

APPROVED

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2012
ANNEX BOARD ROOM – 6:00 P.M.

A special meeting of the Board of Education of the Holland Patent Central School District was held in the Annex Board room, located in the village of Holland Patent, New York on Monday, January 9, 2012. Board President Mrs. McGahey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Anne McGahey, President
Karen Evans, Vice President
Traci Boris
Everett Stalker
Richard Allen
Kathleen M. Davis, Superintendent of Schools

VISITORS PRESENT

Joanne Shelmidine
Ray Hamlin
Donna Clark
John Gates
Steve Boucher

11-144 **SHARED SERVICES REVIEW**

A discussion was held regarding the Shared Services between Holland Patent and Remsen.

11-145 **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS FOR SHARED SERVICES**

The following items were considered for future shared services:

- Transportation
- Buildings & Grounds
- Consolidation of Teams for Sports
- Treasurer
- Purchasing

11-146 **BOE FORUM/DISCUSSION**

Mr. Allen wanted to reach out and begin conversations regarding consolidation. Not that this is the way we want to go but how serious this issue will be predicated once the numbers are released over the next few weeks. We wanted to reach out and see what you wanted to do.

Mr. Boucher is staying open minded since we are all dealing with the same issues. They are open to look at all options. He noted that he attended Dr. Poles' presentation.

Mrs. McGahey wants to give the students an opportunity to participate in services.

Mr. Hamlin commented that we need to look at the facts. We don't have some classes or students to put into the class and we want to work together.

Mrs. Evans asked what does your community do when they hear merger?

Mr. Gates commented we have a good elementary system and at the high school opportunities are not there.

Mr. Hamlin feels that we are trying to reorganize to offer programs. We need to be proactive instead of waiting and being told what to do by the state.

Mr. Boucher commented that none of the mergers discussed involved the elementary. This should be an educational process. People need the data to understand what to do and what is right for children.

Mrs. Boris commented that once they have had that experience with the district they will see it is a good opportunity.

Dr. Stalker commented that the 2% cap has taken that opportunity from us to offer the best program for children.

Mr. Allen noted that from our end he is not opposed to looking at a merger. We are going to be faced with the same emotional issues. We will need to get the taxpayer to see the economic issues. It is a hard sell so we need to progress slowly.

Mrs. McGahey commented that we started talking about closing an elementary school and it is emotional. Parents at the meeting are asking us what are we doing to look at a study.

Dr. Stalker commented that it may not be about saving money only it is about saving programs. We have to maintain programs and make sure students have the same opportunities all over the state.

Mrs. Shelmidine noted that she taught a blended 4/5 and used it as an idea to regulate class size and made some good decisions instructionally. The focus on the content in the higher of the two grades is taught year 1 and year 2 the lower of the two years curriculum is presented. Blended classes are 28/29 is taught.

Mr. Boucher stated we don't have enough kids to fill the classes.

Mr. Allen asked why not merge.

Mr. Gates commented that the northern section of the district would place kids on the bus too long.

Mr. Boucher noted if you are working at finance, dissolution carries no money. For mergers the money is big.

Mr. Hamlin noted people want to keep their elementary and not shut down buildings. High School is the issue.

Mr. Boucher commented that Mr. Mettelman has said many schools have kept their K – 8's.

Mr. Allen asked why couldn't we move distant points of districts. You are still getting the merger money.

Mrs. Boris commented that things are going to change.

Mrs. Shelmidine noted you can tuition students to various high schools.

Mr. Boucher commented that there may not be aid.

Mrs. Evans noted that she wouldn't be happy to pay taxes in another district.

Mrs. McGahey commented that it is an identity factor.

Mr. Hamlin noted the sentimental thing is the hardest thing.

Dr. Stalker noted that the state is forcing you to do this.

Mr. Boucher commented that overtime with enough information this information becomes palatable. People become more comfortable with relationships and merging becomes an easier concept.

Mr. Hamlin noted we are in dire straits.

Mr. Allen commented that we are going to be in the same predicament. If the budget is bad from the state then we need to sell it. It would be difficult putting it out twice.

Mrs. Shelmidine noted there is a school on Long Island who may be facing closing due to finances. The state takes over the school.

Mr. Hamlin noted we are trying to do the right thing. The overall picture we should do what is right.

Mrs. Boris commented that we present the facts and data and if the community decides not to merge then that is their decision. She has confidence in the community that they do not want the state taking over and telling us what to do.

Mr. Allen commented that he is happy to do a study and does support sharing services with Remsen.

Mrs. Boris asked what do we do with bonds and debt and how does that limit us in terms of us moving forward?

Mrs. Davis indicated that part of a study addresses those issues.

Mr. Allen commented that the government has a lot of money that is competitive based.

Mr. Gates noted the writing is on the wall.

Mr. Boucher commented that they aren't thinking about upstate.

11-147

NEXT STEPS TO DISCUSS

- Each board will develop a list of potential shared services. Joanne and Kathy will calculate impact and determine feasibility.
- Presentation of Annexation/Consolidation – Howard Mettelman
- Review of preliminary data to determine need or feasibility of a study
- Future meetings if warranted.

Mrs. McGahey left at 7 p.m.

11-148

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss at this time, Mr. Allen made the motion, seconded by Dr. Stalker, to adjourn the meeting.

Yes – 8

No – 0 Motion Carried

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Annex Board Room.

Kathleen Davis
Acting District Clerk