

April 2, 2018

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – April 2, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Mr. Brown
Dr. Corcoran
Mrs. Kielbasinski
Mrs. Murphy
Mrs. Petrosillo
Mr. Schulman
Mrs. Tyson
Mr. Van Schaick
Mrs. Woodcock Dettor

Dr. Kendrick, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Smith, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Decker, School Business Administrator

Mr. Schulman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Cafeteria of the High School. Others in attendance were Max MiMaroglu, Andrea Ninestein, Gabriella Kielbasinski, Matt Lynne, Stephen Militi, Ann Wright, Eboni Britt, Lisa Conley, Tina McQuiston, Lauren Westfall, Mia Potamianos, Brian Villarreal, Anika Flagg, Andrew Hawkins, Jr., Rachel Wagner, Juanita Rivera-Ortiz, Michael Fitzpatrick, and Christiana Semabia.

Community Comment

Mr. Schulman asked if there were any community comments, there were none.

Approve Minutes of March 19, 2018 Board Meeting

Mr. Brown moved and Mrs. Murphy seconded the approval of the Minutes of the March 19, 2018 Board Meeting.

Motion carried. (8-0-1) Mrs. Woodcock Dettor abstained.

Approve Warrants & Expense Reports

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor moved and Mr. Van Schaick seconded the approval of the Warrants and Expense Reports.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Murphy moved, Mrs. Kielbasinski seconded approval of the following personnel changes as recommended by the Superintendent:

Motion carried (9-0-0).

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INSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	<u>Request for Leave</u>		Effective
	Location	Type of Leave	
Molly Anthony Math Teacher	Middle School	Parental Leave (FMLA)	09/04/18 – 11/26/18

INSTRUCTIONAL

Extra duty assignments/teaching 2017-2018
Coaching Spring Season

Name	Assignment	Effective	Stipend
Alan Zimmerman	Modified Softball Coach	04/03/18	\$2,571.30

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointments</u>		Effective
		Salary		
Carol Farchione Volunteer Nurse				04/03/18
Allison Fralick Food Service Sub	Food Service			04/03/18
Timothy Smith Custodial Sub	Maintenance			04/03/18

Name and position	Location	<u>Change in Status</u>		Effective
		Salary		
Joanne Cacchione Cook I from Food Service Worker Replacing A. Smith	Food Service			04/03/18

Appoint Chair for Annual Meeting and Budget Vote

Mrs. Petrosillo moved, Dr. Corcoran seconded that upon recommendation of the Superintendent, Mrs. Linda Schellinger, be appointed as Chairperson for the 2018 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Approve Funds to Implement a 2-Year Contract with School Lunch Unit

Mrs. Petrosillo moved, Mr. Van Schaick seconded approval of funds to Implement a 2 –Year Contract with the School Lunch Unit.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

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Budget Discussion – 2018/2019 Revenue and Expenses

Dr. Kendrick presented the proposed revenue side of the 2018-2019 budget, based on the state aid allocation for 2018-2019. (See Supplemental Minutes). The proposed total budget for the 2018-2019 school year is \$56,239,994 which represents a 2.94% increase over current school year budget. She presented the major revenue sources which include a tax levy of \$39,400,433, proposed state aid of \$14,003,080 and an undetermined amount from designated reserves. Dr. Kendrick explained that this is a challenging year for the budget with regard to the reserves. If we designate the same amount as last year (\$1,261,741), we can finance the proposed expense plan. Consideration must be taken to the possibility of having to make changes to the proposed expense plan and if we can sustain the use of designated reserves as a source of revenue over time. The board expressed interest in adding money to the transportation budget to begin the installation of cameras on buses. The Finance Committee will meet tomorrow to review all options and will make a recommendation to the Board. There was a discussion among the Board with regard to Smart Schools and if we have tapped into that yet. Dr. Kendrick informed the Board that we have looked at Smart Schools funds. The funds can be used for technology, safety and security. If we use Smart Schools funds, we would need to budget the expense locally then request reimbursement, subject to approval, which could be a lengthy process. Mrs. Murphy said that she was not comfortable spending more from reserves. The public forum is scheduled for April 9th. The Board must adopt a budget by April 16th. The Budget Hearing is May 7th and the Budget Vote is May 15th.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Kendrick once again congratulated the Girls Varsity Basketball team on their Federation Title, which is the highest honor for basketball in New York State. Dr. Kendrick also congratulated the students and teachers of the 7-12 Orchestra program which had their concert last week. She reported that it was an amazing concert not only based on the quality of the performance but on the number of students involved. There were 145 students on stage. The program continues to grow and the quality of work increases. Dr. Kendrick informed the Board of upcoming events. The facilities project has been approved. Bids are due to the District Office by April 26th and contracts will be awarded May 7th. In early June, we will begin planning for construction. At the High School, the auditorium work will begin as soon as school is out. The auditorium will be offline from July 1st until the end of April, 2019. The High School cafeterias will be worked on this summer as well, with several changes including new floors. The Large Group Room will be off line the first semester as well. The bathrooms at the High School will be renovated over time, beginning in the summer. At the Middle School, the vast majority of the windows will be replaced during the summer of 2019. There is too much lead time involved with ordering and on-site planning for this to be completed this summer. There is also concern with regard to the cost of the windows taking into consideration new tariffs on materials. Every fire alarm in the district will be replaced. This will need to be phased in and will take approximately a year and a half to complete. Mr. Decker and Dr. Kendrick answered questions regarding the facilities project. Mr. Decker said that all electrical boxes in the buildings will be worked on. Dr. Kendrick gave details regarding the scope of the auditorium renovation. Relocating performances and the cost associated with it will come out of capital project funds. Mrs. Petrosillo asked if the new windows at the Middle School would be installed with bulletproof film. Dr. Kendrick answered that is not in the plan.

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District-Wide School Safety Team Recommendations

Dr. Kendrick provided the recommendations of the District-Wide School Safety Team to the Board. The Safety Team met three times for well over six hours. They worked very hard and came up with an all hazards approach to student safety. The team tried to find a balance between a positive school climate with trust and support as well as an environment of protection for students. The four topics covered were Prevention, Security, Entry Control and Emergency Response. The recommendations are as follows: **Prevention** - four counselors/social workers will be added to staff; one at each elementary and one additional at the Middle School. An anonymous tip line will be made available. **Security** – New camera system installed in schools, cameras on buses, School Resource Officer contracted through the Town of DeWitt Police Department, public address system will be replaced in all buildings, badges will be worn by all staff. Visitors, (which will be limited), will need to sign in and be badged, interior doors locked at all times; bullet resistant film added to large exterior windows, such as cafeteria windows. All interior doors will be locked at all times. **Entry Control** – All exterior doors locked during school day, building entrances to be redesigned as necessary to control better access, separate secure entrances for the District Office and Pupil Personnel Services, additional monitoring at student drop off and pick-up as necessary, buildings locked after hours with monitored access with the exception of large audience events, use of school facilities after school hours will be located in the High School, with the exception of the pool use, gym use, PTG afterschool activities and Town of DeWitt before/afterschool care, addition of full-time security staff at the High School after school day to monitor entrance. **Emergency Response** – A new safety system will be implemented which will manage safety plans and other information for staff and first responders, provide emergency alert system to activate alarms, notifications, secure communication and accountability for students, and provide training scenarios to help staff improve situational awareness and ability to respond. Some questions/topics discussed relating to the recommendations: S.R.O. will be assigned primarily to the High School. Primary responsibilities will be to develop relationships with students, act as a mentor, provide law enforcement as necessary and help the district as necessary making security decisions. We will contract with the Town of DeWitt Police Department to hire a full-time officer for 10 months. The hiring process will be joint between the Chief of Police narrowing down candidates after the application process and administration working together to make a choice. A memorandum of understanding will be developed that states the terms and conditions in detail. Mr. Decker said that the cost of the bullet resistant film would be approximately \$4,000 for a room similar to the one we were in (Large Cafeteria, H.S.). He reiterated that the film is not bullet proof. The architects have building plans and are looking at options for entry ways in the buildings. This will most likely need to be a capital project. After school hours, when the gym or pool facilities are being used, it will become the responsibility of the adult in charge of the event to monitor who is allowed in the building. We have contracted with BOCES for the safety system called NavigatePrepared. This system will greatly improve our ability to be prepared for and respond effectively to an emergency. Dr. Kendrick thanked all the parents, teachers, counselors, administrators, first responders and school nurse for their thoughtful work on behalf of all our students. She said they did a wonderful job. Mr. Schulman said that there were thoughtful discussions and it was a great process. Mr. Schulman asked the Board if there was anything that they reject on the recommendations. Mr. Van Schaick said the team has done a fantastic job, they moved quickly. He recommended we should try the recommendations and wait for feedback, and modify if appropriate. Mr. Schulman stated that the Safety Team was told it was not the end of the work, and they may need to reconvene.

8:25 p.m. Mr. Brown left the Board Meeting.

Mr. Schulman stated he thought we should adopt the recommendations of the District-Wide School Safety Team.

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With much gratitude to all, Mrs. Murphy moved and Mrs. Tyson seconded the adoption of the recommendations of the District-Wide School Safety Team.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Board President's Report

Mr. Schulman reminded the Board about the CNYSBA Round table on April 5th. He thanked the Safety Team for their efforts. Lastly, he congratulated the Girls Varsity Basketball Team for their Federation Championship.

Community Comment

Max Mimaroglu said with regard to a student on the Board of Education, he has researched NYS laws for a student to be on the Board of Education

Dr. Kendrick explained that Max had missed the time frame to be put on the ballot for this year's election but he would have time to be able to put it all together for next year, or if there is a capital project vote before that time, it could be put on as a proposition. She responded that Max should speak with Mr. Gasparini about a student representative on the Board of Education. The proposal should come from the student governing body of the High School.

Lisa Conley said she appreciated all the work the Safety Team did but in her opinion nothing has been done to prevent a student from walking in the door with a gun.

Gabrielle Kielbasinski thanked everyone for thoughts and dialogue on diversity. She read a prepared statement on how she feels religion and faith have taken a back seat and wonders why faith is not included in diversity talks. She feels that faith based groups/projects are discriminated against.

Dr. Kendrick responded that separation of church and state makes this a "slippery slope". If a faith based group makes a request, we will consult counsel.

Max Mimaroglu said that there are clubs, not necessarily faith based, but can be somewhat intertwined.

Gabrielle Kielbasinski stated that she is not looking for district to facilitate but to make opportunities available to students. An example was given with regard to 12th grade community experience requirement in Government class. Why can't hours of volunteer work be counted if it is performed for a faith affiliated group.

Mr. Schulman stated that administration will look into that.

Juanita Rivera Ortiz wanted to know what the objectives of the Safety Team were and how will they be met and how are they reported back to the community.

Dr. Kendrick responded that the objectives are to look at all options for ways to better secure students during the school day. An email will go out to all parents summarizing the recommendations and in the future, decisions will be made as needed.

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Eboni Britt asked if there were any representatives advocating for students of color on the Safety Team.

Dr. Kendrick responded that there were no advocates on the Team.

Eboni Britt asked if when counselors are hired, will diversity, inclusivity and equity be a necessity?

Dr. Smith responded that counselors will be hired based on experience and knowledge, including understanding of working with diverse students. We will broaden our application pool if needed.

Eboni Britt expressed that she was concerned for her son as he doesn't feel safe to be protected by police. She would like to know what the district is doing to make ensure that the officer hired is not racially biased.

Dr. Kendrick said this is a concern which is why a trained resource officer is preferred over hiring a retired police officer. We will not hire an officer that does not meet those expectations.

Christiana Semabia said she was disheartened that her concerns did not make it to the Safety Committee. She posed many questions to the Board regarding the make-up of the Steering Committee, ratio of ethnic diversity among the Committee, who are members and how are they selected, will there be a hearing or open forum, time for parents to express their feelings along with open comment.

Mr. Schulman indicated that Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Brown and he are members of the Steering Committee.

Dr. Kendrick said that the Steering Committee represents constituent groups. This group does not make decisions until they report back to their groups and come back to the Committee meeting.

Christiana Semabia said a professional should bring knowledge to this Committee.

Rachel Wagner (Gilchrist) indicated that she was mostly thrilled by the work of the Safety Committee, although she is concerned the group is not representative. She is also deeply concerned about the Steering Committee and what the representation looks like and the "gray" areas make her uncomfortable and that we need disciplinary protocols in place. She thinks it is important to have leadership in mental health professionals.

Anika Flagg stated that with regard to an S.R.O. she is concerned about criminalizing students without due process. She questioned whether the S.R.O. will be in uniform.

Dr. Kendrick responded that it is not finalized yet.

Anika Flagg wanted to know if there will be anti-bias training for the S.R.O. and will there be anti-bias training for staff as well. She wants to know if you are comfortable having the police respond to issues with 7-8 & 9 year olds. She also quoted Dr. Smith's as mentioning the "school to prison pipeline".

Dr. Smith did not say that.

Eboni Britt asked if Committee was already set.

Dr. Kendrick responded that yes, for this year it is. The appointment is annual.

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Anika Flagg asked if you consider the Steering Committee to be racially diverse?

Dr. Kendrick responded there are 2 or 3 people of color.

Christina Semabia asked if these people of color were staff .

Dr. Kendrick responded no.

Anika Flagg said she does not consider 1 or 2 people out of 20 racially diverse.

Unfinished Business

Mrs. Kielbasinski spoke about her experience on the Steering Committee. She said it operated smoothly but she did not find it to be a diverse group. She wanted to know at what point will experts come in. She worries about PTG choosing committee member and it being hard as there is not a big pool of people to choose from. There should be a call to the community, we should get the best 20 people in the room.

Mrs. Murphy suggested that we look at the way the PTG is communicating. They should be explaining the description of the committee. It's not fair to look at best, but at people who will say, "I can step up and I can be available".

Mrs. Petrosillo stated that the structure of the Steering Committee is approved by the State Education Department as part of the shared decision-making plan and the composition is adhered to.

Mrs. Murphy stated that the Steering Committee represents all of you. Bring your voice here to represent you. She said, we have heard you, we have heard everything you have said.

Eboni Britt said that 20 people and no representation is asinine.

Mr. Van Schaick said with regards to the Steering Committee he feels that there should be special assistance as with the Safety Team. The Steering Committee should have diverse groups and the ability to have experts to discuss issues.

Mrs. Murphy stated that if she felt that the Committee would not be able to do the job, she would go back and say, I would like to hear from someone outside.

Christine Semabia said that the fact that you don't see it, is discrimination to children of color.

Mr. Schulman reminded the audience that community comment time was over.

Mrs. Kielbasinski said she never wants to be in a position or part of an organization that tells parents that want to speak, that community comment time is over. Telling them they cannot speak is disrespectful. We make them sit through the whole meeting before they can speak and then we don't let them speak after unfinished and continuing business. It's not right. We should make a change. We've done it before.

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At 10:00 p.m., Mrs. Murphy moved and Mr. Van Schaick seconded the meeting be adjourned

Motion carried (8-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

Board Approved: 4/16/18