

**CORTLAND CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 7, 2009**

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A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held at 7:00 PM at the Kaufman Center, 1 Valley View Drive, Cortland, NY, on Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

**Present:** Ms. Lisa Hoeschele, Mr. Paul Marshall, Ms. Mary Lou Bordwell, Mr. Sean Clark,  
Dr. Bonni Hodges, Mr. Joseph Lyman

**Absent:** Mr. William Young

**Also Present:** Mr. Laurence Spring, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Arthur Martignetti, Director of Business Services; Ms. Judi Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services; Community Representatives; Mr. Scott Conroe, Cortland Standard; Ms. Carolyn Dorn, Clerk, Board of Education

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Ms. Hoeschele called the meeting to order at 5:59 PM.
2. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**In accordance with Public Officer's Law Section 96, Subdivision 1, Ms. Hoeschele called for an Executive Session at 6:00 PM, to discuss particular persons. Moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**

**The Executive Session adjourned at 7:00 PM. Moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**
3. **RECALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Ms. Hoeschele recalled the regular meeting to order at 7:07 PM, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. **COMMUNICATIONS and RECOGNITION:**
  - a. **Kudos Korner:**
    - 1) Senior, Emmanuel Sikora, was recognized by the Board for having one of his original compositions selected for performance during the "Young Composers Honors Concert" at the New York State School Music Association Winter Conference, and, most recently, having two of his compositions selected for performance at the Music Educators National Conference.
  - b. **Audience Participation:**
    - 1) Ms. Amy Rosas addressed the Board, thanking them for their work and dedication during this very difficult budget process. She requested that the Board take time after this budget process to evaluate the process. She noted that she was disappointed that the public hasn't had an opportunity to view the budget before it's voted on this evening. She asked the Board to consider a zero tax increase for this year and next, that District elementary schools be left as they are, that cuts being made put us in a better fiscal position in years that state funding may change and have very little or no impact on the students, that administration cuts proposed be considered, that newsletters and papers sent home be mainstreamed throughout the district, and that each school go through their budget line by line to find additional savings.
    - 2) Ms. Hoeschele noted that Board members are elected to represent the school and take their positions very seriously. Public comment helped the Board pass a budget that they feel the community will support.
  - c. **Board Member Reports:**
    - 1) NYSSBA Joint BOCES Workshop – Albany, NY – May 1-2, 2009. Ms. Hoeschele noted that any Board member wishing to attend should contact Ms. Dorn.
5. **PRESENTATIONS:**
  - a. **Operation Recognition Diploma.** Mr. Spring presented veteran Michael Palladino with a High School Diploma under the Operation Recognition Program. Mr. Palladino was unable to attend the meeting and will receive his diploma in the mail. Mr. Spring thanked him for his service to his country, community and school by serving with the U. S. Army in Vietnam.
  - b. **Math Games – Randall Elementary.** Principal Cliff Kostuk explained that Cortland Schools and SUNY Cortland partnered together in developing a Professional Development School this year. There are three major initiatives: literacy, math, and co-teaching. He introduced Randall teachers Nancy Thompson (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Lisa Riley (4<sup>th</sup> Grade) who are very involved in the Math initiative. He explained that one of the math initiatives was to help teachers go beyond the "how" of math to the "why" of math and how to do it in a fun and hands-on manner. Students demonstrated some of the math games they are playing to make learning math fun.

- c. **Budget Review.** Ms. Hoeschele asked the audience to please wait until the end of the meeting under Audience Participation if they have specific questions. She also asked that the community continue to call if you have questions. Mr. Martignetti reviewed the proposed 2009-10 Budget, which totals the same as this year's budget, \$41,372,972., with no tax levy increase. He reviewed the budget workbook (summary, detailed budget, revenue projections, stimulus funding utilization, contingent budget), comparison to prior years, areas of significance and change, 10 years budget and tax rate history, and estimated tax levy and tax rates. Ms. Hoeschele noted that there is a Public Hearing for the proposed budget scheduled for May 5 at the High School, and that the public vote is on May 19. Mr. Spring advised that he and Mr. Martignetti would be glad to give additional presentations to any group interested. Anyone interested should contact his office.

**6. CONSENT ITEMS:**

- a. **Minutes** of March 24, 2009 Regular Meeting; Revised Minutes of March 10, 2009.
- b. **CPSE/CSE Recommendations:** Approval of CPSE Recommendations of 3/25 and 4/1/09; Elementary CSE Minutes of 3/12 & 3/19/09 (R), 3/17 & 3/25/09 (P), and 3/26/09 (V); High School CSE Minutes of 3/18, 3/19 and 3/25/09; District CSE Recommendations of 3/24, 3/26 and 4/2/09; and McEvoy CSE Recommendations of 3/31/09.  
**RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Consent Items, including a revision to the minutes of March 10, 2009 to include the meeting adjournment time of 8:14 PM, as presented. Moved by Ms. Bordwell, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**

**7. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Approval of 2009-10 BOCES Request for Services. This item was tabled until the next meeting.
- b. Approval of 2009-10 District Budget. **RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget in the amount of \$41,372,972., as presented. Moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Marshall.** In discussion, Mr. Lyman requested that the final vote be held until the end of the meeting after Audience Participation to give members of the audience a chance to speak before the final vote. Ms. Hoeschele asked the Board if they agreed to table the final vote on the 2009-10 Budget until the end of the meeting, and all agreed.
- c. Contract Termination. **RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the agreement between the Cortland Enlarged City School District and Hunt Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors, P.C., be terminated, effective April 14, 2009, pursuant to Contract Article 8.5. Moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Lyman. Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**

**9. PERSONNEL ACTION:**

- a. Approval of Personnel Resignations and Leaves. **RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the Resignations and Leaves as presented on Resignations and Leaves Schedule No. 10.31. Moved by Ms. Bordwell, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**
- b. Approval of Non-Instructional Personnel Appointments. **RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointments for Non-Instructional Personnel as presented on Schedule of Appointment 986. Moved by Mr. Marshall, seconded by Dr. Hodges. Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**
- c. Approval of Instructional Personnel Appointments. **RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the appointments for Instructional Personnel as presented on Schedule of Appointment 2017. Moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**

**10. LEADERSHIP REPORTS:**

- a. **Director of Business Operations.** No further Report.
- b. **Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services** – Ms. Riley reviewed the process and committee work for our 2009-2010 Summer Curriculum and Professional Development proposals.
  - 1) **Summer Curriculum Projects.** The proposals totaled \$40,117.33. All proposals were recommended with a decrease in proposed funding to a total of \$28,251.38.
  - 2) **Professional Development Proposals.** All proposals were recommended for funding with the exception of one. The original total of \$116,516.13. was reduced to \$85,375.05.
- c. Superintendent
  - 1) Ms. Riley's work on the Summer Curriculum and Professional Development proposals was an example of additional work taken on of some of the responsibilities of the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, a open position not being filled in next year's budget.

- 2) As a results of this year's budget process, we will be taking more advantage of BOCES programs through cooperative bidding or consolidated services.
- 3) Significant cost reductions have been created with this budget, and we continue to provide a good education and a good value of education to our students.
- 4) The Chamber of Commerce Business Showcase was held on Saturday, 4/4. Mr. Spring thanked Ms. Riley for coordinating our booth at the showcase highlighting various artwork and our electric car. Thanked Robin Jackson for putting together the outstanding student art work, and he thanked Mr. Petit for his showcasing the electric car and the work being done in that area.

**11. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** (Individuals are requested to keep their comments to two minutes per speaker).

- 1) Ms. Elaine VanDonsel asked for assurance that there would be no changes to Virgil Elementary or any of the elementary schools in this year's proposed budget and was advised by Ms. Hoeschele that there are no changes being planned for this year.
- 2) Ms. Amy Rosas asked if positions original cut, such as library aides, were being reinstated.
  - (a) Mr. Martignetti advised no, that they were not being reinstated.
- 3) Ms. Rosas also asked why we are still using Reserve Funds if we have State funding.
  - (a) Mr. Spring clarified that although we have an increase in State Aid this year, unfortunately, our costs to run the district increase at a much more significant that any increase in State aid. We have to find a way to bridge those gaps. The increase this year in State Aid is fueled by the Federal Stimulus Package, which runs out in two years. It is evident that reductions have to be made. Reserve funds are being used very carefully so that we can be assured that our high quality of education continues and our tax levy remains acceptable in the coming years.
- 4) Audience member who didn't give their name asked if the budget will be available on-line.
  - (a) Mr. Spring advised that a summary will be available on-line before the Public Hearing on May 5, well before the vote on May 19.
- 5) Mrs. Sandy Price thanked the Board for their time, hard work and service.

**Ms. Hoeschele then asked for a Final Vote for Item 8b above, already moved and seconded, and after discussion:**

**RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget in the amount of \$41,372,972 as presented, and moved by Dr. Hodges, seconded by Mr. Marshall. Final Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT.**

**There being no further business, Ms. Hoeschele asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:42 PM. Moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Bordwell. Vote: Yes – 6, No – 0.**

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Carolyn Dorn, Clerk, Board of Education