

*Watervliet City School District  
Watervliet, New York*

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Minutes**

**DATE:** *NOVEMBER 18, 2008*

**TYPE OF MEETING:** Regular Meeting

**MEETING OPENED:** 7:05 P.M.

**WHERE:** Watervliet Jr.-Sr. High School

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** President, Donna Neary-Hart  
Vice President, Mark W. Scully  
Christine Chartrand  
Frank McGrouty  
Virginia Mullaney

**SUPERINTENDENT:** Paul J. Padalino

**STUDENT COUNCIL REP:** Jessica Summers, Co-President

The meeting was opened at 7:05 P.M., with President Donna Neary-Hart officiating.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

There were no comments from the floor.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to be discussed.

**BOARD STAFF AND STUDENT REPORTS**

**Mr. Dave Wareing** gave a **presentation** on the **Character Education Program**. He noted that enrollment was up from 32 to 82 students. Planned fundraising activities include Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, Pennies for Patients and Toys for Tots.

**Ms. Jill Aurora**, Communications Specialist, gave a **presentation** on the **School District Web Site**. She will begin creating a monthly report on web site statistics for the Board.

**ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the Board of Education Minutes for the meeting held **October 21, 2008**, submitted by Bernadette L. Boardman, Clerk of the Board, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **Committee on Special Education's** recommendations for the meetings held **October 20, 2008, October 23, 2008** and **November 3, 2008**, submitted by Janelle Yanni, CPSE Chair, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **Committee on Pre-School Special Education's** recommendations for the meeting held **October 29, 2008**, submitted by Janelle Yanni, CPSE Chair, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **Treasurer's Reports** for the month of **October 2008**, submitted by John Heid, Business Manager, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **Payment Requests**, submitted by John Heid, Business Manager, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **Substitute Registry** submitted by **BOCES**, as recommended by the Superintendent (packets #8, #9, #10 and #11).

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **contract** with **EMTech** for basic **HVAC** coverage at a cost of **\$5,400.00** for the Elementary School and **\$16,500.00** for the Jr. – Sr. High School, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **External Auditors Annual Report**, submitted by Teal, Becker and Chiramonte CPAs, P.C., as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **Instruction Contract with the Menands Union Free School District** for the 2008 – 2009 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **Consulting Agreement with Needham Risk Management** for the 2008 – 2009 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **transfer** of **Michaeleen Backus** from the position of **Elementary Teacher** to the position of **Literacy Coach**, remaining in the Elementary Teacher tenure area, at a Step IV salary of \$37,281.00, plus master's degree and credit hours, as per contract, at **Watervliet Elementary School**, effective November 17, 2008, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **resignation** of **Angela M. Petronio** from the position of **Elementary Teacher** at **Watervliet Elementary School** effective November 17, 2008, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **resignation** of **Kristin LaClaire** from the position of **Teacher Assistant** at **Watervliet Elementary School** effective November 6, 2008, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **transfer** of **Eileen Reinfurt** from the position of **Cafeteria Monitor** at **Watervliet Elementary School** to the position of **Teacher Assistant, Attendance Office** at the **Watervliet Junior-Senior High School**, beginning November 10, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$7.15, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **maternity leave** request for **Tracy Coffey**, effective October 27, 2008 through January 30, 2009, to return on February 2, 2009, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Kristyn Brozowski** to the position of **Elementary Teacher** at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, for a probationary period beginning November 4, 2008 and ending November 4, 2011, at a Step I salary of \$35,373, plus master's degree and credit hours, as per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Sara Heidelmark** to the position of **Special Education Teacher, Grades 4-6, Self-Contained**, at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, for a probationary period beginning November 18, 2008 and ending November 18, 2011, at a Step 1 salary of \$35,373, plus master's degree and credit hours, as per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Kristin LaClaire** to the position of **Special Education Teacher** at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, for a probationary period beginning November 6, 2008 and ending November 6, 2011, at a Step I salary of \$35,373, plus master's degree and credit hours, as per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Ashleigh Rozell** to the position of **Substitute Living Environment Teacher** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, beginning October 27, 2008 and ending January 30, 2009 at a per diem rate of \$170 (with benefits), as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Erin Manning** to the permanent position of **Clerk Typist** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, at an annual salary of \$21,000, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Marcie Wilson** to the permanent position of **Clerk Typist** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, at an annual salary of \$21,000, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Jeremy Smith** to the position of **Assistant Football Coach** for the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School Varsity Football Team**, during the 2008 – 2009 football season, at a salary of \$3,220.00, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **April Rogers** to the position of **Cafeteria Monitor** at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, beginning November 19, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$7.15, as recommended by the Superintendent

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Jacquelyn Chiera** to the position of **Home Tutor** for the **Watervliet City School District**, beginning November 18, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$25.00, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Cristi Green** to the position of **Home Tutor** for the **Watervliet City School District**, beginning November 18, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$25.00, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Helen Krause** to the position of **Home Tutor** for the **Watervliet City School District**, beginning November 18, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$25.00, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of **Bonnie Robinson** to the position of **Home Tutor** for the **Watervliet City School District**, beginning November 18, 2008, at an hourly rate of \$25.00, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mark Scully, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **appointment** of the following volunteers for the winter season, as recommended by the Superintendent:

#### **Wrestling**

- Jefferson LaMountain
- Jeremy Eveleth
- Dennis Walsh

#### **Cheerleading**

- Megan Sandoval

#### **Boys' Varsity Basketball**

- Brian Eastman (scout)
- Scott O'Reilly (scout)

### **Girls' Basketball**

- Dave Cady (scout)
- Mark Cady (scout)
- Ron Bedouin (scout)
- Khalan Heid (scout)
- Amy Sheridan (scout)
- Rich Tetrault (scout)

On a motion by Donna Neary-Hart, seconded by Christine Chartrand and unanimously accepted, the Board **tabled** awarding the status of **tenure**, in the area of **Mathematics**, to **Camelia Sofrone**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Christine Chartrand, seconded by Virginia Mullaney and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **home schooling** request of Matthew and Deborah Tremblay for their son, Daniel Tremblay, Grade 7, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Christine Chartrand, seconded by Virginia Mullaney and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted, with thanks, the **donation** of **95 dictionaries** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at the Watervliet Elementary School by **Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baniak**, representing the **Watervliet Elks**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Christine Chartrand, seconded by Virginia Mullaney and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **excision** and **disposal** of three broken **televisions**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Christine Chartrand, seconded by Virginia Mullaney and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **excision** and **disposal** of one **outdated computer and 12 monitors**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Christine Chartrand, seconded by Virginia Mullaney and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **excision** and **disposal** of the District's irreparable **1997 GM Pick-up Truck**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Christine Chartrand, seconded by Virginia Mullaney and unanimously accepted, the Board **approved** the **excision** and **disposal** of approximately 50 **broken chairs** from computer labs 302 and 304 at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Donna Neary Hart, seconded by Virginia Mullaney and unanimously accepted, the Board **tabled** accepting and agreeing to the **Amendment to the Agreement between the Board of Education and the Superintendent**, dated November 17, 2008.

On a motion by Christine Chartrand, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **accepted** and **approved** the **compromise and settlement** with release of a claim made on behalf of a retired teacher with respect to certain **insurance premiums** as contained in the stipulation of settlement approved by counsel to the District, and further, authorized the Superintendent of Schools to execute said Agreement on behalf of the District and to file same with the District Clerk and to thereafter, authorize the payment of sums due under the settlement Agreement.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Superintendent Padalino** discussed a possible change to tax collection processes which would save the District approximately \$50,000.00. The process would involve collecting taxes once per year (in September), as opposed to twice per year (in July and January). The Board will vote on this change at the December Board meeting.

**Mr. Padalino** updated the Board on the Policy Manual Review effort. He reported that the services offered by Erie 1 BOCES are comparable to those offered by NYSSBA, however the BOCES services are 78% aid-able, which would save the District approximately \$4,000.00.

**Superintendent Padalino** provided the Board with an update on the issue with the windows in the front of the building. He noted that both the architect and 3M provided two recommendations: (1) place a film over the glass as a short-term fix and (2) replace the windows in the front of the building with double-pane windows with a reflective glass that would keep the heat out. The architect will provide pricing for both options.

**Jessica Summers**, Student Council Co-President, noted that there will be a **Talent Show** on November 25, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. A variety of acts have signed up to participate.

**Ms. Summers** noted that the Student Council will be holding a **Food Drive** in December. Food collected will go to St. Joseph's Home.

**Virginia Mullaney** congratulated the football team on the great job they did this season.

**Christine Chartrand** congratulated Mr. Cowles on the **Athletic Awards Ceremony** held last week.

**Mrs. Chartrand** noted that the **Bingo for Books** night at the Elementary School was a huge success.

**Mrs. Chartrand** commended the students for their excellent behavior on the **spectator bus**.

**Donna Neary Hart** congratulated **Michaeleen Backus** on her appointment to the **Literacy Coach** position.

**Superintendent Padalino** encouraged residents to express their opinions on budget issues to their assembly and legislative representatives.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

Ms. **Kelly Gilchrist** – 1306 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Watervliet NY, 12189 – noted that the New York State PTA web site has a form letter that citizens can use to express their concerns against the mid-year budget cuts. The web address is <http://capwiz.com/npta2/ny/home/>.

Mr. **Bob Gusberti** – 1212 Hillside Drive, Watervliet, New York 12189 – questioned whether we are using geothermal or solar-voltaic materials during the building construction. Mr. Padalino responded that every attempt is being made to be green.

**Mrs. O'Brien** welcomed and congratulated **Michaeleen Backus** on her appointment to the **Literacy Coach** position.

**Mrs. O'Brien** thanked all the guest bingo-callers at the **Bingo for Books** night at the Elementary School.

**Emily Rodan**, Student Council Co-President, introduced herself to the group.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Donna Neary-Hart, seconded by Frank McGrouty and unanimously accepted, the Board **adjourned** the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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*Bernadette L. Boardman  
Clerk of the Board*

**NOTE: All district appointments are subject to fingerprint clearance by the NYS Education Department and verification of Permanent or Pending Certification by NYS.**