

**THE HARPURSVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION HELD
A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 AT 6:00PM IN
THE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Board President Burns. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Blakeslee, Mr. Burns, Mrs. Matts, Mrs. Snow and Mr. Weist in attendance. Mrs. Bassler was absent from the meeting. Also in attendance were Superintendent Wood and Administrators Conrow, Dopko, Quick and Rullo. Additional attendees are noted on the guest list.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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ANNOUNCEMENTS-BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Wood reports that the new telephone system cut-over will be this Friday. An easy to follow phone tree will guide callers to the correct location.

Assistant Superintendent/JSHS Principal Rullo announced that Georgia Baker received an award on the "Best Use of Medium" at the Artistic Discovery Show. Her work will go on to the final exhibition.

Mrs. Conrow, Asst. JSHS Principal, reports that she attended the SkillsUSA competition last Friday along with Superintendent Wood. We have three students who will be going on to State competition.

Elementary Principal Quick reports that the Character Education Assembly was well attended and received good reviews.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

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Board Member Matts was designated as the timekeeper

Marilyn Henry addressed the Board. She appreciates the time and energy that those involved in the Capital Project have put forth. She asked if we have considered creating a Facebook page to get information out to residents. She also asked if the twenty-five solar panels for the elementary school proposed in the current project are still going to be used. She also asked for more financial specs.

Bernie Scott addressed the Board. He has been a bus driver for twelve years and is speaking on behalf of the bus drivers on the recently defeated transportation facility. He shared records indicating that 298 people have run through the flashing red lights on buses on campus, in addition to 123 reports of threats of bodily harm to drivers if not allowed to pass a stopped school bus. Buses can't park during sports events as spectators block entrances and move barriers. Heating for the current building was \$24,827 last year and would be cut in half with a new facility. A fenced in facility would eliminate bus vandalism which is a frequent occurrence. He also feels that we should pursue the property next door for additional parking. Also, a complete canopy is needed over the buses for safety reasons. He added that he has been a taxpayer in this District for over 40 years and feels this is a safety issue for our students and we need to act on it.

CAPITAL PROJECT

PROPOSED DISCUSSION-CAPITAL PROJECT, NEXT STEPS

Superintendent Wood asked the Board for their thoughts moving forward as to whether or not they support continuing work towards a Transportation Facility and campus improvements. All Board members were in agreement that we should move forward.

Ms. Wood proposes convening a committee of parents, residents and school employees for a series of meetings, held during both the day & evening hours, to review the work that has been proposed with an anticipated Fall 2015 vote. Advertisements, postings and the website will be utilized for interested parties to contact the District Clerk by March 26 if interested in participating. A lottery system would be used if needed and only one member per household on the committee. Michael Bennett, working with the administration and Riordan Management Group will be posting to a Facebook page for ongoing updates. She anticipated meetings lasting from 1.5 to 2.5 hours with six meeting dates.

Fred Riordan was in attendance and reports that he toured the adjacent Main Street property earlier in the day. He explained that the property was not on the market until after our paperwork had been submitted to Bond Counsel. Once this is done, you aren't able to change the financial piece as it is frozen. He feels it would be a good purchase for the District as this would add additional parking and parent pick-up/drop-off areas. He recommends the Board consider the purchase of the property.

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
SEARCH

PROPOSED DISCUSSION - ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL SEARCH

Superintendent Wood referred Board members to a proposed timeline created for the Elementary Principal search. She is proposing four blended committees. Interested parties will need to express their interest to participate on this committee by contacting the District Clerk. Proposed deadline for interest would be March 26 with a first meeting with subgroups on April 15. Groups would review the ISLLC standards which are rubrics for school leaders as well as reviewing the qualities for a principal to be used in advertising. Advertising would be through local and statewide publications with a deadline of May 29 for submission of application materials. We are proposing a July 1, 2015 start date. Mr. Buyck, District Superintendent, has reviewed the proposed timeline and found it to be very sound. The Board was in agreement with the structure of the committees.

Superintendent Wood asked the Board what level experience they are looking for whether it be certain certifications, educational background, and work experience. Board members felt we should open the search up to everyone, not just candidates with a specific amount of experience.

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Christine Wolbert addressed the Board. She is the parent of two children in the elementary. She asked why we would look at the bottom of the barrel for a replacement Principal when we already have a great one in place. Her kids feel safe in his building and love their Principal. She credits his "Be a Reader Program" to her child reading above grade level.

Carrie Lusk addressed the Board. She feels we need to hit the pause button and have some open dialog. She apologized to Mr. Quick for what is happening and added that the community and parents support him.

Michael Lusk addressed the Board. He feels we need a Town meeting for open dialog, and feels the Board is not engaged with the community about the decisions they've made. Mr. Lusk feels that moving Mr. Quick for inconsistent discipline is an illusion. He asked the Board to show good faith and transparency and engage in one on one discussion.

Lloyd Byers addressed the Board. He applauds that we are looking for committee input as this is a step in the right direction. On the other hand, he feels it is a wrong decision to get rid of Mr. Quick. Mr. Byers doesn't want someone fresh out of school with no experience when we have someone with 5 years of experience in that position.

Shannon Stiner addressed the Board. She shared that we have had three Principals use Harpursville as a stepping stone and Mr. Quick wants to be here and continue on as Principal.

Stephanie Quick addressed the Board. She shared that this has been very emotional for her family as they have been a part of the community for fifteen years. They are there when the phone rings late at night, their children are involved in play dates and parties. There is no cause for this and it is a personal attack on her family. Mrs. Quick shared that her husband has had other opportunities to move elsewhere but he is committed to this District. If there are problems, give him more training. He is involved in many statewide organizations and this is a huge slap in the face. She added that a candidate with at least the minimum qualifications of her husband should be sought as well as a qualified person to replace Mrs. Dopko for our huge special education population.

Tracy Ayers addressed the Board. She asked why they should participate on a committee and use hours of their time when we are looking at someone less qualified than Mr. Quick. They need answers as to why this is being done.

Dale Henderson addressed the Board. He feels it is hard to understand the removal of Mr. Quick without a discussion of why he failed. He feels the Board failed him as it is their job to oversee him. He added that this is a sad thing to happen to this community and taxpayers. He also asked for clarification on the advertising of notices.

Karen Colsten addressed the Board. She explained that she has sent emails and never receives a response back. Some are deleted without being read. She gave each member of the Board a letter opting her son out of State testing. She also asked the Board if they ever go to the school to see how Mr. Quick interacts with the kids.

Bambi Green addressed the Board. She shared that Mr. Quick knows all the children and parents by name and gets down to their level to speak with them. She is disgusted to be a part of this community and wonders why we would bring in an unknown person.

OPEN FORUM

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At this time, an open forum of discussion was held. Audience members asked for more information on why these administrative changes were being done. Mrs. Wood responded that is a fine line as to what can be shared and she would need to consult with the school attorney. They asked why Mr. Quick had received no training in two years to which Ms. Wood responded that Principals receive routine professional development pertaining to their grade levels. They asked if an action plan existed and Ms. Wood responded that she relies on dialog as she meets with all administrators weekly, as well as dialog with BOCES trainers and parents. Mr. Lusk feels we need to continue these conversations and referred to the open transparency policy that Binghamton City Schools uses. Superintendent Wood added that she would look into their policy.

Mr. Byers shared that in the corporate world, they would need legal documentation and an action plan to use as a basis for termination. Why make a decision based on dialog that the Board didn't receive. How are your sources, parents & BOCES, weighed out in this decision?

Parents asked if they should have routinely called to see if there was a problem- how would they have known. Superintendent Wood added that there is a discipline problem and a committee on this issue exists for a reason. Mr. Quick added that this committee has been in place since January 2015. Audience members asked if Mr. Quick needed some kind of paperwork as to why this was happening. They also stated that their lawyer will have to talk to the school lawyer in order to get answers. Can Mr. Quick give his OK to talk to which Superintendent Wood advised that the school attorney should be involved prior to that happening. Clarification on culture and climate was given by Superintendent Wood.

Audience members asked if we could fix this without eliminating two positions. Mrs. Ayers asked how the District handles discipline, either through verbal warnings, written memo or retraining. She feels we open ourselves up to a lawsuit if not. Superintendent Wood shared that we use 3020a procedures. She added that Mr. Quick is being transferred, not terminated. This procedure was followed with Mrs. Boman.

Mrs. Stiner reports that many of our mailings do not get delivered to many residents in the 13904 zip code area. She found that the district has 2,938 parcels and we should be sending out at least 2,500 mailings. Superintendent Wood will contact the Post Office regarding the delivery of school notices. Audience members asked if the Board feels they have received enough information and would they revisit their decision and use a corrective action plan or place Mr. Quick on probation. They also asked if we are being consistent as some audience members feel that the HS has more discipline problems than the elementary. Others felt that we should not take Mr. Rullo out of the HS because of the discipline issues. Ms. Green felt that bullying issues in the HS are not being addressed. Audience members had reviewed the VADIR reports online and found that we have about 100 less violations than the previous year. Mr. Byers asked the Board to reconsider their decision, come up with a course of action for Mr. Quick for one year and have him re-evaluated by an outside group as a good faith gesture.

ADJOURNMENT

Audience members thanked Superintendent Wood for the open discussion and feel that this should occur at every meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

15-0309-I

Respectfully Submitted,

On a motion made by Mrs. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Blakeslee, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Motion carried 6-0-0.

Darlene M. Noyes
District Clerk