



**Date:** February 4, 2014

**Kind of Meeting:** Regular

**Place:** Homer High School

**Members Present:** Mary Beth Mathey, Luke Morenus, Bill Pedrick, David Quinlan, Kim Sharpe and Randy Weatherby

**Members Absent:** Sonia Apker, Katie Dwyer and Martin Sweeney

**Others Present:** Superintendent Ruscio, Director of Business & Finance Falls, Director of Instruction & Evaluation Llewellyn, District Clerk Yacavone, Administrators, Guests

Vice President Sharpe called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

#### **Executive Session**

Motion by Quinlan, seconded by Morenus, that the Board enter into an executive session at 6:31 PM to discuss personnel/potential staff assignments and negotiations.

Yes	6	Motion Carried
No	0	

Returned from Executive Session at 7:02 PM.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

#### **President's Comments**

- **Remarks-**Mrs. Sharpe welcomed the group.
- **Correspondence-**None provided.
- **Updates to Agenda-**There were no updates to the agenda.

#### **Community Voices**

- Mrs. Owens and Mrs. Fulton announced the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual J. Oechsle Science Fair to be held on Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. They also invited Board members to be a judge for the event.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mathey, seconded by Morenus, that the Clerk's minutes of the January 21, 2014- regular meeting be approved as amended. (Board Notes Item A)

Yes	6	Motion Carried
No	0	

#### **Superintendent's Report**

- **Remarks:**
  - Superintendent Ruscio discussed Governor Cuomo's proposed budget and noted that there are numerous lobby efforts being made to assist schools financially.
  - Superintendent Ruscio also noted that administrator's have researched the impact of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade testing schedule and noted that Homer will NOT double test eight grade students who take the Algebra Regents.
- **Correspondence:**
  - There was no correspondence.

#### **APPR –Danielson Rubric Presentation**

- Director of Instruction and Evaluation Llewellyn presented an interactive activity where Board members watched a video of an elementary teacher teaching a lesson. The Board was asked to rate the lesson using the Danielson Rubric.

**Program/Staff Enrollment Building Presentations**

- Director of Business and Finance Falls and all Building Principals presented projected enrollments and budgets for 2014-15.

**Budget-Tax Levy, Revenue Assumptions and GEA**

- Director of Business and Finance Falls presented the tax levy limit and revenue assumptions.
- Mr. Morenus noted that our aid is still not where it was in 2008.
- Mr. Quinlan noted that he received a call from Senator Seward regarding the proposed Bill for GEA.
- Mr. Pedrick encouraged all to attend the Legislative Rally on February 5, 2014.

**New Business**

**Items Requiring Board Action**

**Warrants and Claims Auditors Report**

Motion by Morenus, seconded by Mathey, that the Board approve the following Warrants: (Board Notes Item B)

Yes	6	Motion Carried
No	0	

**Warrants**

Warrant T and A	\$1,945,636.58
General Fund #1 Dec.	\$ 368,989.12
General Fund #2 Dec.	\$ 541,228.22
School Lunch #1 Dec.	\$ 39,053.63
Federal Fund #1 Dec.	\$ 429.30
Federal Fund #2 Dec.	\$ 179.00

**Treasurer’s Report**

Motion by Pedrick, seconded by Morenus, that the Board approve the following Treasurers’ Reports: (Board Notes Item C)

Yes	0	Motion Carried
No	0	

**Treasurers’ Reports**

General Fund	December
Capital Fund	December
School Lunch	December
Trust & Agency	December
Federal Fund	December
Workers’ Compensation	December
Payroll	December

**Investment Summary:** No action required. (Board Notes Item D)

**Budget Status Report/Revenue Status Report:** No action required. (Board Notes Item E)

**Reports from the Committee on Pre-school Special Education**

Motion by Pedrick, seconded by Mathey, that the Board accept the Reports from the Committee on Pre-school Special Education: (Board Notes Item F)

Yes	6	Motion Carried
No	0	

**Reports from the Committee on Special Education**

Motion by Mathey, seconded by Pedrick, that the Board accept the Reports from the Committee on Special Education: (Board Notes Item G)

Yes	6	Motion Carried
No	0	

**Disposal of Surplus Items**

Motion by Morenus, seconded by Weatherby, that the Board approve the disposal of the items as presented by Mr. Falls. (Board Notes Item H)

Yes 6 Motion Carried  
No 0

**FFA Field Trip Request**

Motion by Mathey, seconded by Pedrick, that the Board approve the 2014 FFA Field Trip Requests as presented by Mr. Van Etten. (Board Notes Item I)

- Mrs. Sharpe would like it noted that these requests are not within the appropriate timeframe and would like this reviewed with advisors.

Yes 6 Motion Carried  
No 0

**Impartial Hearing Officer Compensation Rates**

Motion by Morenus, seconded by Pedrick, that the Board approve the Impartial Hearing Officer Compensation Rates for those who have been certified by the NYS Commissioner of Education. (Board Notes Item J)

- Mr. Morenus asked if this was reviewed by Harris Beach. Superintendent Ruscio noted that Harris Beach has reviewed the Compensation Rates.

Yes 6 Motion Carried  
No 0

**SEQRA Resolution for the Capital Outlay Project**

Motion by Morenus, seconded by Weatherby, that the Board approve the SEQRA Resolution for the Capital Outlay Project. (Board Notes Item K)

Yes 6 Motion Carried  
No 0

**Tax Refund**

Motion by Pedrick, seconded by Weatherby, that the Board approve the Tax Refund in the amount of \$144.76 as a result of a clerical error. (Board Notes Item L)

Yes 6 Motion Carried  
No 0

**Personnel**

Motion by Pedrick, seconded by Morenus, that upon recommendation of Superintendent Ruscio, the following personnel items be approved:

Yes 6 Motion Carried  
No 0

**Instructional:**

Accept the resignation from **Carissa Rockwell** from her position of Teacher effective January 31, 2014.

Approve the appointment of **Morgan Osborne** to a 3 year probationary appointment in the Teaching Assistant Tenure area to begin February 5, 2014, to be completed February 4, 2017 at a salary per contract.

Approve the appointment of **Kate Buttino** to a 3 year probationary appointment in the Teaching Assistant Tenure area to begin February 5, 2014, to be completed February 4, 2017 at a salary per contract.

Approve the appointment of **Lancy Swanson Collins** to the position of Long-term Teacher Substitute effective February 5, 2014.

Approve the appointment of **Alexa Ward** to the position of Long-term Substitute Teaching Assistant effective February 5, 2014.

Approve the following change in **Co-curricular** for the 2013-14 school year:  
Remove Courtney Mills from the position of Winterguard Assistant

Approve the following **Coaching Recommendations** for the Spring Semester:

**Baseball**

Robert Nasiatka-Varsity  
Michael DiMattei-Junior Varsity  
Kevin Douglass-Junior High

**Track**

George Schneider-Varsity  
Jeremy Cook-Assistant Varsity  
Jason Graves-Assistant Varsity  
Jennifer Jones-Junior High  
Ashley Wirges-Junior High

**Softball**

Christine Colasurdo-Varsity  
Cheryl Carboine-Junior Varsity  
Chris DiFulvio-Junior High

**Tennis**

Nancy Cavellier-Varsity

**Girl's Lacrosse**

Ed Porter-Varsity  
Gina Kinsella-Varsity Assistant  
Geoff Sorenson-Junior Varsity  
Jessica Young-Assistant Junior Varsity  
Caitlin Mack-Junior High  
Shannon Tinkham-Junior High Assistant

**Boy's Lacrosse**

Thomas Cottrell-Varsity  
Mark Ferrito-Assistant Varsity  
Nick Patriarco-Junior Varsity  
Sean Mack-Junior High  
Rich Barnes-Assistant Junior High

Approve the following as **Volunteers** for the 2013-14 school year:

*High School Cafeteria*  
Alysia McConnell

Approve the following as **Student Interns** for the 2013-14 school year:

*Elementary*  
Nicole LeFever with Linda Priest

*Intermediate*  
Erika Sherman with Beth Ludwig

Approve the following as **Practicum Students** for the Spring Semester:

*Athletics*  
Abbie Adams and Bri Musselman with Chad Totman  
Kyle McMans and Michele Cushman with Jeremy Cook  
Brooke DeMarco and Lesley Logan with Brenda Nobles

*Elementary School*  
Robert DeSilva with Kelly Reppenhagen  
Hanna Huppert with Cathy Warren  
Kelsey Roe with Karyn Freshwater  
Reva Morse with Nancy McLaughlin

*Intermediate School*

Lauren Herman with Laurie Leach  
Lindsey Plank with Carolyn Withiam  
Michael Norris with Joy Barrett

*High School*

Lauren Herman with Gina Kinsella  
Rebecca Infante with Carrie Whitney

Appoint the following people as **Instructional Substitutes** for the 2013-14 school year:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Certification/Degree Area</u></b>
<b>Nichole Lucas</b>	Elem. Ed.
<b>Erin Patch</b>	Elem. Ed.
<b>Carissa Rockwell</b>	Elem. Ed.
<b>Kelsey Roe</b>	Spec. Ed.
<b>Samuel Watrous</b>	Elem. Ed.

**Non-Instructional:**

Approve the appointment of **Kelly Gregg** to the position of School Nurse at the High School effective February 5, 2014.

Approve the appointment of **Nhia Clarke** to the position of LPN at Hartnett Elementary effective February 5, 2014.

Accept the resignation from **Joseph Malchak** from his position of Bus Driver effective February 4, 2014.

Approve the appointment of **Joseph Malchak** to the position of Garage Attendant effective February 5, 2014.

**Informational Items**

- **Fundraising Updates**-Mr. McGory provided information on Bingo Night at Hartnett Elementary along with the addition of a carnation sale.
- **2013-14 Snapshot of BOCES Services-52 million in savings OCM**-Superintendent Ruscio provided the annual Snapshot of BOCES Services. Mrs. Sharpe requested that this be posted on the district website.
- **Board of Education Training**-A list is being formed of future Board Member Trainings. Board members should send further items of interest to Superintendent Ruscio.
- **Written Response Scoring**-Written Response Scoring was discussed for Grades 3-8. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Homer would send out our student’s tests for scoring. This will provide an additional 6-8 days of instruction for our children with their teacher vs. a substitute. There will also be a savings as substitutes will not need to be hired.
- **Veterans Exemption**-Mr. Falls provided information on the Veterans’ Exemption for School Districts. Mrs. Sharpe stated that she feels there are too many unknowns at this time to make an educated decision on this matter. Mr. Pedrick feels the government should fund this exemption. Superintendent Ruscio said the district must host a public hearing on this matter if the district chooses to consider the exemption. Mrs. Sharpe requested that all exemptions be reviewed and reported to the Board.
- **Draft 2014-15 District Calendar**-The first draft of the 2014-15 district calendar was reviewed. It will be brought to the Board at the February 25, 2014 meeting for approval.

## Board Committee Reports

- *Audit:*  
*Submitted by Luke Morenus:*  
Homer BOE – Audit Committee Meeting Recap  
January 23, 2014  
The Homer Board of Education Audit Committee met on January 23, 2014 to discuss the following items:
  - Available Audit Reports: Preliminary audit reports were reviewed and discussed to determine any potential effects to our strategic planning. In general, the audit findings urged us to continue to focus on the long-term use of reserve funds. The committee reviewed our 5-year plan for using the reserves, which now includes approximately \$4.9 million being spent on the upcoming capital project, in addition to the reserves needed to offset operating deficits due to reduced state funding.
  - Fiscal Stress Report: The committee also reviewed the current Fiscal Stress Report, which yields an overall stress level of “No Designation”, the lowest possible category. The report sites only 2 points of stress out of a possible 21 points. The 2 potential stress points refer to Operating Deficits in the years 2011 & 2012 – where we used reserve funds to bridge the gap in reduced state funding levels.
  - Roundtable Discussion: The committee discussed the Governor’s recent announcements regarding the “Tax Cap Freeze” and the “Veterans Exemptions”. Both could have an impact on district finances, and need to be discussed more deeply in upcoming meetings.
- *Budget & Finance:*  
*Submitted by Luke Morenus:*  
Homer BOE – Budget Committee Meeting Recap  
January 28, 2014  
The Homer Board of Education Budget Committee met on January 28, 2014 to discuss the following items:
  - Estimated Expenditures & Projections: The committee reviewed the 2013-2014 expenditures to date, as well as projections through the end of the school year. We are still expecting 2013-2014 expenditures to slightly exceed the 2012-2013 expenditures, as planned. The committee used the 2013-2014 projected expenditures to refine the 2014-2015 expenditure estimates for the upcoming budget.
  - Tax Cap: The committee took a preliminary look at the 2014-2015 Tax Cap Calculation, which interestingly enough no longer includes a 2% adjustment in any of the ten required calculations. Although all the numbers are not yet final, the committee used the preliminary calculation to help in evaluating potential budgeting scenarios.
  - Revenues: The committee reviewed the actual 2013-2014 revenues, and discussed estimated revenues for 2014-2015 using the Governor’s proposed state budget. We anticipate another very small increase in State Aid, although the total is still below the amounts from 5+ years ago.
  - Budget / Gap Projections: Using the estimated expenditures, maximum tax levy calculations, and anticipated revenues, the committee reviewed numerous budget alternatives with an eye on potential gaps, which will help guide upcoming discussions of the full Board.
  - Capital Fund: The committee discussed the upcoming Board resolutions required to finally close the books on the 1999 and 2006 Capital Projects. The final financial status of both projects was recently finalized following the outcome of litigation not involving the District.

- Roundtable Discussion: The committee discussed the Governor’s recent announcements regarding the “Tax Cap Freeze” and the “Veterans Exemptions”. Both could have an impact on the upcoming budget season, and need to be discussed more deeply in upcoming public meetings.
- *Policy*-No report.
- *Community Relations*-No report.

**District Committee Reports**

- *Professional Staff Development Committee (PSDC)*-No report.
- *Health Advisory*-No report.
- *Safety*-Mr. Falls provided a re-cap of the last Safety Committee meeting where our new Director of Facilities, Scott Cavellier, was introduced. It was also noted that Safety Cards have been distributed to all staff in an effort to assist in an emergency. It was also noted that administrator’s have recently revisited the process for greeting visitors via the “buzzer” system as well as Raptorware.
- *APPR*-No report.
- *Classroom-Technology Advisory Group (C-Tag)*-No report.
- *Character Education*-No report.
- *Instructional Leadership*-No report.
- *Facilities*-Superintendent Ruscio reported that a recent meeting took place bringing all major stakeholders to the table to start the planning phase of the capital project. All stakeholders were able to provide their input for the design. It was noted that this is a very complicated process.

**Board Member Activities**

- None provided.

**Upcoming Events**

***February***

- 4-Board of Education
- 5-Legislative Rally
- 7-8 JH Musical
- 8-HS Area All State
- 12-Partnership Signing Celebration
- 17-21-Winter Recess/No School
- 25-Board of Education
- 27-IN Science Fair
- 28-HS Musical

***March***

- 1-HS Musical
- 10-11-JH/HS All County Instrumental
- 11-Board of Education
- 12-All District Instrumental
- 14-JH Grade 8 Career Day
- 14-JH Grade 7 Healthy Character Ed Day
- 15-Superintendent’s Forum
- 21-Staff Development Day/No School
- 22-NYSSMA Solo Festival
- 24-28-Kindergarten Registration
- 25-Board of Education
- 26-All District Vocal

**Closing Remarks**

There were no closing remarks.

**Executive Session**

Motion by Pedrick, seconded by Morenus, that the Board enter into an executive session at 8:40 PM to discuss personnel and negotiations.

Yes	6	Motion Carried
No	0	

Returned from Executive Session at 8:53 PM.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Mathey, seconded by Morenus, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Yes	6	Motion Carried
No	0	