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BOARD MINUTES

May 11, 2005

The regular meeting of the Board of Education held on May 11, 2005 commenced at 5:30 p.m. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

All Board Members were present.

The Interim Superintendent was present.

President Johnson presided.

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Board Recognitions

I.A. D'Youville Porter School #3 Students

Interim Superintendent Hargrave read into the record the following:

The Board of Education recognizes Kelly Ann Muiz, Angel Yadiel Jimenez, and Jose Ivan Gonzlez, 2nd grade students at D'Youville Porter School #3, for the number of books they each read this year. In September, one of the class goals set by the bilingual teacher Jayleen Medina was that each student read 1000 books by the end of the school year. As of April, two students reached and surpassed that goal and one student is well on his way to meeting the goal.

Kelly Ann has read a total of 233 books, Spanish and English combined, and is still busy reading chapter books. She has shown a true love of reading and embraces the challenges of reading English. After reading a book, Kelly enjoys retelling the story and writing about it.

Angel has read a total of 122 books, Spanish and English combined, and has begun reading chapter books. His level of comprehension is above average for an English Language Learner. He welcomes all academic challenges and handles them with intelligence and common sense.

Jose, who arrived from Panama two years ago, has read a total of 78 stories, Spanish and English combined. He would have reached the 100 mark, but the 78 stories reflect the only ones available in Braille. Jose is blind and has had to overcome not only his medical condition but also the adjustment to a new country and a second language – making his reading the 78 stories an exceptional accomplishment. Jose is an inspiration to his classmates.

Congratulations to students Kelly Ann Muiz, Angel Yadiel Jimenez, and Jose Ivan Gonzlez for surpassing the goal of this project and for achieving this recognition and to teacher Jayleen Medina for encouraging these student sin their efforts.

Mr. Hernandez gave tokens of appreciation on behalf of the Board to the teacher and students.

I.B. Aqmera Williams – School #61

Interim Superintendent Hargrave read into the record the following:

The Board of Education recognizes Aqmera Williams, a 4th grade student at Early Childhood Center #61, as the winner of the Masten District Spelling Bee. Councilmember Antoine Thompson hosted the contest.

In addition to her success in the spelling contest, Aqmera likes to write poetry. One of her poems was published in the *Buffalo News NeXt* on April 20, 2005. She is also a reader for daily announcements at the school.

Congratulations to Aqmera Williams for participating in these projects and for achieving this recognition.

Mr. Jacobs gave a token of appreciation on behalf of the Board to Miss Williams.

I.C. African and African-American History Conference Contest Winners

Interim Superintendent Hargrave read into the record the following:

The Board of Education recognizes the students who participated in the *Third Annual African and African-American History Conference*. The conference was held February 21st through February 27th at McKinley High School. It marks a notable step in enriching the lives and perspectives of the entire community about this important segment of American culture. The lessons from the various contests had an impact on what students learned about African American history and diversity in our schools. The winners in the various events are:

Exemplary School Program - Buffalo Academy for Visual & Performing Arts

Quiz Bowl – 1st Place Winners

Elementary School - Build Academy Adelajah Dunn Advisors:

Eryn Modica Sandy Boyack

Domonique Harper-Johnson Lisa Queener

Bethany Walton

Middle School – Pfc. Wm. J.

Grabiarz School of Excellence Corey Perry Advisor:

Renee Mines Melissa Marks

Chelsea Walker

LaShanir Autry

High School – East H.S. J'Tuan Gaines Advisor:

Fard Mack LaToya Hooks

Jasmine Walls

Nichole Walls

Essay Contest

Elementary School 1st Place Dorian Garrett City Honors

2nd Place Pilar Nelson Harriet Ross Tubman School #31

3rd Place Alexis Sykes School 81

High School 1st Place Danielle Parker McKinley H.S.

2nd Place James Swiatkowski McKinley H.S.

3rd Place Victoria Wolf McKinley H.S.

Poster Contest

Elementary &

Middle School 1st Place Lani Chen School 81

2nd Place Klarissa Garetta Harriet Ross Tubman School #31

3rd Place Alyssa Alvira School 81

High School 1st Place Dariana Lanzot McKinley H.S.
2nd Place Garry Collins McKinley H.S.
3rd Place Joseph Tyson McKinley H.S.

Ms. Hanlon and Mr. Jacobs gave tokens of appreciation on behalf of the Board to the students and teachers.

Community Involvement

Staff from Citizen's Bank volunteered their time during the Conference, handed out gifts and mementos during the Conference, and hosted the Reception for Black History Makers on Sunday, February 27, 2005. Jon Little was the liaison from Citizen's Bank.

Yolanda Bell, Director of the Talent Search Program at Buffalo State College, provided education materials, awards for students, transportation for speakers and meals. Dorothy M. Bellanti, Director, and Taharka Odinga, District Liaison, of the GEAR UP Program at D'Youville College, provided transportation for out-of-town speakers.

Congratulations to all of the students for participating in this conference and achieving this recognition. Our thanks and appreciation to Jon Little, Yolanda Bell, Dorothy Bellanti, and Taharka Odinga for contributing their time and resources to enrich the lives of the students and community in the Buffalo Public Schools.

Mr. Jacobs gave a token of appreciation on behalf of the Board to Mrs. Crystal Barton, Principal of McKinley High School, who accepted on Citizen's Bank behalf.

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Speakers made comments on various issues.

Interim Superintendent Hargrave responded to the speakers.

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APPROVED, a motion made by Mr. Hernandez, seconded by Mr. Coyle, to move up Item IX.A.3 – MOU – Local 264 – Part Time Bus Drivers, Item IX.A.4. – MOU – Local 264 – Seasonal – School Moves, Item IX.A.5. – MOU – Local 264 – Summer Food Service Program, and Item IX.C.35a – Travers and Collins. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVED, a motion made by Mr. Coyle, seconded by Mrs. Curry, to approve Item IX.A.3, Item IX.A.4, Item IX.A.5, and Item IX.C.35.a. The vote was unanimous.

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At this point, the Board went into Executive Session.

President Johnson announced for the record that the Board met in Executive Session from 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. to discuss negotiation matters.

President Johnson read into the record the following resolution:

Re: Appointment of Dr. James A. Williams as Superintendent of Schools

RESOLVED THAT, in accordance with Section Law 2554.2 and 2565, and subject to the approval by the New York State Education Department of his pending application to be certified therefor, Dr. James A. Williams, be appointed as this District's Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2005, pursuant to: (1) a Contract of Employment previously executed by Dr. Williams on May 9, 2005, and the (2) execution of Dr. Williams of a letter outlining certain pre-employment terms and conditions, including moving/relocation expenses and payment for transition services, both of which contract and letter the President of this Board is hereby authorized and directed to execute on behalf of the District.

APPROVED, a motion made by Mrs. Grant, seconded by Dr. Collins, to approve the appointment of Dr. James A. Williams as Superintendent of Schools. The vote resulted as follows: 8- Ayes, 1 – No (Mr. Hernandez). Motion carried.

Board Minutes

APPROVED, Board Minutes of April 6 (Special Meeting), April 7 (Special Meeting) and April 27, 2005. The vote was unanimous.

The Board received Committee Reports as follows:

1. The Student Support Services Committee submitted an oral report through its Chair, Mrs. Evans as follows:

APPROVED, a motion made by Mrs. Evans, seconded by Mr. Coyle and Mrs. Curry, to approve the resolution concerning designation of School #80 as an "Opt-In Student Spirit School" (Attachment A). The vote was unanimous.

APPROVED, a motion made by Mrs. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Curry, to approve the Principals' Ad Hoc Committee on Application Procedures following recommendations:

1. The process should be returned to the original practice of allowing applicants three (3) choices so that the acceptance rounds do not extend into April and May as they are this year.
2. There should be some overtime monies available to compensate members of acceptance committees for work done outside of regular school hours.
3. A greater effort must be made to orient elementary counselors to ensure that all paperwork to be submitted with applications will be complete.
4. Decisions of acceptance committees and assignments by the Placement Office must be final and binding. There can be no exceptions to this.
5. Admissions testing, portfolio review, auditions and interviews to applicable programs will be scheduled and take place early in the school year and well before the application process.

The vote was unanimous.

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The Board Approved the Agenda Items as follows:

Item IX.A.1. Emergency Conditional Appointments as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.A.2. Life Insurance Provider – Guardian – Two-Year Renewal as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.A.3. Moved up

Item IX.A.4. Moved up

Item IX.A.5. Moved up

Item IX.A.6.a. Instructional Personnel Changes as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.A.6.b. Miscellaneous Civil Service Personnel Changes as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.A.6.c. Administrative Personnel Changes as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.8. Consultant Contract – CSR – Dr. Richard Ramsey – School Culture & Climate as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.9. Consultant Contract – Sherry Fraser & Dan Brutlag – Meaningful Mathematics as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.10. Consultant Contract – Tlacopan Aztec Dancers – School #19 as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.11. District Credit Course – Orton-Gillingham – Multi Sensory Reading Instruction as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.12. District Credit Study Course – Erie Canal as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.13. District Credit Study Course – Reading with Meaning as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.14. Supplemental Service Providers – NCLB – Berkshire Farms as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.15. Non-employee Travel – Mount Mercy – Various – University of Notre Dame as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.16. Non-employee Travel – Nichols – Various – Tuition Assistance as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.17. Non-employee Travel – Nichols – Various Staff Development Conferences as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.18. Non-employee Travel – Our Lady of Black Rock – Sister Mary Francianne – NCEA as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.19. Non-employee Travel – Our Lady of Black Rock – Various – Catholic Education Conference as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.20. Non-employee Travel – St. Mary's School for the Deaf – V.A. Astrello as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.21. Non-employee Travel – St. Mary’s School for the Deaf – Kathie Evans as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.21.a. Consultant Contract – Richard Judelson, M.D. – Prescriptions for OT & PT as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.21.b. Consultant Contract – Youth Advocacy Program as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.B.21.c. Consultant Contract – St. Augustine’s Center as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.22. Amendment to Award – Transport of Prepackaged Meals (IX C34 6/23/04) as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.23. Amendment to Award – Trucking and Distribution (IX C39 6/23/04) as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.24. Item Deleted

Item IX.C.25. Award of Purchase Order – Books for Reading First as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.26. Award of Purchase Order – Classroom Reading Material as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.27. Award of Purchase Order – Net Trekker Search Engine – Social Studies Department as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.28. Award of Purchase Order – 45 EMAC Computers – Reading First – School #31 as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.29. Denial of Claim – Mr. Anthony Giardina - upon the advice of the Corporation Counsel and as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.30. Denial of Claim – Frederick Myrie P/N/G – upon the advice of the Corporation Counsel and as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.31. Denial of Claim – Debra Tufts – upon the advice of the Corporation Counsel and as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.32. Payment of Legal Services – Damon & Morey – BTF Negotiations – March 2005 as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.33. Payment of Legal Services – Damon & Morey – Impasse – Local 409 – March 2005 as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.34. Payment for Legal Services – Steven Fox – Kelder v. Golkin as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.C.35. Settlement of Claim – Diane Fatta – upon the advice of the Corporation Counsel and as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.D.36. Transfer of Funds – Between Accounts as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; the vote was unanimous.

Item IX.D.38. Health Insurance as recommended by the Interim Superintendent; 8 – Ayes, 1 – No (Mr. Hernandez).

The Board received Reports on the Agenda from the Interim Superintendent as follows:

Item IX.D.37. Report: Transfers – Within Accounts

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Unfinished Business/Open Session

APPROVED, a motion made by Dr. Collins, seconded by Mr. Coyle, to purchase a table for Board Members to attend the Erie County Association of School Boards Diamond Anniversary Celebration on Thursday, June 9, 2005 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVED, a motion made by Mrs. Evans, seconded by Mr. Coyle, to approve travel for Mrs. Evans to attend the New York State School Boards Association's Educating Students with Disabilities Seminar on June 2, 2005 in Rochester, New York. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Grant announced that the Joint School Construction Board meeting will be held on May 16, 2005 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 209 City Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emlyn Rivera
Senior Stenographer

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