

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

EFA Community Room
933 Hoffman Street
Elmira, New York 14905

October 25, 2008
8:00 AM Meeting

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Rodney Strange called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 8:22 a.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Anthony Fisher (arrived 8:50 a.m., departed 11:57 a.m.), Jr., Lynn Grottenthaler, Ted Lax, Colleen McCall, Larry McGovern, Jr. (departed 11:50 a.m.), Rodney Strange

Absent: Dan Hurley, Dianna Jackson, Elmira Free Academy Student Representative Kathleen Denicola, Southside High School Student Representative Ashley Nicolato, Alternative High School Student Representative: Jessica Smith, David Gleason, Joseph Hochreiter, Christine Mecke, Robert Van Keuren, Attorney Conrad Wolan

Others: Dr. Raymond Bryant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion Carried:

Yes: Grottenthaler, Lax, McCall, McGovern, Strange

No: None

Absent: Hurley, Jackson, Fisher

**BOARD VISIONS,
GOALS & MISSION
STATEMENT
DISCUSSION**

Ms. Grottenthaler moved, seconded by Mr. Fisher that the Board accept the following Mission Statement.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Elmira City School District is to prepare students by providing opportunities to allow them to realize their full potential as life-long learners and contributing citizens in our democratic society. In partnership with students, parents and community, we are committed to helping each student use their unique abilities to acquire problem solving skills necessary to actively meet life challenges and create opportunities as they responsibly build their own and the worlds future. In teaching our

children, we will be respectful of our world interdependence and the cultural diversity in our school district. Our schools are dedicated to maintaining a safe environment for all stakeholders that promotes individual responsibility, personal achievement, and respect for all individuals.

Motion Carried:

Yes: Grottenthaler, Lax, McCall, McGovern, Strange

No: None

Absent: Hurley, Jackson, Fisher

Dr. Lax moved, seconded by Mr. McGovern that the Board accept the following Vision Statement.

Vision Statement

The Elmira City School District in partnership with students, parents and community members will strive to educate 100% of our students to be able to communicate effectively, solve problems competently, think critically and creatively, act responsibly, and recognize and respect the right of individual differences. Students will be given the foundation to become life-long learners who are technologically literate able to adapt to a changing society. They will be globally minded and imbued with the character of good citizens ready to be active participants in a democratic society.

Motion Carried:

Yes: Grottenthaler, Lax, McCall, McGovern, Strange

No: None

Absent: Hurley, Jackson, Fisher

Dr. Lax moved, seconded by Mr. McGovern that the Board approve the following Belief Statement and remove the philosophy statement from the Board Policy Manual.

We Believe That....

- America's greatest resource and hope for the future is the successful education of present and future generations of our children.
- The education of students is our first and foremost responsibility.
- Families should be responsible for providing the foundation for learning and have a significant continuing

role in their children's education.

- Learning is a life-long process.
- Students should be taught not only skills and knowledge for academic excellence, but also self-confidence, self-discipline, and individual accountability for their choices.
- Students have the responsibility to actively participate in their own education.
- All students have a right to an education that recognizes and adapts to their individual needs and abilities.
- High expectations maximize educational outcomes.
- Diversity is an asset to be celebrated.
- The dignity of any individual must never be compromised.
- Creative thinkers excel in a changing world.
- Quality education promotes quality student learning.
- Educators must be aware of different learning styles and implement a variety of methods to meet student needs
- Sound and prudent fiscal management is essential for successful operation of the district.
- Goal setting and constructive evaluation improves performance.
- There should be a unity of purpose in mission and goals between all stakeholders.
- Effective communication among all stakeholders is essential for success.
- The responsibility for education is cooperatively shared by students, educators, parents and community.
- A safe, secure and welcoming environment promotes attendance and enhances learning.

Motion Carried:

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

No: None

Absent: Hurley, Jackson

The following Conditions for Success were discussed, but not voted on because there was no quorum. These will be discussed and voted on at the Nov. 19th meeting.

Conditions for Success

Board of Education

As the elected members of the district's governance team, the Board is committed to creating the conditions for the success of the students, staff, and community of the Elmira City School District through the following means:

- Unity of purpose in mission and goals
- The board shall be responsible for the good stewardship of taxpayer money
- Evaluation and assessment of programs to determine their success in fulfilling our mission.
- Using evaluations and assessments, the district will allocate resources toward programs and areas that will produce the best results to support our mission.
- Reporting regularly to the community

Accountability Measures

Successful accomplishment of the goals of our district will be evaluated through the following means:

- Standardized tests scores, benchmarks and other district targets.
- Success of graduates ready to enter the workforce or prepared for higher education.
- Surveys of high school students throughout their high school years as well as upon graduation and periodically post graduation.
- Budget reflects what the community is willing and able to support.
- Staff and community survey results.
- Other means to be determined as needed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Janet M. Watson
Board Clerk