

Summary of Jasper-Troupsburg Board of Education Meeting February 25, 2009

This summary is intended to help the Board and the Superintendent inform the community of the Jasper-Troupsburg School District about the issues the district is addressing. If anyone has a question or concern, please feel free to contact Chad C. Groff, Superintendent (792-3675).

Communications to the Board. I reviewed a letter I wrote to our federal house and senate representatives and our state representatives regarding comments made by Governor Paterson. Governor Paterson indicated that he was not going to allow the federal stimulus to create a windfall for schools in New York. I expressed my grave concern to the representatives that the money is intended to flow to school districts, and requested for them to work on behalf of our school and the other schools in New York. The Jasper-Troupsburg Teachers' Association sent a letter expressing their thanks for the staff meetings that were held at each building related to the 2009-10 school budget. I spoke with the staff about the potential problems that may be faced with less state aid for next year. We are also hoping for and anticipating help to come from the federal stimulus package. The Board previously requested verification that Benedict's Travel was certified by New York State to carry our students for the senior trip. Any bus carrier that transports New York students must meet NYSDOT guidelines for their drivers and buses. We have received the first part of this information – more information will follow. The Board received a thank you note from the family of Mr. Bruce Cady at the passing of his mother. The Board received a request for financial help from Elizabeth VanOrsdale for a criminal justice trip she will be taking to Syracuse. The Board asked that further clarification be received before they make decision. Mrs. Cady, as the district clerk, announced multiple vacancies for the GST BOCES Board of Education. I informed the Board that our Varsity Cheerleaders placed 5th in the 2009 Section V competition. This is a huge accomplishment for our squad. Check out some of the pictures on the district web page. If you see the girls and guys or Coaches Bliss and Leach, please tell them they did a great job! The Board received an invitation for the area school boards association legislative breakfast to be held on March 14. Our area state legislators are scheduled to participate. I previously shared with the Board and the staff that both the elementary and high school buildings have again been placed on the "In Good Standing" list. Keep up the good work students, faculty, and staff.

Personnel items. The Board accepted the resignation of Mrs. Kathy Linnan as the JV Girls Softball Coach. The Board also accepted the resignation of Mr. Trevor Price as the Varsity Boys Baseball Coach. The following substitute teachers were approved: Nevin Kraus – High school. Ms. Andrea O'Brien was approved as a volunteer. She has been volunteering her time in the room of Mrs. Lisa Mills.

Action items. The construction bids for the high school water project were received by the district on February 12, 2009. The company of Frey & Campbell (Hammondsport, NY) was the lowest, qualified bidder for the project. The Board officially awarded the work to Frey & Campbell. It is anticipated they will complete all of the work during the April break. This is contingent upon their receipt of the new equipment in a timely manner. The Board authorized the district to enter into a bidding process with the GST BOCES organization for copy paper. The opportunity to purchase paper in a large group should provide us with some savings in paper costs. Following an executive session discussion, the Board passed a resolution that educational tutoring can be provided for students with first-time, long-term out of school suspensions who are above the compulsory age of attendance.