Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.
New Brunswick High School
1000 Somerset St.
February 23, 2010 - Minutes

Meeting was Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Board of Education President, John Krenos.

Present:  Dale Caldwell, Edwin Gutierrez, Emra Seawood, Edward Spencer, Benito Ortiz, John Krenos, Zaire Julion (Student Representative), Richard M. Kaplan, George Hendricks, John J. Humma, Mary Egan, Richard D. Jannarone

Excused: Patricia Sadowski

There was a quorum present for the meeting.

Opening Announcement

Adequate public notice of this meeting was provided by the Secretary of the Board on February 23, 2010 to The Star Ledger and the Clerk of the City of New Brunswick. The time and location of this meeting and all meetings of this body are posted in City Hall, 78 Bayard Street, New Brunswick.

Public Comments on Consent Agenda Items

None

Consent Agenda: (Resolutions “a – u”)

It was moved by Mr. Ortiz and seconded by Mr. Spencer to approve the following Consent Agenda Resolutions “a – u”. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Seawood, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Ortiz, Dr. Krenos. Abstained: None. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

a. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves North Brunswick Construction Materials to provide needed maintenance supplies for the 2009/2010 school year at a cost not to exceed $10,000.

b. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the services of Public Sewer Service to perform the emergency vacuum cleaning at New Brunswick Middle School at a cost not to exceed $3,745.

c. Revised Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the submission of the 2010/2011 Early Childhood Budget in the amount of $17,634,765.

d. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the Superintendent to attend the American Association of School Administrators National Conference in Phoenix, Arizona from February 8, 2010 thru February 12th at a total cost of $2,262.

e. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the submission of the Educational Outreach Grant between $200 and $500 for the 2009/2010 school year.
f. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the acceptance of donations from DonorsChoose.Org in the amount of $4,382.60 for the purchase of various school supplies/items to be used at Lord Stirling, Livingston, and Redshaw Schools.

g. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the acceptance of a $330.87 donation from the New Brunswick Education Foundation for the purchase of materials for an in-class technology workstation at Lord Stirling School.

h. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the participation of the attached listing of New Brunswick Public School students who have been accepted to the Middlesex County Arts Middle School for the 2009/2010 school year.


j. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the attached listing of district wide field trips.

k. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the Center for Secondary School Redesign, Inc. to provide professional development for the New Brunswick High School Staff during the 2009/2010 school year at a cost not to exceed $33,000.


m. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves renewing the agreement with Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission for district transportation needs for the period beginning July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2015 at a management fee of $160,000 for each year of the renewal agreement.

n. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education proclaims February 1-5, 2010 as National School Counseling Week.

o. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education hereby endorses New Brunswick Education Association’s “Read Across America” celebration which calls on the citizens of New Brunswick to assure that every child is in a safe place reading together with a caring adult on March 2, 2010.

p. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the participation in the Legal Diversity Program for the remainder of the 2009/2010 school year at no cost to the district.

q. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education accepts a grant in the amount of $300,000 from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, the Eric B. Chandler Health Center to help students stay in school by addressing and managing health problems.
r. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education authorizes the purchase of the Follett Destiny Library Manager for seven (7) school libraries at a total cost not to exceed $43,050.

s. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the Payroll Department to enroll in the ADP Certification Course at a total cost of $350.


u. Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves rescheduling the February 16, 2010 Board Meeting, due to inclement weather, to February 23rd.

Approval of Minutes
January 19, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes - It was moved by Mr. Ortiz and seconded by Mr. Caldwell to approve the January 19, 2010 Minutes. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Seawood, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Ortiz, Dr. Krenos. Abstained: None. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

Superintendent’s Report
Suspension & Attendance Report for January 2010 – Mr. Kaplan reported on the following: staff attendance for January – 95.3%, student attendance for January – 94%, student enrollment as of January 2010 – 8,403, and 190 suspensions.

Mr. Kaplan reported on a conference for the governing board of National Superintendent’s. He met with Education Secretary Arne Duncan on topics such as NCLB, IDEA, and other federally funded grants and the changes proposed by President Obama. Every state has fiscal problems but some cities in NJ are facing bigger challenges since they supplemented state aid with one time federal monies.

Mr. Spencer asked about the Governor’s cut in state aid. Mr. Kaplan explained how they first informed us that the district was cut $597,620 and then the district received a revised state aid notice which deducts $760,607 in state aid. Mr. Jannarone explained how the difference is that the state cut the balance from the Adult School aid. Mr. Kaplan then explained how we are still waiting for our next year’s state aid numbers and that is what will have a dramatic impact on our budget. We also have to take into consideration the 17 million in stimulus that may also be reduced from our budget.

It was moved by Mr. Ortiz and seconded by Mrs. Seawood to accept the Superintendent’s Report. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Seawood, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Ortiz, Dr. Krenos. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

Student Representative Report
Miss Julien stated how putting progress reports, and other information on-line would benefit the students. The National Honor Society Induction is scheduled for March 10th, the African American History Program is planned for February 25th. Ms. Julien asked Mr. Kaplan to explain the calendar change.
Finance Committee Report
Approval of February 23, 2010 Finance Report – It was moved by Mr. Gutierrez and seconded by Mr. Caldwell to accept the Finance Report. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Seawood, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Ortiz, Dr. Krenos. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

Facilities Committee Report
Mr. Spencer and Mr. Kaplan reported on the lack of progress of Redshaw School and are drafting a letter to Governor Christie to request the school be built.

Policy Report
No Report

Athletic Report
Approval of December 2009 Athletic Report – It was moved by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mrs. Seawood to accept the December 2009 Athletic Report. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Seawood, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Ortiz, Dr. Krenos. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

Mr. Ortiz reported on the winter sports at the High School and the success of the boys and girls basketball teams.

Curriculum Committee Report
Dr. Krenos reported that the committee met and discussed the following: (a) reviewed the Course of Studies Booklet for NBHS; (b) Rutgers Business School Accounting Program; (c) Annual Measurable Achievement Objective Data Report was discussed; (d) music/grading report; (e) discussed the LSC Partners in Science 2010 program; (f) McKinley Award Grant Program; and (g) Street Law's Corporate Legal Diversity Pipeline Program.

Public Relations Committee Report
No Report

Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission Report
Mr. Caldwell reported on the state of MRESC. They have approximately 758 students in nine (9) major schools and they have generated tens of millions in savings for participating districts and have the largest shared services program in the state.

President's Report
Dr. Krenos reported on the passing of Mary Egan's father and offered condolences to Ms. Egan and her family.

Open Questions from the Public
Scheryl Fleming – Asked for clarification on surplus. Asked that we are allowed 2% surplus and we have 1.5%. Mr. Kaplan answered yes.
Resolution for Closed Session

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 provides that certain matters of a public body may be discussed in closed session; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education intends to discuss matters as follows:
   1. Personnel Matters
   2. Matters of Attorney/Client Privilege

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the aforesaid subjects shall be discussed in closed session by this Board of Education and administrative staff, and the minutes of said closed session discussion will be made available to the public when the reasons for the non-disclosure in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act no longer exist.

It was moved by Mr. Ortiz and seconded by Mr. Caldwell to enter into Closed Session. Roll Call Vote for Closed Session: Ayes: Mr. Caldwell, Mr. Gutierrez, Mrs. Seawood, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Ortiz, Dr. Krenos. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

 Entered Closed Session: 7:50 PM

Resumed Public Session – 9:18 PM

Personnel Report
Resolution – The New Brunswick Board of Education approves the February 23, 2010 Personnel Report. It was moved by Mr. Caldwell and seconded by Mrs. Seawood to approve the February 23, 2010 Personnel Report. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Mr. Caldwell, Mrs. Seawood, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Ortiz, Dr. Krenos. Abstained: Mr. Gutierrez. Nays: None. Motion Approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:19 PM

Richard D. Jannarone
Business Administrator/Board Secretary