

HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2007

AGENDA

6:00pm – Meet at Flagpole for Bldg. Tour

- A Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag ~ 2 min
- B Roll Call
- C Committee Minutes
1. Technology Committee – 10/15/07
- D Consent Agenda
1. Minutes of Board of Education Meeting held on October 2, 2007
2. Approval of Payment for Faculty Members participating in Everyday Math Workshop on October 4, 2007
3. Approval of Payment for David Dougherty – Fifth Grade Social Studies Workshop on November 7, 2007
4. Appointment of MS Student Council Advisor – Leah Horn
5. Appointment of Long-Term Substitute Teaching Assistant – Noreen Ledwith
6. Acceptance of Donation – Four Shade Trees (for playground)
7. Acceptance of Donation of \$50.00 to MS/HS Library
- E Correspondence 5:39
1. Letter from Julia Famularo
2. Letter from Elise LaRocco
3. Letter from Peter Henderson
4. Letter from Village of Cold Spring
- F Workshop Topics
- Capital Project
 - Board Retreat and follow-up
 - Review district's mission statement 28:43
 - Principal Search - 28:53
 - Reorganization Plan - 34:04
 - Foreign Language Classes - 38:25
 - 2008 Summer Academy (Summer School) - 51:52
- G Questions/Comments from the Public 1:02
- H Special Presentation for Board of Education Recognition Week (October 22-26, 2007) - 1:35
- I Adjournment

②

W

**Haldane Central School District
Technology Committee Minutes**

October 15, 2007

Attendees:

C. Donovan, D. McDonald, J. Sniffen, , L. Horn, L. Isler, L. Merolle, M. Davis, S. LeMon, J. Peparo, P. Henderson, M. Villanti, N. Martinez, J. Champlin, Kevin Dougherty

Reorganization

- Meeting opened with introductions and confirmation of participation for existing members
- Julia led a review of the charge. Recommendation to modify items a.) & c.) with a deletion of item b.)
- All present reviewed the Technology Committee composition. No amendments recommended.
- Julia asked for the appointment of a new committee chair and subsequently agreed to co-chair the committee with Nancy Martinez
- Damian McDonald agreed to take meeting minutes

Program Evaluation

- Julia led a discussion about a program review and recommended the establishment of a subcommittee to focus on the review
- Attendees discussed the teacher survey that was developed toward the end of the last academic year. Julia advised that this survey was not distributed. The subcommittee will revisit the survey as part of the program review effort.
- Julia recommended the inclusion of a parent committee member. Jon Champlin agreed to join the subcommittee

Model School 2.0

- Linda Merolle provided the committee with a brief rundown of the Model School 2.0 meeting. The focus of the meeting centered on the growing use of technology in the schools. Linda commented that schools are generally behind in the use of technology when compared to the business world. Linda distributed a Model School map depicting the use of technology. An interactive version of this map is available at www.schools2.0.org
- Linda led a discussion focused on the education of parents on the use of Internet technology. Linda advised of a parental education gap on the use of Internet Technology. This discussion spawned a discussion on Internet Safety.

Internet Safety

- Julia asked about the status of the Internet Safety program discussed before summer break. All advised that no further progress was made. Julia also added that she has been attempting to

contact the Attorney General's office but has been unsuccessful in her efforts to establish a contact

- Dr. Villanti commented that we have effective filtering in place, indicating that the filtering is tighter than his former district. Dr. Villanti commented on technology that would allow parents to sign up for programs via the web. Such a technology would give us insight into program attendance / interest.
- Julia was asked whether we can tap Tech Connections for someone to conduct a safety / Internet education program, Julia advised that she was referred to Putnam County.
- Dr. Villanti advised of an Albany workshop that would require a field trip. Dr. Villanti will try to find out more information and bring back to the committee
- Peter Henderson asked if it might make sense to try and obtain a bulk discount on Internet Filtering software that can be made available for parents. After discussion, the committee discussed compiling a list of recommended software & configurations for the parents. Peter agreed to look into software recommendations.
- Dr. Villanti and Jon advised that there is also free software available, however the quality of this software was not known.
- Maggie raised the question of service provider filtering such as AOL's filtering. Several committee members commented that this filtering is effective, however many of the students know how to turn off this filtering. Damian advised that although account settings are password protected, it is likely that many of the students have set up the accounts for their parents.
- Linda again emphasized the need for parental education and Internet Safety including the basics such as selecting an appropriate username / screen name so as not to attract Internet predators

Organization Plan & Technology

- Dr. Villanti asked about the meeting frequency of the committee. Julia advised that the committee meets every 5-7 weeks and that the meeting dates were sent out in the last email invitation. Dr. Villanti asked to be put on the next meeting agenda to discuss technology items related to the organizational plan. Julia advised that Dr. Villanti will be on the agenda.

Technology Plan Discussion

- Julia advised that she would like to get the subcommittee together after the meeting to get started. Meeting frequency to be determined. During the last IPA the team met almost daily. This effort should not be as demanding as the IPA.
- Leah asked if it was our intent to expand the technology footprint or just maintain what we currently have. Leah's question sparked a discussion about the need to establish clear goals for the plan
- Damian suggested that we start with a technology inventory and then map out the lifecycle requirements for our existing technology base. This will serve as your baseline for maintaining the status quo
- Dr. Villanti asked if we had an evergreen policy adding that if we didn't we should consider developing such a policy

- Several members of the committee discussed the issue around access to computers and the possibility of reducing / eliminating the mobile lab in favor of a more permanent solution. A few attendees commented that the setup time for the lab is sometimes a concern. Linda mentioned that she would like to have 5-10 laptops available in the Library for use.
- There was a brief discussion on the status of the laptops and battery replacements. Julia advised that 10 laptop batteries were just ordered and commented that the planned life of the laptops is 3 yrs. Julia emphasized the need to get all of the students on computers and we need to find space.
- Dr. Villanti advised that access is an issue and its desirable to have permanent locations available for access, locations with teaching assistants. He advised that physical space is a challenge that may be overcome with some creative thinking. Dr. Villanti stressed the importance of access, without access, you may lose motivation. Dr. Villanti also complimented Haldane on its use of technology especially the implementation of administrative software, the NTI notification system, and e-mail.
- Dr. Villanti spoke to the committee about the importance of Technology Integration, after noting that this was a component of the plan. Dr. Villanti advised that the integration of technology is in his opinion the most important part of the plan.
- The committee discussed the alignment of ISTE standards and the technology plan. Julia will agree to send out the ISTE standards to the committee
- Nancy raised the committee's awareness of a disparity between the integration / use of technology in the Humanities v. Sciences in the High School. In the discussion, Nancy noted that the English department may only need an LCD projector. Julia noted that the price of LCD projectors continues to come down with decent units now available for as little as \$800.
- With respect to the use of Smartboards, Maggie Davis mentioned that they had worked out a system whereby you have access for a month. It was also noted that once teachers have the smartboards, its often difficult to go back to a traditional board. Christine noted that the highest prevalence of Smartboard use is in grades 3,4,5.
- Peter Henderson asked about the status of the three IPA's and whether the run rate was constant. Julia added that the IPAs were constant and it was the technology committee's intent to continue these IPAs to ensure a refresh of the technology without triggering budget increases. Peter commented that if technology prices continue to drop, we should be able to expand the use of technology through the existing IPAs.
- Jon Champlin asked about the status of the Dell 150's and whether we needed any assistance in maintaining these systems. Jon advised that he has a friend that can assist with the upgrade or maintenance if needed.
- In response to a question on available funds for the purchase of new systems, Julia advised that a system for the Business Official has been ordered leaving us approximately \$2,000 available for purchases. Julia advised that that these funds were being held to purchase toner and ink cartridges.
- A question about the status / health of our copier machines was raised by Nancy. The copiers have suffered a number of breakdowns. Dr. Villanti advised the group that he has initiated discussions with Icon. The committee questioned whether the existing systems are sized appropriately. There was concern that our use exceeds the design specs of the copiers and that this may be the reason for the high failure rates.

- Nancy questioned whether we have correctly forecast our copy / printer usage. Lori also asked if we thought we were budgeting correctly for printing and copier usage.

**HALDANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007**

The Haldane Central School District Board of Education met on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 in the Merritt Building. President Merandy called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M. o'clock Prevailing Time and then led all present in The Pledge of Allegiance. On roll call, those present were: President David Merandy, Vice President Bruce Campbell, Trustee Makaria Gallagher, Trustee Michael Junjulas and Trustee Evan Schwartz. Also present were Superintendent Dr. Mark Villanti and Business Manager Anne Dinio.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

On a motion duly made and carried, the Board convened into Executive Session at 6:15 P.M. to discuss the employment history of a particular individual. There was no action taken during this Executive Session.

Executive Session

On a motion made by President Junjulas, seconded by Trustee Schwartz, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned from Executive Session at 7:07 P.M.

The Board took a brief break at 7:07 P.M.

Break

The Board reconvened back into Regular Session at 7:12 PM and at this time also present were Elementary School Principal Mrs. Maggie Davis, Middle School Coordinator Mrs. Julia Sniffen, Director of Athletics/Dean of Students Ms. Susan Reid, Director of Facilities Mr. Wayne Robinson, and visitors.

Regular Session

The Board observed a moment of silence for the deceased parent Mr. Joeseeph Frisenda. The Board further extended their condolences to Mrs. Diane Frescenda, and their children Ceara, Granite & Logan.

Moment of Silence for
Mr. Joe Frescenda

On a motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Vice President Campbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved to accept the Grant from the Haldane School Foundation for up to \$10,000 to fund the Foreign Language Enrichment Program for the 2007-2008 school year. This grant includes license fees for the Rosetta Stone Language Program and proctoring fees for on-site personnel to supervise students in the MS Library and Tech Room. This Grant will expire on December 31, 2008. Any grant funds not utilized by that date will revert back to the Foundation for use on other grants. In addition, the Board approves an increase in the general fund budget, and thanked the Foundation for their generosity and continued support of Haldane's educational programs.

Approval
• HSF – Language
Enrichment Program

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Ms. Debbi Contini and Ms. Meredith Nocton presented the

Special Presentation

program evaluation for Music for grades K-12.

INFORMATIONAL REPORT

Informational Report

Dr. Villanti presented the Superintendent's Report.

Mrs. Davis presented the Elementary Report.

Mrs. Sniffen presented the Middle School Report.

Ms. Reid presented the Athletics/Physical Education Report.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda

On a motion made by Vice President Campbell, seconded by President Merandy, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the Consent Agenda containing the following items. Additional information regarding Consent Agenda items are contained in the Supplemental Files.

1. Minutes from Board of Education Meetings held on August 28, September 5, and September 18, 2007.
2. Warrants for the period August 1 through August 31, 2007 as follows: Warrant Number 2: Trust & Agency Fund, \$109,245.55; Warrant 2: Construction, \$187,051.76; Warrant Number 2: Federal Fund, \$13,832.00; Warrant 2: Cafeteria, \$586.47; Warrant Number 5: General, \$623,269.22.
3. Appointment of Debbie Milner to the position of Advisor for Destination Imagination for the 2007-2008 school year at the rate indicated in Appendix B2 of the BOE-HFA Contract (\$1493.) This is a conditional appointment contingent upon a fingerprinting/criminal background check clearance.
4. Sixth period assignment for Tony Caldiero for the 2007-2008 school year at the rate indicated in the BOE-HFA Contract (\$5265.63.)
5. Appointment of Stephanie Katsifas to the position of per diem Substitute Teacher at the approved rate of \$76/day. This is a conditional appointment contingent upon a fingerprinting/criminal background check clearance.
6. Appointment of Lori Chiapetta to the position of per diem Substitute Teacher at the approved rate of \$85/day. Ms. Chiapetta has met the required fingerprinting as mandated by the State.
7. Appointment of Donna Consaga to the position of per diem Substitute Teacher at the approved rate of \$76/day. This is a conditional appointment contingent upon a fingerprinting/criminal background check clearance.
8. Appointment of Donna Consaga to the position of Substitute Teacher Aide at Grade 1, Step 1 (\$12.21/hr.) of the Teacher Aide Salary Schedule as indicated in the BOE-CSEA Contract. This is a conditional appointment contingent upon a fingerprinting/criminal background check clearance.
9. Appointment of Cheryl Chirico to the position of per diem Substitute Teacher Aide at Grade 1, Step 1 (\$12.21/hr.) of the Teacher Aide Salary Schedule as indicated in the BOE-CSEA Contract. This is a conditional appointment contingent upon a fingerprinting/criminal background check

clearance.

10. Appointment of Shelly Pidala to the position of Substitute Teacher Aide at Grade 1, Step 1 (\$12.21/hr.) of the Teacher Aide Salary Schedule as indicated in the BOE-CSEA Contract. This is a conditional appointment contingent upon a fingerprinting/criminal background check clearance.
11. Appointment of Dr. Thomas Turchetti to the positions of Section 504 Officer for the 2007-2008 school year and Chair to the CSE/CPSE in the absence of Darrell Dwyer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

A letter dated September 20, 2007 to the Board of Education from a group of parents regarding the removal of 7th grade French from the curriculum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unfinished Business

Capital Project – The Board will plan to walk through certain portions of the District’s physical plant prior to the next Board meeting (September 17.) All interested public members are welcome to attend.

The Board received questions and comments from the public.

Public Dialogue

NEW BUSINESS

New Business

On a motion made by Trustee Junjulas, seconded by Trustee Gallagher, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and Preschool Special Education as indicated in the Supplemental Files.

Approval
▪ CPSE/CSE

On a motion made by President Merandy, seconded by Trustee Gallagher, and carried, the Board approved the appointment of Dennis Geisler to the position of Interim High School Principal effective October 1, 2007 until such time as a replacement is found. The Board also approved the terms and conditions of employment as indicated in an Agreement dated September 18, 2007. Mr. Geisler has met the fingerprinting requirements as mandated by the State.

Appointment – Interim
HS Principal
▪ D. Geisler

On a motion made by Trustee Junjulas, seconded by Vice President Campbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the appointment of Julia Sniffen to the position of Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the 2007-2008 school year and authorized a stipend of \$8000.

Appointment – Chief
Information Officer
▪ J. Sniffen

On a motion made by Trustee Schwartz, seconded by President Merandy, and carried unanimously, the Board approved a leave of absence for Kathryn Casey from her position as Teaching Assistant effective on or about November 20, 2007 through June 26, 2008.

Leave of Absence
▪ K. Casey

On a motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Junjulas, and carried unanimously, the Board approved a leave of absence for Andrea Corless from her position as teaching assistant effective on or about November 20, 2007 through June 26, 2008.

Leave of Absence

- A. Corless

On a motion made by Vice President Campbell, seconded by Trustee Gallagher, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the appointment of Carol Hopper to the position of part-time typist (not to exceed 15 hours/week) effective October 3, 2007 in accordance with Grade 1, Step 1 of the BOE-CSEA Contract (\$15.54/hr.) Mrs. Hopper will serve an 18-month probationary period. She has met the fingerprinting requirements as mandated by the State.

Appointment – P/T

Typist

- C. Hopper

On a motion made by Vice President Campbell, seconded by Trustee Schwartz, and carried, the Board approved to designate Dr. Mark Villanti, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Anne Dinio, Business Manager; and Trustee Junjulas to the HFA Labor-Management Committee for the 2007-2008 school year.

Designation – HFA
Labor-Management
Committee

- Dr. M. Villanti
- A. Dinio
- M. Junjulas

YES: 4 (CAMPBELL, GALLAGHER, MERANDY, SCHWARTZ)

NO: 0

ABSTENTION: 1 (JUNJULAS)

On a motion made by President Merandy, seconded by Trustee Junjulas, and carried unanimously, the Board approved to accept the proposal from Management Advisory Group of NY, Inc., 385 Main Street, Catskill, New York 12414 dated July 17, 2007 for a state aid review as indicated above and authorized the Superintendent to enter into agreement for same.

Approval - Proposal

- Management Advisory
Group

On a motion made by Trustee Junjulas, seconded by Vice President Campbell, and carried unanimously, the Board approved to award the contracts related to the removal of the Above Ground Storage Tanks and the Undergrounds Storage Tanks to Miller Environmental and Lisikatos Construction for a total cost of \$26,690 as follows:

Approval – Award of
Contract

- Miller Environmental
- Lisikatos Construction

Project Activity: Clean, remove and closure of USTs 010 and 011 = Miller Environmental: \$9900 includes oil/sludge disposal and cost of vacuum truck.

Project Activity: Construct Concrete Pads = Miller Environmental: \$10790 (to be performed by Lisikatos Construction)

Project Activity: Permanently Install ASTs = Miller Environmental: \$6000.

Project Activity: Erect Bollards and Fencing = Miller Environmental. To be performed by Lisikatos Construction – cost included in construction of pads above.

On a motion made by Vice President Campbell, seconded by

Donation – Sign

President Merandy, and carried unanimously, the Board approved to accept a donation from Mr. & Mrs. John F. McGuire, Jr. of a sign measuring 12 X 10 to be placed on the rear of the Robert Ford Building facing Route 9D located on the athletic field. This sign will read, "HALDANE FOOTBALL – HOME OF THE BLUE DEVILS". The donation, in the amount of \$2000 include materials and labor. The Board extended their thanks to Mr. & Mrs. McGuire for their generosity and support of the Haldane Football Team.

▪ Mr. & Mrs. John F. McGuire

On a motion made by Vice President Campbell, seconded by President Merandy, and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following Resolution:

Resolution – Execution of a Settlement Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools and attorneys for the District, Keane & Beane, PC, are hereby authorized and empowered to execute a Settlement Agreement and Stipulation of Settlement together with all necessary and appropriate documents in furtherance of the settlement of the legal action encaptioned *Pecker Iron Works of NY, Inc. v. Meyer Contracting Corp., et al.*, Putnam County Index No. 694/06.

▪ Pecker Iron Works Cohn & Co., Inc. v. Meyer Contracting Corp.

On a motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by President Merandy, and carried unanimously, the Board approved to accept the Side Letter of Agreement with the Haldane Faculty Association dated October 2, 2007.

Letter of Agreement
▪ Haldane Faculty Assoc.

The Board received comments and questions from the public.

Public Dialogue

On a motion made by Trustee Junjulas, seconded by Vice President Campbell the Board approved to adjourn from Regular Session at 8:46 P.M.

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Azita Miller, District Clerk

Date of Approval

Initials

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: MARK VILLANTI
BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2007
RE: APPROVAL OF PAYMENT FOR FACULTY
MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN EVERDAY MATH
WORKSHOP

On October 4th, a parent workshop focusing on the Everyday Math Program was held. This was a K-5 presentation.

The following faculty members participated in the Everyday Math Workshop: Betsy Rasa, Lisa Pray, Katie Lapicki, Christine Comerford, Catherine Scrocca, Barbara Conley, Ashley Cretara, Beth Doyle, Lori Isler, Lauren Quinn, Judy Finehirsh, Katie Moeller, Silvia Le Mon, Jennifer Windels, Mark Wick, Tom Virgadamo, and Johanna Rupp.

The salary cost for this workshop was included in the budget for the 2007-2008 school year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approves payment for the faculty members noted above for their participation in the Everyday Math Parent Workshop held on October 4, 2007 at the rate indicated in the BOE-HFA Contract (\$71.92/hr) for the actual workshop time (6:30 – 8:30 pm).

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: MARK VILLANTI
BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2007
RE: APPROVAL OF PAYMENT FOR DAVID
DOUGHERTY – SOCIAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

Social Studies teacher David Dougherty will participated in the 5th Grade Social Studies Workshop on November 7, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education approves payment for David Dougherty for participation in the 5th Grade Social Studies Workshop on November 7, 2007 (7-8:30pm) at the rate indicated in the BOE-HFA Contract (\$71.92/hr.)

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: MARK VILLANTI
BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2007
RE: APPOINTMENT OF MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT
COUNCIL ADVISOR

Leah Horn has applied for the position of Middle School Student Council Advisor for the 2007-2008 school year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education appoints Leah Horn to the position of Middle School Student Council Advisor at the rate indicated in the BOE-HFA Contract (\$992.)

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: MARK VILLANTI
BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2007
RE: APPOINTMENT OF LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Noreen Ledwith has applied for the position of long-term substitute teaching assistant effective November 14, 2007 to replace Andrea Corless who will be on a Board-approved leave of absence.

Ms. Ledwith has been a substitute teacher aide at Haldane for two years and has been approved as a substitute teaching assistant.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education appoints Noreen Ledwith to the position of long-term substitute teaching assistant effective November 14, 2007 for the duration of Mrs. Corless's leave. Ms. Ledwith will be paid at the rate of \$16.67/hour. She has met the fingerprinting requirements as mandated by the State.

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: MARK VILLANTI
BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2007
RE: ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION OF FOUR SHADE
TREES (FOR PLAYGROUND)

The Playground Committee has presented a plan for landscaping to the Board of Education, including four shade trees, as part of the renovation plan for the playground. The following families would like to donate the trees for the playground.

Lynn Felter
Joanne Roffman
Madeline McGinley
Seth Gallagher

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education accepts the donation of four shade trees, as part of the renovation for the playground, from the families of Lynn Felter, Joanne Roffman, Madeline McGinley, and Seth Gallagher, and thanks them for their kindness and generosity to the District.

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: MARK VILLANTI
BOARD MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2007
RE: ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION TO MS/HS LIBRARY

We are in receipt of a donation from Diego Arreguin, Haldane Class of 2006, in the amount of \$50.00 to the MS/HS Library for the purchase of books.

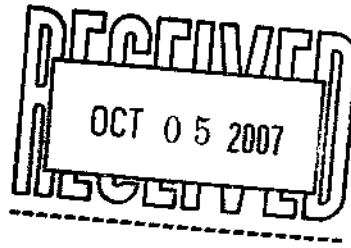
RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Education accepts the donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Diego Arreguin to the MS/HS Library for the purchase of books, thanks Mr. Arreguin for his generosity, and approves an increase in the 2007-2008 budget.

Julia Famularo
845-265-6351

59 Esselborne Road
Fax: 845-265-2806

Cold Spring, NY 10516-4308
JuliaFamularo@earthlink.net

Board of Education
Haldane Central School
15 Craigsides Drive
Cold Spring, NY 10516



October 4, 2007

Dear Board of Education:

I signed the letter about foreign language that was discussed in the Board meeting on 10/2/07. I also attended that meeting. Following that discussion I am writing to express my own view of the concerns.

I am grateful to the Haldane School Foundation for trying to find a substantial means of adding foreign language learning to our school. My family already uses the Rosetta Stone software at home for free through the Butterfield Library website, and I find the interface friendly and the program productive. It is certainly a helpful tool for adding enrichment language learning. However, I do not believe it was ever designed to replace a regular foreign language class. I hope that will never be the Board's intention.

My concern with the seventh grade French class is that students who selected French as their foreign language were ultimately told they were not allowed any choice. I believe the seventh graders who wanted to study French should have been allowed to do so, and in the future the school might more effectively "market" the language if the threat of under-enrollment exists. I also wondered if there were enrollment limits in Spanish, if overflow students might be persuaded to take French, or if perhaps we might use a lottery?

Furthermore, for this whole class, including any students who may attend Haldane High School after leaving Garrison, there will be no students taking a sixth year of French. *No French 6 in 2013?* Also, if our district should receive a transfer student who has been studying French in another district there may be no place for him in a language class at Haldane as the schedule may not permit it. Students who are bilingual in Spanish may have **no foreign language option**, which is a legitimate concern if French is completely cut from middle school. I see the cancellation of French in seventh grade this year as the first wrong step down the path that leads to a weakened French program.

I was relieved to hear assurances from Mrs. Sniffen and Dr. Villanti that French will remain at Haldane, and I support their efforts to cooperate with Garrison school to keep a second language at Haldane. Even though we do not hold Garrison responsible for the extremely low enrollment in our own French program, it is clear that the decision to cancel their French program has ultimately affected Haldane. I felt hopeful when I heard Dr. Villanti mention possibly working with Garrison on a solution, and this may be where our best opportunity lies in strengthening our foreign language program.

Finally, and this is not related to the foreign language issue, I would like to ask if it is possible to get a copy of the full and complete agenda before the Board meetings. I listen to the podcasts, and I try to attend meetings, but both experiences are incomplete without the agenda. I saw very few around the room during the meeting, and I understand that paper costs and the time it takes to copy and staple many copies are prohibitive, but I believe that you may find that your public is better informed about the things you want them to know if you provide access to the meeting agenda. A PDF version of the documents sent as an attachment or uploaded to the Board of Education link on the Haldane school website would be of immense help to us all. I seem to remember the agendas were made public in a similar way in the past. In light of the need for public support of the upcoming boiler/bond issue I suggest this as an inexpensive way to deliver wide notice of the discussion.

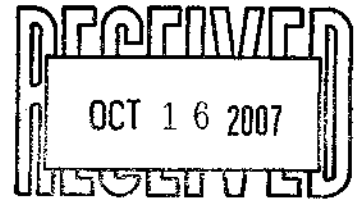
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Julia Famularo

cc: Dr. Mark Villanti, Superintendent

October 12, 2007



Dear Haldane Board of Education, Dr. Mark Villanti and Julia Sniffen:

I urge you to reinstate French 7 now. I understand that during ninth period when Spanish 7 is held, the French teacher is covering study hall. I'd much rather see our taxes spent on a teacher teaching even if it's only to five students rather than covering Study Hall.

What upsets me is this action suggests the administration's lack of support for foreign languages in our school. How can you expect French to succeed in high school if you won't support it in the middle grades?

Offering two foreign languages is important. By reducing the choice to only one foreign language you feed into the stereotype that small schools short-change students by not providing educational variety.

There are several reasons why the administration should encourage French at Haldane.

1. *No foreign language would be available to the Hispanic population in Haldane who are bilingual in English and Spanish.* Haldane has a growing Hispanic population. In my daughter's third grade alone I know of at least four students who are bilingual in English and Spanish. By only offering only Spanish you are depriving this population the exciting prospect of learning a new language.
2. *Compromising Haldane's national reputation especially among colleges and universities.* Going from two to one foreign language will definitely reduce our national ranking and suggest to universities a decline in Haldane's quality.
3. *Most elite music conservatories will not accept applications from students unless they have taken French, Italian or German.* Yes, that fact speaks to a small population but last year's Haldane valedictorian would not have been accepted to her A-list of music conservatories had she not taken French.

Perhaps Haldane needs to establish an enrollment limit for Spanish 7 thereby assuring the minimum number of students needed for French 7.

I am confident you will resolve this issue by reinstating French 7 now, taking this French teacher out of the Study Hall and putting her in a classroom where she belongs. After all, I am sure you also prefer to have your teachers teach.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

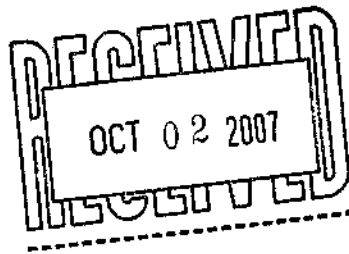
Elise LaRocco

PO Box 263

Cold Spring, NY 10516

265-2049; eformich@aol.com

Haldane Board of Education
15 Craigsides Drive
Cold Spring, NY 10516



11 Marion Ave
Cold Spring, NY 10516

October 2, 2007

Dear Members of the School Board,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve on the heating sub-committee. Through my involvement on the committee I gained an appreciation for how difficult your job is, so thank you for your dedication and hard work.

I believe, however, that the board should not attempt to address all the capital improvement issues in a single bond referendum. What is the long term vision for the school facilities that justifies spending \$6+ million on repairs that fail to remedy the classroom shortage or the cafeteria's inability to handle all the students during normal lunch hours? Modular classrooms and temporary partitions are not a long-term solution to a space issue that is only going to get worse. Sending high school ^{students} to lunch at 10am is not a reasonable long-term solution either. On the Priority 1 repair list alone (no heating), there is already \$950,000 allocated to the cafeteria for roofing, flooring, ventilation, grease traps, and gas switches, when design contingency and soft costs are included. None of this will alleviate the problem that the cafeteria isn't big enough.

I hope the board can present plans outlining how you propose to address these and other long-term issues before proposing to spend large amounts of money repairing inadequate facilities. An incremental approach to capital improvement seems to make sense. In other words, determine which parts of the facility will have a useful life in the long-term plan and make the necessary repairs to those parts right away. Then determine how to address the larger issues and propose a solution for how to address them. I've heard comments from the board that the public is more likely to pass one large bond vote than two smaller votes, but I cannot understand why that would be the case. I think it more likely the public will consider \$6 million excessive for a project that does not make significant steps toward a well-defined goal of getting us where we want to be 10 years from now.


Regarding the timing of the bond vote, I hope the board will consider holding it to coincide with the general school budget vote. As a taxpayer, I need to know the total impact on my school taxes in any given year, so it's hard to support one without knowing the size of the other. Many of the items on the Priority 1 list appear to be maintenance items anyway (capping an unused gas line?) and therefore belong in the general operations budget, so cost shifting items into a capital improvement bond referendum seems a little misleading.

Regarding the heating system, I am disappointed the board seems unwilling to conduct a proper engineering study to determine which option, steam or hot water, makes most sense. Fuller d'Angelo has been unable to quantify the expected fuel savings from either of their proposed solutions. On a project of this magnitude I cannot understand why the board would not take the step to obtain a second more thoroughly investigated opinion, especially when the state is willing to underwrite 50% of the cost. Out of the analysis will come figures related to the total cost of ownership over the life

of each system upon which you can make a decision. Additionally, it will likely lead to a more accurate estimate of actual installation costs, rather than the ballpark figures you are working with now. The analysis might even recommend a previously unconsidered option, such as multiple smaller boilers each servicing a different portion of the building, that leads to greater operational efficiency.

Many people in the community are disappointed the board has elected to go with a traditional oil burning heating plant, knowing this commits us to burning 40,000-60,000 gallons of oil a year for the next 20+ years. However, even a straight replacement of the existing steam boilers will likely result in an improvement in efficiency, and installing heat recovery units will too. By quantifying the expected improvement through a detailed study, you have data to demonstrate that whatever solution you propose makes the most sense from an environmental as well as a financial perspective.

Sincerely,



Peter Henderson

cc: Dr. Villanti



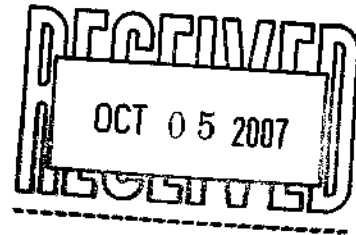
VILLAGE OF COLD SPRING

85 MAIN STREET

COLD SPRING, NEW YORK 10516 ~ INCORPORATED APRIL 22, 1846

PHONE: (845) 265-3611 ~ FAX: (845) 265-1002

October 2, 2007



Mr. Dave Merandy, President
HALDANE BOARD OF EDUCATION
15 Craigside Drive
Cold Spring, NY 10516

Dear Dave and Members of the School Board:

It is with great concern that I write to you regarding the outstanding debt owed to the Village of Cold Spring by the Haldane School District. Over the past year, I have addressed this issue with members of the School Board and the Administration, and numerous individuals have promised to look into the matter further, yet Haldane has moved no closer to making final restitution for the cost of labor and materials used in paving school property.

It was June of 2006 when Maggie Davis and I first discussed plans to pave the play area. Approaching this project as a cooperative effort between the School and the Village made a lot of sense because at the time the Village was paving a few of its own streets. This facilitated the job for all involved since our Highway Department, the County and the contractor could coordinate the work on all sites. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, and three days of rain threatened to set back completion of the project right before school was set to open last September. However, with the job slated for completion, the School did not opt to wait out the rain. Thus, the cost for the blacktop was increased because of wash-out, and a \$7,500 budgeted cost ballooned into \$12,735 for Haldane.

In good faith, the Village paid for the blacktop in full, expecting to recoup the School's portion. However, Haldane has only paid \$8,000 towards their share of the final cost and still owes the Village \$4,735. This is an unfortunate and unacceptable burden on a

Anthony C. Phillips, Mayor

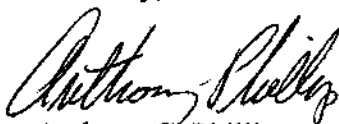
Trustees: Edward T. Mancari, John Teagle, Karen E. Dunn, Seth J. Gallagher
Mary Saari, Clerk Barbara Rudolph, Treasurer Stephen J. Gaba, Attorney

fraction of the district's taxpayers, and it is unreasonable to assume it should be absorbed by our municipality. The financial accountability for this overage lies squarely with Haldane and those accountable for its project management and budget. I cannot accept, with my own accountability to answer to the Village taxpayers, that any lack of communication between school officials, school liaisons and contractors becomes the responsibility of my constituents simply because we opened the door for a joint effort on this project.

Once again, I appeal to your better judgment to try and resolve this issue by satisfying your debt to the Village of Cold Spring. It would be a shame if such a blemish were to deter us from entering into future endeavors with common ground and trust.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,



Anthony C. Phillips
Mayor

cc: Mark Villanti, Ed.D., Superintendent

Anthony C. Phillips, Mayor

*Trustees: Edward T. Mancari, John Teagle, Karen E. Dunn, Seth J. Gallagher
Mary Saari, Clerk Barbara Rudolph, Treasurer Stephen J. Gaba, Attorney*