with each Board member individually, as well as with staff and community groups. Dr. Dennis read the Executive Summary prepared by Hazard Young following the meetings with all stakeholders. Overall, it was a very positive report regarding high praise for the caring, knowledgeable and professional staff and the outstanding programs in the District. Concerns included the lack of civility among the Board and the micromanagement of the Board. In addition, perceptions included unfair treatment of the District by the local press and the lack of respect between the administration and the Board. There was also a concern regarding the facilities and the

passage of the upcoming bond, including how it will be managed. The report also listed some of the characteristics that are desired in the new superintendent, including strong educational leadership with excellent communication, interpersonal and public relation skills. Along with the ability to establish a culture of mutual respect, respondents also want someone who is easily accessible and highly visible, who has the courage of his or her convictions, and a commitment to all children.

Dr. Dennis stated that his firm had been actively working to seek the best candidates, including advertising appropriately and diligently reaching out to qualified individuals to challenge them to look into the position of superintendent in Yorktown. He said that if all goes well, the Board should be able to appoint the new superintendent at the May 8th meeting.

Ms. McCoy asked the Board to set aside the dates of March 15 and 16 for initial interviews; and March 27 and 28, depending on the availability of the candidates.

Board of Education Comments

Ms. Faigle congratulated Pam Young, a Yorktown High School Sophomore who came in fifth in the States Bowling Championship – it is quite an honor for a sophomore.

Ms. Harris asked about the summer camp money and how the District is moving forward with them regarding camp fees and use of fields fees. Mr. Cole stated that he, Dennis Verboys and the Athletic Director will be meeting with the Town about that issue. Ms. Harris asked for an analysis from the Business Office on how the use of the facilities went last summer. Mr. Cole said that once they had finished with the budget process, they had planned on preparing that information. Dr. Bruno stated that he had preliminary discussions with the Town Supervisor regarding “*quid pro quo*” between the Town and the School System, hoping to waive fees for use of the school’s facilities in exchange for similar cooperation from the Town.

Mr. Drexel asked for an update on the construction at the high school. Ms. McCoy said that everything seems to be moving along. The sheet rock is up; the air conditioning ducts are in place; and we are waiting for the HVAC unit. Mr. Cole stated that things have been going well, and we are actually under budget. Arris is doing a great job of staying on top of the construction. Mr. D’Alessandro said that Piazza is also doing a really great job.

Mr. Drexel requested that the Board reconsider having a Saturday budget meeting in order the community to attend.

Ms. McCoy suggested that the meeting on March 20th be dedicated strictly to the budget. The meeting should be started a little earlier to complete the Business portion of the meeting and then devote the time to the budget, allowing the public to speak. Mr. Cole stated that the Finance Committee is meeting on the 14th and will prepare a report for the full Board after their meeting. Ms. Faigle referred to the first Budget Assumption: The 2006-07 budget will be a maintenance budget – and said that she believed that this budget has accomplished that. Mr. Miller requested an executive summary from the Finance Committee so that the public can look at something that tells them that the budget process worked well. Dr. Bruno said he would arrange for that.

Review of Tentative Agenda for March 20, 2006 Business Meeting

Ms. Faigle asked about Item 2(d) as to why a third leave year was being granted since it has not been done in the past. Ms. McCoy asked for clarification from the District's attorney regarding the issue of leaves.

Mr. Drexel asked for justification for sending two people to the same conference (Item 6). A little explanation should be added to explain the process and the reason for two people attending the same program.

Public Comment

Ed Ciffone, resident, questioned the teacher benefits and asked whether teachers could start paying for some of their health insurance. He spoke of cutting the contingency expenses in the bond in half. He also talked about going to Albany to talk to the Legislators regarding State Aid.

Nick Ditomasso, resident, stated that the community is split regarding the bond. He asked that the Board has the ability to consider those community members and find ways to consider both sides of this issue by finding other ways to take care of this issue.

Miriam Curtin, parent, stated that she is voting for the bond because it is the right thing to do, and encouraged everyone to do the same.

Mr. Miller stated that this Board spent five months looking at what the Facilities Committee presented to it. In the end, we chose to not make the same mistake that was made six years ago. We took into consideration the increases that occur. We may not need to spend the entire \$51.6 million. The community will decide on March 14th.

Mr. Drexel stated that he was not as confident that the District would not be spending the \$51 million dollars. The District needs a lot of improvements. The Board set the priorities for these projects and if we run out of money, the bond is structured to spend the money in the right places and spend it correctly.

Mr. D'Alessandro stated that in less than ten years two or three prior bonds will fall off. He urged everyone to go out and vote on the 14th.

Ms. McCoy said that Yorktown High School will be presenting "Carnival" on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 10-12. There will be popcorn, cotton candy and balloons – it's Carnival! Try to attend.

Motion by Ms. Harris, seconded by Mr. D'Alessandro, to adjourn the meeting.

6 aye, 0 nay, Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Board Secretary