

## Letter to the Board

Michael Havens
Superintendent of Schools
Phone: 315-524-1001
Fax: 315-524-1049

June 5, 2009

### **Board Agenda:**

- 1. Executive Session: We will meet at 6:30 to discuss the superintendent hearing appeal of Mrs. Schultz, mother of Brett Dinehart. Brett was suspended for the first semester of next year but may return after ten weeks provided he meets certain criteria. Please read Mrs. Schultz's attached letter and my memo regarding the issue. The principals and I will be there to answer any questions you have. It is not our role to plead to case or to try to convince you what you should do. The memo and letter should be the basis of your decision.
- **2.** <u>Elementary Foreign Language Presentation</u>: Mrs. Cox will provide you with a progress update on her feasibility study of an elementary foreign language program. See her attached letter.
- **3.** <u>Graduation</u>: We will be reminding you of place, times, and gowns for the 2009 ceremony. Also think about whether you would like to wear hoods for the 2010 graduation.
- **4.** <u>3-8 Math Results:</u> I gave you an overview of the numbers in last week's letter. Mrs. Cox will provide you with some nice looking graphs, showing how we have done.
- **5. Financial Update:** Mr. Atseff will provide his monthly report.
- **6.** <u>Student Representative:</u> The student rep for this meeting is Sophomore Class Officer, Sean Morgan. Sean is a 2 year Varsity Cross Country team member (4 years on the cross country team), 3 year JV Basketball player, 2 year Varsity Track team member (4 years on track team).
- 7. <u>Business Items</u>: The board will have personnel and CSE/CPSE action for approval, The April Treasurer's Report is attached for your review. We have a gift to the district from Frito Lay, the BOCES cooperative bid for technology and art supplies, and a health contract with Canandaigua City School District. I am also requesting approval of the internship plans for Mrs. Barb Heald and Mrs. Donna Rizzo and the Power School plan.

#### **Board Letter**

1. <u>Marijuana Parents:</u> This week two students brought some marijuana in to their Health teacher, Mr. Molisani, Their parents were smoking it at home and the children were concerned for their parents (actually mom and boyfriend), themselves, and their 11 month old baby sibling. Our SRO took the lead

and there was a search of the house by the State Troopers. The case is still ongoing but the children have **not** been removed from the home. We are continuing to provide support to the children here at school.

- 2. <u>Main Street Clean Up:</u> Last weekend OE students, teachers and the Ontario-Walworth Rotary club cleaned up Ridge Road. They edged sidewalks, put down mulch, planted flowers, painted fire hydrants, cleaned business windows and painted entrance ways. It was a great success and a good way to teach our elementary students about giving back to the community.
- **3.** <u>Kathy Green Retirement Party</u>: There will be a retirement party for Kathy Green on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Country Club. Please contact Mrs. Luke in Kim's office if you would like to attend. It is a 4:30 -6:30 celebration.
- 4. <u>Out of Town</u>: Wendy and I are traveling to Orlando this weekend to visit Michael. We haven't seen him since February, and those of you who have adult children know, you can only go so long before you need a visit (I just realized I sound like my mom). I'll have my cell phone if you need me 315-576-0228.
- 5. <u>Flags at half staff:</u> Flags will be flown at half staff on Friday, June 5, in honor of a Fort Drum Soldier who died in Iraq on May 31. Specialist Marko M. Samson, whose home is Columbus, Ohio, died in a non-combat related incident near Tikrit.

# 6. **Upcoming Events:**

- 6/5 FE 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Banquet
- 6/5 Ed Currier Awards @ MS
- 6/8 TCA Friends of Music Meeting @ MS Conference Room 6:30 p.m.
- 6/9 HS Chorus Concert @ PAC 7:00 p.m.
- 6/10 MS Band Concert @ PAC -7:00 p.m.
- 6/11 MS Awards Night @ PAC 7:00 p.m.
- 6/13 Heritage Square Country Days Heritage Square Corners Noon 4:00 p.m.
- 6/16 MS Chorus Concert @ PAC -7:00 p.m.
- 6/16 MS PTO Meeting @ MS Media Center 6:30 p.m.
- 6/16 NYS Regents Exams & Final Exams Begin
- 6/17 OP 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade International Night @ OP 6:30 p.m.

#### 7 Attachments:

- A) Brett Dinehart Appeal Letter
- B) Brett Dinehart Hearing Comments from Supt. Havens
- C) Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
- D) Tom Siembor Letter

5/27/09

To the Board of Education of the Wayne Central School District,

This letter is my appeal to Michael Haven's decision in regards to my son Brett Dinehart's suspension from school on May 26th, 2009.

What I want is Brett's suspension be shorten based on the following: Brett's violation of the code of conduct is based on his behavior/mental issues. You can see from Brett's history there has been anger outbursts and defiant behaviors with diagnoses from his Dr.'s office Long Pond Pediatrics that he has been under care and medication for Opposition Defiant Disorder since 8/27/07. This note was written in hope to make the school aware of his issue and get student services (CSE) started. Some how this note did not get to the correct area it was found in the nurse's file.

When looking at the discipline log Brett had a good year last year while on medication he has less outbursts. How ever this year there has been an increased in outbursts which led Brett back to Dr. Rosenfeld in January where we decreases Brett's medication due to how it made him feel. In February Brett asked to come off his medication and agreed to see a counselor on a regular basis. Dr. Rosenfeld schedule was full so Dr. Leddy's office referred us to Kathleen Daniszewshi, with that started Dr. Rosenfeld had wrote a letter in April for both Kathleen and myself so I could take it to the student services. In his letter his diagnoses that best fit Brett's history are Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Intermittent Explosive Disorder which would link to Brett's behaviors. In all cases with Brett I make counseling aware so a note can be sent out to teachers so they are aware of any problems. Because of Brett missing too much school time we decided to move forward with programs during the summer for anger management. I had talked with Joe Siracuse the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> (when he came in for his lunch) with my plans for Brett this summer, getting his evaluations and into a anger program that would best help Brett. Both the administration and myself know of Brett's mental health issues and that there is a relationship with what he has been diagnosed with. I thought that our current plans we had in effect were working.

At this time this is my outline for Brett which has not changed since my talk with Joe Siracuse the week of May 11th. Dr. Leddy's office has been contacted for a referral for an Anger Management Program. A formal letter has been given to Michelle Scheiks asking for evaluations to be done along with a follow up CSE meeting to accommodate Brett for a successful upcoming school year. The school has been aware of these issues based on all of the above documentation I don't understand why Brett's suspension is so long when I received no help from administration.

I would hope to have this matter resolved within the next 30 days.

RECEIVED AND FILED BY

Board of Education of the WAYNE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

on June 3, 200 9 2 70 M.

Junes E. Sutter

School District Clark



## Memorandum

Michael Havens

Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 315-524-1001

Fax: 315-524-1049

**To:** Board of Education

From: Michael Havens

**Date:** 6/3/09

**Re:** Superintendent Appeal

Attached is the written appeal of my superintendent's hearing regarding Brett Dinehart. An appeal is not a retrying of the case. It involves the Board reviewing a written appeal of the parents, and the district overview of the events through this memo. During executive session you should decide whether you wish to overturn my decision. If you decide to do that, you will make a motion and vote to do so in regular session. If you decide not to overturn my decision then you need do nothing and the Board President will write a letter to Mrs. Schultz (his mom) stating you did not overturn my decision and his suspension is in effect.

A Superintendent's hearing was held on Tuesday May 26 to consider the high school's request for a long term suspension of Brett Dinehart. At the hearing Brett admitted to getting into an argument with a student in PE class over kickball rules. He admitted to calling the student a "fat fuck". When told to leave the class he admitted saying to the student, "Fuck you Tim. You better watch your back. I'll fucking kill you." When located in a hallway by Mr. Marean and Trooper Chapman, Brett admits to saying to PE teacher Marean, "Fuck you, Fuck you Dave Marean. You are a fucking douche bag" Brett does not remember saying to Trooper Chapman, "fuck you too", but was found guilty of the offense based on the testimony of both Mr. Marean and Trooper Chapman.

Based on this behavior and previous behavior, the high school administration requested that Brett be suspended until the end of the first semester next year. The high school principal expressed concern that Brett might harm another student and did not feel it would be safe to have him back in school. Some of Brett's previous incidents have included;

- walking out of class,
- saying "fuck you" to a teacher,
- calling a teacher a, "bitch",
- telling a teacher to, "shove it up your ass",
- calling Mrs. Armitage, "a fucking cunt".

All of these incidents occurred this year. There have been similar incidents in previous years.

The high school counseling department and administration have been working with Brett and his mother to control his anger. There have been frequent meetings with his mom, his counselor, administration and Brett regarding his anger. If Brett gets angry he is allowed to leave class and go to the guidance office where his counselor will meet with him to give him a chance to cool off.

Interestingly, Brett works at Hegedorn's. He says he has a very difficult boss but that he has never "blown up". He says that is because work is different than school. This would seem to indicate that Brett can control his anger if he is sufficiently motivated.

After considering the evidence, the prior incidents, the disruptions to the educational process and the safety of the other students, I ruled that Brett would be suspended for the fall semester but could come back to school on probation after ten weeks (November 2009). In order to do so, Brett would have to complete an anger management program, keep his grades up and not get in to any further trouble. It is my belief that bringing Brett back sooner and without these conditions will result in a more serious outburst from Brett. It is imperative that Brett complete an anger management program and that he be made to realize that there are serious consequences for his current manner of behavior at school.

TO: Safety Committee Members:

Chris Shaffer - Committee Co-Chairperson (MS Asst. Principal)

Fred Prince - Transportation Maureen Doyle – MS PE

Tom Lucieer – OE Maintenance Mark Callahan - DO Administration

Lori Sensenbach – OP SCRIP Beth Peters– FE Instructional

Rob Chapman – SRO

Jacquie Brunner - School Board Rep.

Pat Griswold – OE Nurse Riley Wheaton – HS Science

FROM: Bob Miller – Committee Co-Chairperson (Dir. of Facilities)

RE: Meeting Minutes DATE: May 26, 2009

#### **New Business**

Fire inspection is scheduled for the window of July 15<sup>th</sup> – August 30<sup>th</sup> and will be performed by our BOCES health and safety representative.

The Ontario Primary School had a reportable fire on May 12<sup>th</sup>. There was a heat lamp used in a kindergarten classroom to keep newly hatched chicks warm. The bulb came into contact with the cardboard box housing the chicks and it started to smolder. The building alarm was pulled and the fire company responded. There were no injuries, to students or chicks. I purchased galvanized metal containers to replace the cardboard boxes.

I will be purchasing small key safes, called "Knox Boxes", at the request of the Ontario Fire Company. They will be installed outside the main entrance of each building to house building access cards. These are used throughout the county by fire departments to gain entry to buildings, in case of emergency.

I updated the committee on the H1N1 flu. I outlined the cleaning procedures we were using during the outbreak. We have stocked up on disinfectant and hand sanitizer for a possible fall outbreak.

There was a question about procedures regarding the management of students in crisis when an administrator isn't in the building. I will be talking with Michelle Scheik about this concern.

There was also a question regarding an office in the high school that exits into a classroom. I will be calling our BOCES health and safety representative to look into this.

Rob Chapman gave us a more detailed account about the recent suicide at Canandaigua school district.

Next meeting will be June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 am in the maintenance building

Robert Miller Director of Facilities Wayne Central School District 315-524-1045 Fax 315-524-1048

May 19, 2009

Mr. Thomas Siembor Wayne Central School District 6076 Ontario Center Road Ontario Center, NY 14520

Dear Mr. Siembor:

Congratulations on achieving National Board Teacher Certification. Through your hard work, perseverance, and commitment to teaching and learning, you have been a master teacher upon whom your students, colleagues, district, and community may proudly rely.

On behalf of the members of the New York State Board of Regents, and the State Education Department, I commend you and offer you sincerest congratulations on being named a National Board Certified Teacher.

Congratulations on this distinguished achievement and thank you for contributing so meaningfully to the education of New York's children. I hope you will continue to use your talents and skills to help students to succeed and to support and advance the teaching profession.

Richard P. Mills

CC:

Michael HavensRegent Cofield