

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

District Administration
Boardroom
951 Hoffman Street
Elmira, New York 14905

October 22, 2008
6:00 pm Executive Session
8:30 pm Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Rodney Strange called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:06 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Anthony Fisher, Jr., Lynn Grottenthaler, Dan Hurley, Dianna Jackson (Brewer) (arrived 6:15 p.m.), Ted Lax, Colleen McCall, Larry McGovern, Jr. (arrived 6:17 p.m.), Rodney Strange

Absent: None

Others: Dr. Raymond Bryant, Robert Van Keuren

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Grottenthaler moved, seconded by Mr. Fisher that the Board approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried:

Yes: Fisher, Grottenthaler, Hurley, Lax, McCall, Strange

No: None

Absent: Jackson, McGovern

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Lax moved, seconded by Mr. Fisher that the Board move into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the Attorney position, also included for motion Dr. Lax moved, seconded by Mr. Fisher that the Board appoint Mr. Fisher as Clerk Pro Tem in the absence of the Clerk. (6:08 p.m.) Dr. Bryant was invited into Executive Session.

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

Janet M. Watson
Board Clerk

**RETURN TO OPEN
SESSION**

Ms. Grottenthaler moved, seconded by Mr. McGovern that the Board return to Open Session. (8:50 p.m.)

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

Anthony Fisher, Jr.
Clerk Pro Tem

RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBER
VACANCY DISCUSSION**

President Strange discussed with the Board the three (3) options they had due to the resignation of Board Member, Mary Beth Turner. The options that were discussed were:

1. Appoint someone to serve out her term.
2. Call for a special election.
3. Leave the seat vacant until the next election.

Each Board member expressed their opinion.

Ms. Grottenthaler stated that she does not think we should leave the position vacant because there are too many decisions that need to be made by May and it is important to have a complete Board to make those decisions.

Mr. Fisher stated that the seat should be filled by the next highest vote getter from the last election or leave the seat vacant.

Dr. Lax stated that it is not required to apponit the next highest vote getter from the last election and that the

Superintendent of BOCES can select someone to fill the seat if it not filled in 90 days. He stated that he is concerned with that choice.

There was discussion in regards to Ms. Jackson and what she is planning to do regarding her pending resignation that she presented to the Board at the Oct. 15th meeting.

A straw poll was conducted in regards to whether the Board would appoint someone for the vacancy, appoint the next highest vote getter or call for an election. The results were as follows:

Appoint a person for the vacancy:

Fisher, Grottenthaler, Hurley, Lax, McGovern, McCall
Strange

Call for an election: Jackson

President Strange asked the board who they would like to appoint. A straw poll was conducted and the results were as follows:

**Next highest vote getter, who would be Mike
Crimmins:**

Fisher, Jackson, McCall, Strange

Appoint someone from the community:

Grottenthaler, McGovern

Barton Graham: Hurley

Not the next highest vote getter:

Lax

Mr. Hurley moved, seconded by Ms. Grottenthaler that the Board appoint Barton Graham to fill Mary Beth Turner's vacancy.

Ms. Grottenthaler stated that Mr. Graham has shown an interest in being on the Board by attending all the meetings and has a great deal of knowledge regarding board issues.

Mr. Hurley stated that Mr. Graham has provided the Board with valuable information and would be an asset to the Board if he were to serve as a member again.

Motion Denied:

Yes: Jackson, Grottenthaler, Hurley

No: Fisher, Lax, McCall, McGovern, Strange

Absent: None

Mr. Lax suggested that we canvass the community and ask if anyone is interested in serving on the Board.

Mrs. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. McGovern that the Board canvass the community by placing an ad in the paper for interested candidates to serve on the Board for the remainder of Mrs. Turner's term. Candidates must submit a letter of interest to the Clerk no later than November 3, 2008 at 12:00 p.m. The letters of intent will be reviewed by the Board and an appointment will be made.

Motion Carried:

Yes: Fisher, Grottenthaler, Hurley, Jackson, Lax, McCall, McGovern, Strange

No: None

Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fisher moved, seconded by Mrs. McCall that the meeting be adjourned. (9:50 p.m.)

Motion Carried:

Yes: Fisher, Grottenthaler, Hurley, Jackson, Lax, McCall, McGovern, Strange

No: None

Absent: None