

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL
VALATIE, NEW YORK 12184

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School was held on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2006 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 (<i>arrv 6:10</i>)
Landra Haber	Andrew Pellettieri (<i>arrv 7:00</i>)
Edward Helfer	John Phillips
Andrew Kramarchyk	Kevin Reis
William Martin (<i>left 7:20</i>)	

SCHOOL OFFICIALS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT AT EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mary Roach, Esq.

President Bagnato called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

MOTION MARTIN 2ND HABER

To adjourn to Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals
Carried, 7-0

Dr. Murphy arrived at 6:10 p.m.
Andrew Pellettieri arrived at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members adjourned Executive Session to return to the Middle School Library at 7:15 p.m.

William Martin left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

President Bagnato reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:20 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, Acting 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

Paul Thompson, Athletic Coordinator

MOTION KRAMARCHYK 2ND MURPHY

To approve the agenda with modifications as presented
Carried, 8-0

MOTION HELFER 2ND KRAMARCHYK

To approve the 08/22/06 - Regular Meeting Minutes as prepared
Carried, 8-0

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Walter Brooks proposed the development of a mentoring program whereby high school seniors would work with at risk students in the middle school. He said this would be at no cost to the district and he asked that administration consider his proposal.
- Michael Birmingham addressed the board regarding high taxes that retirees and senior citizens are being asked to pay. He mentioned that New York State has the highest taxes in the nation and said his fear is that seniors will become impoverished living here. He said his message to the board would be to bring taxes down within the inflation rate.

Prior to acceptance of the Treasurer's Report, Jim and Greg indicated they were exploring the possibility of changing the format of the Appropriation Status Report which is currently set-up by ST-3 codes and descriptions. This will be discussed again under the Discussion Item portion of the agenda. Greg then proceeded to provide clarification for a number of questions that were posed pertaining to the description column on the Appropriation Status Report.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTS

	<u>PREVIOUS</u>	<u>AS OF 07/31/06</u>
GENERAL FUND	\$3,619,163.85	\$2,567,870.22
CAPITAL FUND	791,065.42	750,226.99
TRUST & AGENCY FUND	265,985.03	276,793.99
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND	25,166.05	18,951.57

SPECIAL AID FUND	74,642.42	74,684.35
CON NET PAYROLL ACCOUNT	412.83	436.98
MOTION HELPER 2 ND HABER		

To accept the Treasurer's Report and warrants as presented

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

Carried, 7-0-1

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - ADMINISTRATORS' COMMENTS

Administrators and Supervisors commented on the opening of school for their respective buildings and departments.

- Melissa Murray for the Primary School – described a new visitor parking procedure put in place in September. Class Size: (K)-20; (1st)-23-24; (2nd & 3rd)-24
- John Stickles for MVB & MHG – Enrollment for MVB is 207 and MHG is 209 with the average class size for both buildings at 23
- Maureen Van Deusen for the Middle School – Enrollment for (6th)-168; (7th)-196 & (8th)-198. Maureen described a new format for the way in which the Open House will be held this year. She also indicated that there would be a change in the structure of the Middle School Activity Nights
- Bill Schneider for the High School – welcomed Brett Miller, new assistant principal and mentioned they are trying a new initiative to reduce the number of students who arrive late to homeroom.
- Bill Schneider reviewed the French Club's proposal for a trip to Quebec City, May 26-28, 2007, and by consensus, the Board gave their permission to continue with the planning.
- Steve Marotta – Maintenance Dept. – had relatively few problems with the opening of school; mentioned the retirement of Gail Thomas, cleaner at the High School who he publicly thanked for her hard work and dedication
- Todd DiGrigoli – Food Service – new equipment is in and working in the middle school and said his staff served 400 people at the staff BBQ.
- Juan González - Technology Services updated the board on the status of new software installed that blocks unwanted e-mails; installed a new computer lab in the primary school; reported on information that will need to be provided every month to SED.
- Sherrill Phillips – Transportation Dept. – gave a report on the condition of the fleet and indicated this is going to be a challenging year for keeping the buses in good repair as there is a lack of spares that can be put into service. Sherrill will prepare a power-point presentation for the October board meeting on the status of the fleet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit Committee – Meeting of 09/11/06 - Jim Dexter reported that the agenda topics included: the Medicaid Audit Findings; the State Comptroller's Findings and the recently completed External Audit initial report. Neil LaMere will attend the October 3 board meeting with the full audit report.

Facilities Committee – Meeting of 09/12/06 – Andy Kramarchyk listed the agenda topics discussed: Primary School Playground (the 12 foot slide has been eliminated); HS Music Suite – need to correct heating problem – will install heat pumps; MHG Elevator Project - discussion on holding a referendum in December with a significant amount of the total cost to be aided through a special EXCEL aid. Will continue to discuss at the next Facilities Meeting scheduled for October 11.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/UPDATES:

REVIEW OF DISTRICT ATHLETIC PROGRAM – Paul Thompson, athletic coordinator, gave a power point presentation outlining the district's athletic program – both past and present. Paul reviewed all of the sports offered for both boys and girls and the number of students who participated in 2005-2006 which totaled 637. Other topics covered included: where does the district want the program to be in 2007 and beyond and a proposal to expand the winter sports program to include indoor track. Regarding league status, Paul stated he would be interested in pursuing withdrawing from the Patroon Conference in order to join the Colonial Council where our athletes would face tougher competition.

Board members continued to discuss the athletic program and asked for additional information pertaining to the percent of the student body who actually participate and the number of graduates who have participated at the college level. Gary Bagnato said it would be helpful to have data available as next year's athletic budget is developed.

Andy Kramarchyk said he attended a recent night soccer game and heard many compliments about our new athletic facility from the participants of the visiting team who were from Cornwall, NY. John Phillips mentioned our website is promoting our night games and Andy said there is also a link from our website to a new on-line web-based automatic scheduler.

SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT

- 1) 2006 Invitations Program – Melissa Murray said there were 131 students enrolled in this reading and writing program which was held for 2 hours a day for 20 days during the summer in the Primary School. Transportation was provided by the district and she recommended that the same schedule be continued for next year.
- 2) 2006 Summer School 6-12 – John Stickles, summer school principal, prepared a statistical report on the results of the summer school program which was held from July 10 to August 10. He indicated that summer school was smaller than in the past with 120 Middle School and High School students attending. Enrollment in the Driver Education program was 41 students with two cars loaned to us through Noecker Pontiac of Hudson. Gary Bagnato noted that only 50% of the students enrolled

passed 6th grade math. John explained that the model we follow is better suited to make high school students successful; however, he will review the program to see if changes can be incorporated for middle school students.

2006 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Karen McGraw provided a summary of eleven curriculum development projects that were completed for Grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Andrew Pellettieri and Dr. Murphy asked what goals were being set for Grade 6-8 ELA. The new initiatives middle school teachers have in place for reading in the content area and writing on demand (WOD) were reviewed. Board members were also told that teachers have embraced these concepts through intensive staff development and have made them part of the curriculum. It was suggested that Jennifer Rickert, Grade 6-8 ELA Curriculum Liaison attend a future meeting to discuss the program in greater detail.

MOTION KRAMARCHYK 2ND HELFER

To extend tonight's meeting at 10:00 p.m. in order to finish all agenda items.
Carried, 8-0

MOTION HELFER 2ND HABER

To approve the following motions contained under the CONSENT AGENDA:

CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, additional Extra-class Activity Advisors & Interscholastic Coaches for the 2006-2007 school year per the attached listing

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, the 2006-2007 Teaching Substitute List as of 9/12/06 and a Non-Teaching Substitute Addendum, conditionally, pending SED safety clearance, for the 2006-2007 school year.

CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the resignation submitted by JEANNE OLEYNEK, from the position of Instructional Aide, effective August 29, 2006

CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the resignation submitted by LORRAINE DAVIDSON, from the position of K-12 Music Teacher, effective September 29, 2006

CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, FAITH KUBOW to the probationary position of Instructional Aide, effective September 5, 2006

CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, MELISSA McFARLAND as a ten week Permanent Substitute to fill a School Psychologist position, effective August 30, 2006

CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, DEBORAH SIMONSMEIER to the position of Teaching Assistant, effective September 5, 2006

CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James P. Dexter, Superintendent, ANASTASSIA GARCZNSKI to the position of 7-12 Science Teacher (Biology), effective August 30, 2006

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

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

STUDENT TEACHER	ASSIGNMENT	DATES
Jessica Salisbury	Holly Klein-PRI& MVB	09/18/06-12/08/06
Stephen Piwowarski	A Giammattei/Music	08/30/06-10/27/06
Jessica Reichert	Nina Stegmann	09/06 – 12/06

CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

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

a) HS Student – *(on an as needed basis-parent request-physician's statement on file)*

AUTHORIZATION FOR PRESIDENT TO SIGN

- Agreements with Center for Disability Services for student placement
- Contract – Wildwood Summer Extension Program 2006-2007
- Proposed Agreement with Roemer Wallens & Mineaux

CONSENT AGENDA CARRIED 8-0

DISCUSSION/ACTIONMOTION HABER 2ND KRAMARCHYK

To appoint, upon the recommendation of James Dexter, Superintendent of Schools, GREGORY A. GIAMMARCO to tenure in the area of BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR, effective November 24, 2006

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

Carried, 7-0-1

MOTION KRAMARCHYK 2ND HABER

To accept, for the purpose of retirement the resignation submitted by GAIL M. THOMAS, for the position of Cleaner (HS), effective September 30, 2006.

(employed 9/89)

Carried, 8-0

MOTION HELFER 2ND HABER

To approve the following field trip request for the Marching Band:

a) DESTINATION: Fall Foliage Parade, North Adams, MA

DATE: October 2, 2005 (Sun)

PARTICIPANTS: 90 Students

CHAPERONES: 10 w/Robert Richburg

b) DESTINATION: Columbus Day Parade, Albany, NY &
Autumn Fest Parade, Woonsocket, RI

DATE: October 9 & 10, 2005 (Sun/Mon)

PARTICIPANTS: 90 Students

CHAPERONES: 10 w/Robert Richburg

Carried, 8-0

MOTION HABER 2ND KRAMARCHYK

To approve the following field trip request:

DESTINATION: Cloisters, Lincoln Center/Opera - NYC

DATE: October 21, 2006 (Sat)

PARTICIPANTS: Humanities Class - 40 Students

CHAPERONES: (5) w/Sharon Wall, Faculty Sponsor

Carried, 8-0

MOTION HABER 2ND HELFER

To approve the following field trip request:

(All Costs to be Covered by the Crane Acting Troupe)

DESTINATION: Broadhurst Theatre - NYC

DATE: October 28, 2006 (Sat)

PARTICIPANTS: Crane Acting Troupe - 34 Students

CHAPERONES: (6) w/Gail Helfer, Faculty Sponsor

Carried, 8-0

MOTION HELFER 2ND HABER

To approve the following field trip request:

DESTINATION: Clark Art Institute - Williamston, MA

DATE: April 19, 2007 (Thu)

PARTICIPANTS: Humanities Class - 40 Students

CHAPERONES: (4) w/Sharon Wall, Faculty Sponsor

Carried, 8-0

MOTION KRAMARCHYK 2ND REIS

To accept, per Board Policy #1800 Gifts from the Public, a donation to the Ichabod Crane Middle School of \$70.69 from TARGET's School Fundraising Program

Carried, 8-0

MOTION HELFER 2ND KRAMARCHYK

To approve an increase in the 2006-2007 budget in the amount of \$70.69 from \$33,901,740 to \$33,901,810.69 to reflect a \$70.69 donation from TARGET and to increase the following Appropriation Code:

A2110-510-04-0000-Middle School Reserve - in the amount of \$70.69

Carried, 8-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS**SUPERINTENDENT'S PRIORITY OBJECTIVES FOR 2006-2007**

Jim Dexter presented his finalized priority objectives to the board. The five objectives are: 1) Community Outreach; 2) Fiscal Accountability; 3) Communication; 4) Safety; 5) Student Achievement. Jim said he also shared these objectives with the staff during the September 5th Superintendent's Conference Day.

MOTION HELFER 2ND KRAMARCHYK

To extend tonight's meeting at 10:20 p.m. for an additional 20 minutes

BAGNATO	YES	MURPHY	YES
HABER	NO	PELLETTIERI	NO
HELPER	YES	PHILLIPS	YES
KRAMARCHYK	YES	REIS	YES

Carried, 6-2

Landra Haber left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE FORMAT REVISION TO APPROPRIATION STATUS REPORT

Discussion continued on the proposal to revise the format. Board members responded to the question of what level of detail and supplemental information they wanted the report to contain. Suggestions heard were there be clarity in the descriptions and the report should be functional and line up with the budget codes. A new Appropriation Status Report format will be developed and presented for the board's consideration at the next regular board meeting.

PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH ROEMER WALLENS & MINEAUX LLP

The current three-year agreement is due to expire on September 30, 2006 and the renewal agreement was distributed for the board's review. Jim and Greg indicated they have been very satisfied with the legal services provided by this law firm and are very comfortable with the proposed rates.

MOTION PELLETTIERI 2ND KRAMARCHYK

To accept the proposed three-year renewal agreement submitted by ROEMER WALLENS & MINEAUX, LLP to provide legal services to the District, effective October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2009 and to authorize the President of the Board of Education to execute the agreement.

Carried, 7-0

BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

- Kevin Reis suggested the policy for ending meetings at 10 p.m. should be revoked - board needs to stay until their business is finished
- Andrew Pellettieri suggested moving agenda items around - perhaps move reports ahead of the Treasurer's report
- Ed Helfer mentioned he would like to see something special for a remembrance for Sept. 11 - perhaps through civics course - bring to department chairs for suggestions
- Dr. Murphy referenced a "relevancy meter" which he said he may use during future meetings when topics are not directly related to student achievement
- John Phillips noted that "kudos" should go out to our webmaster, Noreen Bayduss, who has done a fantastic job with the ICC website. He also wanted to convey thanks to our Art Department for a great Chatham Fair exhibit.

MEETINGS:

09/20 (Wed) - Policy Committee Meeting- 5PM

10/03 (Tue) - Regular Board Meeting - 7PM - ICMS LIBRARY

10/17 (Tue) - Special Board Meeting (w/QUESTAR) 7PM - ICMS LIBRARY

10/11 (Wed) - Facilities Committee Meeting - 5PM

DISTRIBUTIONS:

- E-mailed Letter f/Karen Horn, dated 09/11/06 Re: Condition of Athletic Facilities

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

- 2006 Audit Report - Neil LaMere (*Washburn Ellingwood Sheeler Thaisz & Pinsley*)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one asked to speak

MOTION KRAMARCHYK 2ND PELLETTIERI

To adjourn to Executive Session at 11:20 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals

Carried, 7-0

MOTION KRAMARCHYK 2ND DR. MURPHY

To appoint JOHN PHILLIPS as Clerk Pro Tem.

Carried, 7-0

District Clerk, Tamara Proniske, left the meeting.

OTHERS PRESENT AT EXECUTIVE:

James Dexter, Superintendent

Karen McGraw, Assistant Superintendent

Greg Giammarco, Business Administrator

Board Members left Executive Session to return to the Middle School Library at 11:58 p.m.

MOTION HELPER 2ND REIS

To adjourn the meeting at 12:00 a.m.

Carried, 7-0

John Phillips, Clerk Pro Tem

Tamara N. Proniske, District Clerk