

**Tully Central Schools  
Board of Education – Regular Meeting  
Tully High School – Conference Room  
March 15, 2010 – 6:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

The President of the Board of Education called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

1. Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion by Mr. Drumm seconded by Mr. Burgett to approve the agenda. Vote 6-0. Motion carried.
  - Agenda Changes – Superintendent
  - Approve Agenda

**MINUTES**

3. Motion by Mr. Steiger seconded by Mr. Twentyman to approve the minutes of the previous meeting – February 22, 2010 (Attachment – Item 1) Vote 6-0. Motion carried.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mrs. Maureen Brophy  
Mr. Dan Twentyman  
Mr. James Bertolo  
Mr. John Burgett  
Mr. Mark Drumm  
Mr. Jan Kublick (arrived at 6:17 pm)  
Mr. Ken Steiger  
Mr. Blaise Knapp, Student Ex Officio member

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT**

Mr. Kraig D. Pritts, Superintendent  
Ms. Tiffany Nesbitt, Business Administrator  
Mrs. Kimberly O'Brien, K-6 Principal  
Mrs. Debora M. Cox, Director of Special Education / K-6 Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Mary Ann Murphy, 7-12 Principal  
Mrs. Darlene Walowsky, Interim 7-12 Assistant Principal

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mrs. Mary D. Fisher, District Clerk

**RECOGNITIONS AND VISITORS**

4. Staff and Student Recognitions

- Introduction of new teacher – Ms. Jessica Matt, Math 7-12. Mrs. Murphy introduced Ms. Matt. Ms. Matt stated she is from Syracuse, has a Masters of Science, Literacy and she is really excited to be here.

5. The following visitors were recognized and welcomed: Lorraine Tickner, Carol Gleason, Tammie Fallon, Heather Edinger, Kathleen Doody, JoAnn Gates, Chris Scully-Smith, Wendy Fowler-Conner, Michael Gates, Collette Todd, Michele McNeerney, Cristine Hendricks, Cynthia Moy, Patti Hamilton, Peg Fritton, Cindy Shaw, Susan Biggar, Barb Jordan, Sarah Brown-Paul, Erika Baritell, Beth Lancer, Leandra Kramer, Courtnie West, Jamie Welch, Cindy Giffin, Paula Harty, Marge Morton, Leigh Ann L. Moss, Nancy Hatch, Christine Dietz, Vickie Marchand, Lori Saile, Mike Perkins, Renee DeCarlo, Corinne Hust, Betsy Shahan, Denise Cardamone, Donna Voggel, Gwen Eichorn, Daniel Eichorn, Jean Reed, Sue Reilly, Mary Kirk, Dave Courtwright, Anne Marie Heymann, William A. Lund, Anne Courtwright, Jessica Matt, Kathe Naples, Karen White, Stephanie Dardaris, Christopher Quill, Victoria Ellis, Bettemae Russell, Michelle Rauber, Don Wilson and Lisa Saile.

Mrs. Brophy opened the meeting to visitor comments. Mrs. Shahan read from a prepared statement regarding the student that dropped out of school that Blaise Knapp had referred to at last month's Board meeting, news from Denise Cardamone regarding five Rotary students and Kelly Harris unable to take two A/P courses because of course scheduling conflicts. Mrs. Brophy thanked Mrs. Shahan for sharing her concerns and stated the Board is well aware of these concerns and the issues are being addressed.

### **PRESENTATIONS – DISCUSSION/ACTION**

6. Tully Free Library budget presentation – Mrs. Carol Gleason and Mrs. Lorraine Tickner. Mrs. Tickner asked if the Tully Free Library proposition could be placed on the school budget vote again this year. The library is asking for \$125,000, which is a 4.2% increase over last year. Mr. Pritts noted the Board does not really have any say in the amount and whatever amount the library asks for is the amount listed on the proposition for the Tully Free Library.

7. 2010-2011 Budget: Program & Revenue. Mr. Pritts and Ms. Nesbitt presented an in depth PowerPoint presentation. The presentation can be found on the school website. It was noted the district is in a fiscal crisis with a million dollars in State Aid cut which is 5.6% of overall revenue and sales tax payments to the district are going to be eliminated. It was noted we can do a band aid approach for the 2010-2011 school year. It was noted Tully is considered an average needs school by New York State. Mr. Pritts stated specific positions that will be eliminated will not be discussed at tonight's meeting as we do not have a definite picture at this time. Mr. Pritts stated there will be some changes in administration. The administrative bargaining unit has agreed to give back a benefit that equates to approximately 40% of their salary increase for 2010-2011. The original salary increase was previously negotiated in a three year contract.

Mr. Pritts stated we had a vacancy in a dispatcher position and rather than filling the position we hired someone on a per diem basis.

It was noted that Special Education enrollment has increased.

It was noted regarding the proposed Pre-K program that if we can find external funding to support the program, the Board has stated they are for it.

There was a discussion on Medicaid payments that are currently on hold.

It was noted there is a new line item this year “out of reserves”.

Mr. Pritts noted we will see some reductions in staff but we do not envision the types of reductions you are reading about in other schools.

A Board member noted in the revenues line we are still holding out some hope for county sales tax.

Questions and comments were taken from the audience.

Mr. Bill Lund stated he realized the mentality of purchasing buses as they are 90% aidable but there are probably four buses that have not moved in two and a half weeks. Why do we have to go out and purchase new buses each year? Ms. Nesbitt noted we will surplus two buses now. Mr. Drumm noted he believed at all times we have two spare buses but that we will look into it

Mr. Lund also asked for clarification about the administration giving up 40% of their salary. It was noted they are not giving up 40% of their salary but it is a give back dollar benefit equivalent to 40% of their raise that was in pre-negotiated contract that goes into next year.

Mrs. Renee DeCarlo stated it doesn't make sense to her with reduction in enrollment why we need to purchase buses. Ms. Nesbitt noted we are reviewing this. Our Transportation Supervisor is working on ridership on the buses. The buses travel 78 square miles. Mr. Pritts noted he believed we had eliminated two runs since he has been here and we have also scaled back on late runs.

Mrs. Cindy Shaw stated she appreciated the fact that one of the new buses would be wheelchair accessible and her hope was that this bus would carry more than one wheelchair. Ms. Nesbitt stated they come with track seating with two to four seats being wheelchair accessible.

Mrs. Anne Courtwright asked if the loss stays at one million dollars, is the district planning on using all that from reserves and how much would you deduct back. Mr. Pritts noted we will strive to keep the maximum of 4% for fund balance to apply to the following year as permitted by the state. He expressed concern that the district would be able to apply the same short term fix in 2011-2012.

Mrs. Mary Kirk stated in talking with friends in four to five other schools, administration had already discussed with the faculty how they would have to go and they have been provided a proactive plan. Mrs. Kirk questioned as to why we have not yet had a faculty meeting to be told what jobs are on the line. Mr. Pritts stated as of right now, we do not know exactly and have been working nights, weekends and holidays trying to find a way to minimize those impacts. He also stated that we will not present information that is not factual. When decisions are finalized and direction is provided, the affected people will be informed. Mrs. Kirk stated from a humanitarian perspective so many people have lives and family and need to be able to plan if their job is going to be cut. Mrs. Kirk stated it is almost worse not knowing.

A discussion was held regarding Elliott Merenbloom. Mr. Merenbloom will be here on March 31 from 1:00 – 8:00 pm for the purpose of looking at course schedules and hoping to correct some of the issues that have surfaced.

Mrs. Cindy Shaw stated the elementary building took a big hit last week when the staff was told our principal will not be here next school year. Mrs. Shaw asked who gets to determine the priority of cuts. A Board member noted it will be across the board. The Board is pretty much behind the fact we do not want to do away with athletics. A Board member stated the Board and administration prioritizes the cuts. Mrs. Shaw stated staff members can be very resourceful and maybe opening that forum up to staff members would be good if the Board would be interested. Mr. Pritts noted that was done a year or two ago, a mailing was sent out with every paycheck asking for input and approximately four responses were received.

Mr. Daniel Eichorn stated he heard the Board was considering eliminating all athletics. A Board member stated this was never on the table.

Mrs. Shahan stated we want this to be more of an open process. Mr. Bertolo stated the reality is we have a million dollar deficit and the money will be gone next year as well. We will be back here next year with a million dollar shortage. Mr. Bertolo stated please forward any suggestions you have to save money. Mr. Bertolo stated we are all trying to come up with the same solutions. He noted we have been fortunate in the past in that Mr. Rodems and Mr. Pritts were able to put money in reserves. Other districts are not in the same position.

Mrs. Bettemae Russell stated she could speak for almost everyone in the room on how passionate we are in what we do. It is important for you to understand that is where the passion comes from being informed.

Mr. Steiger noted how full the room is tonight and he would be happy if everyone would come to monthly Board meetings. Mr. Pritts noted the budget presentations are on the school website

Mrs. Kathy Doody stated when it comes to feeding your family you will want to know early if you need to find another job vs. having one week notice. Mr. Pritts noted it will be the first part of April which is when people need to be notified according to the law.

Mrs. Tammie Fallon stated many of the teachers that are here tonight have concerns other than the budget. It does sound like you have been working hard on the budget and are at the mercy of New York State. It sounds like you need to do some planning now for next year. I am really sorry we are losing our elementary principal as well and I support her. We have really enjoyed working with her.

Mrs. Corinne Hust spoke on the budget.

Mr. Steiger stated he wanted to put a plug in for Renee DeCarlo, Corinne Hust and Denise Cardamone for their part in the Public Advocacy Committee. They have been meeting regularly with us over the last several months and have been putting together templates. Legislators have to run for election at some point. They respond to a personal approach.

Mr. Drumm asked how you are going to handle getting cost saving ideas from the staff. Mr. Pritts stated we can handle it any way the Board wants. It was suggested it might be most effective if it went through the union. Ms. Moy asked for hard copies and not email. Mr. Perkins will take care of it. It was requested that all ideas be turned in by March 31.

## 8. Cabinet/Board Comments

- District

Jr. Sr. High School Assistant Principal: Mr. Pritts noted there were approximately 35 applications. Eleven interviews took place and narrowed down to five candidates. A committee is being set up at this time. Final interviews will be held on April 1.

- Building Spotlights

Academic Top Ten: Mrs. Murphy stated the Class of 2010 academic top ten students have been invited to the April 5 Board meeting.

- Board

- Student Government. Mr. Knapp reported student council has written a proposal for music players to be allowed at lunch. It has been redrafted but not yet signed. The March dance is set for next week. The senior class government has set up a luncheon and is also working on graduation. The boys' basketball team won sectionals but they lost on Saturday. Mr. Bertolo reported on the Boys' Indoor Track team. They attended the 2010 Nike Indoor Nationals in Boston, Massachusetts this past weekend. Our team ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in the nation. Mr. Knapp reported World Awareness Night II sponsored by the senior class will be held April 8.

- Committees

Athletic Council: Mr. Drumm reported the athletic council met a week ago and discussed how to deal with the budget situation and also the Athletic Code of Conduct.

Audit Committee: Mr. Bertolo reported the audit committee met a couple weeks ago and discussed the amount of money to come out of reserves to use in our budget.

Facilities Committee: No report.

Goals Committee: No report. The goals committee will meet at the end of the school year.

Legislative: Mr. Steiger stated he was happy to see we are getting more interest from staff to find ways to save money. He reminded everyone the county sales tax issue is coming to a head. Mr. Rhinehart has put together a commission. Last week was the first public meeting. Today was a public hearing. The towns and villages will meet next week. Larry Cummings, Executive Director of the Central New York School Board Association will be speaking on behalf of the schools on March 29. That would be a good opportunity for the public to show up. The legislative chambers are located on the fourth floor of the county courthouse and they have airport like security. Maybe the Public Advocacy Committee could gather letters for this meeting. The best message comes from the taxpayers. We have put a link on the school website for a Google group in case you are interested in joining that group.

Mrs. Brophy thanked everyone for their comments.

## **FINANCIAL ITEMS**

9. Financial Reports – none

## **POLICIES**

10. Policies – none

## **OLD BUSINESS**

11. Old business – none

## **PERSONNEL**

Motion by Mr. Burgett seconded by Mr. Drumm to approve items numbered 12 and 13 by consent. Vote 7-0. Motion carried.

12. Approved the following substitute lists:

- Substitute Teacher – Certified and Non-Certified
- Substitute Teaching Assistant – Non-Certified
- Substitute Teacher Aide
- Substitute Bus Monitor
- Substitute Bus Driver

(Attachment – Item 2)

13. Appointed Jamie Wood to the position of long-term substitute 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher with an anticipated effective date of March 22, 2010 with an anticipated ending date of May 14, 2010. (Attachment – Item 3). Ms. Wood has initial certificates in the following: Students with Disabilities (Birth-Grade 2) effective 02/01/2010; Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) effective 02/01/2010; Students with Disabilities (Grades 1-6) effective 09/01/2009 and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) effective 09/01/2007. This appointment is per the terms of the 2007-2010 Tully Teachers' Association contract.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Mr. Drumm seconded by Mr. Twentyman to approve items numbered 14-18 by consent. Vote 7-0. Motion carried.

14. Approved the recommendation that a special Board of Education meeting be scheduled for April 19, 2010 at 6:00 pm. The purpose of the special meeting will be to adopt the 2010-2011 budget and to discuss and vote upon any other district items. This meeting of April 19, 2010 will replace the meeting previously scheduled for April 26, 2010.

15. Approved the attached public notice for the annual meeting of budget vote, related propositions and Board elections and the Superintendent of Schools and School Business Administrator are authorized to make revisions as needed for publication. (Attachment – Item 4)

16. Approved the CSE Placement recommendations. (Attachment – Item 5)

17. Approved the adoption of the 2010-2011 school calendar. (Attachment – Item 6)

18. Approved the attached resolution authorizing the Tully Central School District to enter into up to a three year service contract with OCM BOCES for network printing services. (Attachment – Item 7)

## **MEETING AND DATES – as provided by Cabinet**

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|------------|--|
| March 18 - | Teachers vs. Alumni Fund Basketball Game   |
| March 19 - | Superintendent Conference Day – No classes |
| March 23 - | FFA banquet – high school – 6:00 pm        |

March 26 -	March Madness dance – high school – 7:30 pm
March 26-27 -	Jazz All County Festival
March 27 -	Volleyball Midnight Madness
March 31 -	Senior High Concert – high school – 7:00 pm
April 1 -	Junior High music assembly – Grades 5-8
April 2-	Good Friday – Schools closed
April 5 -	Board of Education meeting – high school – 6:00 pm
April 8 -	World Awareness Night II – 6:00-8:30 pm
April 9 -	Junior High dance – high school – 6:30 pm
April 10 -	ACT Test – high school Chicken BBQ, Car Wash, Bottle Drive-After Prom Party
April 10-11 -	Art Club to NYC
April 19 -	Board of Education meeting – high school – 6:00 pm
April 19-23 -	Spring Recess – no classes
April 26-28 -	NYS ELA Assessment - Grades 3-8
April 29 -	Kindergarten’s Nursery Rhyme Show – 6:00 pm
April 29 -	Elementary Open House – 6:30 pm
April 30 -	One Act Plays – 7:00 pm

### **ROUND TABLE**

Public comments

Mr. Steiger recognized Dan Eichorn, a sophomore. Dan is working on a merit badge.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Mr. Steiger seconded by Mr. Drumm to adjourn into executive session for the discussion of personnel issues and negotiations at 7:45 pm.

Motion by Mr. Kublick seconded by Mr. Burgett to return from executive session at 10:56 pm. Vote 7-0. Motion carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Mr. Steiger seconded by Mr. Drumm to adjourn at 10:57 pm. Vote 7-0. Motion carried.