Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Of the Bethlehem Central School District held at
The Bethlehem High School
700 Delaware Ave, Delmar, NY

Members Present: Mr. Cooper, Mr. Downey, Ms. Cunningham, Mrs. Giacone-Stever, Mrs. Lenhardt, Dr. Navarro and Dr. Wijeyesinghe.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Douglas, Ms. Monroe, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Kehoe, Dr. DeAngelo, and visitors

I. Opening of Meeting
   A. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Mr. Downey at 6:00 p.m.
   B. Adjourn to Executive Session – It was moved by Mrs. Giacone-Stever, seconded by Dr. Wijeyesinghe and passed unanimously to move to Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss an individual personnel matter and a contractual matter.
      Present at Executive Session: Mr. Downey, Mr. Cooper, Ms. Cunningham, Mrs. Giacone-Stever, Mrs. Lenhardt, Dr. Navarro, Dr. Wijeyesinghe, Dr. Douglas, Dr. DeAngelo, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Kehoe, and Ms. Monroe.
   C. Reconvene Meeting to Open Session – The regular meeting was reconvened by Mr. Downey at 7:03 p.m.
   D. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Minutes
   A. It was moved by Dr. Wijeyesinghe, seconded by Mr. Cooper and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2014, Regular Board Meeting, and April 8, 2014, Special Board Meeting.

III. Student Senate Report: None

IV. Superintendent’s Report
Dr. Douglas began his Superintendent’s Report by acknowledging the break in winter weather, and welcomed the warmer days for students to enjoy the outside grounds of the school buildings.

Dr. Douglas then introduced Art Supervisor Melanie Painter to present on art students being recognized for recent achievements. Students participated in the following juried High School regional exhibitions, which Mrs. Painter noted are our most competitive exhibits. Students selected for these exhibitions were first juried by a panel of art teachers here at the high school, then faced jurying by a panel of professional artist and educators. Juried acceptance rates range from 20-28 percent of work submitted; therefore, it is a great honor to be selected for the exhibition. The following students were being honored as they had their artwork on display at professional galleries in the Capital Region:

--AN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY BE CONVENED UPON MAJORITY VOTE OF ITS TOTAL MEMBERSHIP TAKEN IN AN OPEN MEETING PURSUANT TO A MOTION IDENTIFYING THE GENERAL AREA OR AREAS OR THE SUBJECT OR SUBJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED. (BOARD POLICY 22.9)
The Capital Region Media Arts Festival
Emily Banach  Luke Kubisch  Kelly Quick
Olivia Conroy  Marin Mackay  Clara Racette
Phil Hooper  Benjamin Mertik  Ryan Starr
Ryan Kennedy  Addison Meyers  Teagan Szymbaszek
Stephanie Konas  Owen Pace  Meghan Wendth

The 23rd Annual Fulton Montgomery Community College High School Regional Juried Art Show
Ceili Conway
Luke Kubisch
Elizabeth Leupold
Cole Reagan
Brigid Riedy

The 15th Annual Albany Center Gallery High School Regional
Rachael Biggane  Benjamin Mertik
Kendra Bushart  Owen Pace
Ceili Conway
Audrey Keefe
Elizabeth Leupold

Dr. Douglas then introduced Science and Technology Supervisor Jennifer Gonyea to present on the Intel ISEF Awards, recognizing three high school students who competed and claimed awards at the RPI Intel Science Fair on March 22nd. Ms. Gonyea explained that approximately 90 students participated in this research based competition from around the state. There were 12 Intel ISEF awards given out and Bethlehem students claimed 3 of these awards.

Elizabeth Cultrara was awarded the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). With this award she also gains the right to compete at their state competition. Her research was on aquaponic systems and the effects of vermicompost on plant growth. Thomas Sheridan was awarded the American Meteorological Society Award. His research was on carbon sequestration and reducing climate change. Daniel Wilkinson won the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) “Taking the Pulse of the Planet” Award for his work with Wind Turbines. Daniel was also awarded the National Grid Award for Energy and the Environment.

In other news, Dr. Douglas updated the Board and community that BC Alumni Dani Moz had made it to the top 12 in the singing completion on NBC’s The Voice, and had made quite an impression on the viewers and her hometown supporters.

In looking forward, Dr. Douglas rounded up his report with a special thank you to the Elsmere and Glenmont PTAs and communities for the donations to be voted on by the Board that night for their playground fundraising projects. Also, Dr. Douglas noted that the Bond Project has been approved by the State Education Department, and projects would be going out to bid starting Wednesday, April 23rd and he expected that construction would begin in June if all went as scheduled.

Also, as discussed and requested by the Board, Dr. Douglas presented on his proposed Lab School Committee to seek approval prior to assembling a working group. A detailed plan was proposed, including key teachers, administrators, parents and students to be involved in the committee, and a timeline for looking at current obstacles that the High School and Lab School are facing. The Board was appreciative of the time put in to initiate the group, and gave their permission to continue with the formation of the committee. Dr. Wijeyesinghe requested to be on record stating that she was happy to see a diverse group of proposed people to be involved in the committee and that time was
being granted before any decisions would be made regarding Lab School and class sizes, but that she did not condone classes running significantly below the High School’s set mandate of 17 students, as it isn’t a beneficial practice for either the students, or use of the District’s resources.

V. **Board of Education Report**

Mr. Cooper shared his experience at a recent NYSSBA Student Achievement Institute he attended, along with Mrs. Lenhardt, on April 12th. Presenter Dr. Bill Daggett, Founder and Chairman of the International Center for Leadership in Education, provided his insight about the education reform path that led to the adoption of the Common Core, as well as the perspectives of higher education and business representatives on the current state of college and career readiness. Mr. Cooper and Mrs. Lenhardt stated that it was a valuable day, and that Mr. Cooper enjoyed the smaller attendance as it was beneficial in providing additional opportunities to discuss these issues that students and teachers are facing in more of an open discussion.

Mrs. Lenhardt added that she was able to attend 4 out of 5 of the NYSSBA Student Achievement Institute events, and would love to see the program expanded, as many would benefit from the content discussed in added geographical areas around New York State. They have all led to a worthwhile discussion for all involved.

Since the last Board of Education meeting, Dr. Wijeyesinghe mentioned that she has attended the Capital District School Boards Association (CAPSBA) with fellow Board members for the event titled, “Common Core – What Do We Do Now”? Dr. Wijeyesinghe also attended the track meet April 17th, which was hosted by Bethlehem. She noted that the event was flawlessly executed, and that a big kudos was in order for the Athletics Department, the Track Booster Club and student athletes for organizing and executing such a successful event, which she explained felt more like a festival.

VI. **Presentations:**

A. **Chinese Program – Ms. Jody Monroe, Assist. Superintendent for Educational Program and Instruction**

Ms. Monroe presented on the Chinese Program Phase-Out proposal, which was in response to the Board’s request for the administration to seek additional resources be looked into for the Middle School students who wouldn’t have been able to continue with the language based on the initial proposed phase-out plan. Ms. Monroe discussed the various resources and options that she and Dr. Bel had reviewed in an effort to keep the program for current 6th and 7th graders, but still at that point they did not have any solutions to the current course enrollment and teaching staff issues that the program is facing. Ms. Monroe also reiterated that the proposal isn’t due to there being a fiscal issue, but rather a response to the District’s inability to provide an equitable program with the same rigor as other Language programs in the District.

B. **Budget Work Session: Budget Discussion and Adoption**

Mrs. Kehoe began her presentation to the Board with a detailed and comprehensive overview of the Property Tax Freeze and the effects of property reassessment in Town of Bethlehem for residents and voters. Then, as a final discussion and proposal for adoption of the 2014-15 budget, Mrs. Kehoe reviewed their proposal to close the $4.8 million budget gap. This proposal included the use of $1.4 million of the district’s fund balance and a proposed property tax levy worth approximately $1.8 million. Administrators identified net spending reductions of nearly $768,000 and additional revenue of $219,000 to close the gap. An additional $580,000 in state aid included in the final state budget also helped address the deficit. In conclusion, a proposed budget of $92,627,000 was presented for the 2014-15 school year. The proposed plan increases spending by
$2,212,000, or 2.45 percent, and would include a tax levy increase of 2.99 percent, an amount below the district's calculated tax "cap" of 3.12 percent.

To view the April 22nd presentation, and for a full calendar of budget meetings and other budget information, please visit the District’s Budget homepage at [Bethlehemschools.org/budget/budget.html](http://bethlehemschools.org/budget/budget.html).

**VII. Recognition of Visitors on any agenda items:**

Community members addressed the Board of Education on the following topics:

Students and parents addressed the Board regarding the Chinese Language Program Phase-out decision, and continued the conversation from the April 8th Board meeting discussion. Ms. Monroe announced that there will be a parent meeting on April 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethlehem Central Middle School to answer any questions.

PTA Presidents and members from Elsmere and Glenmont Elementary Schools made an announcement and request for the Board to accept their donations for the respective school playgrounds. The groups explained their efforts in raising the funds to address the current infrastructure issues that the facilities face, and assist in the rebuild for the students and community to enjoy. The Board and Dr. Douglas thanked them immensely for their hard work and said they would be voting on the donation momentarily.

**VIII. Finance**

It was moved by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Dr. Wijeyesinghe and passed unanimously to separate the finance action items A through E from items F through G.

It was moved Dr. Wijeyesinghe seconded by Mrs. Lenhardt and passed unanimously to approve the following finance action items A through E:

A. **Claims Auditor’s Report** – Accepted the Claims Auditor’s Report for the month of March 2014.

B. **Accept Donation by Gymnastics Boosters Club and Approve Budget Amendment** – Accepted the donation from the Gymnastics Booster Club to be used to cover costs related to the 2013-14 school year Gymnastics Program and amend the 2013-14 budget as per attached.

C. **Accept Donation by Bethlehem Music Association (BMA) and Approve Budget Amendment** – Accepted the donation from the Bethlehem Music Association (BMA) to be used to purchase instruments for the Music Department and amend the 2013-14 budget as per attached.

D. **Accept Donation by Elsmere Elementary School PTA** – Accepted the donation from the Elsmere Elementary School PTA to be used to purchase playground equipment for the Elsmere Elementary School.

E. **Accept Donation by Glenmont Elementary School PTA** – Accepted the donation from the Glenmont Elementary School PTA to be used to purchase playground equipment for the Glenmont Elementary School.
It was moved by Dr. Wijeyesinghe, seconded by Ms. Cunningham and passed unanimously to approve the following finance action items F through G:

F. Adopt the School Budget for the 2014-15 School Year - Adopted the 2014-15 spending plan of the Bethlehem Central School District, in the amount of $92,627,000.00, to be presented to voters at the annual meeting on May 20, 2014, at the Bethlehem Central High School.

G. Property Tax Report Card for the 2014-15 School Year – Approved the Property Tax Report card for the 2014-15 school year, as per attached, and authorize the Property Tax Report to be submitted to the New York State Education Department.

IX. Professional Personnel

It was moved by Dr. Wijeyesinghe, seconded by Mr. Cooper and passed unanimously to approve the following Instructional Staff action items A through G. (All appointments and payments for services are subject to out possession of proper certification and transcripts substantiating credits and diplomas and a notice from the Commissioner of Education, that (s)he is fully cleared for employment.)

| A. Name: | Amy L. Welsh |
| Position: | Elementary Teacher |
| Location: | Hamagrael Elementary School |
| Effective Date: | June 24, 2014 through January 2, 2015 |
| Type of Leave: | Maternity Leave |

| B. Name: | Andrew M. Kourt |
| Position: | 1.0 Elementary Teacher |
| Location: | Glenmont Elementary School |
| Effective Date: | 5/27/14 |
| Reason: | Resignation for Personal Reasons |
| Length of Service: | 11 Years |

| C. Name: | Elizabeth S. Hunter |
| Position: | 0.4 Guidance Counselor |
| Location: | Hamagrael Elementary School |
| Effective Date: | 4/25/14 |
| Reason: | Resignation for Personal Reasons |
| Length of Service: | 8 Months |

| D. Name: | Jennifer C. Hackett |
| Position: | Special Education Teacher |
| Location: | High School |
| Effective Date: | March 10, 2014 through May 30, 2014 |
| Type of Leave: | Change of Date for Maternity Leave |

| E. Name: | Kayti M. Marr |
| Position: | 1.0 Foreign Language Teacher |
| Location: | Middle School |
| Effective Date: | September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 |
| Type of Leave: | Personal Leave |

| F. Name: | Jason T. Dashew |
| Position: | 1.0 Music Teacher |
| Location: | High School |
Effective Date: May 19, 2014 through June 13, 2014
Type of Leave: Paternity Leave

G. Name: Valerie S. Andres
Position: 1.0 Tenured Elementary Teacher
Tenure Area: Elementary Education
Building: Slingerlands Elementary
Start Date: 5/27/14
Tenure Date: 8/31/13
Seniority Date: 11/30/09
Salary: $51,780. MA+10 Step 6
Pro-Rated Salary: $6,213.00
Education: BA – Hartwick College – Elementary Education/ French
          MS – Nazareth College – Special Education
Certification Status: Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6
          Special Education
Reason: Resignation of Andrew Kourt

X. Support Personnel

It was moved by Dr. Wijeyesinghe, seconded by Mrs. Giacone-Stever and passed unanimously to approve the following Support Staff action items A through D. (All appointments and payments for services are subject to out possession of proper certification and transcripts substantiating credits and diplomas and a notice from the Commissioner of Education, that (s)he is fully cleared for employment.)

A. Name: Alice Wiggand
   Position: 10 Month School Monitor (Noon Hour Aid)
   Location: Glenmont
   Effective Date: April 2, 2014
   Reason: Resignation for personal reasons
   Years of Service: 16 years

B. Name: Mia Calabrese
   Position: School Monitor (Aide to Students with Disabilities)
   Location: Middle School
   Effective Date: April 18, 2014
   Reason: Correction of resignation date
   Years of Service: 9 years

C. Name: Steve Owens
   Position: From Provisional to 12 Month Probationary Computer Technician
   Hours Per Day: 7.5 hours per day
   Location: High School
   Effective Date: April 28, 2014
   Reason: Has met the New York State Civil Service requirements, and will begin to serve the 6 month probationary period.

D. It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the following list of Transportation changes for the 2013-2014 school year effective May 6, 2014. These changes are due to student needs.

   Laurie Vandenburgh  Bus Driver  Revised from 4.50 to 5.25 hours a day (total of 26.25 weekly hours)
   Gerry Martin  Bus Driver  Revised from 5.75 to 6.75 hours a day (total of 33.75 weekly hours)
XI. **Correspondence for Action**

It was moved by Dr. Wijeyesinghe, seconded by Mr. Cooper and passed unanimously to approve the Correspondence for Action items A through C:

A. **Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education Recommendations** – Approved the Committee on Special Education recommendations and the Committee on Preschool Special Education recommendations for the following meeting dates:
   
   4-11-14, 4-10-14, 4-09-14, 4-08-14, 4-04-14, 4-03-14, 4-02-14, 4-01-14, 3-28-14, 3-27-14, 3-26-14, 3-25-14, 3-24-14, 3-20-14, 3-20-14, 2-28-14

B. **Memorandum of Agreement for Interim Food Service Director** – Approved the Memorandum of Agreement of the Interim Food Service Director position in the Bethlehem Central United Employees Association Contracts, and authorize the Superintendent to execute the change.

C. **Vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget and BOCES Board Members** – Approved the following Administrative Budget and cast a vote for four (4) candidates for Board Members of the Capital Region BOCES:

   1. **Resolved**, that the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga Counties be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the Administrative Budget document in the total amount of $7,764,837 during the school year 2014-15 and to raise such sum by assessments to component school districts, non-component school districts, other BOCES and other sources required by law.

   2. The Board of Education cast a vote to slate Mrs. Sandra Belonek of Schalmont Central School District as one of the candidates for the BOCES Board positions for a term of three (3) years.

   3. The Board of Education cast a vote to slate Dr. John Bergeron of Schenectady City School District as one of the candidates for the BOCES Board positions for a term of three (3) years.

   4. The Board of Education cast a vote to slate Mr. Gary DiLallo of Shenendehowa Central School District as one of the candidates for the BOCES Board positions for a term of three (3) years.

   5. The Board of Education cast a vote to slate Mr. John T. Phelan of Guilderland Central School District as one of the candidates for the BOCES Board positions for a term of three (3) years.

XII. **Recognition of Visitors**

This time is for visitors to address any items not on this agenda.

High School Principal Scott Landry announced the *US News and World Report* ranking BCHS as a gold level school, being named number 491 out of 19,000 schools. He was honored and proud of the students and faculty who assisted the school receiving this accolade.
XIII. Future Meetings and Events

A. Tuesday, May 6th  6:30 p.m.   Meet the Candidate Night
B. Wednesday, May 7th  6:00 p.m.  Budget Hearing
C. Tuesday, May 20th  7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.  Budget Vote and Annual Election
D. Wednesday, May 21st  6:00 p.m.  Regular Board Meeting

XIV. Adjourn the Regular Meeting

It was moved by Mrs. Lenhardt, seconded by Dr. Wijeyesinghe and passed unanimously at 9:02 p.m. to adjourn the regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brittany Barrett
District Clerk

Date Approved: May 7, 2014