

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
VALATIE, NEW YORK 12184

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

JANUARY 2, 2007

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School was held on TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2007 in the Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was preceded by an Executive Session at 6:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gary Bagnato	William Murphy, MD (arrv 6:20)
Landra Haber	Andrew Pellettieri
Edward Helfer (arrv 6:05)	John Phillips
Andrew Kramarchyk	Kevin Reis
William Martin (arrv 6:05)	

SCHOOL OFFICIALS PRESENT:

James Dexter, Superintendent  
Karen McGraw, Assistant Superintendent  
Gregory Giammarco, Business Administrator  
Tamara Proniske, District Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT AT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mary Roach, Esq

President Bagnato called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> HABER

To adjourn to Executive Session at 6 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals  
Carried, 6-0

Edward Helfer arrived at 6:05 p.m.  
William Martin arrived at 6:05 p.m.  
Dr. Murphy arrived at 6:20 p.m.

Board Members left Executive Session at 6:55 p.m. to return to the Middle School Library for the regular Board Meeting.

President Bagnato reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:05 p.m.

President Bagnato conducted the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement as follows: *"In our quest for excellence, the Ichabod Crane Central School District is dedicated to preparing all students to meet the challenges of our future and to appreciate the value of their own lives by nurturing each individual's unique talents, instilling a desire for life-long learning, and fostering a strong spirit of community."*

SCHOOL OFFICIALS PRESENT

James P. Dexter, Superintendent, Karen McGraw, Assistant Superintendent, Gregory Giammarco, Business Administrator, William Schneider, High School Principal, Brett Miller, High School Assistant Principal, Maureen Van Deusen, Middle School Principal, John Stickles, Elementary School Principal, Melissa Murray, Primary School Principal, Robert McCloskey, Special Education Director, Steve Marotta, Director of Facilities, Todd DiGrigoli, Food Service Director, Sherrill Phillips, Transportation Supervisor, Juan González, Technology Coordinator and Tamara Proniske, District Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Flynn, Energy Education  
Robert Thorsey, Energy Education Manager  
Linda McCarthy, HS Math Dept. Chairperson

A moment of silence was held in observance of a national day of mourning for the death of President Ford.

MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> HELFER

To approve the present agenda with modifications as presented  
Carried, 9-0

PUBLIC HEARING - SENIOR CITIZENS REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

READING OF PUBLIC NOTICE – Board President

NOTICE is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Board of Education of the Kinderhook Central School District at the Ichabod Crane Middle School, Valatie, Town of Kinderhook, New York in said District on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 7 p.m., prevailing time, concerning:

The adoption of a resolution pursuant to Sections 459-c and 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, increasing from \$24,000 (*current income level*) to an amount not to exceed the maximum permitted by law, the income which may be earned by the owner or owners of property within the District who are 65 years of age or over, to qualify for an exemption from real property taxation to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof, and if an additional sliding scale level be adopted. Interested parties are invited to attend the meeting to present information and evidence to the Board of Education concerning whether or not such resolutions should be adopted. (Notice Published 12/29/06)

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED TAX EXEMPTION

Gregory Giammarco said notification was received from the Columbia County Real Property Tax Service Agency that the legislature recently increased the maximum levels to be eligible for an exemption by \$2,000. He recommended the Board adopt the resolution increasing the maximum income levels for the sliding scale exemption indicated for qualifying senior citizens and disabled persons which would take effect in time for the 2007 tax year.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Hearing no further comments, President Bagnato said the resolution will be offered for board approval under the Discussion/Action portion of this agenda.

President Bagnato declared the hearing closed.

Prior to voting on the following, Dr. Murphy and Bill Martin temporarily left the meeting.

MOTION HELFER 2<sup>ND</sup> HABER

To approve the 11/14/06 - Regular Meeting Minutes as prepared.

BAGNATO	YES	PELLETTIERI	ABSTAIN
HABER	YES	PHILLIPS	YES
HELPER	YES	REIS	ABSTAIN
KRAMARCHYK	YES		

Carried, 5-0-2

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> PELLETTIERI

To approve the 12/05/06 - Regular Meeting Minutes as prepared.

BAGNATO	YES	PELLETTIERI	YES
HABER	YES	PHILLIPS	YES
HELPER	ABSTAIN	REIS	YES
KRAMARCHYK	YES		

Carried, 6-0-1

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> HABER

To approve the 12/12/06 - Capital Project Vote Report as prepared.

BAGNATO	YES	PELLETTIERI	YES
HABER	YES	PHILLIPS	YES
HELPER	ABSTAIN	REIS	YES
KRAMARCHYK	YES		

Carried, 6-0-1

## MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one asked to speak.

Dr. Murphy and Bill Martin returned to the meeting.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES

## CURRICULUM REPORT - "ARTS IN EDUCATION"

Karen McGraw and John Stickles prepared a power point presentation showing the focus of the Arts in Education Program for students in Grades 3-5 and a new project planned for the Primary School "Literacy Through the Arts". The programs are funded through grants and are available to us through the NYS Council on the Arts.

#### ENERGY EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Robert Thorsey, Energy Education Manager provided a power point showing the energy conservation efforts that have been undertaken through our energy education project. Bob described the primary goals of the program, showed utility cost comparisons over the past 36 months and highlighted other areas in which significant savings have been realized.

#### PROPOSAL FOR A NEW MATHEMATICS COURSE - "COLLEGE ALGEBRA"

William Schneider addressed the board regarding a new course proposal, "College Algebra", that would be taught in conjunction with Columbia-Greene Community College for college credits. He provided a rationale and course description and said that students would earn three college credits upon successful completion of the course. This will be added to the High School Course Offering guide.

#### READING OF BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

The following (4) policies are listed for acceptance under the Discussion/Action portion of the agenda

- 1) PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES #1500 (Revised)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: January 2, 2007
- 2) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS #1230 (Revised)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: January 2, 2007
- 3) NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS #1130 (Revised)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: January 2, 2007
- 4) CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES #1210 (Revised)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Reading: January 2, 2007

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ADMINISTRATORS' COMMENTS

Jim Dexter brought the following to the board's attention:

- budget development meeting notices will be posted on our website, Berkshire cable and flyers will be sent home
- applications will be available to 8<sup>th</sup> graders (1 student per district) for the new Tech Valley High School
- will form an athletic review committee to discuss changing athletic council affiliation with a report coming forth in February
- a video showing Steve Caparizzo, weather forecaster from Channel 10, visiting a MVB classroom, was shown by John Stickles.
- Steve Marotta mentioned he is gathering information on "harvesting of trees" which could provide potential revenue for the district - he said we have approximately 18 acres that could be forested.
- Steve Marotta said the bid opening for the MHG elevator project is scheduled for early February with the awarding of the bid to occur in March.
- Todd DiGrigoli mentioned that he has served 85,000 lunches to date with a participation rate of 58%.

- Karen McGraw noted the K-5 reports cards are being redesigned by the curriculum liaisons to be more compatible with the assessments and reading program.

## TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTS:

	<u>PREVIOUS</u>	<u>AS OF 11/30/06</u>
GENERAL FUND	\$13,926,950.11	\$12,624,866.17
SPECIAL AID FUND	146,743.66	213,073.64
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND	50,520.97	45,291.30
CAPITAL FUND	417,192.32	414,914.01
TRUST & AGENCY FUND	304,253.21	295,508.84
NET PAYROLL ACCOUNT	527.70	562.74

MOTION PELLETTIERI 2<sup>ND</sup> HABER

To accept the Treasurer's Report and Warrants as presented

Carried, 9-0

MOTION MARTIN 2<sup>ND</sup> HELFER

To approve the following motions contained under the Consent Agenda

## 11(A) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, based upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, *additional* Interscholastic Coaches and Extra-Class Activity Advisors, for the 2006-2007 school year.

## 11(B) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the CPSE and CSE Recommendations for the 2006-2007 school year as follows: Meeting Dates of: 11/30/06, 12/19/06, 12/21/06

## 11(C) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the High School Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report as of the following date:

<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>	<u>PREVIOUS</u>	<u>AS OF 11/30/06</u>
Account Balance	\$73,689.26	\$73,558.44

## 11(D) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the Middle School Extraclassroom Activity Fund Report as of the following date:

<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL</u>	<u>PREVIOUS</u>	<u>AS OF 11/30/06</u>
Account Balance	\$5,193.21	\$20,391.66

## 11(E) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To increase CHRISTINE PURCELL's position as a Bus Driver from 3.5 hours to 4.0 hours per day, effective January 3, 2007

11(F) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, \_

STEPHEN JALANTI, to the position of 12 month Clerk-Typist, (Middle School) effective December 20, 2006 .

11(G) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL (01/02/07)

To approve, upon the recommendation of James Dexter, Superintendent, STUDENT TEACHERS/INTERNS for the period of time listed as follows:

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	DATES
Matt Fisher	Lisa Duffek	01/17 - 03/04/07
Kristyn Hammond	Jeanne Cass	01/17 - 03/09/07
Diana Mager	Mary Ann Gorke	01/17 - 03/09/07
Maria Catalano	Lisa Reis	03/12 - 05/04/07
Amanda Richards	Teri Graham	03/12 - 05/04/07

11(H) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve a request for home tutorial services for the following students:

- a) MHG Student - (approx 5-6 weeks) (*parent request- physician's statement on file*)
- b) HS Student - (approx 3 weeks) "

11(I) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent,

a Teaching and Non-Teaching Substitute Addendum, conditionally, pending SED safety clearance for the 2006-2007 school year.

11(J) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve a request submitted by LYNN MCPHERSON, Bus Driver to extend her leave of absence through January 16, 2007 (*doctor's note on file*)

11(K) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, SHARON L. FRANK to the position of Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent, pursuant to the Terms & Conditions of Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (*adopted on 9/13/05*) with remuneration of \$37,005 per year (pro-rated), effective January 8, 2007

11(L) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL & AUTHORIZATION

To approve dissolving the Elementary Extra-Class Activity Fund, upon a recommendation from Neil LeMere, CPA, WEST & Co., and to distribute the remaining funds \$4,982.93 to the Middle School Extra-class Activity Fund as follows:

- Class of 2012 - (current 7<sup>th</sup> grade) - \$ 1660.98
- Class of 2013 - (current 6<sup>th</sup> grade) - \$ 1660.98

- Class of 2014 - (current 5<sup>th</sup> grade) - \$ 1660.97

## 11(M) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the resignation submitted by JOHN STICKLES, from the position of Assistant Principal, (Middle School), effective January 2, 2007

## 11(N) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James Dexter, Superintendent, JOHN STICKLES to the position of Elementary Principal in the Principal tenure area, effective January 3, 2007

## 11(O) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To extend the appointment of MATTIAS NORDGREN as a permanent substitute Physical Education teacher for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2006-2007 school year, effective January 29, 2007 through June 30, 2007

CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED, 9-0

Administrators left at 9:20 p.m.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

MOTION MURPHY 2<sup>ND</sup> HELPER

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James Dexter, Superintendent of Schools, KAREN VECELLIO to tenure in the area of Elementary K-6, effective March 2, 2007

Carried, 9-0

MOTION MARTIN 2<sup>ND</sup> HELPER

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James Dexter, Superintendent of Schools, JENNIFER ABRAMS-THOMPSON to tenure in the area of Special Subjects - English as a Second Language K-12, effective March 6, 2007

Carried, 9-0

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> PELLETTIERI

Tax Exemption Increase - Senior Citizens

To adopt, pursuant to Section 459-c and 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, increasing from \$24,000 to \$26,000, the income which may be earned by the owner or owners of property within the District who are qualifying senior citizens, and/or disabled persons, to provide for an exemption from real property taxation to the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation, and to retain the sliding scale, effective for the 2007 tax year, as follows:

Income Level	Reduction in Assessed Value
Under \$26,000	50%
\$26,000.01 - \$26,999.99	45%
\$27,000 - \$27,999.99	40%
\$28,000 - \$28,999.99	35%
\$29,000 - \$29,899.99	30%
\$29,900 - \$30,799.99	25%
\$30,800 - \$31,699.99	20%

\$31,700 - \$32,599.99	15%
\$32,600 - \$33,499.99	10%
\$33,500 - \$34,399.99	5%
\$34,400 and above	0%

Carried, 9-0

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> MARTIN

To approve pursuant to the Architect's Certificate for Payment, a Construction Contract Payment as follows:

PAYMENT #	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	FOR
(1)	Total Tool Ltd.	\$56,525.00	Bus Lift Replacement

Carried, 9-0

MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> REIS

To approve per Board Policy #6900-(Disposal of District Property), the attached list of Exercise Equipment, Vehicles & Engines and Computer Equipment, as Surplus & Obsolete

Carried, 9-0

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> MARTIN

To adopt the following policies pursuant to Board Policy #2410 – Formulation, Adoption and Amendment of Policies:

1. PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES #1500 (Revised)  
Effective Date: July 1, 2007
2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT BOARD MEETINGS #1230 (Revised)  
Effective Date: January 2, 2007
3. NEWS MEDIA RELATIONS #1130 (Revised)  
Effective Date: January 2, 2007
4. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEES #1210 (Revised)  
Effective Date: January 2, 2007

Carried, 9-0

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MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> MARTIN

To establish, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, a (1.0 FTE) Teaching Assistant position in order to provide one-on- one services as required by a student's IEP.

Carried, 9-0

MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Ichabod Crane Board of Education and the Ichabod Crane Teacher's Association for the establishment of Job Sharing, between a Special Education teacher and a district appointed

permanent substitute, and to authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement.

Carried, 9-0

MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To extend the appointment of INGRID MONAGHAN, as a permanent substitute Special Education teacher (.5 FTE), for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year, pursuant to the terms as outlined in the Job Sharing Memorandum of Agreement.

Carried, 9-0

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MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To approve the following field trip request: (Yankee Trails Bus Company)

DESTINATION: Millville, New Jersey

DATE: March 23-25, 2007

PARTICIPANTS: Varsity Baseball and Varsity Softball Teams

CHAPERONES: Coaches

Carried, 9-0

DISCUSSION ITEM

SEARCH PROCESS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Jim Dexter discussed the search process and timelines that he is proposing for hiring a middle school assistant principal. During the month of January, the vacancy will be advertised and applications will be accepted until February 9. Jim and Maureen Van Deusen, Middle School Principal, will meet with the interview team to develop protocol and to screen applications. Initial interviews are scheduled for February 27 & 28 with the anticipated appointment to occur at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.

BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

- Andrew Pellettieri said he was curious as to whether the academic performance had been assessed since the high school moved to block scheduling. Bill Schneider responded that curriculum has been adjusted and the results on our district report card speak to its success.
- Ed Helfer mentioned former board members with whom he had served and he thanked them for their service.
- Bill Martin stated statistics are showing there is an increase in drug use and binge drinking among high school-aged students and the need for programs to address this issue. Karen McGraw noted our district has the DARE and Life Skills Program which addresses character building skills.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one was present.

MEETINGS:

01/16, 01/23 & 01/30 (Tues) -2007-2008 Budget Development Meetings  
7PM - ICMS LIBRARY  
02/06 (Tue) - Next Regular Board Mtg - 7PM - ICMS LIBRARY

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

01/03 (Wed) - Audit - 6PM - C.O.  
01/09 (Tue) - Communications - 6PM - C.O.  
01/23 (Tue) - Facilities - 6PM - C.O.  
02/07 (Wed) - ICTA Negotiations - 4:30PM (*For Committee Members*)- C.O.  
02/15 (Thu) - Communication Committee w/District Groups - 6PM

DISTRIBUTIONS

1) QUESTAR III Classroom Allocation Space

MOTION HABER 2<sup>nd</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To adjourn to Executive Session at 10:05 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals  
Carried, 9-0

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> PELLETTIERI

To appoint ANDREW PELLETTIERI as Clerk Pro Tem.  
Carried, 9-0

District Clerk, Tamara Proniske, left the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT AT EXECUTIVE:

James Dexter, Superintendent  
Karen McGraw - Left at 10:37 p.m.  
Gregory Giammarco - Left at 10:37 p.m.

Board Members left Executive Session to return to the Middle School Library at 11:12 p.m.

MOTION HELFER 2<sup>ND</sup> MARTIN

To adjourn the meeting at 11:15 p.m.  
Carried, 9-0

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Andrew Pellettieri, Clerk Pro Tem

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