

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
December 7, 2020 - Via Zoom Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	ADMINISTRATION PRESENT
Dr. Archer		Dr. Smith, Superintendent
Dr. Corcoran		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		

Mrs. Rhodes called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Red Ram Recognition

Mrs. Rhodes thanked the community for attending the Public Forum on November 30, the administration for their work on the presentation, and the community and staff for the work being done to keep our schools safe. Mrs. Rhodes shared that December 3rd was International Students with Disabilities Day and recognized all students in our District with disabilities whether visible or not. She also recognized our staff members and the Special Education office for their work in supporting our students.

Community Comment Time

There were no comments.

Approve Minutes of Board of Education Meeting, November 16, 2020

Dr. Corcoran moved and Dr. Archer seconded the approval of the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of November 16, 2020.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor joined the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the motion to approve the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations as follows:

INSTRUCTIONAL

Request for Leave

Name and position	Location	Type of Leave	Effective
Colleen LaTray Science Teacher	HS	FMLA	10/27/20-1/18/21

Molly Schunck Counselor	Tecumseh	FMLEA	11/16/20-11/20/20
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Request for Extension of Leave

Name and position Courtney Farranto School Counselor	Location MS	Type of Leave Unpaid Leave	Effective 1/4/21 – 6/30/21
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Gayle Franklin Teaching Assistant	HS	Unpaid Leave	12/1/20-1/29/21
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Lindsay Voigt Teaching Assistant	MS	Unpaid Leave	12/7/20-1/29/21
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Resignation

Name and position Clete Gualtieri	Location Faculty Advisor - Hole in the Wall Club	Effective 11/9/20
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Change in Status

Name and position Dana Dietz	Location Resource Leader – Tecumseh Change from Leader to Co-Resource Leader	Effective 11/2/20
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Appointment

Name and position Susan Glisson	Location Co-Resource Leader – Tecumseh	Effective 11/2/20	Stipend \$1,938.95
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NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Appointment

Name and position Cheyenne Dunn Substitute Bus Attendant	Location Transportation	Salary \$13.30/hr.	Effective 12/8/20
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Request for Extension of Leave

Name and position Bonnie Sukert Teacher Aide	Location Tecumseh	Type of Leave Unpaid	Effective 2/1/21 – 6/30/21
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Resignation

Name and position Caroline Fleszar Teacher Aide	Location HS	Effective 12/11/20
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Motion carried (7-2-0). Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz opposed.

Approve Funds to Implement Three-Year contract with Jamesville-DeWitt Clerical/Aide Association

Dr. Smith reviewed the terms of both the Clerical/Aide and Administrative Association contracts and recommended the approval of funds to implement the contracts.

Mrs. Rhodes asked for clarification regarding vacation days on the Administrative contract and Dr. Smith replied that one vacation day is added per year of the contract.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if there was anything the groups wanted that we couldn't give them and Dr. Smith responded yes, there were certain aspects in each of the contracts that the district was unable to change based on the parameters outlined by the finance committee. Mr. Decker said there was a lot of picking and choosing of what we could do, based on financial considerations.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of funds to implement a three-year contract with the Jamesville-DeWitt Clerical/Aide Association.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Approve Funds to Implement Three-Year contract with Jamesville-DeWitt Administrative Association

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the approval of funds to implement a three-year contract with the Jamesville-DeWitt Administrative Association.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Approve Resolution for the Board of Education to Approve Settlement Agreement between Onondaga County, Town of DeWitt and the District

Dr. Smith reviewed both agreements. He said the first agreement is between the District, the County and the Town and relates to the refund of taxes paid by the county. The second agreement is between Shoppingtown Mall, the County, the County Department of Water Protection, the Town and the District and relates to the transfer of ownership of the parcel. Dr. Smith and Mr. Decker recommended approval of the agreements.

Mr. Leach asked if the agreements were separate and what would happen should they not both be approved. Dr. Smith responded that we would need to re-engage our attorneys in the bankruptcy court proceedings.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about the risk involved with not approving the agreement with Shoppingtown. Dr. Smith responded that the property would likely be assessed at a lower valuation and the district may lose the discount on the total due offered by the county.

Mr. Leach asked if there were any candidates for development and if there is any idea how long the property will be on the market. Both Dr. Smith and Mr. Decker responded that they have not heard any specifics but there must be a good faith effort to get it sold.

Mr. Leach asked who is paying taxes for the 20/21 school year. Dr. Smith responded the question of liability is being debated now. Our attorneys believe and are arguing that the County is liable.

Mr. Leach asked if our attorneys are recommending this as a good idea or the best we can do. Dr. Smith responded that our attorneys believe the agreement to transfer ownership and the settlement of the tax liabilities are good for the district.

Mr. Leach asked when the Town is voting and Dr. Smith did not know.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked when the County is going to make the decision as to the support of the District and will this affect our State Aid. Dr. Smith said he was not sure, he is preparing for the worst but is optimistic. Mr. Decker explained that State Aid is driven by property values, and that there may be a minor impact in the future.

Mr. Gross asked if there was any protection for the District should the Industrial Development Agency sign a pilot agreement. Mr. Decker stated the assessment valuation is locked in for the next three years and the District has the right to veto a pilot.

Mrs. Rhodes asked for confirmation that there was no pilot agreement currently on the table and Dr. Smith responded, that was correct.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor shared her thoughts on the agreements and said that this agreement offers the district certainty and a resolution to a long standing legal challenge. She said that in terms of a pilot agreement, that is where the District takes the back seat. She said she certainly will vote in favor of these agreements and does not want to go to court and risk less than what we have now. She said our attorneys have worked long and hard on this.

Mr. Gross stated he appreciated that our District leadership has taken this serious and built a reserve fund and thinks we should move forward on this.

Mrs. Rhodes said she thinks we can all agree that having the property back on the tax rolls is ideal.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval of the following Resolution:

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

Resolution

The Board of Education hereby resolves, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Mrs. Woodcock Dettor and seconded by Dr. Corcoran to approve the resolution below: **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District (the "District") approves the Settlement Agreement between Onondaga County, the Town of

DeWitt and the District and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the District.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mr. Gross seconded the approval of the following Resolution:

**Approve Resolution for the Board of Education to Approve
Settlement Agreement Shoppingtown Mall, NY LLC,
Onondaga County, the Onondaga County Department of Water
Environment Protection, the Town of DeWitt and the District**

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

Resolution

The Board of Education hereby resolves, that upon recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Mrs. James Murad and seconded by Mr. Gross to approve the resolution below:
IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District (the "District") approves the Settlement Agreement between Shoppingtown Mall NY LLC, Onondaga County, the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection, the Town of DeWitt, and the District, and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to sign the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the District.

Motion carried. (8-1-0). Mr. Leach Opposed.

School Resource Officer Task Force Interim Report

Mr. Franz provided the Board with an Interim Report from the SRO Task Force. He said the goal was to provide the community with an update on the SRO Task Force that began work in October. The Task Force is made up of 35 members and they are tasked with making a recommendation to Dr. Smith about the future of the SRO program. He said the group has met four times and has completed several tasks to help with the recommendation. Mr. Franz shared the work to date, reviewed the goals of the existing MOU, and provided an updated timeline which includes a meeting on December 9th and an additional meeting on December 16th. He said the Task Force would begin to have discussions around the recommendation, this week. Mr. Franz said the temporary extension of the MOU which will be voted on next, is not a statement from the Task Force. The extension is necessary because the timeline for work did not include time to implement a recommendation. A recommendation is planned to be made to Dr. Smith, by consensus, after the remaining two meetings.

Mrs. DeForest asked about the survey that was given to students and staff and if there were resources used to come up with the survey. Mr. Franz replied that a survey was used from a group that wrote a report for the Department of Justice. The Task Force started with that survey then revised and refined it.

Mrs. DeForest asked if the staff survey was different for the High School, Middle School and Elementary Schools. Mr. Franz and Asst. Principal Johnson made the decision to only survey the High School staff members as they didn't feel that there would be proper representation due to limited interactions with the SRO at the other buildings. He said the survey has been drafted and will be distributed this week. Mrs. DeForest asked if there was any discussion about surveying parents. Mr. Franz explained that the survey would go to staff as there is representation from parents on the Task Force.

Mrs. Rhodes asked what quantitative data has been looked at. Mr. Franz responded that the data came from the student survey, national surveys and reports, and arrest reports as well.

Mrs. Rivera Ortiz asked if the SRO Task Force knows any more about the data surrounding relationship and trends regarding violent crimes and weapons on campus in terms of pre and post SRO. Mr. Franz responded that we have arrest reports pre and post SRO. He said they tried not to include the discipline related referrals as the SRO is not included in the disciplinary process. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if the SRO is helping us avoid violent crime, drug use, and weapons in school. She asked if we are seeing these things less as opposed to when we did not have an SRO. Mr. Franz said the two things in relation to Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz's question that were done, were looking at arrest reports over a thirteen year period and a microstudy of many schools that have SRO's in schools and looking at the national data. He said the members of the Task Force were able to look at the data for both of these items.

Mrs. DeForest asked if we know trends within our component districts and how we found schools with similar philosophies to us. Mr. Franz stated that during the Strategic Planning process we identified benchmark districts and that equity focused schools were contacted, also.

Mr. Gross asked what motivated a meeting being added; was it to work through the conversation. Mr. Franz said the group will need more time to work through the specifics and refine the recommendation.

Mr. Gross asked if the group is communicating well, is there common language and a good basis for forming a recommendation. Mr. Franz stated that they are getting there. He said the group started with establishing norms and setting commitments. He said the group is committed to listening to each other, being confidential, and building trust through the process.

Dr. Corcoran said she is appreciative of the work the Task Force has done but is concerned that we don't have the data/report, yet. She wants to be clear, she is trying to make the best informed decision, but she can't do that when she is missing a piece of the puzzle.

Mr. Franz responded that they are trying to make this decision as localized as possible with membership, data from students, and data from arrests. He said that grounding from other components was only to be a help, but this is a local decision.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated the arrests are not the barometer. She said she wanted to put that out there for the Task Force that we don't want arrests and we don't want that to be our barometer. She said the focus should be our students and staff feeling safe in school.

Mr. Franz said some of the questions that were asked of students included, who would you talk to if you were having trouble in school, how likely are you to miss a day of school if something was going on, as well as physical proximity questions, such as where is a space that you would feel safe.

**SRO Task Force – Approve Temporary Extension of
MOU until March 26, 2021**

Dr. Smith stated that the original MOU had been built with a termination date of December 31, 2020 based on the idea that a recommendation from the Task Force would be coming during that time period. He said it was an oversight to not build implementation time into the MOU. Dr. Smith suggested that we extend the same MOU through the Friday before Spring Break to provide time to put the recommendation into place.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if these recommendations will be shared with the Safety Team. Dr. Smith responded that we will re-engage the Safety Team in the winter to align the recommendations of the Task Force with the Safety Plan.

Mr. Gross asked if, since there is another Board meeting in December, could there be any status change in terms of the final product of the Task Force.

Dr. Smith stated that the recommendations will not come any sooner than December 16th and there would not be enough time to implement the recommendation.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor asked Mrs. James Murad to weigh in.

Mrs. James Murad stated that everyone is engaged and working hard. She said that we will need time to implement a recommendation. She is in favor of the Temporary Extension and recommends it.

Mr. Gross asked if there is any information that has come up in the course of the Task Force that has been shared with the Town of DeWitt Police or Officer P. that would assist the Police Department in what is being currently implemented.

Mr. Franz said that the selection of the person filling the role of the SRO, based on the many comments from students, is the right temperament of who you are looking for in that role. He said an area we can improve is to clarify the misconception that the SRO is still associated with discipline.

Dr. Archer agreed that students, parents and administrators use words in different contexts, such as discipline and that it is very important that everyone is on the same page with regard to roles and responsibilities.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if there is any talk of restorative justice.

Mr. Franz said that a national expert in restorative justice and restorative practices attended a meeting and provided an overview of the concept as well as what it looks like from an administrator's standpoint.

Mr. Gross moved and Mr. Leach seconded the approval of a Temporary Extension of the MOU until March 26, 2021, to allow time to implement the recommendation of the SRO Task Force.

(5-4-0) Motion carried. Dr. Archer, Dr. Corcoran, Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz opposed.

Accept Tax Collector's Report

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF RETURN TAX CLAIMS

WHEREAS the Education Law provides that the tax collector shall be relieved of responsibility for the uncollected portion of the tax list when a complete list of the delinquent tax items has been certified to the Board of Education; and since the collectors have affixed their affidavits to such statements and have filed statements accounting for the handling of the tax warrant and list as follows:

JAMESVILLE DEWITT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT ON TAX COLLECTION 2020-2021

TOWN	ASSESSED VALUATION	EQUAL RATE	TAX RATE	TAX LEVY TO BE COLLECTED	COLLECTED	UNPAID TAXES	% COLL.
LAFAYETTE Library	\$59,385,369	90%	26.710757 0.923666	\$1,410,339.65 \$54,852.11	\$1,406,354.96	\$58,836.80	95.98%
POMPEY Library	\$49,672,918	89%	27.010878 0.934045	\$1,282,508.15 \$46,396.78	\$1,129,467.24	\$199,437.69	84.99%
DEWITT Library	\$1,494,525,170	100%	24.040115 0.831300	\$33,594,450.70 \$1,242,399.06			
Adjustment			24.871415	\$34,836,849.76 (\$5,789.80)	\$32,974,982.75	\$1,856,077.21	94.67%
ONONDAGA Library	\$124,710,692	92.0%	26.130402 0.903587	\$3,000,477.00 \$112,686.99	\$3,076,885.30	\$36,278.69	98.83%
MANLIUS Library	\$4,652,600	100%	24.039681 0.831300	\$111,147.05 \$3,867.65	\$115,014.70	\$0.00	100.00%
Sub Total				\$40,859,125.14	\$38,702,704.95	\$2,150,630.39	94.72%
STAR Reimbursement Adjustments			-2829672.76	(\$5,789.80)			
				\$40,853,335.34	\$38,702,704.95	\$2,150,630.39	94.72%

AND WHEREAS the internal auditor has examined and verified the accuracy of the signed reports of the collectors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board accept the reports of the tax collectors and, having determined that the collectors have accounted for the full amount of the tax warrant, direct that the lists of the delinquent tax items be certified to the office of the county treasurer;
AND IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED that the tax warrant, tax roll, and the tax collectors' copies of the tax receipts be placed on file with the School District Clerk.

Motion carried. (9-0-0)

Policy Review – First Reading

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

- [7550 Dignity For All Students](#)
- [7551 Sexual Harassment of Students](#)
- [7552 Student Gender Identity](#)
- [7553 Hazing of Students](#)
- [7560 Notifications of Sex Offenders](#)
- [7570 Supervision of Students](#)
- [7580 Safe Public School Choice](#)

Mr. Reyes stated that there was clarification on the notifications of sex offenders and that was updated by our attorneys.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about Policy 7580, safe public school choice, given we only have one middle and one high school, what does that mean to designate a safe public school in that context. Dr. Smith responded that each year the District sends in a VADIR report and if there is a persistently dangerous school, the district is required to provide another option for a student to attend. He said that this is not an option for us.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about Policy 7550, the DASA Policy, and the way the Board is notified. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that this is part of the annual reporting. Mrs. Rhodes asked if a more frequent reporting schedule be helpful. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that this is part of our request for regular reporting.

Mr. Reyes stated that this would be appropriate as the DASA and VADIR incidents are part of the discipline reports.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that the Board oversees the policies but not the procedures.

Mrs. Rhodes asked, what the procedural reviews are relating to policies.

Dr. Smith stated we have been taking notes as to the changes necessary relating to the policy review and will begin to implement those changes upon adoption of the manual. He said this is also part of the data dashboard that we are working on.

Mrs. Rhodes asked when we will have the dashboard up. Dr. Smith stated that he is hoping to get the reports to the Board a couple times this year. He said it is really about what is the most meaningful data we can present to the Board and what is the best frequency to do that.

Mrs. Rhodes stated she agreed and would be open to having this as a future agenda item.

These policies will be brought back for a second reading on December 21st.

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. Rhodes stated that Mrs. DeForest has shared a compilation of governance. She asked the Board to review so that it can be discussed further at the next meeting.

Mrs. DeForest asked the Board to email her with other topics and said that she had reached out to NYSSBA and they do not have a “year at a glance” appendix. She said she will be reaching out to committee chairs for look at history for guidance.

Mrs. Rhodes shared that Dr. Smith has reached out to teachers regarding a Master Teacher Program presentation and will be coming back to us with a date in the future.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said that NYSSBA sent her a Board Schedule and will send it to Mrs. DeForest.

Mrs. Rhodes asked Max if he has learned what the sustainability club at the high school is doing and if he is able to work with them in regard to the electric maintenance vehicles.

Max stated he has had conversations with a senior student who is running the club. He said he would like to bring her into more formal conversations with Dr. Corcoran and himself. Dr. Corcoran stated she will send an email with available times.

Quarterly Financial Reports

Mr. Decker presented the Board with the quarterly financial report. (See Supplemental Minutes). He shared that there are a few items still pending and said it was an interesting time as this is when grants are beginning to be approved. Mr. Decker said that the state has been holding 20% of the grants but the district’s first two federal grants have not had a hold. He said there is a lot of wait and see, so we will be patient and see what the Governor brings late December, early January.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Smith shared that the Master Teacher presentation is scheduled for January 25th. He updated the Board on COVID as well as emergency closing days. Dr. Smith reviewed the orange and yellow zone designations and the testing that took place the week after Thanksgiving. He said that with the help of the County, Moses DeWitt tested 50% of staff and students, met the new requirement and will test again in January. He said that Tecumseh, Jamesville Elementary, the Middle School and the High School all met the requirements with the generous help of the County. He thanked everyone who signed up to be tested. Dr. Smith stated that we will continue to work with the County to do testing at schools whether required or not as it is his belief that additional testing is good and testing is needed to eradicate COVID and keep buildings, students and staff safe.

Dr. Smith shared the significant challenge involved with the large number of cases in the area. He said the cases are not at the schools but the schools are impacted as students and teachers are being required to be quarantined. He said there may be some relief as the CDC has put out new guidelines which are less stringent but New York State has not yet adopted those guidelines. Dr. Smith acknowledged the efforts of the Onondaga County Department of Health, the Onondaga County Emergency Management Office and the County Executive’s Office. He said that other counties are required to do the testing themselves and the County has lifted that off our shoulders by doing this testing for us. He said it has been a positive and beneficial partnership for the District. Dr. Smith shared that, to date, we have had 24 positive cases of COVID in the District.

He also said that the state has determined that districts can now provide remote learning on emergency closing days instead of snow days. He said the goal is to continue to have students learn, but we may need to use the emergency closing days. Dr. Smith thanked everyone who participated in the Public Forum and that there was a lot of information shared and learned. Lastly, Dr. Smith stated that looking ahead, there is a lot of work to do such as getting the Safety Team together, tackling the code of conduct in the policy review, budget planning for the 21-22 school year and an elementary school space study.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Rhodes thanked everyone that attended the Public Forum and everyone that is being vigilant in keeping the schools and community safe.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz updated the Board on a leadership development webinar she attended titled, Institutional Racism, Raising Awareness and Meeting the Needs of All Students. She said there were approximately 300 people on the call. She said they discussed policy and there was an example of an equity policy that came out of it.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if she would share with the Board. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz replied yes.

At 8:54 p.m., Dr. Corcoran moved and Dr. Archer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOARD APPROVED: 12/21/20