

# Afterwards

A summary  
of Tuesday's meeting  
of the Board  
of Education

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May 20, 2008

This summary is incomplete. Complete minutes of the meeting will be available on the district web site in June.

## Recognition

Board President Dan Hurley and Superintendent Raymond Bryant presented certificates of recognition to the principals of Fassett, Coburn, Pine City and Broadway Elementary, which were named High Performing/Gap Closing Schools for the performance of their students on 2006-07 state assessments. Riverside, Beecher and EFA received certificates for being named Rapidly Improving Schools.

Outgoing Board member Robert Woods received a certificate in recognition of his service to the Board.

## Visitors to the Board

Barton Graham discussed Board candidate forums, where the idea of the Princeton Plan for elementary schools was brought up. He said he heard the plan would require more busing of students and requested more information about the plan.

The parents of a student began speaking about a discipline issue regarding their son. Mr. Hurley cautioned them that the Board should not hear any information, in the event that an appeal about the discipline came to the Board.

Dianna Brewer said if the district is trying to increase student attendance it is not wise to expel students for the remainder of the school year. She asked for data about how many students are suspended and the reasons.

## Board reports

### Board members

Rodney Strange discussed a district graduate who has earned a degree from the University of Rochester and has been accepted to the Cornell School of Engineering. He asked about the lottery to fill pre-kindergarten spots at Happy House. Internal auditor Jessica Lawrence oversaw the process and said it was completely random and effective. Robin Long congratulated the schools that were recognized earlier in the evening. Mr. Woods thanked the Board for their work and dedication during his service.

Lynn Grottenthaler voiced concerns about her reception by Board members, communication with district employees, student discipline, staff retention, substitute teachers and recruitment. She said she would like to see plans for these areas.

### Associations representatives

Elmira Schools Supervisory and Administrative Council representative Tom O'Hara discussed end-of-year planning and the analysis of data in preparation for Instructional Leadership Week.

Elmira Teachers Association President Doug Martin said the proposed contract would be presented to union members May 21. ETA members will participate in a highway cleanup May 31 in front of Wegmans on the Clemens Center Parkway.

### Student representatives

EFA student representative Katie Denicola said 44 students shadowed Southside students to experience a block schedule. These students then reported back to their classmates about it. She asked that students be involved in the process to replace administrators who are leaving.

## Board committee reports

### Advocacy/Public Relations

Chairperson Mrs. Long said she attended the Task Force for Youth event, the EOP community education forum and the Youth Bureau banquet.

### Policy

Chairperson Michael Crimmins said the school attorney is looking at the policy regarding communication between Board members and district staff to see if changes are necessary to address e-mail. The attorney is also examining the policy regarding executive sessions to see if it is proper to use one when a member of the public wants to present information regarding a staff member. The policy regarding entitlement to attend will come to the Board in June, along with a policy regarding the use of Regents as final exams. The Board will also see a change to the policy regarding the use of media to ensure the material is age-appropriate or that parent permission is obtained for materials that are not. A change will be coming to the attendance policy to include steps to be taken at five, 10 and 15 absences. The Board discussed the policy regarding non-resident tuition and whether tuition should be waived for students who move out of the district in their senior years but still want to attend.

### Buildings & Grounds

Chairperson Anthony Fisher said bids for Diven and Hendy came in over budget.

### Audit

Chairperson Mr. Strange said the committee was introduced to the new district treasurer, who will be appointed in July. He discussed the internal auditor report and a conference with the external auditor.

### Learning & Teaching

Chairperson Ms. Grottenthaler said the committee is more than halfway through its meetings with building staff and parents.

## Superintendent's report

### Contract for Excellence

Dr. Bryant said the Contract for Excellence conference went well.

### New business

The Board approved field trips for the Broadway Middle National Junior Honor Society, the Southside choir and EFA earth science students. Also approved were donations from Chemung Canal Trust Company to Diven and Ernie Davis.

### Consent items

The Board approved financial reports, donations, bids, a SEQR determination, a lease, 2008-09 salary for non-unit employees and recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.

### Personnel

The Board approved personnel recommendations.

### Preliminary vote results

Preliminary results showed that the budget and bus proposition passed. Larry McGovern Jr., Ted Lax and Dianna Brewer earned three-year terms on the Board, and Colleen McCall was elected to complete an unexpired term to 2010.