

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
November 2, 2020 - Via Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	ADMINISTRATION PRESENT
Dr. Archer		Mr. Decker, School Business Administrator
Mrs. DeForest		Mr. Reyes, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Gross		Mr. Franz, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Leach		
Mrs. James-Murad		
Mrs. Rhodes		
Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz		
Mrs. Woodcock Dettor		

Absent: Dr. Smith, Superintendent, Dr. Corcoran, Board Member

Mrs. Rhodes called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. via Zoom.

Red Ram Recognition

Mrs. Rhodes recognized Connie Myers, Charles Clinton and Andrew Cottet for conceptualizing and launching the Growing Edge Roundtable at JD High School which meets weekly and facilitates informal discussions on topics such as anti-racism and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and is open to any staff member to join. She thanked the three teachers for their leadership and vision. Mrs. Rhodes also recognized the school psychology staff as this is School Psychology Appreciation Week. She wanted to take the moment to thank the school psychologists as well as all the social workers and counseling staff who work to support the mental wellbeing of our students.

Mrs. Rhodes welcomed suggestions for recognition.

Community Comment Time

There were no comments.

**Approve Minutes of Board of Education
Meeting, October 26, 2020**

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the approval of the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of October 26, 2020.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the motion to approve the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations as follows:

INSTRUCTIONAL

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2020-2021
Coaching – Spring Season

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Alex Way*	JV Head Baseball Coach	\$3,602

*Pending completion of the Certification Process

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2020-2021

Coaching – Fall 2 Season

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Alex Way*	Modified Football Coach	\$4,034

*Pending completion of the Certification Process

Motion carried. (6-2-0). Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz opposed.

Approve Combined Sports Teams

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of the Combined Sports Team.

Motion carried. (8-0-0).

Policy Review – First Reading

The following Board Policies were brought to the Board for a First Reading:

- 7510 – [School Health Services](#)
- 7511 – [Immunization of Students](#)
- 7512 – [Student Physicals](#)
- 7513 – [Medication and Personal Care Items](#)
- 7514 – [Student Health Records](#)
- 7520 – [Accidents and Medical Emergencies](#)
- 7521 – [Students With Life-Threatening Health Conditions](#)
- 7522 – [Concussion Management](#)
- 7530 – [Child Abuse and Maltreatment](#)
- 7540 – [Suicide Prevention and Abuse](#)

Mr. Reyes stated that these policies were heavily reviewed by Mr. Goodson and the nursing staff making sure they were all aligned with the law.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if the Committee had a discussion regarding Policy # 7521, Students with Life-Threatening Health Conditions with regard to managing food allergies and how to be inclusive for students with allergies.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated it was not discussed specifically with this policy but focused on adding the opioid discussion from the previous policy. She said she feels this would be better addressed in procedure.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how we are we connecting policy changes to procedural changes.

Mr. Reyes stated that formal notification has been taking place as Board Policies are approved as well as review of regulations of Board Policies and procedural pieces as well. He also said that we will look at it as a whole when the manual has been completed and adopted.

Mrs. DeForest stated that there was an edit necessary to Policy # 7522 Concussion Management, with regards to the centering of the document.

Mrs. DeForest asked about Policy # 7540 Suicide Prevention, and where the Policy instructs the Superintendent to develop a response team which will be integrated into the existing school safety plan. Was this specific to this year, or did we add that?

Mr. Reyes stated that we made an edit. In discussion, it was felt this was an area for our Social Emotional Learning Team and they are involved in that very closely, specifically, with what is occurring right now. They are currently implementing BIMAS as a Social Emotional screening tool. He said, we have a team that serves in this function.

The following Board Policies were brought to the Board for a Second Reading:

- 7210 – [Student Evaluation, Promotion and Placement](#)
- 7211 – [Provision of Interpreter Services to Parents Who Are Hearing Impaired](#)
- 7212 – [Response to Intervention \(RTI\) Process](#)
- 7220 – [Graduation Options/Early Graduation/Accelerated Programs](#)
- 7221 – [Participation in Graduation Ceremonies and Activities](#)
- 7222 – [Diploma Or Credential Options For Students With Disabilities](#)
- 7241 – [Student Directory Information](#)
- 7242 – [Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Education](#)
- 7243 – [Student Data Breaches](#)
- 7260 – [Designation of Person in Parental Relation](#)
- 7270 - [Non-Custodial Parents](#)

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked Mr. Reyes and Mr. Franz if Policy # 7212, Response to Intervention (RTI) Process, was ready to bring forward or did we want to hold that one?

Mr. Franz responded that the policy itself is high level enough, that we would put an RTI plan in place that is required to be submitted to the state. He said that underneath that would be more detail that would be updated and this is where we would need some input from different stakeholders. The Policy is not the same detail we would have in our RTI Plan.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked Mr. Franz if he felt comfortable with this model and Mr. Franz stated that this Policy is exactly the direction we need to be in.

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the approval of Policy Numbers 7510, 7511, 7512, 7513, 7514, 7520, 7521, 7522, 7530 and 7540.

Motion carried. (8-0-0).

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. Rhodes provided the Board with an updated list of topics for consideration. Some topics do not require Board action, some need more clarity, some will be addressed in the Governance Manual/Planning Calendar that Mrs. DeForest is putting together, and some topics are for the Superintendent to address. She said the last group of items are aligned with the Strategic Plan and Dr. Smith will be working to address them. Some of the topics are related to the work of the Board and the Board needs to move forward to prioritize the list over the next couple of meetings. Mrs. Rhodes said there are some discussion points that need to be addressed with administration, such as evaluating and researching a Universal Pre-K Program, later start times at the high school, financial responsibilities of organizations in the district, and affordable after care.

Mrs. Rhodes listed the topics that fall mostly to the Board, which include student engagement with Board and administration, NYSSBA and larger concept of political action, sustainability and electric busses, Board of Education liaisons at buildings, and program review of the Master Teacher Program.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about the target date of 5/21 and was that for the topics. Mrs. Rhodes explained that is a target date for the Governance Manual to be completed.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said she would like to get a regular report on the state of the District relative to the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Rhodes said Dr. Smith is working to align his reports with this plan.

Max stated that some of the topics can be taken off the list quickly, for example the Master Teacher Program and Board of Education liaisons. He also said that student engagement with the board and administration will be a lot of trial and error that will need to be built up over months and years. He suggested a conference or meeting where school board members can come to students as most of the student population does not know 7:00 p.m. on a Monday is when Board meetings take place. He said that sustainability is an important issue for students.

Mr. Gross asked how we can work in concert with other partnerships such as the Town of DeWitt Board and Chambers of Commerce to address such topics as affordable aftercare, universal Pre-K, racial justice, and building sidewalks.

Max suggested reaching out to the private schools in our district to see what has worked for them in terms of aftercare for their students and preschool programs.

Mrs. DeForest stated that when she did research on various committees, some of the Boards in our area have a legislative representative and that maybe we should have a liaison to stay connected. She said that maybe our Board members could be assigned to different buildings and attend events (remotely), and connect with administration and PTG, etc. to find out what is going on and report back to the board.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that we don't currently have liaisons assigned to buildings, but it was a topic raised and would warrant a board discussion.

Max suggested assigning two board members to a school for a more diverse perspective or even switching up members.

Mrs. James Murad said student engagement is her top priority.

Mr. Leach asked about the history of student engagement.

Mrs. Rhodes responded that last year was the first year with a student representative on the board. She said there was a lot of work done by the students, including Max, leading up to it. She said she was not aware of other efforts to create a bridge between the board and the student body. She said every year the Ram Page interviews the Board President, board members have had an opportunity to judge a think tank/innovation lab at the Middle School, and board members normally attend events throughout the school year.

Max stated that the student representative will be put on the ballot again this year but prior to the student representative, the main communication was through a student council member meeting with a board member or meeting directly with the Superintendent.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor stated that the one and done topics might be easier to knock off the list. She asked Max what year do we have students enrolled in government class attend Board meetings. Max replied that all seniors are required to take a student government class. Mrs. Woodcock Dettor stated that there is a lot of information on our website with regard to the board and board meetings, including meeting times and meeting minutes. She said on the student engagement piece, interested students can figure out when, where and how the meetings are taking place. She said on student engagement, it would be helpful to switch and have students, through Max's representation, let us know, what we should be doing or what issues they would like to hear about from the board. In addition, Mrs. Woodcock Dettor said she is very interested in hearing about the Master Teacher Program.

Mrs. Archer stated that as education has significantly changed and looks differently, she would like to keep the long-term impact of the pandemic on the priority list.

Mr. Gross stated that we should continue to look at how we get student input from other buildings.

Max said he addressed issues that were brought up by students with Mrs. Rhodes and Dr. Smith at their meeting. He will compile a list and share it with the board.

Mrs. Rhodes said she would like to bring back the student representative report as an opportunity for Max to share some of the thoughts and feedback he is receiving.

Planning for the November 30th Public Forum

Mr. Reyes stated that both he and Mr. Franz spoke with Dr. Smith regarding planning for the November 30th Public Forum and follow-up discussion around upcoming board policies that will require public input. He said that we might want more specific input on the policies and that the Public Forum could be related to information on the progress of the Strategic Plan and anything else mission related to the District.

Mrs. Rhodes said that aligns with her conversation with Dr. Smith as a way to give the public a report and have discussion. She asked the Board if they agree on engaging the public with the strategic plan for the topic.

Max asked if this a public forum because it is the end of November or was it scheduled for a specific purpose.

Mrs. Rhodes responded that two forums were built into the calendar as part of our communication and engagement strategy.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked when and where we would have a policy discussion if not at this forum. Mr. Reyes responded that Dr. Smith wants a format and process to make sure we gather the information correctly instead of an open dialogue format.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said she thinks that the forum would be a good time to do this as there would be open dialogue but an opportunity to make it structured would be helpful. She asked Mrs. Rhodes about when the forums were planned, were they specifically planned to review the Strategic Plan or State of the District, or did we just plan to have them for open dialogue with the public.

Mrs. Rhodes said her understanding was to schedule the topic on what made the most sense at the time. She said this is the board's forum so the board can decide what we discuss at the forum.

Mr. Reyes stated he wanted to clarify that an open dialogue is not off the table for the board policies but it would be more valuable to get more information on code of conduct and possibly student attendance.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said she thinks a Strategic Plan roll out would be great to do right now as we haven't seen management plans or metrics yet. She said it is really important to get buy in from the community, students, parents, and staff.

Mrs. Rhodes acknowledged that we are not ignoring the focus on education during this COVID pandemic by choosing to focus on the Strategic Plan for the public forum. She is open to other suggestions for the Forum.

The Board agreed to focus on the strategic plan at the public forum.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Reyes and Mr. Franz shared in presenting the Superintendent's report in Dr. Smith's absence. Mr. Reyes shared a Pre-K to Grade 12 COVID – 19 Toolkit (link on the website). This toolkit has been distributed by the NYSDOH and helps the District with guidance in the form of a checklist when in contact with parents.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how we will continually message this to parents, families and staff so it is at the top of their minds.

Mr. Reyes said first is the weekly screening, then messaging from Dr. Smith when there is a positive case, and notifications of contact tracing. The nurses are important messengers, as well.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if parents of students who are 100% remote need to fill out the screener. Mr. Reyes stated no they do not need to and he has worked with BOCES to set it up so they no longer receive the screener.

Max asked if we have considered blasting out a message for high school students, particularly when school is going fully remote. Mr. Reyes will mention to Dr. Smith. He said he is not sure whether we currently have the capability to support that.

Mr. Leach asked if students are on the text system. Mr. Reyes said he will look into that as it comes directly from our student management system.

Mr. Franz shared new information that the Onondaga County Department of Health released regarding quarantine guidelines with new exposures. He said that when there is a positive case, the school and the Health Department work together to produce a list of students that would end up in potential quarantine after the interview by the Health Department. He said some information has shifted since the beginning of the year.

Mrs. Archer asked for clarification on the high school students and the duration of students being in contact of a positive student for an hour. She asked how long students are in class. Mr. Franz responded that students are in class for eighty minutes. Mrs. Archer asked if that is cumulative time. Mr. Franz stated yes, so those students in that class would need to be identified. Mr. Franz said the fifteen minutes of cumulative time applies only in staff to staff exposure.

Max asked about cumulative time for elementary school and middle school and how long periods are in elementary school and middle school. Mr. Franz responded that elementary school classes are a little different as they are self-contained. He said that middle school classes run an eight period day, with class periods being between thirty-eight and forty-one minutes. The middle school classes are shorter in duration and more frequent.

Mr. Gross said he watched the County Executive's press conference and there was a question about transmission in schools and it seemed like they couldn't say the transmission of COVID has happened in the school setting, but the transmission could have happened in the neighborhoods between staff members. He praised everyone's efforts as the protocols in place have been proven to be successful in keeping our schools safe. He said we are not seeing pockets where one positive case suddenly turns into a whole school being infected.

Mr. Franz also gave kudos to staff who diligently clean during the day and after hours and to students who are following all the new protocols, using hand sanitizer and generally taking and using the guidance.

Dr. Archer concurred and said she knows first-hand how hard this is. She said her kids are very happy going to school and that they feel safe. She said the teachers and leadership are doing a great job.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Rhodes agreed and thanked everyone doing their part to keep our kids safe. She agrees with Mr. Gross and Mr. Franz's comments. In addition, she said part of the success of the protocols are the parents and families working to navigate the hybrid and remote schedules.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

There was no unfinished and continuing business.

At 8:23 p.m., Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOARD APPROVED: 11/16/20