

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – August 24, 2020

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Archer  
Dr. Corcoran  
Mrs. DeForest  
Mr. Gross  
Mr. Leach  
Mrs. James-Murad  
Mrs. Rhodes  
Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz  
Mrs. Woodcock Dettor

### MEMBERS ABSENT

### ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

At 7:02 p.m. Mrs. Rhodes called the Board of Education meeting to order via Zoom.

### Community Comment Time

Ruth Arena commented on funding counselors rather than law enforcement in schools and asked for more resources to be devoted to communications.

Cecilia Blackwood commented on removing SRO from schools and reallocating funds to mental health counselors.

Rachel Wagner commented about the SRO and asked the district to make good on the equity statement and to prioritize children.

Christiana Semabia commented on MOU and asked to make sure it is compliant with the law.

Rachel Wagner was allowed extra time to finish her comment. She continued and said the law requires the MOU be consistent with code of conduct and the current MOU fails to do this.

### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith shared his update on the planning for the fall. His update included where we are and where we are going. He reviewed the guiding principles, documents and health and safety strategies, which were presented to the Board and to families. Dr. Smith stated that the County has offered voluntary testing which will take place at the Middle School on Friday, August 28, which will help identify cases and relieve anxiety. Dr. Smith stated that we received approximately 2,400 responses to the family survey and he reviewed the results from choices of remote or hybrid to transportation and technology. Dr. Smith shared examples of a hybrid model and a remote model which have access to the same content. Dr. Smith shared the clear expectations of daily teacher and student interactions. Mrs. Tracey Menapace also presented on Social Emotional Learning supports for reopening. She shared information which is on the PPS website with regard to the Second Step program and K-4 Social Emotional Curriculum. She said all staff will be trained in Trauma Informed Practices on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dr. Smith reported on Professional Learning for staff, COVID 19 protocols, Trauma Informed Practices, technology tools, building logistics and operations and grade level content area collaborations. He reported on the start of school and transition to two additional superintendent's conference days on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Smith shared next steps which are building level meetings, schedules, class placements for students and

development of bus runs. He will continue to communicate with administration and will get information out as needed.

Dr. Corcoran asked about the families visiting on the 10<sup>th</sup> and if it will be staggered. Dr. Smith said it will be done over two days.

Mrs. Rhodes asked when group E would start. Dr. Smith responded September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how we were limiting screen time. Dr. Smith stated that it is not the best practice to be on the computer all day but there needs to be a balance of synchronous and asynchronous learning, and meaningful contact with the teachers.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about what special classes will be offered to group E. Dr. Smith stated he cannot definitely say what that will look like.

Dr. Corcoran asked how teachers would have time to work remotely with other students and Dr. Smith responded that is a significant challenge and that we would be utilizing our staff to help with this.

Mr. Gross asked if Covid-19 testing was voluntary or mandatory. Dr. Smith replied voluntary.

Mr. Gross asked what metrics would be used to shut down the school. Dr. Smith stated it is situation dependent and that the district would work closely with the Department of Health to make a determination about when school needs to close.

Mrs. DeForest commented about daycare and wanted to make sure all communities are aware of dates of school openings.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about the remote model, how involved teachers are in developing the model, and how confident they are with the model. Dr. Smith stated that the planning has taken place before we had guidance from the state, and from the ThoughtExchange we learned we needed significant improvements to be made. Mr. Franz has been in contact with the Curriculum Council, and has had meetings and conversations with the buildings and teachers.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about cultural responsiveness. Mrs. Menapace responded that there has been conversation with counselors and the elementary schools have spent two to three weeks with the Second Step Curriculum. She said a survey will go home to gather information on the first week of school to look at individual needs.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if students with IEPs only have the option of fully remote or fully in person. Dr. Smith responded either fully remote, group c or group d.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about what is being done to help with technology issues to improve communications. Dr. Smith responded that there was a problem with an elementary email that was sent out the through School Tool email, which is normally very reliable. BOCES is looking into that issue. Dr. Smith said all principals have been given access to School Messenger to use at the building level. Dr. Smith shared information on the new communications person from BOCES that is helping out with information on the website, as well as working to revise the template for the district newsletter.

Mrs. Rhodes asked what the hallmarks of the Second Step social emotional program are and Mrs. Menapace responded that colleagues in other districts have used this program. She said parents have

access to multiple webinars and they don't need an account. She said that anti-bullying is a key component with this program.

Dr. Smith reviewed the District Safety Plan. He gave an overview of what is required to be in the plan. The plan is up on the website. (See Supplemental Minutes). Dr. Smith said that there is a public comment period for thirty days and it will come back to the Board on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The plan must be submitted to the Commissioner of Education. The District Safety Plan includes a full-time SRO for which the roles and responsibilities are outlined in the draft MOU (See Supplemental Minutes). Dr. Smith stated that the MOU was reviewed by legal counsel and if approved, it will be included in the Safety Plan as an appendix. Mr. Franz will address the task force in his report.

Mrs. Rhodes asked what would be the purpose of the SRO and what would be accomplished if the limited time contract would take us through the planning and task force phase to make a decision. She asked if the MOU needed to be part of the public comment period. Dr. Smith replied that if the MOU is approved, it will become part of the safety plan and therefore subject to public comment.

Mrs. DeForest asked how the public would submit comments and Dr. Smith responded that comments will be accepted via email.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if it has to be part of the Safety Plan and Dr. Smith responded that an SRO is included so the MOU would be attached to the District Safety Plan as an appendix.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if there needs to be a 30 day comment period to the MOU and Dr. Smith responded the MOU is not subject to the 30 day period. Mrs. Rhodes if that was guidance we received from our attorney and Dr. Smith responded yes.

Mr. Gross asked the written safety plan says we have an SRO even though we do not have an MOU? Dr. Smith responded yes, the MOU has expired and if the MOU was not passed, we would need to amend the District Safety plan to remove the language of the SRO.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if in that scenario, the purpose of the task force is to determine if we want to reintroduce the SRO.

Dr. Smith said when the Board started to receive feedback from the community whether an SRO was necessary, the Board said there was no way to sufficiently gather stakeholder feedback and agreed they needed time to review the SRO. This is why the task force is being put into place.

Mr. Leach said he had read the emails and listened to parents, who said the SRO was providing counseling to students. He asked if we have we talked to students. Dr. Smith replied that data needs to be collected for that information. He said in the MOU the primary duty is to establish a relationship as a mentor. He didn't want to put that word "counselor" into people's mouth, as they are interpreting her role as a counselor.

Mr. Leach asked about the different levels of counseling we have in place at the buildings.

Mrs. James Murad asked if legal counselors have reviewed the MOU before or after the amendment. Dr. Smith responded they have reviewed it both times.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor said she thinks the idea to include the Vice- Principal and the stakeholders is an excellent idea. She has had conversations with Mr. Gasparini and has read emails from teachers,

students, and people who have lived/worked with the SRO over the last two years and those people are overwhelmingly in favor of continuation with the SRO. She said she believes this calls into question the changing dynamics of the Board. The SRO was highly negotiated with the previous superintendent. As the longest serving member on the Board, the history of the SRO is such that there have been a number of situations where the SRO has quite effectively assisted our students during trying matters and in courts and law enforcement matters. The prior Boards were very much on top of a substantial commitment to bring an SRO. She feels the Board needs to be brought up to speed and she knows Mr. Franz will do this.

Mrs. Rhodes thanked Mrs. Woodcock Dettor for her perspective. She does not characterize all the response she has had as overwhelmingly in support. She said the SRO was added two years ago, prior to the current law. She highlighted that it did not go through the public comment period. She said students of color are not overwhelmingly in positive response to this. She said to Mr. Gross' point, we do not have an SRO and the Board needs to take action. She addressed Mr. Franz and said, for context, last year and the year before, we received a report on the SRO's activities in the summer. The report did not have a significant amount of information. For some students, the SRO could fulfill a mentor-like position.

Dr. Corcoran said that we need to focus on the position not the person. She said this is an SRO, not a school counselor.

#### **Assistant Superintendent's Report Mr. Franz**

Dr. Smith introduced Mr. Franz. Mr. Franz presented the Board with information on the SRO Task Force. (See Supplemental Minutes). Mr. Franz introduced Candace Johnson, Assistant High School Principal, who is serving as the Co-Chair of the Task Force. He said the purpose of the Task Force was to make a thoughtful and informed recommendation to the Superintendent on the MOU. Mr. Franz and Ms. Johnson took turns highlighting the Task Force Membership, Process and Engagement, the Staff and Student Survey, and Timeline.

Mr. Gross asked members of the Task Force will be selected. Mr. Franz responded that they will take advantage of local expertise wherever possible. He said that some of the team already exists and students will be chosen from the student government.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if you look at data around the state and nation, how is our district's experience (data) and how will you get that information. Is that part of the plan?

Mr. Franz said that as part of the goals, we will need to pair the metrics. Mr. Franz thanked Ms. Johnson for her help.

Mr. Franz gave an update on the scope of the work with the Metro Center. He said there are two groups involved with professional learning, the Lead Learners which includes teachers from all levels, and the Curriculum Council. The Curriculum Council is made up of administrators, District Office administrators, department chairs, resource leaders, building administrators, special areas and special education teachers. There are 35 members of the Curriculum Council. He said two half day sessions were completed and two more will be completed this week. He said that Session two, which is going on this week gives individuals opportunities to explore what race means to them and develop competences on discussing race with colleagues. He talked about changes he is already seeing in the district including, texts, text sets, work in the libraries, grade levels as well as books or topics.

Dr. Smith reminded the Board that Agenda for the Retreat will included an hour of deeper dive into the Metro Center work.

Mrs. Rhodes asked for a dashboard or snapshot to highlight work that has happened and that is coming.

**Assistant Superintendent's Discipline  
Report, Mr. Reyes**

Mr. Reyes shared the 2019-2020 Discipline Report which is on the District website. (See Supplemental Minutes). He shared numbers based on the school year and estimated numbers, if we would have continued on through the end of the year. Mr. Reyes said that inappropriate language (racial) was met with a clear and consistent message that it is not acceptable.

Mr. Gross asked if every offense shows up in one line and Mr. Reyes said they are coded in School Tool as one line.

Mrs. Rhodes asked what DASA is and what VADIR is. Mr. Reyes said DASA is Dignity for All Students Act, an area that Mr. Franz will handle, which consists of discrimination, harassment and bullying whether alleged or founded. He said VADIR is violent incident report which consists of significant injury, drugs or significant violent offenses.

Mr. Gross asked if the Times Up JD allegations are included in the data. Mr. Reyes responded that some have been paired and it is easy to draw a scenario to what the outcome was. Some were anonymous. He said an anonymous report does not overshadow our ability to investigate, but with the Times Up JD coming with no access to students, the ability to investigate is a little limited. These allegations and incidents, however, will stay at the forefront of our work.

Mr. Reyes, continued to review the report which included discipline summaries by building, superintendent hearings, infractions resulting in suspension, equity focus on outcomes, and identification of traditionally subjective offenses and investigation of disproportionality as well as identifying a plan to increase the accuracy of data. He shared the factors to improve and maintain a positive school climate as well as future plans.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if there was student feedback about these incidents. Mr. Reyes said no and that he did not know how students have been engaged with data in the past. He said he would reach out to Mr. Gasparini.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if each elementary school was looked at for disproportionality and Mr. Reyes said, yes, but there are small numbers of incidents in each of the elementary buildings.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if there is a sense of any concerns once the hybrid and/or remote learning goes into place. Mr. Reyes said the only area of concern is cyberbullying. Mr. Reyes said counseling teams are aware of the concern and they have been working in the cyberbullying realm for some time, they have built units around that.

At 10:03 Mrs. Rhodes moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the motion for a five minute break.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

At 10:08 the meeting was called back to order.

**Approve Minutes of Board of Education  
Meetings, July 27, 2020**

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the minutes of the Board of Education meetings of July 13, 2020.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

**Accept the Recommendations  
of the CPSE & CSE**

Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the acceptance of the CPSE and CSE dated July 8, 9 and 29, 2020.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

**Accept the Claims Auditor Report**

Mrs. DeForest moved and Mr. Leach seconded the acceptance of the Claims Auditor Reports. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Motion carried (9-0-0).

**Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations**

Dr. Smith presented the Board with the following Personnel Recommendations:

***INSTRUCTIONAL***

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b><u>Appointments</u> Annual Salary</b>	<b>Cert</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Benedette Marie Herbst Speech Pathologist Regular Sub Replacing L. Neumann *In process	District		Init. Speech & Lang. Disabilities *	9/2/20-6/30/21
Faithanne Carapella Art Teacher Regular Sub Replacing A. Ebner	MS		Perm. Art	9/2/20-6/30/21
Tana Pusey Teaching Assistant Probationary Appt. (4 yrs) Replacing S. Dunn	MD		TA – Level III	9/2/20
Tammy DiDomenico Teaching Assistant Probationary Appt. (4 yrs) Increased Enrollment	TEC		TA- Level III	9/2/20

**Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2020-2021**

**Moses DeWitt Elementary School**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
Michelle Duffy	Resource Leader (50%)	
Stacie Fitzgerald	Resource Leader (50%)	
Jodi Schwedes	Textbook Coordinator (50%)	
Melissa Vahey	Textbook Coordinator (50%)	

**Request for Leave**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Leave</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Amy Ebner Art Teacher	MS	Unpaid Leave	9/2/20-6/30/20
Jennifer Simons Language Arts Teacher	MS	Unpaid Leave	9/2/20-6/30/20

***NONINSTRUCTIONAL***

**Appointments**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Grant Caluza Substitute Custodian	Custodial Dept.		8/25/20

**Change in Status**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Kathleen Durkin Teacher Aide Replacing: A. Gallagher	JES	From: Preferred Eligibility List To: Full-time Appointment -	9/2/20

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Elizabeth Stephens Teacher Aide Replacing: M. Mercado	Tecumseh	From: Preferred Eligibility List To: Full-time Appointment -	9/2/20

**Request for Retirement**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Donald Bersson Custodial Worker I	Custodial Dept.	8/4/20

**Termination**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Richard Fralick Custodial Worker I	Custodial Dept.	9/5/20

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the approval of the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations.

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

### **Approve Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar**

Dr. Smith presented the Board with the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar. It is on the website. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Dr. Archer moved and Mr. Gross seconded the motion to approve the revised 2020-2021 School Calendar.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

### **Appoint Ashley McGraw as District Architect**

Dr. Smith stated that although we don't need to do this, it is a good idea and going forward we will appoint our architect during our Reorganization Meeting in July. He said he is recommending approval as Ashley McGraw has the experience and knows our spaces. He enthusiastically recommends approving this recommendation.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the appointment of Ashley McGraw as the District Architect for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

### **Approve Substitute Pay Rates**

Dr. Smith presented the Board with Substitute Pay Rates for 2020-2021.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor moved and Mr. Gross seconded the approval of the Substitute Pay Rates for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

### **Approve Increase in School Lunch Prices**

Dr. Smith presented the Board with information on the increase in School Lunch Prices. A five cent increase in the cost of lunch and no increase in the cost of breakfast is being recommended for the upcoming school year.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked what changes the Food Service Director has made. Dr. Smith indicated he has made changes to his food orders and the daily prepared food as well as purchasing food with a longer shelf life.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if we have talked to families about change and asked what their preferences are. Dr. Smith responded that there is a challenge in the flexibility of what he can offer and we will have to see what the circumstances are. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz agreed.

Mr. Gross moved and James Murad seconded the approval of an increase in school lunch prices for the 2020-2021 school year of five cents for lunch and no increase for breakfast.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

## **Approve School Tax Rate**

Dr. Smith requested the Board's approval of a tax levy of \$42,226,394. This represents a 3.39% increase, the maximum allowable by the tax cap. The tax rate of \$24.04 per \$1,000 is an increase of 1.66% from last year's rate of \$23.648. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the approval of a tax levy of \$42,226,394.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

## **Approve Emergency Project Resolution Under State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).**

Dr. Smith explained the scope of the capital project, the boiler in the Middle School and explained the project needed to be taken care of as soon as possible

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if this qualifies for competitive bidding and Mr. Decker responded that we need to take the lowest bidder. The project has not gone to bid yet.

Mr. Gross asked if there has been any consideration to go to a different heating system other than a boiler. Mr. Decker stated that it was replaced in 2012 and that it is very efficient.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of the following Emergency Project Resolution Under State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

### **JAMESVILLE-DEWITT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **Emergency Project Resolution**

**Declaration of Emergency** – Capital Construction Project to the existing boiler breeching system, boiler breeching system exhaust fan and boiler combustion air intake fan system in the Middle School.

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to §103(4) of the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education (“Board”) declares that an emergency exists because the boiler breeching system is leaking at multiple fittings, causing corrosive condensate dripping to occur through the boiler room, damaging piping, insulation, and the floor. In addition, the boiler breeching system exhaust fan system is roughly double the capacity calculations indicate it should be, causing further operational problems.

The Board finds that the proposed replacement of the breeching system and breeching exhaust fan be undertaken without further delay.

The Board has reviewed preliminary estimates for the work and has earmarked such work to be performed at a cost not to exceed \$150,000.00 with a scope to include the reconstruction and renovation of the Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School boiler.

It is further, **RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the awarding of contracts and the purchasing of this work, after competitive bidding, such work to commence immediately. The Board further ratifies all contract and purchases made to date for all emergency work and purchases.

It is further, **RESOLVED**, that all such expenditures made by authority of this resolution are ordinary contingent expenses and the Board hereby authorizes the transfer of \$150,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund to cover the expense.

**Negative Declaration** – Pursuant to Article 8 of the Environment Conservation Law, Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District will act as Lead Agency, with said entity located at 6845 Edinger Drive, DeWitt, NY 13214 and the contact is Peter Smith, Superintendent, (315) 445-8304.

WHEREAS, according to the regulations of the New York State Education Department, the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District is primarily responsible for assuring compliance with the procedural and substantive requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York (6 NYCRR Part 617, as amended) promulgated there under (“SEQRA”); and Based upon review of the proposed project, the Board hereby declares itself lead agency to the extent necessary for this purpose and hereby finds that the proposed action constitutes a type II action as such quoted term is defined in SEQRA and, therefore, is not subject to any further review by the School District under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the proposed emergency capital project includes general reconstruction and renovation at the Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School, in DeWitt, (“the Renovation Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Renovation Project has been classified Type II action for the State Environmental Quality review Act (SEQRA), which action will not have any significant impact on the environment and are not subject to review under SEQRA; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board hereby determines that the Renovation Project will not have a significant environmental impact; that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement is not required for such action and will not be prepared; and that this Negative Declaration shall be filed with the EAF in the District Office where they will be available for public inspection.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Voting:	Yes	Sharon Archer
Voting:	Yes	Dana Corcoran
Voting:	Yes	Lori DeForest
Voting:	Yes	Joe Gross
Voting:	Yes	David Leach
Voting:	Yes	Renee James Murad
Voting:	Yes	Wendy Rhodes
Voting:	Yes	Juanita Rivera-Ortiz
Voting:	Yes	Christine Woodcock Dettor

This resolution was declared adopted. Motion carried (9-0-0).

## Approve MOU for School Resource Officer

Dr. Smith shared the SRO Agreement between the Town of DeWitt and the Jamesville-DeWitt School District. (See Supplemental Minutes). He said the process has been well documented with one addition, a statement regarding school discipline remaining with administration per Ed. Law. He explained the MOU is a short term agreement while the SRO Task Force goes through the review process outlined by Mr. Franz to determine if the SRO program will continue.

Mrs. James Murad asked if the SRO would be in the building every day, even though Wednesdays is a day without students. Dr. Smith stated yes, the plan is to have the SRO for five days a week. We can revisit that with the Town of DeWitt if not necessary.

Dr. Corcoran asked how many students are in the High School on other days. Mr. Franz stated that approximately 15% of the High School is remote leaving approximately 400 students per group (A&B).

Dr. Archer said she is not comfortable taking on another financial commitment during this time of uncertainty.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor stated that the SRO is in the budget. She said that there are safety valves in place for potential reduction in state aid. Dr. Archer responded that we are in an unprecedented time and we have to think and act accordingly.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if according to Ed. Law, Section 2801A, community input is required and we have not had that. Is that correct?

Dr. Smith responded the process we have set up for fall is the community input and stakeholder feedback.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz if this would be approved without this being account for.

Dr. Smith stated, correct.

Mrs. DeForest stated that in this unprecedented time, the more adults we have for our kids and some that have built relationships with them, the more beneficial it is to them, and that is a familiar face they are used to.

Dr. Smith said, this is his two cents. He sincerely appreciates the Board's concerns about voting without stakeholder input. He believes the Board took a measured and thoughtful approach which is clear and what was wanted; an evaluation process and minority students to be involved. He said that with students coming back to school in unprecedented times, with anxiety, removing or starting school without an SRO, will increase the anxiety of a significant number of people causing additional layers of stress. We want to evaluate, coming after the murder of George Floyd, systemic racism, the national trends and data. He said he believes in the process for review that has been laid out and that the Board should stick to the process with the short term MOU. He said that he appreciates the challenge not being consistent with the regulation, but there is a clearly articulate plan to gather stakeholder input. The Board has laid out a thorough and appropriate review process, and asked to let that process unfold. Technically we do not have an SRO as the contract ended on June 30, but in the student's eyes and the staff's eyes, it is expected that the SRO will be in place for the start of the year.

The expectation is that the SRO will be there in the fall. His recommendation is to continue with the SRO in the short term way and let the evaluation process work its way through.

Mr. Gross commented that with the idea of many students entering the building with anxiety, would the presence of a police officer have an increase of their anxiety.

Dr. Smith said that is exactly the data that will be collected in the process. We have gotten that information from email and the process that Mr. Franz has laid out will give us more qualitative and quantitative information.

Mr. Leach moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the motion to approve the MOU for the SRO for the term of September through December.

Mrs. Rhodes asked Mr. Leach, to be clear, if he was moving to approve the MOU for the SRO as written or removing Wednesdays. Mr. Leach said he is moving for the SRO to be approved five days a week. Mrs. Woodcock Dettor said she supported that and to clarify she said they are moving to support that to the extent the SRO is not necessary half the day, whatever the situation is, that is the subject for further discussion with Dr. Smith and the Town of DeWitt.

Motion failed. (3-6-0). Dr. Archer, Dr. Corcoran, Mr. Gross, Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz, Mrs. James Murad and Mrs. Rhodes were opposed.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor addressed the Board and said the Superintendent recommended this and we have a process in place for reevaluation with the data discussed earlier this summer.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated she believes that process should play out.

Mrs. Rhodes said the process will continue to move forward and the fall start will not include an SRO.

### **Policy Review – Second Reading**

The following policies came to the Board for a first reading:

- 6310 – [Appointment – Support Staff](#)
- 6320 – [Supplementary School Personnel](#)
- 6410 – [Staff Acceptable Use Policy](#)
- 6540 – [Defense and Indemnification of Board Members and Employees](#)
- 6551 – [Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#)
- 6552 – [Military Leaves of Absence](#)
- 6560 – [Determination of Employment Status: Employee/Independent Contractor](#)
- 6562 – [Employment of Retired Persons](#)

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz reviewed the policies for a second reading and approval. She said there was a question about Policy # 6410, Staff Acceptable Use Policy, and what it meant. Dr. Smith stated that he did not receive a response from the Policy Service on that. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said the response should not stop the board from approving the policy.

Mr. Reyes spoke about highest level of professionalism in social media and that the policy refers to parent contact and that is how he would interpret this wording on this policy.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said it was clear for the policy but she wanted clarification from the service if it means anything procedurally.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Dr. Archer seconded approval of Board Policies 6310, 6320, 6410, 6540, 6551, 6552, 6560 and 6562.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

### **Board President Report**

Mrs. Rhodes thanked the administrative team for the extraordinary work. She reminded everyone that we are all here for the same reason, the children, faculty and staff to be safe and to support children's education. She reminded the Board about the next meeting on August 31<sup>st</sup> which is also the retreat. She said the retreat will include attorneys from Bond, Schoeneck and King available for Q & A as well as an overview on the Metro Center's work from Mr. Franz

### **Unfinished and Continuing Business**

There was none.

At 11:06 p.m. Dr. Archer moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker  
Clerk of the Board

**BOARD APPROVED: 9/14/20**