

District Advisory Meeting: 4/14/10

In Attendance:

Fern Aefsky- Superintendent	Kim Atwell - BTA President
Diane D'Uva- BTA Vice President	Steve Borrello- Principal JVF
Dawn Clemens- BHS	Roe Greco- RMS
Tom Clemens- RMS	Matt Carpenter- Sargent
Donna Snowden- Glenham	Elizabeth Hanrahan- JVF

1. Summer Building Use

a. Capital projects

- i. Funds are restricted to capital projects only
- ii. Contractor bids came in \$3 million under budget; as a result, things that were on the "some day to do list" we have now applied to the State to do because of the money we saved
- iii. June 15, 2010 the contractors will be mobilizing and the RMS play area will be roped off
- iv. All staff that needs to be packed must do so by Friday 6/25 by noon, especially Glenham, they have been informed of the process, boxes are coming 4/15, BHS construction fence will go up either 6/25 or 6/28
- v. No activities in and around all buildings from 6/25-8/30 will be allowed
- vi. Community groups have been made aware of limitations
- vii. Access:
 1. BHS- limited to administration, office staff and custodians, limited parking, all of the property at BHS will not be able to be used
 2. RMS- construction will be taking place in the old shop/TV area, second floor venting, and sidewalks
 3. Glenham- no access for anyone including custodial, office staff moved completely because of asbestos removal
 4. JVF, South Ave, and Sargent- limited access to office areas, limited elsewhere in the building
- viii. It will be dangerous to enter any building. If any staff member enters a building it will be considered insubordination by Dr. Aefsky,
- ix. If you don't have enough boxes or have any questions about the moves contact your building principal, not Charlie
- x. Athletic teams can not practice in any restricted areas. If a coach does practice in a restricted area they could be removed as coach
- xi. Estimated teacher return dates (to set up classrooms)
 1. BHS- after 8/13 except for pool and gym
 2. RMS- after 8/18
 3. Glenham- after 8/27
 4. JVF- after 8/27 (elevator will still be under construction)
 5. South Ave- after 8/27
 6. Sargent- after 8/27 (elevator will still be under construction)
- xii. The district will come up with contingency plans if there are delays (for example South Ave had a staggered opening this year)

2. Athletic Practice

- a. Pre season practice- if students have not had a physical within the last six months the District cannot protect you legally. Dr. Aefsky stated "don't put yourself in a situation where you will not be protected by the district". She urged coaches to be proactive and know what the rules are. She stated that physicals are valid for 6 months and that a coach cannot use a physical from last September.

3. Elementary Report Card Update

- a. Report card format was changed and seems to have gone over very well with the teachers
- b. It is much quicker and easier to use and the trainings went well

- c. The current goal is to make the report card more parent friendly and include less “teacher language”
- d. Additionally, the Report Card Committee had created a Pre-K/K report card, grades 1-2 report card, and a grades 3-5 report card. This will help parents to become more familiar with report card format instead of having to learn a new one each year
- e. DRA benchmarks are on the new/revised report cards for grades 1-3. Since 4/5th grades have only one benchmark for the DRA it was not included on the report card. The next task is finalizing the changes on the report card and determining the DRA benchmarks for 4/5th grade teachers to use

4. Payroll

- a. There will not be an issue with getting a full paycheck for the start of the school year. This is because since we are paid for 200 days, not 187 days. This means that we are not getting paid in advance.
- b. The District will know exact pay schedule for the 2010-2011 school year in July and will let everyone know then.
- c. It was asked if the salary verification sheets will be available during first day superintendent’s conference day. Dr. Aefsky stated that the sheets will definitely be distributed by the first two weeks of school. They will try to have them for the first day.
- d. Teachers will be given carbon copies of their 21/25 pay selections when they are made at the end of the year school year.

5. Budget

- a. The Board of Education adopted the 2010-2011 budget on April 12th
- b. Principals were asked to set up meetings with those who will be losing their jobs and Jean Lain will meet with those whose positions are being cut with the building principal once the cuts are finalized
- c. At the April 26th Board meeting the positions will be formally abolished. The next day the people will get their letters.
- d. Across New York State 14,000 teachers will lose their jobs. The prediction is that the situation will be worse next year since the deficit is expected to go from \$9 billion this year to \$13-15 billion next year. At that point the district will not have any choice about making cuts
- e. Kim Atwell stated that the Board of Education and the administration has been empathetic and compassionate in regards to cuts and that she has noticed that they are working very hard to do what is educationally best for students. She has seen a difference between how things are being handled this year with how things used to be dealt with in relation to cuts.
- f. If BCSD were to go to a contingency budget and additional \$1.6 million would need to be cut from the budget.
 - i. We would not be allowed to purchase equipment under a contingency situation. A contingency budget would be effective July 1st.
 - ii. Under contingency the District could not use \$3 million of reserve funds to augment the budget because we would need to have reserves in case of an emergency. For example, snow storm cost the district \$100,000.
- g. Old High School sale is not final. Since the budget situation is predicted to be worse next year the Board of Education could decide to save money. If the sale is finalized earlier then the funds may be used for next year.

6. Elementary prep time and scheduling

- a. BTA contract states that elementary teachers are entitled to six preps per week for 210 minutes total
- b. With budget cuts, sharing staff makes scheduling more complicated
 - i. Administration is looking into the possibility of a 6 day cycle or 210 minutes divided into 5 days rather than 6 separate preps
 - ii. If schedules were the same in all of the buildings then sharing staff would be much easier
 - iii. If each elementary school created 42 minute periods that would create 5 prep periods per week, a 6 day cycle could create an A/B day flip-flop for scheduling
 - iv. This would not result in more positions being cut but would help to not stretch people thin
- c. Changes cannot be made unless a Memorandum of Agreement is signed. The BTA is only at the discussion stage with the district about this matter.
- d. Arrival time- students arrive anytime between 8:30-8:55 am. This is still a problem at South Avenue, JVF, and Sargent. Administration is looking into staggered start times.

- i. Sargent students are waiting a long time to get picked up at the end of the school day
- ii. Glenham does not have this issue since they have their own bus runs
- iii. Staggering start times by 5-10 minutes would not add to costs but would change teachers' work day by 5-10 minutes
- iv. One cause of the problem is that the bus routes are not uniform. For example, there is a lottery throughout the district to get into South Avenue and Pre-K is all in one building. Additionally many parents want all of their children to go to the same building.
- v. All four elementary principals have looked into scheduling and have agreed that this idea should work but it is contingent on each building having a library media specialist

7. Beacon City School District Arts in Education Foundation

- a. Dr. Aefsky states that more volunteers are needed to be on the board of directors for the foundation
 - i. She is looking to have 20-30 members on the board, especially looking for community members
 - ii. Eventually the board will only meet 3-4 times per year
- b. The BCSD Arts in Education Foundation is currently sponsoring the following:
 - i. Team Beacon (formerly the Marathon Project)
 - ii. Today's Students, Tomorrow's Teachers (<http://www.tstt.org>). This is a national youth leadership program which guarantees participants 50% off college education at selected colleges throughout the state, encourages students to then come back to the community to teach. This program costs \$3,300 per student.
 - iii. Programs in the arts including the Calico Ball. This year's Calico Ball is going to cost under \$12,000, down from \$20,000 last year.
- c. Foundation Fundraisers- July 21, 2010 Renegades game, Golf Tournament at Trump National Golf Course on July 6th. The foundation is looking for volunteers to run the event.
- d. The board of directors determines how the funds raised will be appropriated