



BOARD OF EDUCATION
Syracuse City School District
Syracuse, New York

Regular Monthly Business Meeting
August 8, 2007

Daniel G. Lowengard
Superintendent of Schools

Minutes

The Board of Education Business Meeting was called to order by President Ned Deuel at 4:32 p.m. in the District Board Room, 725 Harrison Street.

Present: President Ned Deuel, Commissioners Calvin Corriders, Cynthia Kirby, Nancy McCarty, Dorothy Matthews and Kim Rohadfox-Ceaser

Absent: Commissioner Laurie Menkin

A motion was made by Commissioner McCarty and seconded by Commissioner Rohadfox-Ceaser to enter into executive session. Vote on the motion: 6-Yes, 0-No (Commissioner Menkin absent), motion carried.

The Board of Education entered into executive session (to discuss matters of litigation and personnel) at 4:35 p.m.

Commissioner Menkin arrived at 4:42 p.m.

The Board of Education reconvened from executive session at 5:42 p.m. President Deuel invited those present to join the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Regular Business Meeting, July 11, 2007; Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, June 26, 2007; Board of Education Audit Committee Meeting, July 17, 2007; Facilities Committee Meeting, July 19, 2007; Budget & Finance Committee Meeting, July 24, 2007

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Corriders to accept the minutes as printed. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Consideration of Accounts

- Financial Statement and Audit Summary Report

A motion was made by Commissioner Corriders and seconded by Commissioner Rohadfox-Ceaser to accept the Financial Report and Audit Summary as presented. A roll call vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

President Deuel announced the process by which those who wished to address the Board of Education on an agenda or non-agenda item may do so. Those who addressed the Board on agenda and non-agenda items:

Kate McKenna, STA President, spoke to the Board about the teacher's expired contract.

Bob Gardino, President of Parents for Public Schools, praised the District for the PR and theater pass article in the paper.

Reports

President's Report - The Board President said he is continuing to schedule meetings with the Common Council to improve relations between the City and the District. He is currently working on a facilitated retreat initiative between the Common Council and the Board of Education.

The New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA) will hold its annual convention in New York City October 25-28th. The annual Big 5 meeting will also take place at this convention.

Committee Reports- Minutes provided

Superintendent's Report- the District was the recipient of the New York State Rehabilitation Association 2007 Annual School/Community Partnership Recognition Award.

Discussion Items:

At the next Board meeting on September 11th, Commissioners Kim Rohadfox-Ceaser and Laurie Menkin will share information and discuss implementing ideas they received when they attended a conference in March in Norfolk Virginia on student achievement.

Also at next month's meeting, CFO Joe Rufo will present the District's Four-Year Financial Projection.

By unanimous consent, the following Personnel Items – Certified, Non-Certified and Pupil were voted on as one order of business.

Personnel – Certified

- A. Resolved: That the appointments, transfers, resignations, salary adjustments, leaves of absence, et al, contained in the teaching personnel section of this agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, be, and are hereby approved.

The Superintendent certifies that the requirements of the New York State Education Department and the Board of Education had been met in all cases.

3. Whereas: Section 2573(5) of the Education Law of the State of New York provides that, at the expiration of the probationary term of any persons appointed for such term, the Superintendent of Schools shall make a written report to the board of education recommending for permanent appointment those persons who have been found competent, efficient, and satisfactory; and

Whereas: the Superintendent of Schools for the Syracuse City School District has furnished a written personnel report containing the names of those persons whom he recommends for permanent appointment as employees in the Syracuse City School District; and

Whereas: this Board of Education has duly considered said personnel report and the recommendations contained therein; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the teachers recommended for appointment to permanent tenure in the aforementioned personnel report dated August 8, 2007 receive a permanent appointment on tenure in their respective tenure areas with the Syracuse City School District effective on the date indicated and hold such during good behavior and efficient and competent service; and be it further

Resolved: That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Personnel – Non-Certified

Resolved: That the appointments, resignations, leaves of absence, et al, contained in the non-teaching personnel section of this agenda, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools, be, and are hereby, approved.

The Superintendent certifies that the requirements of the Onondaga County Department of Personnel and the Board of Education have been met in all cases.

Personnel – Pupil

Resolved: That the actions of the City School District Committee on Special Education contained in the pupil personnel section of this agenda, as supported by the Superintendent of Schools, be, and are hereby, accepted.

The Superintendent certifies that the requirements of the New York State Education Law have been met in all cases. A motion was made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Rohadfox-Ceaser to adopt the above resolutions. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Resolution-#0807-28

1. Abolish/Create Field Coordinators (Mathematics, Science & Technology)

Whereas: the Syracuse City School District was awarded a Title IIB Science grant for \$500,000; and

Whereas: the District has developed a 3 year plan through participation in the New York State Science Initiative designed to improve teaching and learning in science for all students, Pre-k -12 in partnership with the National Science Resources Center, an organization of the National Academies and the Smithsonian Institute; and

Whereas: there is a need to coordinate and supervise science and technology curriculum and instruction District-wide to ensure high academic achievement in both science and technology Pre-k – 12; and

Whereas: the Field Coordinator for Mathematics, Science and Technology is responsible for Mathematics, Science and Technology curriculum, instruction and assessment Pre-k-12; and

Whereas: there is a need intensify the supervision of our Mathematics programs and of our Science and Technology programs District-wide; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved: that the Field Coordinator for Mathematics, Science and Technology be abolished and the positions of Field Coordinator for Mathematics and Field Coordinator for Science and Technology be created; and, be it further

Resolved: that the Field Coordinator for Mathematics at the cost of \$105,319 will be budgeted under F.07216.137.QG.000000, and the Field Coordinator for Science and Technology at the cost of \$100,056 will be budgeted under Title IIB (.75) and A.20100.137.QG.000000 (.25).

A motion was made by Commissioner Rohadfox-Ceaser and seconded by Commissioner Menkin to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-29

2. Create Additional Teaching Staff Positions

Whereas: current student enrollment and scheduling data was reviewed to ensure an adequate number of teachers in each subject area for the 2007-08 school year; and

Whereas: it was determined, following that review of data, that there is a need for additional teachers to meet the needs of students; and

Whereas: the following teacher positions need to be created to provide adequate instructional staffing: business teacher (.5), foreign language teacher (1.0) and English as a second language teacher (1.0);

Whereas: this request for additional positions was reviewed by the Board of Education Budget and Finance Committee; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: that 2.5 teacher positions will be created at a cost of \$181,250, under budgets A.21100.135.06.000000(0.5 FTE Business), A.21100.135.04.000000(0.8 FTE Foreign Language- Nottingham), A.21100.130.45.000000(0.2 FTE Foreign Language- Ed Smith), and A.21100.120.DW.000000(1.0 ESL).

A motion was made by Commissioner Rohadfox-Ceaser and seconded by Commissioner Kirby to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-15

3. Cash Flow Borrowing

Whereas: the attached cash flow analysis for the Syracuse City School District's 2007-2008 school year projects a cash shortage, beginning in mid-September due to the timing of cash receipts from NY State sources; and

Whereas: the City of Syracuse separates City cash from School District cash; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Common Council be, and is hereby requested, to authorize the Commissioner of Finance to issue Revenue Anticipation Notes, in an amount not to exceed \$55,000,000 with receipt of all necessary documentation and review.

A motion was made by Commissioner Menkin and seconded by Commissioner Corriders to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-16

4. External Auditor Agreement

Whereas: the Syracuse City School District and the City of Syracuse jointly issued a Request For Proposal ("RFP") for external audit services for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008; and

Whereas: a committee, comprised of District and City personnel reviewed the RFP responses and recommended the accounting firm of Testone, Marshall and Discenza, LLP, be awarded a contract pursuant to the terms of the RFP; and

Whereas: the District's Audit committee, an advisory committee to the Board of Education, recommended to the Board that the firm of Testone, Marshall and Discenza, LLP, be selected as the District's external auditor; and

Whereas: the Board is desirous of entering into an agreement with Testone, Marshall and Discenza, LLP, for the external audit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent of Schools and the President of the Board of Education be authorized to enter into an agreement with Testone, Marshall and Discenza, LLP, for the provision of auditing services to the District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, in an amount not to exceed \$108,000 to be paid from budget line A.13200.418.QA.000000; and be it further

Resolved: That after consultation with the Board of Education the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to spend up to \$15,000 for work by Testone, Marshall and Discenza, LLP that is considered to be outside the scope of services as defined by the agreement with Testone, Marshall and Discenza, LLP; and be it further

Resolved: That any and all costs above and beyond the additional \$15,000 must be brought back to the Board of Education for approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Corriders to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 6-Yes, 1-Present (Commissioner Menkin voted Present), motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-17

5. Inter-Municipal Agreement with SCPD

Whereas: the Syracuse City School District desires to enhance and maintain a safe and orderly learning environment; and

- Whereas: in order to help achieve this the Syracuse City School District has partnered with the Syracuse Police Department; and
- Whereas: the Syracuse Police Department and the Syracuse City School District have agreed to increase by four (4) the number of positions reimbursed by the District for the 2006-07; and
- Whereas: one of these positions have been assigned to each of the District high schools; and
- Whereas: the total cost to reimburse the City for the four positions is \$300,000 to be paid from budget lines A.21100.451.03.001550 (Fowler), A.21100.451.04.001550 (Nottingham), A.21100.451.06.001550 (Henninger), A.21100.451.07.001550 (Corcoran),
- Resolved: That the Syracuse City School District Board of Education approve payment for the above noted positions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Kirby and seconded by Commissioner Matthews to adopt the above resolution.
Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 1-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-18

6. Joanne Reddick Memorial Award

- Whereas: Joanne Reddick was with the Syracuse City School District for thirty years, serving as a Physical Education teacher for thirteen years, a teacher on special assignment for one year, an administrative intern for two years, and as an administrator for fourteen years, three of which were spent as principal of Nottingham High School, retiring in August of 1999, and
- Whereas: upon the death of Ms. Reddick, M. Catherine Richardson requested permission to fund a yearly memorial scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.00 in Ms. Reddick's name, and
- Whereas: two graduating seniors from Nottingham High School, one male student and one female student who have demonstrated the qualities Ms. Reddick instilled in her staff and students, including commitment to encouraging cultural awareness, the breaking down of stereotypes and the fair treatment of all people in our community. Each individual will be the recipient of \$500.00 of the award annually, now, therefore, be it
- Resolved: That the Joanne Reddick Memorial Award be established in a scholarship account. The annual Award will consist of two individual awards in the amount of \$500.00 each for one male and one female graduating senior. The students receiving the award shall be selected by a scholarship committee which will consist of the Principal, Vice Principals and Guidance Counselors of Nottingham High School.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCarty and seconded by Commissioner Kirby to table the above resolution.
Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-19

7. Abolish/Create Field Coordinator Positions (English Arts & Social Studies/ELA)

- Whereas: the Board of Education reviewed and approved the Curriculum Audit Action Plan pending New York State Education Department funding; and
- Whereas: the New York State Education Department allocated \$3.5 million to support the implementation of the Curriculum Audit Action Plan; and
- Whereas: the Field Coordinator for the Humanities is now responsible for both English Language Arts and Social Studies programming District-wide; and

Whereas: the Curriculum Audit Action Plan outlines the need for a Field Coordinator for English Language Arts (1.0) to improve English language arts programming District-wide including the implementation of the Curriculum Audit Action Plan; and

Whereas: there is also an identified need to continue to supervise and coordinate the District's social studies curriculum, instruction and assessment Pre-k-12; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved: That the Field Coordinator for the Humanities position will be abolished, and a Field Coordinator for Social Studies, which will be funded under budget, #A.20100.137.QG, and a Field Coordinator for ELA, which will be budgeted under the Curriculum Audit budget F.08866.137.QG will be created.

A motion was made by Commissioner Menkin and seconded by Commissioner Matthews to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-20

8. Staffing for Curriculum Audit Action Plan

Whereas: the Syracuse City School District developed a Curriculum Audit Action Plan in response to New York State Education Department's Curriculum Audit; and

Whereas: the Curriculum Audit Action Plan was reviewed by the Board of Education Budget and Finance and Curriculum Committees; and

Whereas: the Board of Education approved the Curriculum Audit Action Plan pending New York State Education Department funding; and

Whereas: the New York State Education Department allocated \$3.5 million to support the implementation of the Curriculum Audit Action Plan beginning July 2007; and

Whereas: the Curriculum Audit Action Plan outlines the need for additional staff to be hired to implement the plan; and

Whereas: the plan identifies the need for Staff Development Facilitators (4.0), one for each quadrant, to work with secondary teachers to improve English language arts instruction in the middle and high schools; and

Whereas: the plan identifies the need for teaching assistants (20.0) to substitute for teachers who are attending professional development embedded in the school day as outlined by the plan; and

Whereas: the plan identifies the need for a technology staff member (1.0) to support the implementation of computer based instruction and intervention programs; and

Whereas: the plan identifies the need to for a Field Coordinator for English Language Arts (1.0) to oversee the English language arts programming District-wide including the implementation of the Curriculum Audit Action Plan; and

Whereas: the total cost of the above noted positions is anticipated to be \$1,092,000 and are budgeted within line F.08866; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Syracuse City School District Board of Education approves the staff positions as outlined in the Curriculum Audit Action Plan for the 2007-08 school year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rohadfox-Ceaser and seconded by Commissioner Kirby to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-21

9. Ed Smith and H.W. Smith Staffing

- Whereas: Edward Smith and Hurlbut W. Smith Schools are scheduled to begin their conversion to Pre-k-8 schools by adding a 7th grade in September 2007; and
- Whereas: Edward Smith and Hurlbut W. Smith Schools will need additional staffing for the 7th grade and middle level programming in September 2007; and
- Whereas: the following positions will be added to both the Edward Smith and the Hurlbut W. Smith School: english language arts teacher (1.0), mathematics teacher (1.0), science teacher (1.0), social studies teacher (1.0), reading teacher (.5), technology teacher (.5), foreign language teacher (.5), family and consumer science teacher (.5), health teacher (.5), guidance counselor (.5), clerical (1.0), sentry (1.0) and teaching assistant (1.0); and
- Whereas: the art teacher's full time equivalent will be increased up to .3 in both the Edward Smith and the Hurlbut W. Smith School; and
- Whereas: the music teachers' full time equivalents will be increased up to .3 in both the Edward Smith and the Hurlbut W. Smith School; and
- Whereas: the physical education teacher's full time equivalent will be increased up to .5 in both the Edward Smith and the Hurlbut W. Smith School; and
- Whereas: a special education teacher and teaching assistant will be added to Edward Smith School only; and
- Whereas: the total cost of the above noted positions is anticipated to be \$1,484,400 and are budgeted within lines A.21100.130.15.000000, A.21100.130.45.000000; A.21100.130.15.000000, A.21100.132.45.000000; A.20200.180.15.000000, A.21100.180.45.000000, A.21170.170.15.002660; and A.21170.170.45.002660.
- Whereas these positions were reviewed by the Syracuse City School District Budget and Finance Committee on July 24, 2007 and included in the proposed Syracuse City School District budget for the 2007-08 school year; therefore, be it
- Resolved: That the Syracuse City School District Board of Education approves the addition of above noted staff to Edward Smith and Hurlbut W. Smith K-7 Schools to support the 7th grade and middle level programming for the 2007-08 school year.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCarty and seconded by Commissioner Kirby to adopt the above resolution.
Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-22

10. Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central Staffing

- Whereas: The Syracuse City School District will be opening the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central in September 2007 with an entering 9th grade class only; and
- Whereas: Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central will need staff to support the instructional program for the 9th grade in September 2007; and
- Whereas: the following positions will be needed to staff the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central: English Language Arts teacher (1.0), mathematics teacher (1.0), science teachers (1.5), social studies teacher (1.0), career exploration (2.0), foreign language teacher (1.0), physical education teacher (.5), Advancement Via Individual Determination teacher (.5), clerical (1.0), sentry (1.0), nurse (.5) and a teaching assistant (1.0); and

Whereas: the total cost of the above noted positions is anticipated to be \$757,500 and are budgeted within lines A.21100.135.01.000000, A.21100.132.01.000000; A.20200.180.01.000000, A.21170.170.01.002660; and

Whereas: the costs of these positions were reviewed by the Syracuse City School District Budget and Finance Committee on July 24, 2007 and included in the proposed Syracuse City School District budget for the 2007-08 school year; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Syracuse City School District Board of Education approves the staff positions for the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central to support the instructional program for the 2007-08 school year.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rohadfox-Ceaser and seconded by Commissioner Matthews to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-23

11. Abolish/Create School Sentry Positions

Whereas: the Board of Education has created and supported the School Sentry Program, as a portion of a broader security initiative; and

Whereas: the objective of the School Sentry Program is to replace school monitor positions as they become available through attrition with School Sentries, in order to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment within Syracuse City School District buildings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the abolishment of three (3), recently vacated School Monitor Positions, as a result of two (2) employee retirements and one (1) School Monitor who transitioned to School Sentry via the Civil Service process and hereby approves the creation of three (3) School Sentry Positions at a total cost of \$134,337.00 to be funded from budget #A.21170.170.DW.002660.

A motion was made by Commissioner Corriders and seconded by Commissioner Matthews to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-24

12. Supplemental Programs

Whereas: the Syracuse City School District is committed to seeking supplemental programmatic funding; and

Whereas: program proposals have been delivered in concert with the respective and appropriate Syracuse City School District staff members; therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent of Schools be, and is hereby, authorized to seek funds from appropriate agencies on behalf of the Syracuse City School District for the following proposed projects/programs:

- Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE)
- Mentor Teacher Internship Program (MTIP)
- Teachers of Tomorrow (TOT)
- Universal Prekindergarten Program

A motion was made by Commissioner Menkin and seconded by Commissioner Kirby to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

INSTRUCTION **None**

FACILITIES

Resolution-#0807-25

13. Consultancy-Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt.

Whereas: the firm of Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt, has submitted a proposal dated June 5, 2007, to provide miscellaneous engineering services; and

Whereas: Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt's proposal was reviewed by the Board of Education's Facilities Committee and is on the Board's approved consulting list; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent of Schools be, and is hereby, authorized to enter into an agreement on behalf of the City School District with the firm of Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt, for said services, in the amount of \$9,000, plus reimbursables. (A.16200.407)

A motion was made by Commissioner McCarty and seconded by Commissioner Corriders to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-26

14. Amend -Waiver of Bid-Salem Hyde School

Whereas: the Board of Education passed Resolution Number 1105-92 at its November 10, 2005, business meeting; and

Whereas: the Syracuse City School District requested a waiver for the purchase and installation of a playground at Salem Hyde Elementary School for a cost not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000); and

Whereas: the waiver period has expired; and

Whereas: the Syracuse City School District plans to build a playground at Salem Hyde Elementary School, for a not to exceed cost of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000); and

Whereas: the District desires to obtain a waiver of bid to purchase and install pre-engineered playground equipment to be utilized at the school that is compatible with the school's existing equipment. They will purchase the equipment from Parkitects Inc.; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to request from the Common Council a waiver of competitive bid for the playground equipment. Budget F.07142.445.30.

A motion was made by Commissioner Corriders and seconded by Commissioner Kirby to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

Resolution-#0807-27

15. Bonding for Vehicles

Whereas: the Facilities Department has indicated a need for the replacement of various vehicles; and

Whereas: these vehicles are replacements for existing vehicles that are beyond their useful life; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the Superintendent of Schools be, and is hereby, directed to transmit a request to the Common Council for the appropriation of a sum in the amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00), for the purpose of purchasing of said vehicles; and be it further

Resolved: That the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00), be provided by the sale of serial bonds, issued by the City of Syracuse, in the amounts and at the time required, consistent with the progress of the project and the school district's capital improvement program.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCarty and seconded by Commissioner Corriders to adopt the above resolution. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

As there was no additional business to come before the Board of Education, President Deuel called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Commissioner Corriders and seconded by Commissioner Matthews to adjourn the meeting. Vote on the motion: 7-Yes, 0-No, motion carried.

The Board of Education adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann L. D'Amico
Executive Coordinator/District Clerk
Board of Education

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