

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – November 4, 2019

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION PRESENT</b>
Mrs. Archer Dr. Corcoran Mrs. DeForest Mrs. James-Murad Mrs. Petrosillo Mrs. Rhodes Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz Mr. Souser William Guisbond	Mrs. Woodcock Dettor	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. at Moses-DeWitt Elementary School.

Mr. Souser moved to adjourn to executive session and Mrs. Rhodes seconded.

Motion carried. (8-0-0).

At 7:56 p.m. Mrs. Rhodes moved to adjourn from executive session to regular session and Mrs. Archer seconded the motion. At 8:02 p.m. the regular session of the Board meeting was called back to order in the gymnasium of Moses-DeWitt Elementary School.

Others in attendance were Jeni Leslie, Maya Leslie, Sarah Hayes, Penelope Poder Esenbies, Andrea Jacobs, Lucks KeKcuy, Simon Lesser, Suzanne Dunn, Sarah Boulton, Christiana Semabia, Kerry Coleman-Herrick, Jessica Sacramuzzino, Raphael Vaverchak, Kyle Pribula, Rachel Wager, Kerin Rigney, Jodi Schwedes, Kaleel Boykins, Eric Cummings, Heather Balash, Vlada Putintseva, Hadeel Hosheshi, Linda Saraceni, John Saraceni, Colby Porter, Sandra Luis Cabanero, Rainer Yaeger, Connor Ball, Sidra Jawed, Ella Teece, Melissa Vahey, Michelle Kielbasinski, Alexandra Bishop, Kalli Essig, Sara Herson, Moira Ristau, Sarah Schaefer, Sunny Jones, Michael Fitzpatrick, Tristan Lonsway, Justin Le, Lauren Fuegel, Hadav Klein, Caroline Brackett, Gabriella Kielbasinski, Alyssa Olsen, Alexis Thorpe, Evan Wisniewski, Sophia Clinton, Katie McPeak, Rachel Wells, Ethan Wells, Juli Keller, Molly Clinton, Lisa Patchen, Kris Butler, Maureen Aliani, Skylar Hardt and Jamie Lomit.

### **Presentation – Moses-DeWitt Elementary School Mrs. Sylvester**

Mrs. Sylvester welcomed the Board and thanked everyone for coming. She provided an update on the commitment to Responsive Classroom, technology and social emotional learning. She talked about how the social workers in the district have worked together on the Social Emotional Plan and gave examples of K-4 lessons being implemented. Sarah Hayes, social worker at Moses-DeWitt, presented the Board with examples of lessons for different grade levels. Ms. Hayes works directly in the classrooms to provide students with strategies to help with self-control, getting along with others and self-esteem. Mrs. Sylvester said she appreciated the support and effort put into the Consultant Teacher Direct model of instruction and acknowledged Mrs. Tracey Menapace for her hard work. Mrs. Sylvester stated that Moses-DeWitt values the support of the District Office and the Board of Education, also.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about the CTD model and if it has impacted how enrichment is provided and how it addresses issues of disproportionate results on state tests. Mrs. Sylvester provided an example of how adults are better utilized in the CTD model to meet each student's need. She provided an example from third grade.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about how aides are used as part of the CTD model. Mrs. Sylvester explained that the job of part-time, grade level aides is to support teachers clerically and to monitor lunch and recess. The role of aides assigned to support individual students is to support that child so he or she is successful. Mrs. Sylvester explained that for some students the goal is for the child to not need an aide. Their role is for the aide to be there when the child needs them and to step away when independence is appropriate.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about restorative practices and has there been conversation about it. Mrs. Sylvester stated that they are in the process of learning and talking about upcoming training opportunities.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if there is one CTD class per grade and do the students know they are in it. Mrs. Sylvester responded that the approach is to make the class as typical as possible.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how the CTD model is being communicated to parents. Mrs. Sylvester responded that it is not communicated as a whole, but it is included in the welcome back letter.

Mrs. Petrosillo asked about the space for a CTD class, given there is one per grade level. Mrs. Sylvester stated that the CTD classroom is a different model for providing support to students and takes place in the existing classrooms.

Mrs. Archer asked if the SEL model of support leads to shorter cycles of measurement of progress. Mrs. Sylvester stated yes, more frequent conversations and supports for behavior are occurring.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked how the children and teachers are responding.

Mrs. Sylvester stated that teachers love it. She also said that it feels good to not have the students pulled out of classrooms. She said there are challenges, but that the team is working through these issues to make improvements.

### **Community Comment Time #1**

Linda Saraceni commented on resignation and that it can be a difficult decision.

Christiana Semabia commented that she does not feel welcome and feels administration has not acted sufficiently in light of recent incidents.

### **Minutes of November 4, 2019 Meeting**

Mrs. Rhodes moved and Mrs. Archer seconded the approval of the Minutes of the November 4, 2019 Meeting as amended.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

## Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that she will be voting no as there are four criteria she has asked for that has not been addressed. Until an agreement is reached, she will be voting no.

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

### ***INSTRUCTIONAL***

#### **Request for Extension of Leave**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Leave</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Lynette Neumann Speech Language Path.	M.S.	FMLA	11/20/19-2/11/20

### ***NONINSTRUCTIONAL***

#### **Appointments**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Leo Falter Custodian I Probationary Appointment Replacing J. Wentworth	Custodial Dept/JES	\$20.83/hr.	11/21/19
Rebecca Forgione Substitute Food Service Helper	Food Service	\$11.80/hr.	11/6/19
James Frank Substitute Bus Driver	Transportation	\$20.60/hr.	11/5/19
Gene Grena P/T Driver/Messenger Replacing G.Wilson	Transp.	\$14.00/hr. 19.75 hrs/wk	11/5/19
Nikoahl Rioux Bus Dispatcher Provisional Appointment Replacing M. Tierney	Transp.	\$16.97/hr.	11/5/19
Mary Anne Smithers FT Teacher Aide Probationary Appointment Increased Enrollment	JES	\$11.80/hr.	11/5/19

#### **Resignation**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Linda Saraceni Teacher Aide	JES	10/22/19

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

### **Overnight Field Trips**

Dr. Smith presented the Board with two overnight field trip requests.

Mrs. Rhodes moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval of the NYSSMA trip to the All-State Conference in Rochester, New York from December 5, 2019 to December 8, 2019.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Mr. Souser asked about information on passports for students going on the Montreal trip and Dr. Smith responded that chaperones make sure they have what is required and that it is turned in/checked prior to leaving.

Mrs. DeForest moved and Mr. Souser seconded the approval of the JDHS French Club trip to Montreal, Canada from March 27, 2020 to March 29, 2020.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

### **Award Day Automation Energy Performance Contract**

Dr. Smith presented the Board with a letter of intent to be approved, which will allow Day Automation to begin a thorough energy audit. Once the audit is completed, design documents will be submitted to NYSED to allow them to begin work.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked how we selected them and if there is savings that will come back to us. Mr. Decker responded that we look at proposals and that the savings will be generated over time.

Mr. Souser stated that in the contract they will be delivering a report by November 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Smith responded that we will get a revised date for the report to be received.

Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the Letter of Intent to Award Day Automation the Energy Performance Contract. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Motion carried (8-0-0).

### **Resolution – 48 Month Service Contract with OCM BOCES**

Dr. Smith explained 48 month service contract resolution to the Board. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE**

## JAMESVILLE-DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Jamesville-Dewitt School District desires to **enter into up to a 48 month service contract** with the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services (hereafter referred to as OCM BOCES) in order for the Regional Information Center (RIC) to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(1), those services being but not limited to network printing services in CoSer 521,562 and/or CoSer 620

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the above Jamesville-Dewitt School District acknowledges that the Equipment is, and shall at all times be and remain, the sole and exclusive property of the entity leasing the equipment to OCM BOCES, and District shall **not have any right, title or interest in the Equipment**. Above School District hereby **disclaims, waives and releases any right, interest, title, lien or claim in the Equipment, and acknowledges** that, upon a default under the lease provided to OCM BOCES, lessor **may take possession** of the Equipment.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the above School District **agrees to enter** into a contract with the OCM BOCES for the provision of **said services to the District not to exceed in total over the life of this agreement** the estimated annual payment for **equipment and Regional Information Center support of \$5,172.00 plus overage charges** incurred by the OCM BOCES on behalf of the school district during the term of this **contract. This amount may be amended** with the approval of both parties. Payments will **be made as part of a regular annual BOCES contract** for services. Further, this **contract will be finalized by the Superintendent** of the school district and is subject to the **approval of the Commissioner of Education** for both this multi-year **service agreement** and the **OCM BOCES Document Services Agreement** contract that will be entered into on behalf of the school district at its request. This contract will be for a maximum period of **48 months commencing on or about November 30, 2019. CERTIFICATION OF DISTRICT CLERK**

I, Timothy Decker, District of the Jamesville-Dewitt School District, hereby certify that the attached resolution was adopted by the **required majority of the Board of Education at its meeting held on November 4, 2019.**

Motion carried (8-0-0).

### Policy Committee Report

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz reported that the Committee met last week. There are 8 policies coming to the Board for a first reading. There are recommendations for modifications. The following Policies were discussed as a first reading:

- [Board Policy 1110 – School District and Board of Education Legal Status and Authority](#)

- [Board Policy 1120 – Board of Education: Qualifications, Numbers and Terms of Office](#)
- [Board Policy 1210 – Board Members: Nomination and Election](#)
- [Board Policy 1220 – Reporting of Expenditures and Contributions](#)
- [Board Policy 1230 – Resignation and Dismissal](#)
- [Board Policy 1310 – Powers and Duties](#)
- [Board Policy 1330 – Appointments and Designations By the Board](#)
- [Board Policy 1331 – Duties of the District Clerk](#)

Regarding Policy # 1210 Mrs. Rhodes suggested that if we do not pay our inspectors of elections, we should change the title to volunteer election inspectors.

Regarding Policy # 1230 – There was a question regarding the hearing and appeal process if someone is removed. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz will take that back to the committee for discussion.

Regarding Policy # 1310 – Mrs. DeForest questioned language in the policy regarding powers and duties of the board and asked if Mrs. James Murad knew if the language sounded like law. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz responded that our language is newer, that is why it looks different.

Regarding Policy # 1120 – Mrs. DeForest asked if where the “board” is mentioned, we would like to make it more personal, ie: Jamesville-DeWitt Board of Education. Mr. Decker responded that we can ask the policy committee to put that in the Intro at the beginning of the policy book.

Regarding Policy # 1330 – Mrs. Rhodes asked about how you would remove someone with an indefinite appointment. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz will take that back to the policy committee.

### **Potential Consideration for Future Meetings**

Mrs. Petrosillo stated that there will be an updated list for the next meeting.

Mrs. Rhodes asked to have the topic of election procedures and practices placed on the list.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Smith began his report by addressing the instances of racial concerns. He stated that JD does not tolerate discrimination at any time. He stated that steps have been taken to address the concerns, and that his goal is to provide professional development that will help build a community where all students feel safe and welcome. He said he was deeply saddened and sorry to families and students.

Dr. Smith shared his goals with the Board which include developing a District Strategic Plan, continuing work to provide equitable access and opportunities for all students, ensuring all students have access to rigorous K-12 curriculum, engaging the community to hear multiple perspectives to improve practices and beginning the 2020 Capital Project.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about measurement from a student's perspective with regard to equitable access and opportunity for all students. Dr. Smith responded that information will come from the climate survey. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz also asked about a measure for staff in the district for cultural competency. Dr. Smith responded that not every staff member will be exposed to training right away and that it is early in the process. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked for the numbers once training is complete.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about engaging the community through the communication of a district e-newsletter and if there is a way to tie it back to BLT or parent engagements. She feels we need a mechanism to hear feedback from parents and community members.

Both Dr. Corcoran and Mrs. Archer suggested a platform similar to "Let's Talk" that is being used by Syracuse City Schools. It appears as a link at the bottom of the Syracuse City School District webpage.

Will Guisbond suggested adding a spot on the second goal under achievement that will show district goal of social emotional learning and getting well versed in restorative practices.

Mrs. Archer suggested additional supports for staff working with students experiencing trauma.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz addressed goal # 3 and asked if there will be measures.

Dr. Smith provided the Board with an update on the strategic planning process. He reported that the committee met with the facilitators from the University of Rochester. He reviewed the process involved, which included working in small groups looking for strengths and weaknesses. He stated that there was approximately 30 heterogeneous people in the room for the meeting with a tremendous amount of energy.

Will stated that he felt it was some of the most thoughtful conversation that has been had by the district.

Mrs. DeForest said it takes time to understand and there is so much to understand.

Dr. Smith reported that JD High School students won a number of gold and silver medals at the Empire State Press Awards for their work on the Ram Page, Ram Feed and Rambunctious.

Dr. Smith updated all on upcoming events including Superintendent's Day on November 5<sup>th</sup>, where the Perception Institute will be working all day with staff on skill building. The National Honor Society Induction on November 7<sup>th</sup> and a Public Forum on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if the Board will receive the University of Rochester report before the strategic plan is complete. Dr. Smith responded that report was not flattering and there is concern that if the report was taken out of context, it would be misconstrued and misunderstood. Dr. Smith agrees that the Board should have access to it and the Board will receive a draft of the plan once it is complete. Dr. Smith explained that the University of Rochester has deemed the report is proprietary and confidential.

There was a discussion regarding when the Board would receive the report and when the Board would vote on the plan.

Mrs. DeForest asked about the auditorium and if it was ready to be used. Dr. Smith responded that there is an event taking place in it tomorrow.

Mrs. DeForest asked about when the Budget Calendar will be published? Dr. Smith stated that there will be a Finance Meeting in November and it will be on the agenda.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about how you are going about interviewing people to help with the work on curriculum.

Dr. Smith responded that he has met with two different groups. He has a proposal from one group. The second group has a different scale of products, different levels of entry points to access information. He is waiting for the third group to get back to him. Mrs. Petrosillo asked about the timeline and Dr. Smith responded that they will try to immediately get to the middle school staff.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if there was any organizations offering a body to look at curriculum.

Dr. Smith stated that there is a consultant that offers that type of support.

Mrs. Petrosillo asked how soon we will have this done and Dr. Smith responded as soon as we can find someone.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about the context of time, would it be spring? Dr. Smith responded that the work will be done quickly, within the next couple of months; there are many people involved with many different schedules.

Mrs. Rhodes asked for an update on the Asst. Principal Process. Dr. Smith responded that the first round took place last week with three parents, two teachers and two students on the committee. Next round of interviews will have a smaller group on the committee. We are still on target to identify the candidate by December. Mrs. Rhodes asked how parents were chosen to be on the committee and Dr. Smith responded that the Mr. Gasparini reached out to them.

### **Board President's Report**

Mrs. Petrosillo reported on the NYSSBA Convention which many of the Board members attended. She said it was very informational and helpful to know that every school is dealing with similar challenges. She looks forward to attending next year. Mrs. Petrosillo met with Will Guisbond and he crafted his first report. Mrs. Petrosillo spoke about the upcoming Parent Forum on November 14<sup>th</sup> and asked if anyone is interested and available, please come share and listen to the community.

### **Unfinished and Continuing Business**

Will Guisbond provided the Board with his first "unofficial" report. He shared that he has had a great experience so far. He said the students and district as a whole are passionate and that he believes this is a great time for our district. He thanked Dr. Smith for his commitment and his statement. Will stated that with regard to DEI, repeated offenses make the students feel not secure and we need to become more invested as it becomes more of a problem. He reported that he met with the Student Council at the Middle School last week. He explained his role to them and they asked a lot of questions. He shared his email with them and told them to feel free to contact him. Will suggested that sustainability be placed on the potential consideration for meetings list. The Middle School is focusing on composting and

using silverware other than plastic. Will has spoken to Mr. Gasparini and he is receptive to doing this at the high school.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked how Will is letting students know how to contact him. Will responded that he is posting his contact information and building relationships with students. Going forward he would like to use the video announcements and a possible suggestion box.

Mr. Souser asked if anyone is coming forward with any ideas for sustainability. Will responded that student government should be able to do this, as well as the environmental club at the high school.

Mrs. Archer asked about, how, as we are talking about supporting our students, we are taking care of ourselves.

Mrs. DeForest stated that as she attended the Foreign Language National Honor Society Induction, there was a powerful message of the value of learning another language as the students introduced each other and ran the show. She also reported on the importance of the various cultures that were displayed at Multicultural Night at Moses-DeWitt and also reported on the Area All State in Ithaca, where J-D had the second largest number of students in Choir and Band and Orchestra.

## **Community Comment Time #2**

Katie McPeak commented on the confederate flag and the issue of ignorance at J-D. She asked for a more diverse staff and an apology.

Gabriella Kielbasinski commented on Equity and Inclusion and although she had great experiences, and she doesn't doubt the sincerity of the apology, it doesn't heal the wounds.

Caroline Brackett commented that she is concerned about issues not always being resolved over the years. She also commented that she did not feel welcome at this meeting, could not hear anything and wondered why the microphone was not used.

Kerry Coleman-Herrick thanked the students for showing up and asked Dr. Smith to make a statement regarding the recent racial issues.

Michelle Kielbasinski commented on communications and stated that she thought it was disrespectful to start the meeting 30 minutes late.

Sunny Jones commented about cultural sensitivity and shared her experience as a student and about how it is 20 years later and discrimination is still happening.

Christiana Semabia finished her previous comment and stated that DASA requires a competent, racially literate and culturally competent representative, and the district does not have such a person.

Rachel Wagner commented on DEI, racial bias in all buildings, lack of diversity and need for an equity officer.

Maureen Aliani commented about language used, stating that it is not *stuff*, it is racism.

Kofi Addai commented about cultural responsiveness, that he is concerned about racism, concerned nobody else is, and asked to open our eyes to racism and find a solution.

Jeni Leslie commented about privilege, bias and racism. She said we are all subject to bias and that we do not talk about race enough. She suggested the book, *White Fragility*.

Lauren Fuegel commented on curriculum. She shared that fact that she will be graduating early and felt that she was just “wasting her time for the last thirteen years.”

At 10:50 p.m. Mrs. Archer moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the meeting be adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

At 11:05 p.m. Mrs. Rhodes moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded to adjourn Executive Session.

At 11:06 p.m. Mrs. Rhodes moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker  
Clerk of the Board