

NISKAYUNA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2015

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT: Mr. David Apkarian, Ms. Debra Gordon, Ms. Patricia Lanotte, Mrs. Barbara Mauro (arrived at 6:35), Ms. Rosemarie Perez-Jaquith (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Mr. Bob Winchester

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT: Mr. Kevin Laurillard

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Mr. John Yagielski, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Lauren Gemmill, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Ms. Carrie Nyc-Chevrier, Director of Business and Finance, Mr. Mark Treanor, Director of Student and Staff Support Services

ALSO ATTENDING: Matt Leon, Communications Specialist, Community, Parents and Faculty Members

President Lanotte called the Regular Meeting of the Niskayuna Board of Education to order at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Craig Elementary School.

Craig Principal Bill Anders introduced the Students First Presentation to the Board by Craig 4th grade teachers and students. The students displayed and discussed their project work on the Iroquois.

1. Mrs. Gordon moved that the Board of Education approve the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Winchester seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

2. Mr. Winchester moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the Board of Education on January 27, 2015. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

3. Interim Superintendent John Yagielski spoke about the difficulty we have been experiencing with the gym floor at Van Antwerp. Water damage under the wood lifted it up in a couple of areas. While getting estimates on repair, testing was done, during which asbestos was found to be in the adhesive under the floor. Although there is no risk in its current state, the district is moving as quickly as possible to get this problem taken care of. We have worked with New York State to get an emergency declaration and will begin the asbestos abatement during recess. Once it is removed and cleared, another floor will be installed, taking us into the return of school. Steps are being taken to continue the p.e. program until work is completed. The posting regarding the asbestos abatement will be up shortly.

Yesterday, the school district used its second snow day. What may not be realized is that that is the number of snow days that were built into this year's calendar. Based on a 180-day student instruction requirement from NYS, students would need to come in for another day of instruction if another snow day is necessary. Q. Are we in jeopardy of pulling from vacation days if there are more? A. Yes, we would have to use an "open" day. Superintendent Yagielski has started working with the adopted BOCES calendar for 2015-16, and has put together a first draft of a calendar for next year. He may adjust the district calendar so that there will be 183 days of instruction, allowing up to three snow days next year before there is concern about not having enough days of instruction.

He also noted that Labor Day 2015 falls in a very odd spot. If you try to get 182-183 days into the calendar next year with all of the traditions that we have, we can barely get it all in. We will have to start school in early September, prior to Labor Day. It will be an unusual calendar largely because of when Labor Day falls.

The Board of Education was represented at:

Glenclyff, Van Antwerp, Rosendale and Birchwood PTO (playground replacement project) meetings. The High School PTO meeting was cancelled due to weather.

Call to Order

Students First –
Craig Elementary

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes

Reports –
Superintendent's
Report

Board Reports

Hall of Fame Selection Committee, Hillside Ziti Dinner, Class Size Management Work Group, Transparency Work Group (will come forward with bullet list of key ideas in March), Legislative Budget meeting where John Yagielski testified on behalf of the Educational Conference Board

Board Reports –
(continued)

Good News:

Congratulations to the three Niskayuna High School wrestlers who won Class A titles this past weekend.

Nisk-Art Gallery will celebrate 25 years with an exhibit of alumni art work, opening on March 25. Entries from the graduating classes of 1990-2014 will be accepted through February 28. Details are on the website.

Eighteen middle and high school students from grades 6-12 were selected to perform at the 2015 Schenectady All-County Music Festival held this past weekend at Schalmont.

Congratulations to the Iroquois Math Counts team for placing 3rd in the regional qualifier at RPI, and thanks to volunteer parent coach Steven Schmidt. Good luck at States!

Congratulations to Niskayuna Science teachers Mary Hanchar and Paul Scott who, among 237 others statewide, became Master Teachers this year.

Twelve Niskayuna High School Students have received the 2015 New York State Merit Scholarship for Academic Excellence. This scholarship is based on a weighted score of NYS regents examinations taken throughout high school. Of those selected, the weighted regents score average ranged from 94.8 to 99.3%.

Upcoming:

Community Forum on Flexible Attendance Zones, Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. in Craig School Cafeteria.

“Fool the Eye” art exhibit runs from February 17 – March 11 at Proctor’s Theatre and involving exhibits from grades 7-12 students, including eight from Niskayuna.

Student Reports

Student Report:

Students Matthew Mizbani, Michael Makoutonin, Chrissy Li, Eileen Ofori, Veronica Liu, Samir Menon and Noah Rohde invited members of the Board of Education to the next Student Drop-In Session at the high school on March 3 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school library. The students brought the following to the attention of the Board:

Code of Conduct is somewhat outdated. Although updated annually, it may be necessary to revise it further to reflect current technology and standards. The use of cell phones throughout the day was specifically mentioned as needing clarification.

“Sweets Law” - Section 915 of education law prohibits the distribution of certain candies during the school day. It does not appear that we are complying with that at the high school.

There was concern that, as juniors, students are not aware of steps needed and preparation that can be made for the college application process. A possible cause is lack of time available to counselors to devote to this. Possible suggestions included a feedback session after college night, Saturday sessions for students and parents, and a focus on the website at the counseling center.

Comments from
the Community

There were no comments from the community.

4. Policy

Policy –

a. Policy 9270.1 Substitute Teachers – First Read

Policy 9270.1
Substitute
Teachers
First Read

Interim Superintendent John Yagielski saw a need to look at this policy when a substitute was needed in a math department position at the high school. In order to not shortchange either our students, or the teacher in question, he found it hard to stay exactly within the current policy. So, he asked the Board for an adjustment. Mrs. Mauro, Chair of the Board Policy Committee, noted that the current policy has five levels of payment. Keeping with that, but adding some language from the Erie I BOCES proposed policy and New York State regulations, she proposed the attached first read of amended Policy 9270.1 for the Board’s consideration.

5. Student Placements

a. Mr. Winchester moved that the Board of Education approve the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education, the Committee on Preschool Special Education, the 504 Committee and agreed upon amendments as per ASM 5a. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

6. Instruction

a. Instructional Planning – Structures and Processes, presented to the Board of Education by Interim Superintendent John Yagielski, speaks to where the district is going instructionally speaking. When he first came to Niskayuna, he had stated that this district has all the key assets of an outstanding district. However, it has lacked a clear and unified organizational focus, and there had been little evidence of thoughtful long-range planning. The most pressing need is to establish unequivocally that student learning is our focus. There has been a restructure at the district level, consolidating leadership for instruction, with an eye to improving the balance of instructional support for all of our schools. The approach is to redefine roles and responsibilities of principals and directors, and consolidate levels of instruction. The agenda was to develop instructional expectations which embrace the underlying intentions of the Common Core by having our own faculty develop our own Niskayuna curriculum. It is important to shift our focus from teaching to student learning through greater student engagement. We must also strive for a balanced assessment plan, meeting SED requirements for accountability, with timely information to identify student needs.

We need to establish clear and consistent structures and processes for formally and regularly reviewing and updating all of our k-12 instructional programs. In keeping with the tradition of our school district, we must set instructional expectations that clearly exceed New York State minimum requirements. How do we do this? By placing structures and processes in place that will help us do that:

Instructional Program Advisory Council (IPAC)-

Develop a clear description of the knowledge, skill and attitudes that all students should possess upon graduation. Called a "Profile of a Niskayuna Graduate", this will be written graduation expectations for each of our program areas including grade/course expectations at each grade level and instructional objectives for each grade.

District Curriculum and Assessment Council - is the first step away from the big picture, organizing our own staff to accomplish the goals of the Instructional Program Advisory Council. Membership would include the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, K-12 instructional program leaders (directors), teachers and Board of Education members.

Instructional Program Review Process – Next, we need to engage others inside the organization as review teams. The key steps to be taken are to finish redefining roles and responsibilities of principals and directors. This will include supporting and monitoring the department teacher leader pilot. Then, we will refine and finalize all elements of the Instructional Program Planning and Support. The target will be to have the IPAC and District Curriculum and Assessment Council functioning by September 2015. Lastly, the goal is to finalize a multi-year plan for investing in our own faculty, and developing our own common core aligned curriculum. We can fund these efforts through a combination of Title II Grant funds and a General Fund appropriation - \$140,000 per year.

Student Placements –
CSE, CPSE and 504

Instruction –

Instructional Planning Presentation

b. Report on English Language Learner Changes - Marie Digirolamo, Director of Foreign Language and ESL (English as a Second Language) detailed some upcoming changes to Part 154 of the Commissioner's Regulations, which deals with ESL students. Our district currently has about 87 students in this program, who are pulled out in small groups and given instruction in that model. The program is successful, based on students proficiency in English (NYSSSESLAT Exam) and ability to be on track to graduate. Beginning in 2015-16 ESL will now be called ENL (English as a New Language) and will be given to the students, at least in part, through a co-teach model. No more that two contiguous grades will be grouped together. Transitional services will be doubled to two years. Some of the changes come with an increase in potential costs. There will be an increased need for translators and ENL teachers.

Report on English Language Learners

c. The Board received information on a requested textbook, Maus II, by Art Spiegelman, published by Pantheon/Knopf Doubleday, copyright 1991, for use in 10th grade English classes. It has been requested, in part, in response to a Common Core shift toward having additional genres of literature available. The book will be available in Mrs. Vertigan's office for review, and will be brought to the Board for approval at the next regular meeting.

Textbook Information – Maus II

7. Personnel

Personnel –

a. Mr. Winchester moved that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approve the following personnel actions per ASM 7a. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Regular Personnel Actions

a. Instructional – Appointment- Department Teacher Leader

Instructional Appointment – Department Teacher Leader

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Ihnatoyla, Annemarie	English	1/30/15- 6/30/15	3% of base salary, pro-rated
Melito, Peter	Social Studies	1/30/15- 6/30/15	3% of base salary, pro-rated
Niro-Booth, Michelle	Special Ed.	1/30/15- 6/30/15	3% of base salary, pro-rated

b. Non-Instructional – Appointment- Adjustment

Non-Instructional Appointment

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Grassia, Nicole	S/CA/TRANS from 4.75 to 5.0 hrs/day	2/1/15
Rodriguez, Nellie	S/CA/TRANS from 4.5 to 5.0 hrs/day	2/1/15

c. Non-Instructional – Appointment- Permanent

Non-Instructional Appointment - Permanent

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Jurewicz, Timothy	HSBD/TRANS	1/26/15
Grice, Mary Anne	FSH/GLE	1/28/15
Kaehler, Phyllis F	SH/IRO	1/28/15
Palmer, Pamela	FSH/BIR	1/28/15
Warzek, Thomas	FSH/IRO	1/28/15
Toth, Renee	FSH/VAN	1/28/15
Rush, Katrine	Cook/GLE	1/28/15

d. Musical

Musical

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Salary as per contract</u>
Hughes, Eric	Director/Producer	\$4,285.00
Pizzino-Catalano, Christina	Vocal Director	\$1,462.00
Sausa-Gatta, Michelle	Stage Manager/Art Direction	\$1,325.00
Koste, Tracy	Business and Ticket Manager	\$474.00
Rice, Diane	Advertising and Promotion	\$237.00
DeLuca, Christina	Publicity Manager	\$237.00
Borges, Linda	Hair/Makeup Design	\$237.00

e. Appointment of Approved Staff – These staff have received fingerprint clearance from SED

Appointment of Approved Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Ali, Farheen	Substitute Teacher
Angermeier, Nicole	Substitute Teacher
Carpenter, Diana	Substitute Teacher
Clinton, Meredith	Substitute Teacher
Coacci, Christina	Substitute Teacher
Conyers, Melissa	Substitute Teacher
Dariano, Carrie	Substitute Teacher
Delansky, Hannah	Substitute Teacher
Gatt, Ryan	Substitute Teacher
Inthavong, Kayla	Substitute Teacher
LaJoy, Kimberly	Substitute Teacher
Magyar, Tyler	Substitute Teacher
Roberts, Brittany	Substitute Teacher
Tapler, Ian	Substitute Teacher
Whitfield, Kevin	Substitute Teacher
Malo, Korynn	Substitute Food Service Helper
Otty, Melanie	Substitute Teaching Assistant

f. Resignation– Non-Instructional

Resignation Non-Instructional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Carriero, Casey	Special Ed.	1/31/15

g. Retirement – Instructional

Retirement - Instructional

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Redbord, Diane	Reading/IRO	6/30/15	28

b. Mrs. Gordon moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approve the following coaches and salaries for the Spring Interscholastic Sports Program per ASM 7 b. Mr. Winchester seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Spring Coaches -

<u>SPORT</u>	<u>COACH</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
Crew-Boys		
Varsity	Mike Gilbert	\$4,415
Junior Varsity	Kelly Lyschynsky	2,892
Modified	Molly Grygiel	2,711
Mod Assistant	Scott Meade	2,349
Crew-Girls		
Varsity	Stacy Apfelbaum	\$3,615
Junior Varsity	Christopher Grygiel	2,892
Modified	Lucas LoRe	2,711
Mod Assistant	Katie Mausert	2,349
Baseball		
Varsity	John Furey	\$5,189
Junior Varsity	Matt Flynn	4,326
Freshman	Peter Furey	2,541
8 th Grade	Anthony Fallacaro	1,864
Volunteer	Mike Black	
Volunteer	Chris Bianchi	

Lacrosse-Boys

Varsity	Mike Vorgang	\$5,189
Varsity Assistant	Chris Delano	4,096
Junior Varsity	Andrew Rizzi	4,096
8 th Grade	Frank Adamo	2,909
Volunteer	PJ Williams	

Lacrosse-Girls

Varsity	Jason Bach	\$4,929
Varsity Assistant	Noreen Holl	2,711
Junior Varsity	Katie Tiscione	2,711
8 th Grade	Mark Welge	1,864

Softball

Varsity	Jules Paul	\$3,389
Junior Varsity	TBD	
8 th Grade	TBD	

Tennis-Boys

Varsity	Jim Neal	\$5,189
Junior Varsity	Maureen Trefethen	4,096

Outdoor Track-Boys

Varsity Head	Jason DeRocco	\$5,415
Varsity Assistant	Debbie Harris	3,597
Varsity Assistant (.5)	Elizabeth Moran	1,446
Varsity Assistant (.5)	Richard Oden	1,446
Volunteer	John Reilly	

Outdoor Track-Girls

Varsity Head	Mike Peters	\$5,155
Varsity Assistant	John Sharkey	4,277
Varsity Assistant	Talene Schaffer	2,892

Spring Coaches –
(continued)

8. Business –

a. Mrs. Gordon moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approve the following (attached) resolution declaring the replacement of the Van Antwerp Middle School gym floor an emergency project and the appropriation of \$185,000 to the Transfer to Capital budget line (A9950.900-50-0000). Mr. Apkarian seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

b. Mr. Winchester moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, award the 2014-2015 Groceries, Snacks and Beverages Bid per ASM 7b in part to:

Sysco	\$ 51,807.28
US Foods	17, 519.28
Ginsberg's	14,742.48
DeCrescente	9,296.00
Roberts Foods	5,772.78
<u>By George</u>	<u>3,908.05</u>
TOTAL	\$103, 045.87

This is a revised award based on an error in the pricing provided by one vendor. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Business –

Emergency
Resolution – Van
Antwerp Gym
Floor

Revised Bid
Award -
Groceries

c. Mrs. Gordon moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approve contracts with the following districts for the 2014-15 school year to provide health and welfare services to Niskayuna resident students attending non-public schools located within their district:

North Greenbush Common School District for three (3) students at a rate of \$250.44 for a total of \$751.32

South Colonie Central School District for thirty-two (32) students at a rate of \$637.78 for a total of \$20,408.96. Mr. Winchester seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

d. Mr. Winchester moved to accept the **attached** budget transfer as per ASM 8d. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

9. Other Items

a) One Board member noted that Mr. Laurilliard provided some suggested changes in the RFP for Legal Services.

10. Executive Session

Mr. Winchester moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, convene to Executive Session to discuss matters made confidential by state and federal law, collective negotiations and a specific contractual issue. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Motion carried 6-0. (9:02 p.m.)

Return to Public Session

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Winchester moved to adjourn at 10:16 p.m. Mrs. Gordon seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Health and
Welfare Services
Contracts

Budget Transfer

Other –

RFP Legal
Services

Executive
Session

Adjournment

To: Board of Education
From: Carrie Nyc-Chevrier, Director of Business and Finance
Via: John Yagielski, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Re: Declaration of Emergency Project

Recommended Motion: Move, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Interim Superintendent of Schools, approve the following resolution declaring the replacement of the Van Antwerp Middle School gym floor an emergency project and the appropriation of \$185,000 to the Transfer to Capital budget line (A9950.900-50-0000) as an ordinary contingent expense.

**RESOLUTION AND DECLARATION AND APPROPRIATION
OF CONTINGENT EXPENSE**

WHEREAS, the gym floor at Van Antwerp Middle School has failed and requires replacement and removal of asbestos; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received and considered the opinion of its Architects, Tetra Tech, regarding repairs to the gym floor and it is recommended that the School District make provision for immediate repairs as an emergency project; and

WHEREAS, the emergency project is essential for the protection of the health and safety of the students and staff and for the protection of the District's property; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is the lead agency with regard to the repair of the gym floor under the provisions of SEQRA.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board of Education declares that the repair of the gym floor is a SEQR Type II Action not requiring further review.
2. The Board of Education hereby finds pursuant to the Education Law, that the repair of the gym floor is essential for protection of the health and safety of the students and staff and for protection of the District's property, and hereby declares the Project to be an ordinary contingent expense (hereinafter "Project").
3. The maximum estimated cost of the Project, as determined by Tetra Tech, the Architect, is one hundred and eighty-five thousand dollars (\$185,000). The Project will be funded by fund

balance that will be transferred to the capital fund and, to the maximum extent possible, by state building aid.

4. The Superintendent of Schools and all officers and employees of the District are hereby authorized and directed to take all steps reasonably necessary or appropriate to complete the Project and to carry out the intent of this Resolution and to apply for any eligible state building aid.

5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The vote on this Resolution was as follows:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Dated: February 10, 2015

School District Clerk
Niskayuna Central School District

NISKAYUNA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

REQUEST FOR BUDGET TRANSFER(S): FEBRUARY 2015

Purpose of Transfer(s):

1.) To request a reclassification of O&M contractual budget to provide for anticipated Johnson Controls services related to NHS geothermal system.
(Pending BoE Approval) (02/11/2015)

Budget code FROM which funds are transferred:


<u>CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1.) A 1621.400-50-0299	MAINT-CONT EXP-ARAMARK	\$ 18,000.00
Total Transferred		\$ 18,000.00

Budget code TO which funds are transferred:

<u>CODE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1.) A 1621.400-50-0210	MAINT-CONT EXP-GEOTHERMAL	\$ 18,000.00
Total Transferred		\$ 18,000.00

Recommend: Approval _____ Disapproval _____

Remarks:


District Treasurer

Authorized: _____

Disapproved: _____
_____ Chief School Official _____ Date