

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

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**EFA Community Room
933 Hoffman Street
Elmira, New York 14905**

**December 11, 2008
6:30 pm Meeting**

**MEETING CALLED TO
ORDER**

President Rodney Strange called the Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:35 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Anthony Fisher, Jr. Lynn Grottenthaler, Dan Hurley, Dianna Jackson, Ted Lax, Colleen McCall, Larry McGovern, Jr., Rodney Strange.

Absent: Joseph Hochretiter, Chris Mecke, Robert Van Keuren, Alternative High School Student Representative Jessica Smith, Elmira Free Academy Student Representative Kathleen Denicola, Southside High School Student Representative Ashley Nicolato.

Others: Dr. Raymond Bryant, David Gleason, Conrad Wolan.

**APPROVAL OF
AGENDA**

Ms. Grottenthaler moved, seconded by Mr. Fisher that the Board approve the agenda with the following change:

- Delete Executive Session item "D" from the agenda.

Motion Carried:

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

No: None

Absent: None

**BOARD MEMBER
FORUM**

Mr. McGovern introduced each of the candidates, Rene Dickens, Barton Graham and Tracy Jacques and asked each one of them to give a history of their background. Mr. McGovern also announced that Mr. Blandford could not be with us this evening because of work conflict, but was still a candidate running for the empty board seat.

The following questions were asked to each of the candidates:

- 1. What do you believe should be the roles and the relationship of the School Board and the Superintendent in our school district?**

Mrs. Dickens responded.

Mr. Graham responded.

Ms. Jacques responded

- 2. What do you think the weaknesses are in our school district and what steps would you take to improve them?**

Mr. Graham responded.

Ms. Jacques responded.

Mrs. Dickens responded.

- 3. What skills and qualifications do you have that could contribute to the Board of Education?**

Ms. Jacques responded.

Mrs. Dickens responded.

Mr. Graham responded.

- 4. Given our State budget deficit and the warnings of severe school aid loss to our District, what would you suggest the Board review first?**

Mrs. Dickens responded.

Mr. Graham responded.

Ms. Jacques responded.

- 5. What community groups have you been involved in and how as a member of the Board will you represent the interest of our entire community?**

Mr. Graham responded.

Ms. Jacques responded.

Mrs. Dickens responded.

- 6. You have expressed an interest in running for the Board, what faults do you observe that currently exist and how might you contribute to correcting these issues that you've observed?**

Ms. Jacques responded.
Mrs. Dickens responded.
Mr. Graham had no comment.

7. What do you perceive is the time commitment to the Board? What time would you be able to commit to?

Mrs. Dickens responded.
Mr. Graham responded.
Ms. Jacques responded.

8. How do you see yourself preparing for Board meetings?

Mr. Graham responded.
Ms. Jacques responded.
Mrs. Dickens responded.

Mr. McGovern asked each of the candidates to make a closing statement.

Ms. Jacques stated that she looks at things very seriously, not only as a parent, but from other peoples' situation. She stated that she would like to bridge the gap between people. She feels that she would do a good job as a Board member if she was given the chance, she doesn't want power or prestige, but just wants to help children.

Mrs. Dickens stated that the children of this district are our legacy; their education is the foundation for their lives. She has the time, the business knowledge and has the compassion to want to make people come to this district, and feels that everyone needs to work together to accomplish this.

Mr. Graham stated that he has truth, transparency and accountability and can hit the ground running because of his past experience on the Board. He knows the budget codes and the laws.

BREAK

Mr. Strange called for a break at 7:30 p.m.

RECONVENED

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Fisher moved, seconded by Mrs. McCall that the Board appoint Mrs. Rene Dickens as Board member for the remainder of Mary Beth Turner's term.

Mrs. Grottenthaler stated that she was extremely impressed with all the candidates; she stated that they were all incredibly classy, prepared and honorable and was sorry that the Board couldn't vote for more than one candidate. She urged them all to run in the May election.

A roll call was taken with the following results:

Motion Denied:

Yes: Fisher, Jackson, McCall, Strange

No: Grottenthaler, Hurley, Lax, McGovern

Absent: None

Mr. Hurley moved, seconded by Ms. Grottenthaler that the Board appoint Mr. Barton Graham as Board member for the remainder of Mary Beth Turner's term.

A roll call was taken with the following results:

Motion Carried:

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

No: Fisher, McCall

**BOARD MEMBER
TAKES OATH**

Mr. Barton Graham took his oath of office as a Board member, signed the oath and presented it to the Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Grottenthaler moved, seconded by Mrs. Jackson that the meeting be adjourned. (7:55 p.m.)

Motion Carried:

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

No: None

Absent: None

Janet M. Watson
Board Clerk