



**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**January 6, 2014**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Albany High School**

**PRESENT:** Ms. Sue Adler  
Dr. Rose Brandon  
Mr. Dan Egan  
Ms. Ginnie Farrell  
Ms. Felicia Green  
Mr. C. Anthony Owens  
Ms. Alexandra Streznewski  
Dr. Marguerite Vanden Wyngaard  
Mr. Jeffrey Honeywell  
Ms. Kathleen Culligan  
Dr. Tresa Diggs  
Mr. William F. Hogan  
Dr. Liz TenDyke  
Mr. Mark Place

**ABSENT:** None

**Call to Order:**

Board Counsel, Jeffrey Honeywell, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Selection of Chair Pro-Tem**

Mr. Honeywell called for a motion to appoint the Board Counsel as the Chair Pro-Tem for the meeting. Upon motion by Ms. Adler and second by Ms. Farrell, the Board voted (7-0) to appoint Mr. Honeywell Chair Pro-Tem.

Motion passed.

**Board of Education Election**

**WHEREAS**, at the General Election held on November 5, 2013, the following two candidates for the office of member of the City School District of Albany Board of Education (“Board”) received the following votes: Sue Adler received 8,332 votes, and C. Anthony Owens received 5,946 votes; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Albany County Board of Elections has certified the above results to the District Clerk of the Board; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a result of this election, Sue Adler will fill a full four year term, commencing January 1, 2014, and ending on December 31, 2017; and,

**WHEREAS**, as a result of this election, C. Anthony Owens will fill a full four year term, commencing January 1, 2014, and ending on December 31, 2017.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the certified results of the General Election as such pertain to vacant seats on the Board, are hereby accepted.

**Administration of the Oath of Office to newly elected Board Member**

Mr. Honeywell administered to oath of office to Ms. Sue Adler and Mr. C. Anthony Owens.

**Election of Officers for the 2014 Calendar Year**

Mr. Honeywell called for nominations for the office of President of the Board of Education. Ms. Green nominated Dr. Rose Brandon for the office of President. Dr. Brandon accepted the nomination. Nominations were declared closed.

The Board voted 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Mr. Owens abstained.

Mr. Honeywell declared Dr. Rose Brandon President of the Board of Education.

Dr. Brandon then called for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Ms. Farrell nominated Mr. Dan Egan for the office of Vice President of the Board of Education. Mr. Egan accepted the nomination. Nominations were declared closed.

The Board voted 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Mr. Owens abstained.

Dr. Brandon declared Mr. Dan Egan Vice President of the Board of Education.

Dr. Brandon called for nominations for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Ms. Adler nominated Ms. Ginnie Farrell for the office of Secretary of the Board of Education. Ms. Farrell accepted the nomination. Nominations were declared closed.

The Board voted 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention. Mr. Owens abstained.

Dr. Brandon declared Ms. Ginnie Farrell Secretary of the Board of Education.

**Board Member Statements**

Board members congratulated the new slate of officers and new Board members. Board members spoke about the vast challenges facing the District. Comments also included issues such as communication, community involvement, the budget development process that will once again present many challenges, continued focus on all of our students, the provision of equal opportunity for all students in the District. Board members indicated their enthusiasm related to the changes that are taking place in the District under the leadership of Dr. V.

**Appointments/Designations/Authorizations/Bonding**

Dr. Brandon presented the following items for approval.

**Appointment of Officers**

1. Clerk of the Board – Catherine Cutting
2. District Treasurer – Tishawn Terry-Garcia
3. Tax Collector – Christine DeWitt
4. Extra Classroom Treasurer – Christine DeWitt
5. Internal Claims Auditor – Joseph Ferrandino
6. Internal Auditor - Questar III BOCES

**Other Appointments**

1. Purchasing Agent – Tina Phan
2. Records Access Officer – William F. Hogan
3. Asbestos Local Education Agency (LEA) Designee – Brian Dengler
4. Independent Auditing Firm – The Bonadio Group
5. Board Counsel – Girvin & Ferlazzo

**Designations**

1. Official Bank Depository – Key Bank, N.A.
2. Official Bank Depository Health Insurance Funds – J. P. Morgan Chase Bank
3. Official Newspapers – Times Union & Daily Gazette

**Authorizations**

The Board of Education approves the following authorizations for the 2013\* calendar year:

1. The Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, to certify employee payrolls.
2. The Board of Education authorizes the Instructional Leadership Directors and the Curriculum & Instruction Administrator, to approve conferences, conventions and workshop attendance.
3. The Board of Education authorizes the Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs, to approve property tax refunds and tax roll adjustments up to \$2,500 either mandated by court order or directed by the County of Albany Real Property Tax Service. (The Board of Education will be notified of all refunds and adjustments approved during the preceding month pursuant to this authorization at each regular Board meeting.)
4. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools, to approve budget transfers up to \$10,000. (The Board of Education will be given a report of all such transfers pursuant to this authorization at each regular Board meeting. Transfers over \$10,000 will require Board approval.)
5. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools and, as necessary, the President of the Board of Education to execute grant applications.
6. The Board of Education authorizes the reimbursement of pre-approved transportation expenses for the 2014 calendar year at the current allowable IRS mileage reimbursement rate through December 31, 2014.
7. The Board of Education authorizes the District Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, and the Central Treasurer of the Extra Classroom Activity Fund as individuals designated to sign checks.
8. The Board of Education authorizes the use of corporate credit cards by William F. Hogan and Dr. Marguerite Vanden Wyngaard.
9. The Board of Education authorizes the re-establishment of Petty Cash Accounts.

**Bonding**

The Board of Education approves a blanket bond in the amount of \$1,000,000 for all District employees.

Mr. Egan made a motion to approve Appointments/Designations/Authorizations/Bonding. Ms. Farrell seconded the motion. Mr. Owens asked that the Designation for Banking be set aside.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion, absent the item set aside.

Motion passed.

Mr. Egan made a motion to approve the Designation for Banking. Ms. Farrell seconded the motion. Mr. C. Anthony advised he would be abstaining on this item as he is an employee of Key Bank.

The Board voted 6 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention. Mr. Owens abstained.  
Motion passed.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. V. extended wishes for a Happy New Year to those present this and congratulated the two Board members that have been seated this evening. Dr. V reviewed a number of upcoming meetings that are scheduled in the District in the near future. Budget workshops will provide participants with an opportunity to understand the pressures that the District is under, and to provide input in areas to be considered as the District begins the difficult work of looking for ways to economize with as little impact on students as possible. Community forums will also begin this focused on the 2020 Vision. Dr. V thanked corporate sponsors for these events, providing the location and refreshments. Dr. V. also recognized the District's undefeated Albany High, girls basketball team, the Lady Falcons. They are once again among the top teams in the state Double AA schools this season.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

No report.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Ms. Leet addressed the Board with a suggestion to have Board agendas, along with all attachments posted on the District website to allow the public total access to the information the Board will be addressing during its meeting.
2. Matthew Hunt addressed the Board regarding his daughter be afforded the opportunity to apply to the Tech Valley High School. Dr. V. explained that because the City School District is not a member of the Capital District BOCES, District students are not eligible to attend the Tech Valley High School.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **High School Vision Document**

Dr. V noted the Vision document incorporates changes submitted to the district clerk. The next step includes editing. Dr. V noted that with the approval of the Board that this document captures what the Board was thinking and this will be used in the Ed Spec meeting scheduled for this coming Wednesday. The Ed Spec meeting is one where the square footage of rooms are discussed to meet this vision, i.e. how many rooms, and what will this building look like? Any other edits that have not been captured will be included. Ms. Adler made a motion to accept this most current Visioning Report & Summary of Findings, including all edits, for the purposes of use in the Ed Spec process. Mr. Egan seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.  
Motion passed.

**ROUTINE CONSENT**

Dr. Brandon presented the following Routine Consent Items for approval, Proceedings of Meeting (December 19, 2013); Human Resource Items; Attendance at Conferences; Treasurer's Report; Budget Transfers under \$10,000; Budget Transfer over \$10,000; Budget Appropriation Status Report; Revenue Status Report; Extra Classroom Activity Report; Grants Report; Authorization to Enter into Contracts (see attached schedule); Resolution to Approve SEQRA for Solar Panel Installation; Board Meeting Schedule 2014. Mr. Egan made a motion to approve Routine Consent. Ms. Farrell seconded the motion. Ms. Streznewski asked that the Attendance at Conferences Report be set aside. Ms. Adler asked that the contract for Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman, & Dicker, LLP be set aside.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve Routine Consent Items,  
absent the two items set aside.

Motion passed.

Mr. Egan made a motion to approve the Attendance at Conferences Report. Ms. Adler seconded the motion. Ms. Streznewski noted that during this time of budget constraints, she would like to have the report include the cost of the conferences and the budget code related to the cost. Ms. Streznewski noted these items were previously included in the report. Ms. Adler made a motion to amend the original motion to table the report until the next meetings when this information will be provided. Mr. Egan was in agreement.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to table the item.

Motion passed. The item is tabled.

Ms. Adler made a motion to approve the Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, LLP contract. Mr. Egan seconded the motion. Ms. Adler advised she would like to meet with the lobbyists to discuss their agenda. Discussion followed regarding the need to have representation during the upcoming legislative session and the need to inform the Board relative to the issues they are addressing on behalf of the District. Ms. Green made a motion to amend the original motion to table this item until after the Board has had an opportunity to have a question and answer session with these representatives.

The Board voted 6 ayes and 1 abstention, to approve the motion. Ms. Adler abstained

Motion passed. The item is tabled.

**Board Committee Reports**

None

**Board Member Items**

Dr. Brandon suggested a discussion related to the reduction in the number of Board meetings in the future.

**Other Business**

None

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Adler made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Farrell seconded the motion. The Board adjourned at 8:30 p.m.