

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – October 7, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mrs. Archer
Dr. Corcoran
Mrs. DeForest
Mrs. James-Murad
Mrs. Petrosillo
Mrs. Rhodes
Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz
Mr. Souser
Mrs. Woodcock Dettor
William Guisbond

MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

Mrs. Petrosillo called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the District Office. Others in attendance were Alexandra Skovron, Christine Derby, Paul Williams, Rebecca Migenes, Sandra Ruffo, Ann Wright, Gavin McCaul, Lucy Falso, Lily Dougherty, Casey McFadden, Eva Wisniewski, Lucy Heflin, Larry Stroh, Kai Gesek, Jackie Kadech, Andrea Sumida, Alithea Shinlan-Howlett, Ayesha Karianm, Rachel Wagner, Christiana Semabia, Kerry Coleman Herrick, Yusuf Abdul-Qadir, Emma DeForest, Shawn Kearse, Alex Pomeroy, Michael Fitzpatrick.

Oath of Office

Elected Ex-Officio Student Board Member, William Guisbond, read and signed the Oath of Office.

Presentation - NYSSBA

Sandy Ruffo, Area 4 Representative from the NYSSBA was introduced by Mrs. Petrosillo. She encouraged the Board to look at the NYSSBA website as often as possible. She gave an update on the search for a national Executive Director, which ended with the appointment of Bob Schneider. She also encouraged all to look and learn from the webinars available on the website. She spoke about the upcoming 100th Convention, the importance of the business meeting and the resolutions that will be voted on.

Mrs. Petrosillo asked if she could include an item about our new Ex-Officio Student Board Member in her newsletter and also stated that this Board has interest in the roundtables in Latham. She will provide Sandy with a list of names for planning. Mrs. Petrosillo thanked her for coming.

Presentation – 2018-2019 External Audit Report – Grossman St. Amour

Mark Ciaralli, CPA and Jaimie Galante, CPA presented the 2018-2019 independent audit report to the Board of Education. (See Supplemental Minutes). The auditors expressed an opinion which is unmodified with no weaknesses noted and no major issues. The district has complied with all ethics requirements. There was one adjustment proposed and accepted. Both Mark and Jaimie said that this district does a great job which starts at the top with Mr. Decker and Dr. Smith. Mrs. Petrosillo thanked the auditors and also thanked Mr. Decker.

Community Comment Time #1

There were no comments.

Minutes of September 16, 2019 Meeting

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the Minutes of the September 16, 2019 meeting.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Superintendent’s Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mr. Souser seconded the approval of the Superintendent’s Personnel Recommendations as follows:

PERSONNEL CHANGES FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – October 7, 2019

The following personnel changes are recommended by the Superintendent:

INSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointments</u>		Effective
		Annual Salary	Cert.	
Stephanie Smith Reading Teacher Regular Substitute for N. Wylde	Moses-DeWitt	\$47,070 (B+29-1M) (Prorated)	Prof. Early Childhood (B-Gr.2) Prof. Childhood (Gr. 1-6)	10/8/19
Traci Bort Teaching Assistant Probationary Appointment (4 yrs) New Position	Moses-DeWitt	\$28,629 (Prorated)	TA Level III	10/8/19

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2019-2020

Moses-DeWitt Elementary School

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Sarah Boulton	Bus Supervision (.25)	\$279.75
Brooke Fischer	Bus Supervision (.50)	\$559.50
Jennifer Paul	Bus Supervision (.25)	\$279.75
All replacing C. Snow		

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2019-2020

High School

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Jordan Berger	High School Musical Assistant - Producer	\$3,045
Kelsie Deyo	High School Musical Production - Director	\$4,872
Jesstina Drake	High School Musical – Vocal Director	\$3,045
Clete Gualtieri	Hole in the Wall Club – Advisor	\$1,735

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2019-2020

Coaching – Winter Season

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Emily Rowles	Varsity Boys Head Track Coach	\$5,864

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2019-2020

Coaching – Spring Season

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Christopher Constantino	Varsity Boys Lacrosse Assistant Coach	\$5,466
James Lawton	Varsity Girls Track Head Coach	\$7,094
Emily Rowles	Varsity Boys Track Head Coach	\$5,630

Request for Leave

Name and position	Location	Type of Leave	Effective
Kalli Essig Music Teacher	Moses-DeWitt	Parental (paid & FMLA)	1/31/20-6/6/20
Molly Schunck School Counselor	TEC	Parental (paid & FMLA)	2/13/20-4/20/20

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointments</u> Salary	Effective
Michael Decker Bus Driver	Transportation.	\$29.30/hr.	10/8/19
David Chrysler Substitute Bus Driver	Transportation.	\$20.60/hr.	10/8/19

Addendum – Personnel Changes – October 7, 2019

The following personnel changes are recommended by the Superintendent:

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointments</u> Salary	Effective
Matthew Weber Custodial Sub.	Custodial Dept.	\$11.80/hr.	10/8/19

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if there had been any progress on a coversheet for the personnel recommendations. Dr. Smith responded no.

Motion carried (7-2-0). Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz and Mrs. Rhodes opposed.

Overnight Field Trips

Dr. Smith presented the Board with three overnight field trip requests. He reviewed the trips individually and spoke about the language that had previously been requested to be added to the form.

The Spanish Club trip is available to any student. Information on scholarships and fundraising opportunities are included. Dr. Smith is recommending approval.

There was a board discussion as to what is considered curricular and extra-curricular. Mrs. Archer asked if standards are measured based on chaperone observation. Dr. Smith responded yes. Mrs. Rhodes suggested that in order to be more inclusive, the medical release be updated to reflect Guardian #1 and Guardian #2 instead of mother/father/parent. Dr. Smith agreed.

Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of the Spanish Club trip to travel to New York City from April 17, 202 to April 19, 2020.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Dr. Smith reviewed the two girls Varsity Basketball trips which are to travel to play upper level competition. Mrs. Rhodes asked about a list of students and Dr. Smith responded that we will not know until after tryouts. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if any student would be left out and Dr. Smith responded that the entire team is included.

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mrs. Archer seconded the approval of the Girls Varsity Basketball Team to travel to Clifton Springs, New York from December 7, 2019 to December 8, 2019 and to travel to New York City from January 18, 2020 to January 20, 2020 to compete in the Rose Classic and Say Yes Tournament.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

External Audit Report

Mrs. DeForest moved, and Mr. Souser seconded acceptance of the External Audit report.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Revised Pupil Personnel Services Cover Sheet

Dr. Smith stated that the Board has been asking for assurances before approving recommendations by the CPSE and the CSE. Dr. Smith and Mrs. Menapace reviewed practices of other school districts, consulted Special Education Directors around the area, and consulted legal team. Starting on October 21, we will begin using a revised cover letter.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor asked about the chart at the bottom of the sheet and Dr. Smith responded that it is a summary of the meetings.

Mrs. Archer asked if we could consider using the language Guardian #1 and Guardian #2 instead of mother/father/parent. Dr. Smith responded yes.

Dr. Corcoran asked if we would see if parents were in agreement. Dr. Smith responded that it would be in the confidential memo.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that she does not see anything that states that the people appointed at the annual reorganization meeting were trained. Dr. Smith responded that Mrs. Menapace gives that assurance at her annual report. There was a discussion about an assurance that the trainings have taken place. Dr. Smith stated that appointments happen once a year and trainings happen throughout the year. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz requested that this be on the attestation.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor asked if other school districts had examples of what Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz are requesting. Dr. Smith stated the other districts processes were somewhat informative but only a few districts used an attestation sheet. Typically, this is not included in this area.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if this would be made public before the Board Meeting.

Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Petrosillo thanked Dr. Smith.

OCM BOCES Referendum

Dr. Smith provided information to the Board and the public regarding the referendum for the Purchase Proposal for the Crown Road Campus. (See Supplemental Minutes). He stated that it is important that residents get to one of the locations and vote on Tuesday, November 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. This will help BOCES and JD. Mrs. DeForest noted that this is no cost to tax payers.

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. Rhodes suggested that we start to wrap our arms around difficult things, as a Board, talk about the framework for productive, culturally responsive conversation.

Dr. Corcoran asked when we would be taking things off the list.

Mrs. Petrosillo stated that we have been taking things off and next meeting she will bring back an update.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the NYS Superintendent's Conference at the end of September. The networking and sessions he attended were meaningful and it was great to be there and represent Jamesville-DeWitt. He shared his experience listening to Fr. Gregory Boyle, the speaker who runs a gang rehab center, and his very powerful message. He also shared about some of the other sessions he attended including, hiring diverse staff, a session on curriculum updates from the State Education Department, and culture and climate in schools. Dr. Smith updated the Board on the Strategic Planning process. The survey is now closed. On October 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School there will be a forum for parents of students of color. Dr. Smith reported that Mr. Eldridge at the Middle School is working on a professional learning opportunity evaluating resources used through a larger lens. We are accelerating this at the Middle School and this work will also be done districtwide. Dr. Smith provided the Board with information about results from the administration of the 2018-2019 Advanced Placement exams. J-D students were recognized as follows: 49 AP Scholars, 29 AP Scholars with Honors, 44 AP Scholars of Distinction and 8 National AP Scholars. Dr. Smith also talked about how JD was ranked the 5th best school district in Upstate New York by Nitch.com.

We also were ranked 7th for High Schools, 13th for Middle Schools, and the elementary schools ranked, 20, 22 and 31. Dr. Smith updated the Board and public on the next meeting, October 21st which will take place at the Middle School, as well as upcoming events. He said the Facilities Committee will meet before the meeting.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Petrosillo shared that she received the On Board Magazine and that there is an excellent article on page 5 on how to support your Superintendent. She asked the Board members to please read. She stated the Board was invited to the National Spanish Honor Society and it is at the same time as the Conference. Mrs. DeForest, Mrs. Archer and Dr. Corcoran will try to attend. Mrs. Petrosillo said she hoped everyone had turned in their responses to Lynne Erdle. She asked if Lynne would be summarizing for the Board. Dr. Smith responded that she will be summarizing for the strategic planning committee. Mrs. Petrosillo said she and a few colleagues will be attending a workshop at Syracuse University where Dr. Betina Love will be speaking. She extended the invitation to all. Please let her know if you would like to attend. Mrs. Petrosillo was interviewed by RamFeed about the new student Board Member. She asked to review a copy of the interview to before it is published. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that the Board was invited to dinner at the convention by both the architects, Ashley McGraw and the attorneys, Bond, Schoeneck and King. She will let them know which one they decide on. Mrs. Ann Wright invited the Board to tour the Crown Road facility. She will reach out to new Board members, including Will.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz provided an update from the Policy Committee which included a proposed Agenda for the meeting on 10/15/19, special consideration for the alcohol and drug policy, update on how we develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the School Resource Officer and review of the social media policy.

Mr. Reyes stated that the Curriculum Council was reestablished with a meeting on September 26th which included brainstorming on curriculum development evaluations, assessment. The notes are being summarized and sent out to the group in the form of minutes and an agenda for the next meeting in January.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about complaints on curriculum and how they are managed. Mr. Reyes stated that we are working to get this in place and we will develop a system.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated the Sierra Club has asked about sustainability in the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that she has not thought about it, yet. Mrs. Rhodes stated that it is very important to forward to the Strategic Planning Committee and include for consideration.

Dr. Smith stated he had a meeting with Will Guisbond on Thursday regarding his role in collecting input and his output to students.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about when we will see anything from Perception Institute. Dr. Smith stated that they are coming back to the school on November 5th. We don't have a report yet. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if we could push for it. Dr. Smith responded that he agrees. We have been asked for different data and have been responding. They have assured us that they are close. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if they are waiting on us. Mr. Reyes responded that the data that they have requested is being coordinated through BOCES and it is a timing issue as well as an issue obtaining permissions. Mrs.

Rhodes asked if the data they are looking for is the last thing that they need and Mr. Reyes responded, yes, from our understanding. Dr. Smith stated that we can ask them for an update and Mr. Souser suggested that we ask for an update in relation to the contract.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked for proof of work.

Community Comment Time #2

Mr. Yusuf Abdul-Qadir, Director of the ACLU of New York spoke about the MOU for the School Resource Officer and revisiting it based on recent changes to law. He commented on the need for the curriculum to offer a more robust history of students of color.

Eboni Britt spoke about the diversity of staff after viewing the JD Journal which showed the new teachers. She believes we need more cultural awareness training. Mrs. Petrosillo directed her to email any questions directly to her.

Paul Williams spoke about the diversity of staff as well referring to the JD Journal. He said JD is diverse and kids want to see teachers that look like them, which is encouraging to the students. He would like to know what the plan is.

Christiana Semabia thanked Dr. Smith for the invitation to the parents' forum. She is glad to hear some emergency help is on the way. She spoke about diminutive representation of Dr. King and Rosa Parks, in books being offered to students/parents at book fairs at schools, especially considering JD does not recognize Black History Month.

Rachel Wagner provided the Board and public with a dramatization of all the moving parts and framework of curriculum. She believes we need a brave, public statement about who we are and what we are committed to.

Sean Kearse is a parent of two students. His daughter came to him regarding curriculum that was upsetting to her. He sees the passion here and asked that the administration work to address and fix these issues.

At 8:53 p.m. Mrs. Archer moved and Mrs. Rhodes seconded the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOARD APPROVED: 10/21/19