

**ELMIRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELMIRA, NEW YORK**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

EFA Community Room  
933 Hoffman Street  
Elmira, NY 14905

January 20, 2010  
**6:00 pm Executive Session**  
7:00 pm Meeting

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

President Larry McGovern, Jr. called the Regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:01 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Dan Hurley, Dianna Jackson, Sara Lattin, Ted Lax, Colleen McCall, Larry McGovern, Rodney Strange, Mary Tucker

Student Representatives: Alternative High School Student Representative, Kali Danley; Elmira Free Academy Student Representative, Molly Hill; Southside High School Student Representative, Allison Ortell

Absent: Lynn Grottenthaler

Others: Joseph Hochreiter, Greg Kern, Christine Mecke, Diane Spotts, Attorney Conrad Wolan

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Strange moved, seconded by Dr. Lax that the Board approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried:

Yes: Hurley, Jackson, Lattin, Lax, McCall, McGovern, Strange, Tucker

No: None

Absent: Grottenthaler

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mrs. Tucker moved, seconded by Mr. Strange that the Board move into Executive Session for the employment history of a particular person or corporation; also included for motion Mrs. Tucker moved, seconded by Mr. Strange that the Board appoint Mrs. Lattin Clerk Pro Tem in the absence of the Clerk. (6:03 p.m.) There were no visitors invited into Executive Session.

Motion Carried:  
Yes: Hurley, Jackson, Lattin, Lax, McCall, McGovern,  
Strange, Tucker  
No: None  
Absent: Grottenthaler

Janet M. Mustico  
Board Clerk

**RETURN TO OPEN  
SESSION**

Dr. Lax moved, seconded by Mr. Strange that the Board  
return to open session. (6:40 p.m.)

Motion Carried:  
Yes: Hurley, Jackson, Lattin, Lax, McCall, McGovern,  
Strange, Tucker  
No: None  
Absent: Grottenthaler

Sara Lattin  
Clerk Pro Tem

**RECONVENED**

The meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

**VISITORS WISHING TO  
ADDRESS THE BOARD**

There were no visitors wishing to address the Board.

**INTRODUCTION OF  
NEW STUDENT BOARD  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Mr. John Kohena, Principal of Alternative High School,  
introduced Kali L. Danley as the new Student Board  
Representative from the Alternative High School. He  
spoke about her involvement at Alternative High School  
and the activities she was involved in in the community.

**BOARD OF  
EDUCATION REPORTS**

Associations  
Representatives

There was no report from ESSAC.

There was no report from ISEA.

There was no report from CMCW.

There was no report from CWA.

Laurie Marchesani, President of the ETA, spoke about Governor Paterson's proposed 5% budget reduction in education. She also spoke about the hidden items that were not published in his budget. She reported that Beecher Elementary School has been selected to be featured in the monthly publication of the New York State United Teachers magazine. Beecher was nominated by Albert Comfort, a NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist. The school was selected based on their criteria as a school that has demonstrated significant improvement to be removed from the New York State SINI list. They will be featured in the magazine as a turn-around school.

#### Student Representatives

Molly Hill, Elmira Free Academy Student Representative, reported that EFA is preparing for the Regents exams and final tests that will be given next week. Also, EFA has recognized senior athletes in various sports and are preparing for the second semester of the school year.

Allison Ortell, Southside High School Student Representative, reported that SHS will have their annual blood drive on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. She also stated that SHS is preparing for the Regents exams and will be moving into the newly renovated science classrooms next week.

Kali Danley, Alternative High School Student Representative, reported that her school is also studying for the Regents exams. They have also been holding review classes and everyone is looking forward to the new semester.

#### Mary Tucker

Board member, Mary Tucker, reported that Parley Coburn held a family reading night January 14<sup>th</sup>, but she was unable to attend. She attended the District Health Plan Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The committee has received five responses to the RFP's for the health benefit consultant. The committee has chosen three firms. They will be hearing more detailed presentations; those presentations will take place at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> Special meeting.

#### Equity Committee

Mrs. Jackson, Committee Chairperson, reported the next meeting of the Equity Committee will be on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, they will be looking at statistics. Mrs. Jackson congratulated Diven Elementary School on reading the book, "*Have you filled a bucket today?*". She

attended a Martin Luther King celebration on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at the Frederick Douglas Memorial Church on Mattison St. in Elmira; the topic was education.

Arts Subcommittee  
(Learning & Teaching  
Committee)

Mrs. McCall, Committee Chairperson, reported that the Scholastic Art Show was at the Arnot Art Museum. She is also working on the Wellness Policy with the Health and Wellness Committee and another meeting will be held on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. She also attended a Martin Luther King celebration at Ernie Davis Community Center.

Buildings & Grounds  
Committee

Mr. Hurley, Committee Chairperson, reported that all the work in the buildings are on schedule. Beecher is down to the punch list. Diven still has a lagging problem with the windows that fail to open. Southside High School science wing flooring between the addition and the building can not be poured yet because the concrete still has to dry. He explained the change orders that are coming to the Board this evening for approval. SHS in the amount of \$76,256; to remove substandard cables and Fassett Elementary School for \$10,485.00; old wires for the third phase which did not pass electrical inspection and were replaced. Mr. Hurley also informed the Board that there might be a problem at Southside High School with the gym floor that tested positive for mercury.

Learning & Teaching  
Committee (Special  
Education Subcommittee)

Mrs. Grottenthaler was absent at this meeting.

Audit Committee

Mr. Strange, Committee Chairperson, reported that at the last board meeting the committee presented the forensic audit. He reported that the findings are still under legal review. Mr. Barton Graham, committee member, has submitted several questions for Attorney Wolan to answer. Once he completes those questions he will report back to the Board.

Community Relations  
Committee

Mrs. Lattin, Committee Chairperson, held a meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> in the community room. She received a lot of information about their needs; her next meeting will be next month.

Policy Committee

Dr. Lax, Committee Chairperson, reported that the Policy committee is going through the regulations manual for the 5000 series, which is business transfers.

Larry McGovern

Mr. McGovern reported that he did a walk through at Pine City Elementary School and it went very well. The next walk through will be at Diven Elementary School on February 2, 2010.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S  
REPORT**

Leadership Week  
Presentation-Riverside  
Elementary School

Carrie Rollins, Principal of Riverside Elementary School, along with Sue Pollack, Liz Hassen, Jessica Giuricich, Jeanne VanBencoten presented their leadership week presentation which pertained to reflecting on student engagement. She stated that after moving back to Riverside School their focus was on mastering the new whiteboards. They reviewed their strategies which were curriculum through learning goals, instruction through providing feedback, reinforcing effort and providing recognition and assessment for learning. Mrs. Rollins talked about the Arts integration which has given them the opportunity to integrate curriculum while providing students with hands-on learning. She showed students working on art projects and a slam poet that came to the school. She had samples of students writing poetry. Mrs. Rollins also showed in her slide show a four season mural that the students worked on that hangs in the halls of Riverside. She spoke about the talking hands presentation where each class signs a song and performs it in front of the whole school. She also presented an ELA and Math Assessment Data chart and showed the increase in each area from 2006 to present. The team spoke about the Professional Learning Community (PLC) which promotes excellence, helping each other improve, knowing that they do make a difference in helping every child reach their full potential. The team concluded the presentation by talking about goals to increase engagement through technology and connect with students personally.

**OLD BUSINESS**  
Race To The Top (RTTT)

Mr. Hochreiter addressed the concerns of some Board members that a Race to the Top (RTTT) MOU was submitted to the State despite the vote at the last Board meeting. Mr. Hochreiter spoke about the discussion that the Board had at the last meeting pertaining to the RTTT MOU. He came away from the last meeting concerned about the liability that the MOU might create, and the mistrust and untidiness in which this whole situation has

been handled by the State, but also considering how the Board's concerns could be addressed and still keep the District eligible for the money. Mr. Hochreiter had asked Attorney Wolan if there was any legal way that the District could both show our support to the Commissioner while identifying our concerns, and still be able to obtain funding. Attorney Wolan had a discussion with his colleagues and NYSSBA. Mr. Hochreiter called Mr. McGovern regarding this conversation and asked if he could go ahead and pursue this discussion. Mr. McGovern stated that he could, but would not sign anything without checking with the Board first. Attorney Wolan produced a revised and nonbinding MOU and appropriate cover letter. Mr. McGovern e-mailed the Board for their input. Some Board members did not respond; he knew he had the support of those 4 members that had voted yes at the meeting to support the MOU. That is why he signed the contract that Attorney Wolan produced. Attorney Wolan stated that although he added a paragraph that made the MOU nonbinding until after further discussions with the State, the State might still take this as a good faith effort to support the RTTT application. Mr. Hurley voiced his concern that the Board took a vote and then things were changed and taken care of anyway. It was against what the board voted on. He went on to say that it's difficult to explain to the public that a vote was taken and then 24 hours later things were changed; he doesn't feel this was appropriate. Mr. Hochreiter said he does not operate in this manner and would not operate this way in the future. His goal was to see if there a way that the district could acquire some funds because of the fiscal situation we are currently in. If time permitted they would have called for a special meeting and polled the Board, but they had been working to meet the original deadline which was only two days after the prior Board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
Discussion-Use of Election  
Inspectors for May election

District Clerk, Janet Mustico, discussed with the Board decreasing the number of election inspectors for the May 19<sup>th</sup> election. Currently there are six booths at Southside High School and six booths at Elmira Free Academy. She feels it would be more efficient and effective if there were only four booths at each location. Discussion continued on whether a demographic study should be done to see why more people are not coming out to vote.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

Mr. Strange moved, seconded by Dr. Lax that the Board approve the following consent items:

Minutes

Approve minutes of the January 6, 2010, Regular Meeting and the January 12, 2010 Special Meeting of the Board of Education.

Financial Reports

Accept the Treasurer's Reports for October, 2009 as presented.

Accept the Treasurer's Reports for November, 2009 as presented.

Accept the Central Treasurers' Reports for October, 2009 as presented.

Accept the Central Treasurers' Reports for November, 2009 as presented.

Accept the Claims Auditors report as presented.

Change Orders

Approve the attached District-Wide Change Order # EC-27 in the amount of \$76,256.

Approve the attached Fassett Elementary School Change Order # E-043 in the amount of \$10,485.

Approve Visual Inspections of Occupied Buildings Owned by the District

Approve the visual structural reports for the school district's occupied buildings for the 2009-2010 school year.

Approval of Committee on Special Education (CSE) Recommendations

Approve the placement of students classified by the District Committee on Special Education (CSE) Teams.

Motion Carried:

Yes: Hurley, Jackson, Lattin, Lax, McCall, McGovern, Strange, Tucker

No: None

Absent: Grottenthaler

**VISITORS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

There were no visitors wishing to address the Board.

**PERSONNEL**

Mr. Strange moved, seconded by Dr. Lax that the Board approve the personnel packet as presented.

**RESIGNATION**

**Non-Instructional**

Name: **Marcia J. Romanski**  
Assignment: Clerk Typist/Booth Education Center  
Effective Date: December 28, 2009

**RETIREMENTS**

**Instructional**

**Amendment to December 2, 2009 Addendum Board Packet, page 2**

Name: **Sally A. Brown**  
Assignment: Family & Consumer Science/Ernie Davis Middle School  
~~Effective Date: July 1, 2010~~  
Effective Date: June 30, 2010  
Years of Service: 20 Plus Years of Service

**Amendment to November 18, 2009 Board Packet, page 2**

Name: **Dinah L. Vaughan**  
Assignment: Elementary/Ernie Davis Middle School  
~~Effective Date: July 1, 2010~~  
Effective Date: June 30, 2010  
Years of Service: 18 Years of Service

**Non-Instructional**

Name: **Joyce A. Flanagan**  
Assignment: Cook/Elmira Free Academy High School  
Effective Date: June 25, 2010  
Years of Service: 22 plus Years of Service

## LEAVES OF ABSENCE

### Instructional

Name: **Jennifer L. Leonberger**  
Assignment: Elementary/Hendy Avenue Elementary School  
Reason: Family Medical Leave  
Tentative Date: May 21, 2010 – To Be Determined

### Non-Instructional

Name: **Linda J. Dennison**  
Assignment: Administrative Assistant/Administration  
Reason: Family Medical Leave  
Effective Date: January 12, 2010 through March 30, 2010

Name: **Jenniffer R. Kinney**  
Assignment: Coordinator of Attendance/Booth Education Center  
Reason: Family Medical Leave  
Effective Date: December 28, 2009 through February 15, 2010

Name: **Thomas R. Knapp**  
Assignment: School Bus Mechanic/Bus Garage  
Reason: Family Medical Leave Extension  
Effective Date: January 12, 2010 through February 10, 2010

Name: **Matthew W. Liddy**  
Assignment: Maintenance Mechanic/Maintenance  
Reason: Family Medical Leave Extension  
Effective Date: January 4, 2010 through January 14, 2010

Name: **Michele M. Osburn**  
Assignment: Bus Attendant/Bus Garage  
Reason: Long Term Leave Extension  
Effective Date: January 6, 2010 through February 10, 2010

Name: **Steven R. Thomas**  
Assignment: Head Bus Driver/Bus Garage  
Reason: Family Medical Leave  
Effective Date: December 28, 2009 through March 15, 2010

## APPOINTMENTS

### Instructional

#### Probationary

Name: **Margaret C. Clark**  
Assignment: Response To Intervention Instructional Support  
Teacher/District-Wide  
Justification: Newly Created  
Effective Date: February 8, 2010  
Tenure Date: February 8, 2012  
Tenure Area: Special Education  
Certification: Special Education, Permanent;  
Reading Teacher, Permanent;  
School Administrator/Supervisor, Provisional  
Salary: \$48,012, Step 11 B+50+M prorated  
Background: ME, Mansfield University,  
Major: Reading,  
BS, Mansfield University,  
Major: Special Education  
Experience: Consultant Teacher K-6, Campbell-Savona (NY) Central  
School District (11 years); Teacher, Bath-Haverling (NY)  
Central School District (1 year); Teaching Assistant,  
Corning-Painted Post (NY) School District (2.5 years)

#### Long Term Substitutes

Name: **Teri A. Hinman**  
Assignment: Elementary/Parley Coburn Elementary School  
Justification: Replacement/Jacquelyn Hauver  
Effective Date: January 22, 2010  
Certification: Childhood Education Grades 1-6, Initial  
Salary: \$38,440 Step 1 B prorated  
Background: BS, Elmira College,  
Major: Childhood Education  
Experience: Substitute Teacher, Elmira (NY) City School District (1  
year)

Name: **Rebekah L. Smith**  
Assignment: Elementary/Riverside Elementary School  
Justification: Replacement/Jenny Burns  
Effective Date: December 21, 2009  
Certification: Childhood Education Grades 1-6, Initial  
Salary: \$38,940 Step 1 B+10 prorated  
Background: BA, Elmira College,

Experience: Major: Childhood Education  
Substitute Teacher, Elmira (NY) City School District (1 year)

**Non-Instructional**

**Competitive**

**Provisional**

Name: **Ricky Dixon**  
Assignment: Stores Clerk/Southside High School  
Justification: Realignment of Duties  
Effective Date: December 28, 2009  
Salary: \$22,880 Step 1 prorated

**Probationary**

Name: **Marcia W. Bjorvand**  
Assignment: 20 Hour Clerk/Administration  
Justification: Replacement/Tara Doland  
Effective Date: January 22, 2010  
Salary: \$9.91 per hour Step 1

**Temporary**

**Amendment to December  
16, 2009 Board Packet,  
page 3 - ADD**

Name: **Anthony C. Magistro**  
Assignment: Head Custodian/Alternative High School  
Reason: Replacement/Olen Bowman  
Effective Date: December 11, 2009  
Salary: \$35,081 Off Step prorated

**Non-Competitive**

**Probationary**

**Amendment to December  
16, 2009 Board Packet,  
page 3 - ADD**

Name: **David M. Clark**  
Assignment: Skilled Mechanic/Maintenance  
Reason: Replacement/Bradley Thomas  
Effective Date: December 11, 2009  
Salary: \$43,938 Off Step prorated

**Name:** **Randall V. Doan**  
**Assignment:** 20 Hour Teacher Aide/Beecher Elementary School  
**Justification:** Replacement/Laura Gorham  
**Effective Date:** January 22, 2010  
**Salary:** \$5,700 Step 1 prorated

**Name:** **Mary R. Gorst**  
**Assignment:** 15 Hour Food Service Helper/Booth Education Center  
**Justification:** Realignment of Duties  
**Effective Date:** December 14, 2009  
**Salary:** \$4,107 Step 1 prorated

**Name:** **Joan R. Levesque**  
**Assignment:** 15 Hour Food Service Helper/Ernie Davis Middle School  
**Justification:** Replacement/Cynthia Atwood  
**Effective Date:** January 4, 2010  
**Salary:** \$4,107 Step 1 prorated

**Name:** **Melissa K. Maslinski**  
**Assignment:** Cook Manager/Broadway Middle School  
**Justification:** Replacement/Naomi Mattison  
**Effective Date:** January 5, 2010  
**Salary:** \$13,288 Step 1 prorated

**Name:** **Douglas A. Merrick**  
**Assignment:** Custodial Laborer/Ernie Davis Middle School  
**Justification:** Replacement/Ryan Hanrahan  
**Effective Date:** December 28, 2009  
**Salary:** \$21,706 Step 1 prorated

**Name:** **Candace R. Thurston**  
**Assignment:** Custodial Laborer/Riverside Elementary School  
**Justification:** Replacement/Paul Roussell  
**Effective Date:** December 29, 2009  
**Salary:** \$21,706 Step 1 prorated

**Name:** **Miracle T. Williams**  
**Assignment:** 15 Hour Food Service Helper/Elmira Free Academy High School  
**Justification:** Replacement/Carolyn Troccia  
**Effective Date:** January 4, 2010  
**Salary:** \$4,107 Step 1 prorated

**Temporary**

Name: **Douglas R. Ames**  
Assignment: Custodian/Broadway Elementary School and Broadway  
Middle School  
Justification: Replacement/Anthony Magistro  
Effective Date: January 8, 2010  
Salary: \$28,038 plus \$2,586 stipend, Step 4 prorated

Name: **Howard R. Carl**  
Assignment: Custodial Laborer/Elmira Free Academy High School  
Justification: Replacement/Gloria Gilbert  
Effective Date: January 8, 2010  
Salary: \$21,706 Step 1 prorated

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE SUBSTITUTE LIST**

**Additions**

**Instructional**

Substitute Teachers

David M. Cook  
Jill A. Kelley  
Robin L. Oakes  
Linda J. Stearns

**Non-Instructional**

Custodial laborer

Steven D. Button  
Roger D. Ellsworth  
Chad Andrew R. MacDuffie  
Robert F. Wheeler

**Deletions**

**Non-Instructional**

Custodial laborer

Ricky Dixon  
Douglas A. Merrick  
Candace R. Thurston

Food Service

Mary R. Gorst  
Joan R. Levesque  
Miracle T. Williams

**STIPENDS**

**Pertinent Information:** Payment will be made in accordance with the District/Elmira Teachers Association Agreement.

**Athletic**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING COACHING RESIGNATIONS**

**Class 4**

**Modified Boys Lacrosse**

Kevin G. McAree                      District-wide

**Class 5**

**Modified Girls Assistant  
Lacrosse**

Jana L. Reidy                      District-wide

**Modified Boys Assistant  
Lacrosse**

Robert G. Arciolla                      District-wide

**HIGH SCHOOL FALL COACHING RESIGNATIONS**

**Class 3**

**Varsity Boys Football  
Assistant**

Robert D. Lorden                      Elmira Free Academy High School

**WINTER NON-PAID COACHING APPOINTMENTS**

**Varsity/JV Cheerleading**

BeLinda L. Combs                      Southside High School

Motion Carried:  
Yes: Hurley, Jackson, Lattin, Lax, McCall, McGovern,  
Strange, Tucker  
No: None  
Absent: Grottenthaler

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Strange moved, seconded by Dr. Lax that the meeting  
be adjourned. (8:10 p.m.)

Motion Carried:  
Yes: Hurley, Jackson, Lattin, Lax, McCall, McGovern,  
Strange, Tucker  
No: None  
Absent: Grottenthaler