

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 17, 2014**

**PRESENT**

James Grieco, President  
Vincent D'Ambroso  
Laurie Donato  
Theresa Fowler  
Thomas McCabe  
Christopher Pinchiaroli

**ALSO PRESENT**

Dr. S. Guiney, Superintendent of Schools  
M. B. Mancuso, District Clerk  
M. Ellis, Director of Curriculum &  
Instructional Services  
L. Sanfilippo, Director of Business Admin.  
R. Tepper, Director of Special Education  
& Student Services  
E. Kear, Director of Facilities  
J. Schulman, Principal, HES  
M. Cunzio, Principal, CES  
Dr. R. Hendrickson, Principal, WMS  
K. Schenker, Principal, WHS  
Faculty and Community Members

**ABSENT:**

Eric Schulze, Vice President

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Grieco, President, opened the December 17, 2014 Board of Education meeting at approximately 8:02 pm in the WMS/WHHS Library with a moment of silence and the pledge to the flag.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION ITEMS**

- WHS Student Council: Ms. Jeannine Ederer, Co-President, Executive Board, reported on December 4<sup>th</sup> the Student Council hosted the first winter pep rally to kick-off the winter sports season; on Rival Night, the Westlake boys and girls varsity basketball teams won the games against Valhalla; the next Student Council meeting will be the first week in January and a discussion will ensue on new and effective ways for students to hear the announcements. Ms. Ederer closed her report by wishing happy holidays to all.
- WHS PTA: Ms. Marybeth Ederer, President, reported their last meeting was December 1<sup>st</sup> at which time the PTA presented a check in the amount of \$500 to welcome the Freshmen Class to the high school; the winter dance on February 28, 2015 was discussed; membership and the scholarship drives are ongoing; good luck and congratulations to the seniors on receiving their college acceptances; the next PTA meeting will be on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.
- WHS BLT: Mr. Keith Schenker, Principal, reported at the last BLT meeting, a conversation took place on new ways on communicating and sharing the positive news of the High School with the general community; the high school concert will

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begin at 8:00 pm tomorrow and it will be an outstanding show; and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

- ❑ WMS PTA: Ms. Colleen Scaglione, Co-President, reported the holiday boutique was held during the lunch periods in December and it was a big success and acknowledged those volunteers who organized and shopped for the holiday boutique; the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade holiday concerts were successful; the membership drive will be continuing in January; at the next meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a raffle for all those who joined the PTA; and happy holidays and a happy, healthy new year is wished to all.
- ❑ WMS BLT: Dr. Robert Hendrickson, Principal, reported the BLT did not meet in December; the common core math presentation is posted on the website; and wished the community a very happy holiday season.
- ❑ Elementary PTA: Ms. Evelyn Varga, President, reported the craft fair was a huge success and thanked the volunteers who helped organized the craft fair as well as Mr. Cunzio and the building custodians. Ms. Varga continued the shirts have been printed and distributed to the students and teachers at HES and CES will be receiving their shirts; the elementary students enjoyed shopping at the holiday boutiques at HES and CES and thanked both principals as well as the parent volunteers; family bowling will be on January 25<sup>th</sup>, the Father/Daughter Dance will be on February 28<sup>th</sup>; and on behalf of the PTA, Ms. Varga wished all a very safe and happy holiday season.
- ❑ Columbus BLT: Mr. Michael Cunzio, Principal, reported the BLT did not meet in December. Mr. Cunzio reported the 5<sup>th</sup> grade holiday concert was terrific; tomorrow is Sean Mayer Day to celebrate Mr. Mayer's 100<sup>th</sup> varsity basketball victory; and wished all a happy holiday season.
- ❑ Hawthorne BLT: Mr. Jerry Schulman, Principal, reported the BLT approved their minutes at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting; progress is being made on standards based report cards and more information will follow; received feedback from parents on the Halloween parade; received comments from parents on how they received information on the bond referendum; discussed sharing activities/events that class parents participate in; feedback on the Thanksgiving feast; and wished everyone a happy holiday and Merry Christmas to all.
- ❑ Westlake Athletic Club: No report
- ❑ Mount Pleasant Education Foundation: Mr. Rich Austin, Treasurer, reported the Turkey Trot, which is one of three events, had approximately 200 participants and raised \$4500. The Foundation's dinner dance, which was in the spring, raised approximately \$22,000 and the golf outing raised approximately \$24,000. The Foundation anticipates having approximately \$50,000 to award in grants. Mr. Austin closed his report by wishing the community a happy holiday.

### **III. REPORTS**

- ❑ Energy Education: Mr. Jerry Schulman, Energy Specialist, reported the Thanksgiving shutdown was successful and anticipates the same for the holiday shutdown. Mr. Schulman thanked everyone especially the custodial staff for their assistance in energy conservation and wished all a happy and healthy holiday season.
- ❑ Board of Education: Mr. James Grieco, President, recognized Mr. Vincent D'Ambrosio, board member, by presenting him with a certificate from the New York

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States School Boards Association (NYSSBA) for completing leadership development training in 2014.

- Superintendent of Schools: Dr. Susan Guiney reported that on tonight's agenda, the Board will be acting on a resolution requesting the state legislators to review and redesign the APPR. Dr. Guiney explained the Annual Professional Performance Review, its implementation, and how it links the performance of teachers to student performance on the state assessments. Dr. Guiney continued that on the website there is an advocacy link and asked the community and parents to write to their legislators and the State Education Department on issues that are affecting the education of students. Dr. Guiney continued that the January meeting will consist of one topic: college admission and acceptances. Dr. Guiney reported at the last Board of Education work session there was a lively discussion on the bond vote and the possible reasons why it was not successful. Dr. Guiney reported in January a survey will be developed and submitted to the community. With the information received, the Board will determine if and when another bond will be put forward. Dr. Guiney reported that as previously mentioned, the Board's options are to put forward another bond after a 90-day period or at a later date; to do nothing; or to address the issues raised in the bond through the annual operating budget.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. D'Ambroso, seconded by Mr. McCabe, as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the minutes of the November 12, 2014 Board of Education meeting and the minutes of the November 15, 2014 Special District Meeting – Bond Referendum be approved.

VOTE: 5 – 1 (Mr. D'Ambroso abstained)

**V. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**VI. COMMENT ON NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**VII. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS**

***Motion made by Mr. D'Ambroso, seconded by Mr. McCabe, that in accordance with the Board of Education Policy No. 1512, Consent Agenda, Resolutions A through Y are approved in a single motion.***

VOTE: 6 – 0

**A) ACCEPTANCE – RESIGNATION (PROFESSIONAL)**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of:

Sabrina Payne, .4 District Transition Coordinator, Districtwide  
Effective: December 3, 2014

**B) ACCEPTANCE – RESIGNATION**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education hereby accepts the resignation of:

Lenora Rudovic, Teacher Aide, Westlake Middle School  
Effective: January 23, 2015

**C) ACCEPTANCE – DONATION**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education hereby accepts a \$10.50 donation from The Benevity Community Impact Fund for Columbus Elementary School.

**D) ACCEPTANCE - DONATION**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education hereby accepts a \$936.36 donation from The Mt. Pleasant Elementary PTA for the purchase of indoor recess items for Hawthorne Elementary School.

**E) ACCEPTANCE – DONATION**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education hereby accepts a \$179.08 donation from The Benevity Community Impact Fund for Columbus Elementary School.

**F) APPROVAL – FINANCIAL REPORTS**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education hereby approves the Treasurer's Report for the month of October 2014.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Board of Education accepts the report from the claims auditor on warrant # 11, 12.

**G) APPROVAL – LICENSE AGREEMENT – LEARNING ALLY**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education hereby approves the license agreement with LearningAlly.com to provide technological literacy curriculum software for the 2014-2015 school year at a total cost of \$1,640.

**H) APPROVAL – CHANGE ORDER**

BE IT RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following change order for Northeast Environmental in connection with the Westlake Middle School Fuel Tank Replacement Project, SED# 66-08-01-06-0-006-010.

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
Change Order #1	\$19,674.00	Additional asphalt work and curbing

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Director of Business Administration is authorized to sign the change order on its behalf.

**I) APPROVAL – SPECIAL EDUCATION OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT CONTRACT, 2014/15**

BE IT RESOLVED: That in accordance with the recommendation of the Director of Special Education and Student Services, the Board of Education hereby approves the following Special Education Out of District Placement Contract for the 2014-15 school year:

Bronxville Union Free School District, 1 student @ \$115,713

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign the contract on its behalf.

**J) APPROVAL – CPSE AND CSE PLACEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the recommendations for placement of students with disabilities as recommended by the Mount Pleasant Central School District's Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education at their meetings listed below are hereby approved. Copies of said recommendations are on file in the office of the District Clerk:

CPSE: Nov. 18, Nov. 24 – 2014  
Dec. 1, 2014

CSE: Nov. 5, 7, 12, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 – 2014  
Dec. 1, 3, 5 – 2014

**K) APPROVAL – MODIFICATION TO SUBSTITUTE CALLER APPOINTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the modification to the substitute caller appointment for Norma DeSousa, originally approved at the September 17, 2014 Board of Education meeting and adjusted at the November 19, 2014 Board of Education meeting, be modified to reflect an end date of December 5, 2014.

**L) APPROVAL – APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE CALLER, 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

BE IT RESOLVED: That in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the following Substitute Caller appointment for the 2014/2015 school year:

Christine Cerrato, Westlake High School  
Effective: December 8, 2014 – June 30, 2015  
Stipend: \$1,777.08 (pro-rated)

**M) APPROVAL – REQUEST FOR FMLA**

BE IT RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following FMLA request in accordance with the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education Policy No. 6551. Said request was reviewed by the Board of Education in executive session:

**Employee #2199**

Leave to begin on October 27, 2014  
Leave to conclude on January 7, 2015

**N) APPROVAL – UNPAID CHILDCARE LEAVE**

BE IT RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following request for an unpaid childcare leave in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the Mount Pleasant Teachers Association and the Mount Pleasant Central School District:

**Employee #2199**

Leave to begin on January 8, 2015  
Leave to conclude on March 25, 2015

**O) APPROVAL – UNPAID CHILDCARE LEAVE**

BE IT RESOLVED: That upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following request for an unpaid childcare leave

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in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement between the Mount Pleasant Teachers Association and the Mount Pleasant Central School District:

**Employee #2422**

Leave to begin on December 1, 2014

Leave to conclude on December 17, 2014

**P) APPROVAL – MODIFICATION TO EXTRA CURRICULAR APPOINTMENT, 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR (FALL SPORTS)**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the extra-curricular appointment for Greg Bobro, originally requested and approved at the November 19, 2014 Board of Education meeting, be modified from \$1,284 to \$1,540.88.

**Q) APPROVAL – MODIFICATION TO LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the long-term substitute appointment for Cynthia LePere, originally requested and approved at the November 19, 2014 Board of Education meeting, be extended through March 25, 2015.

**R) APPROVAL – TUITION REIMBURSEMENT, 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

BE IT RESOLVED: That as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools and in accordance with the Agreement between the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education and the Mount Pleasant Teachers Association, the tuition reimbursement request listed below is hereby approved:

Tom Hall, Westlake Middle School

Course Title: Ecology in Context: Invasive Species Explorations

School: SUNY New Paltz (Cary Institute for Ecosystem Studies)

Total Cost: \$1,296 Approved: \$648

And further:

BE IT RESOLVED: That upon completion of the approved course, the recipient shall submit a report to the Superintendent of Schools describing how this course has advanced his pedagogical practices and how it will benefit both our students and our curriculum.

**S) APPROVAL – EXTRA-CURRICULAR APPOINTMENTS, 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

BE IT RESOLVED: That in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Mount Pleasant Central School District Board of Education approves the following extra-curricular appointments for the 2014/2015 school year:

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Barbara Binger	Elementary Math Club	\$1,590
Lisa Fornara	Elementary Math Club	\$1,590
Jen Rutledge	Elementary Math Club	\$1,590
Tim Raney	Engineering & Robotics Club	\$1,590
Kristen Talusan/Tracey Armisto	Chess Club	\$795 each
Lisa Fornara/June Vetere	Elementary Newspaper	\$1,073 each
Regina Sweeney	MS Choreographer	\$1,856

**T) APPROVAL – ABOLISHMENT OF POSITION (PROFESSIONAL)**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education herewith abolishes the position and terminates the appointment of Gina Benz, ELL Teacher assigned to Columbus Elementary School, retroactive to December 5, 2014.

**U) APPROVAL – CREATION OF FULL-TIME POSITION (PROFESSIONAL)**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education herewith creates one full-time (1.0) position within the English as a Second Language tenure area effective December 8, 2014.

**V) APPROVAL – STANDARD WORK DAY AND REPORTING**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the Mount Pleasant Central School District hereby establishes the following as standard workdays for appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based upon the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the District Clerk:

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Title	Name	SS# (last 4 digits)	Registration Number	Standard Work Day (Hrs/Day)	Term Begins/Ends	Participates in Employer's Time Keeping Record	Days/Months (Based on Record of Activities)
District Clerk	Mary Beth Mancuso	xxx-xx-xxxx	xxxxxxxxx	7	7/01/14 – 6/30/15	Yes	N/A
District Treasurer	Lisa Zareski	xxx-xx-xxxx	xxxxxxxxx	7	7/01/14– 6/30/15	Yes	N/A

**W) APPROVAL – ESTABLISHMENT OF GLBT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mount Pleasant Central School District hereby accepts the donation of \$10,000 from Shades of Grey, LLC for the establishment of the GLBT Student Scholarship Fund, which will be held by the District in an expendable trust.



**X) APPROVAL – REQUEST FOR LEGISLATORS TO REVIEW AND REDESIGN APPR**

Whereas, the Mount Pleasant Central School District supports local accountability and the implementation of an appropriate, valid professional evaluation system,

Whereas, the implementation of the current New York State Annual Professional Performance Review (APPR) system has led to system redundancies and the over-testing of our students, and limited a school district's ability to fire ineffective teachers.

Whereas, the current APPR system relies on the misappropriation of student assessment data to evaluate teachers, and has made secondary the use of that data to evaluate and improve student learning,

Whereas, an APPR study commissioned by school districts in our area confirmed that the design and implementation of the current APPR plan has intrinsic flaws which need to be addressed, with New York's design of the HEDI scoring bands being but one example,

Whereas, the APPR was hastily written into State law in 2010 to comply with Federal Race to the Top (RTTT) rules, thereby awarding New York State \$700 million in RTTT funding coupled with a litany of new regulations with which NYS must comply. For most school districts, the RTTT dollars have been but a down payment on the cost of implementing those regulations including APPR.

Whereas, the unintended consequences of the current flawed APPR system on our students and on school district accountability can no longer be ignored.

Therefore, be it resolved, that we join with the Westchester Putnam School Boards Association and the Lower Hudson Council of School Superintendents in calling on our State legislators to take action to review and redesign New York's APPR system. It is imperative that the Legislature acts to promptly convene a group of educators, school administrators, lawmakers and state officials to create an evaluation system that focuses less on improving test scores and more on improving instruction and educating our students.

**Y) APPROVAL – PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL AND CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED: That the attached 14/15, P-7, Professional Personnel Appointments are hereby approved. All appointments are contingent on fingerprint clearance through the New York State Education Department

AND

BE IT RESOLVED: That the attached 14/15, C-7, Civil Service Personnel Appointments are hereby approved. All appointments are contingent on fingerprint clearance through the New York State Education Department.

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**VIII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS TO BOARD OF EDUCATION:** None

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Grieco, President, wished the community a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday and acknowledged all the volunteer groups for their efforts during the year. At approximately 8:30 pm, motion made by Mr. D'Ambroso, seconded by Ms. Fowler, and unanimously adopted by the Board to enter into executive session for the discussion of contracts. At approximately 9:25 pm, motion made by Mr. D'Ambroso, seconded by Mr. McCabe, and unanimously adopted by the Board to close the executive session and return to the public session. At approximately, 9:30 pm, motion made by Ms. Fowler, seconded by Mr. D'Ambroso, and unanimously adopted by the Board to adjourn the December 17, 2014 Board of Education meeting.

Mary Beth Mancuso  
District Clerk

Approved: 1/21/15

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**SCHEDULE 14/15, P-7 PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS**

**PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT**

Alison Leisawitz

Tenure Area: English as a Second Language

Assigned To: Columbus Elementary School

Certification: Initial Certification in English to Speakers of Other  
Languages

Effective: December 8, 2014 – December 7, 2017

Salary Placement: M.A. Step 4: \$51,057.85 (pro-rated)

**PERMANENT SUBSTITUTE APPOINTMENT, 2014/2015 SCHOOL YEAR**

Katie Forsythe, CES

Effective: December 18, 2014 – June 30, 2015

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**SCHEDULE 14/15, C-7 CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS**  
**HOURLY APPOINTMENT**

Felicitas Velayo, School Monitor  
Assigned To: WMS Athlete Supervision  
Effective: December 2, 2014 – June 30, 2015  
Salary: \$15.10/hour

**CHAPERONE/SCOREKEEPER/ANNOUNCER APPOINTMENT, 2014/2015 SCHOOL**  
**YEAR**

Katie Forsythe