

OLEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
410 West Sullivan Street  
Olean, NY 14760

Special Meeting  
October 30, 2012

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the City School District of Olean, NY was held on Tuesday, October 30, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at Hinsdale Central School, 3701 Main Street, Hinsdale, NY.

PRESENT: Ira Katzenstein, President  
Michael Martello, Vice President  
Laurie Branch  
Gordon E. Cross  
James Padlo

ABSENT: John Bartimole  
Amy Giachetti  
Dan Harris  
Paul Knieser

STAFF PRESENT: Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Schools  
Kathleen Elser, Business Administrator  
Dave Lasky, Teacher  
Vicki Zaleski-Irizarry, District Clerk

OTHERS: Kelsey Boudin, Olean Times Herald  
Tom Simon, Portville Central and Board Members  
Karen Geelan, Allegany-Limestone and Board Members  
Judi McCarthy, Hinsdale, and Board Members  
Teachers from HCS  
Students from Olean High School  
Student from Portville  
Hinsdale & Olean Community Members

**CONNECT 4:**

Judi McCarthy, Superintendent of Hinsdale Central School, welcomed everyone to the "land of the Bobcats." Judi explained how sharing of services would help with the common problems and issues of Allegany-Limestone, Hinsdale, Portville, and Olean School Districts. Problems include BOCES, Special Education Students, Common Calendars, Staff Development, and much more.

Tom Simon, Portville Central School Superintendent, explained what Connect 4 is about and what it is not about. Mr. Simon explained the procedure and the background of the grant. The White Paper, which includes four big ideas such as financial efficiency, programmatic efficiency, logistics to make it happen, and funding for a brighter future, is available on the web sites of all four districts.

Major goals of the Connect 4:

- 1) Centralize logistics to maximum having what we need/want and where we need/want it, when we need/want
- 2) Improve Instruction & Intervention through content based connection and coordinated academic intervention services.
- 3) Increase opportunities for students

Sharing of the Transportation with Portville, Olean and Hinsdale was used as an example of how all districts benefit from this program. This is a pioneer program for future districts and state officials are monitoring this process.

Mr. Simon also discussed the financial efficiencies of similar state schools – average cost per child \$18,057; average cost per child all districts \$19,381; average cost per child (Allegany, Hinsdale, Portville, Olean) \$15,878 which is \$2,178 less than similar schools and \$3,503 less than the state average. The average aid cut per pupil (GEA state-side) is \$937; average aid cut per pupil (Allegany, Hinsdale, Portville, Olean) is \$1,484 which is approximately \$547

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per pupil more than the state average. The four school districts operate more efficiently yet receive a higher than average state aid cut.

3 Major Grant Goals:

1. Centralized logistics – maximize needs, maximize wants, where/when
2. Improve Instruction and intervention
3. Increase opportunities programmatically for students

An Efficiency Grant was applied for to help in the following areas:

- common scheduling
- classroom & individual computer based distance learning
- shared instructional materials/intellect
- virtual AIS – Homework Help
- Intramural Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities
- enhance the quality of programs
- enhance the quantity of programs offered

Example used was “marching band.” In years past all districts had competitive marching bands. This could be accomplished again by having the common schedules and transporting students to one district.

Logistics:

- Maximize efficiencies – we need focused resources: time, material, personnel expertise
- Need to learn from businesses
- Think FedEx

Karen Geelan, Allegany-Limestone Superintendent, explained that Portville and Allegany-Limestone are on the same schedule this year. In the future all four districts will be on the same schedule.

Reasons for the same schedule:

- Each district has felt tremendous costs in all areas
- The Superintendents think different but are working together to benefit the students
- Better services for all students
- Need help from everyone in all the districts to design the programs of sharing
- Each district has strengths to share with the others

Colleen Taggerty, Superintendent of Olean High Schools, elaborated on where the Connect 4 group goes from here, including the development of a mechanism for communication the status of this project to our respect communities. She stressed the regional collaboration effort coming together to insure the success of all districts. How do we, as a region, collectively and collaboratively come together and grow? Students deserve to have the abilities and opportunities to grow and prepare for a global economy/society/market. Collaborative efforts will require a lot of work and cultures will have to change. Everyone needs to get the word out about the Connect 4 and the students need to be involved in this process.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What has happened since the Spring Meeting – common schedules, working with BOCES – Grant – PolyCom
- Portville will be the lead agency for the \$272,000 Connect 4 grant
- Transportation to other schools for other classes
- Union contracts – MOAs might be needed in some areas
- BOCES is a partner with the Connect 4
- How to promote and market “Connect 4”: Suggested Commissioner King to visit our area
- Need to partner with JCC, St. Bonaventure, Brad-Pitt and Alfred
- Suggested an assembly for all students and students of the four districts to see and they would spread the word to family and community members. Highlight for them what could be shared with other districts; Courses

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offered in other schools

- Middle school students need hands on programs – begin at this level to prepare students for college or career readiness (automotive, woodshop, arts, etc.) – keep students interested in school so that more students would graduate instead of dropping out
- Look at businesses and municipalities to partner with Connect 4
- Southern Tier Engineering and Manufacturing (STEM) – is growing by leaps and bounds – working with businesses on what type of jobs are available in engineer and manufacturing and what it would take and/or need from a high school student academically
- Explore offering courses during the summer (not just the traditional “summer school” concept)
- What courses can students take on-line and get credit for?
- On-line versus in seat
- Project Lead the Way classes at Olean High School are offered to other district students – the class begins at 7 am – explore offering other like shared courses during the summer or after school (would bargaining unit contracts allow teacher schedules to be flexible)
- Connect 4 Grant – items to be covered grant (if awarded) – logistical person (3-5 years; 200 cameras for polycom/distance learning; iPads for students to take to hook up to a polycom/distance learning class; bus shuttle
- Colleges look at “deep transcripts” (ie, advanced art classes, pre-engineering courses, CAD courses, etc.)
- Each district would be able to keep staff and offer more to students
- Share teachers with other schools in Distant Learning setting
- “COMMUNICATION” is necessary to make Connect 4 work

“Together we are stronger” and everyone needs to think about what we offer and what we can borrow from each other.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

November 1, 2012

Victoria L. Zaleski-Irizarry

District Clerk