

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – December 16, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

Mrs. Petrosillo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at in the Board Room of the District Office.

Others in attendance were Jeremie Auge, Connie Meyers Kelly, Ann Wright, Jacqueline Kadish, Sonia Kragh, Patricia Hughes, Ben Harkaway, Matt Allen, Nathan Upton, Sean Bar, Michael Fitzpatrick, and Tom Taylor.

Community Comment Time #1

There were no comments.

Minutes of December 2, 2019 Meeting

Mrs. Archer moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval of the Minutes of the December 2, 2019 meeting as amended.

Motion carried (7-0-0).

Mrs. James Murad joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Claims Auditor Report

The new Claims Auditor Summary Report was introduced.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Archer seconded the acceptance of the Claims Auditor Report. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Recommendations of the CPSE and the CSE

Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee on Pre-School Special Education and the Committee on Special Education from their meetings on November 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25 and 27, 2019 and December 3, 2019.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. DeForest moved and Mr. Souser seconded the approval of the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations and Addendum as follows:

INSTRUCTIONAL

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2019-2020

Coaching - Extended Season – Fall

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Joseph Amedro	Girls Varsity Swimming Asst. Coach	\$949
Robert Bewley	Girls Varsity Swimming Head Coach	\$1,935
Patricia Ferris	Girls Varsity Volleyball Head Coach	\$1,797
Tracey Fishkin	Varsity Gymnastics Head Coach	\$620
Daniel Law	Boys Varsity Soccer Head Coach	\$1,998
James Lawton	Girls Varsity Cross-Country Head Coach	\$1,260
Kyle Michael	Boys Varsity Volleyball Head Coach	\$1,536
Hayley Nies	Girls Varsity Soccer Head Coach	\$2,283
Emily Rowles	Boys Varsity Cross Country Head Coach	\$1,665
Eugene Sul	Girls Varsity Tennis Head Coach	\$2,125

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointments</u>		Effective
			Salary	
Benjamin Stroh Auditorium Manager	District Office		\$50/hr.	12/17/19

Name and position	Location	<u>Change in Status</u>		Effective
			Salary	
Diane Thelen Cook Manager Replacing K. Knapp	Food Service		\$17.22/hr.	1/6/20

Addendum Personal Changes – December 16, 2019

INSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointments</u>		Cert	Effective
			Annual Salary		
Chiao Chan Teaching Assistant Probationary Appointment (4 yrs) New Position - Increased Enrollment	M.S.		\$17,124	TA Level 1	12/17/19

Name and position	Location	<u>Change in Status</u> Change	Effective
Kathalyn Brazie ENL	M.S.	Additional Class - \$8,268/prorated	1/6/20-6/30/20

Motion carried (7-1-0). Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz opposed.

Mrs. Rhodes joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Inspectors of Election

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the Inspectors of Election for the Capital Project Vote on December 17, 2019. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Policy Review - First Reading

Nine policies came to the Board for a first reading. There are recommendations for modifications. The following Policies were discussed as a first reading:

- [Board Policy 1620 – Annual Organizational Meeting](#)
- [Board Policy 1630 – Legal Qualifications of Voters at District Meetings](#)
- [Board Policy 1640 – Absentee Ballots](#)
- [Board Policy 1650 – Submissions of Questions and Propositions at the Annual Meeting and Election and Special District Meetings](#)
- [Board Policy 2110 – Orienting and Training Board Members](#)
- [Board Policy 2210 – Committees of the Board](#)
- [Board Policy 2320 – Attendance by Board Members at Conferences, Conventions and Workshops](#)
- [Board Policy 2330 – Compensation and Expenses](#)
- [Board Policy 2340 – Board Self-Evaluation](#)

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz received two questions regarding the policies up for a first reading. With regard to #2210, Mrs. Petrosillo asked what the nature of the Visitation Committee. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that the question is, how does the policy match the practice? The Facilities Committee executes the right to examine the school. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated the Policy Committee and the Facilities Committee should discuss the purpose of the visits to each building. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz explained that the policy is appropriate but a practice should be in place to determine what work comes out of a visit to the building.

The following policies were brought back for a second reading:

- [Board Policy 1320 – Nomination and Election of Board Officers and Duties of the President and Vice President](#)

- [Board Policy 1410 – Policy and Administrative Regulations](#)
- [Board Policy 1510 – Regular Board Meetings and Rules \(Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure\)](#)
- [Board Policy 1520 – Special Meetings of the Board](#)
- [Board Policy 1530 – Minutes](#)
- [Board Policy 1540 – Executive Sessions](#)
- [Board Policy 1610 – Annual District Meeting and Election/Budget Vote](#)
- [Board Policy 1611 – Business of the Annual District Election](#)

Policies #1320 and #1610 reflect changes from first to second readings. In Policy #1320, the last sentence of the last paragraph was added to explain process in the event the office of Vice-President becomes vacant. In Policy #1610 language was clarified regarding the process to submit a request to the Commissioner of Education to change the date of an annual district meeting. Mrs. James Murad did the research to determine the request must be certified by the Commissioner no later than March 1st.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz also stated that the policy service was vague regarding the question about special meetings and who can call a special meeting. A vote to call a special meeting is not necessary.

Mrs. Rhodes asked for Clarification on Policy #1530 and what does *kept* mean with regard to minutes. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz researched this and explained that the word suggests both ownership and execution of the minutes. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz suggested that the Board interpret the definition to mean that it is the District Clerk’s responsibility to keep the minutes of the meetings, but he/she may delegate that responsibility.

With regard to Policy 1320, Mrs. Rhodes asked about the language *will* vs. *may*, and is a Vice-President optional. Mrs. James Murad stated that by law we are not required to have a Vice-President, but our policy allows us to have one. The Board is not required to have a Vice-President. Mrs. Rhodes suggested changing the word *may* to *will*.

Mrs. Rhodes moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of Board Policies 1410 to 1611 and Policy 1320 as amended.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Community Comment Time Revision

Mrs. Petrosillo stated that as a result of community members’ comments and emails and with serious and thoughtful consideration, the current ground rules have been reviewed and revised. Beginning with the January 13, 2020 the Board will have one public comment time that will be limited to thirty minutes and three minutes for each speaker. During this comment time, comments can be made on either agenda or non-agenda items. If the Board finds there are a lot of people with comments, a motion can be made to amend the agenda to add thirty more minutes of comment time.

Mrs. Petrosillo read the new ground rules.

Mr. Souser asked if there was a number of cards that an individual would be allowed to submit. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that each speaker would be allowed one card per community comment time.

Dr. Corcoran asked about the process for collecting cards should there be a need for a second community comment time. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that if we run out of time in the first thirty minutes and there were cards left, that is when we would consider a second comment time. Cards submitted for the first community comment period will be given priority for the second community comment time. The cards will be one color and the priority of comments will go to an agenda item. Will suggested that the ground rules be put on the back of the cards. The new ground rules will be posted on the website and they will be put on the cards. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that we will be getting a timer for the table.

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Will suggested beginning the meeting with positive news that would be included on the Agenda and incorporating business meetings and work sessions into the formal Board Calendar.

Quarterly Financial Reports

Mr. Decker presented the Board with the quarterly financial report. All accounts are balanced. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith shared information regarding the State Education Department and the appointments that have taken place. Shannon Tahoe has been appointed Interim Commissioner and a national search for a permanent Commissioner continues.

Dr. Smith also stated that he has been following statewide discussions on state aid and the foundation aid formula. The state government is trying to get all levels of government to change the formula. It is a political challenge that has a direct impact on us as we start the budgeting process.

Dr. Smith reminded everyone that tomorrow is the Capital Project Vote and that polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. He updated the Board on upcoming events and hoped that Board members have an opportunity to attend one of the holiday concerts in the new auditorium.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Petrosillo reported on the Board retreat last week. She said the first part of the retreat was sharing information and experiences about the NYSSBA Annual Convention. All the documents have been shared in the Google Drive. The second part of the retreat focused on the book *White Fragility*. The facilitators were Kofi Addai and Andrea Jacobs from Interfaith Works. The next Board retreat is on April 2, 2020, topics for the retreat will be collected.

Mrs. Petrosillo stated that she was sad to read the article on Syracuse.com by Sonia Kragh from the Sierra Club regarding the upcoming capital project vote. She stated that both herself and Dr. Smith spoke with Liz Doran, a reporter from the Post Standard/Syracuse.com regarding the Capital Project.

Lastly, Mrs. Petrosillo spoke about the interim progress review for Dr. Smith. She stated that they are pushing back one meeting for this review. Dr. Smith will share progress on his objectives at the January

13th meeting. On January 27th, the Board will have a draft of the review and the final review will be provided on February 10.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if we had received the reports from the University of Rochester regarding the strategic planning process. Mrs. DeForest responded that they have been received and reviewed, and the data processing is done. The big areas of focus have been identified and the committee has broken down into small groups to determine areas of focus. The fourth meeting is this Wednesday, December 18. She said the initiatives are a five year plan and will include a one-year management plan. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked for clarification about the management plan. Mrs. DeForest stated that it is the action plan. Mrs. Petrosillo asked how is the process going and both Will and Mrs. DeForest explained that the process is excellent. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked when the plan is anticipated to be done and Mrs. DeForest said the committee work will be done on Wednesday.

Mrs. Rhodes asked Dr. Smith how the process will be coming to the Board for approval. Dr. Smith stated after it is drafted, it will be brought to the Board to be accepted on the recommendation of the committee. He stated that he will get the reports to the Board ahead of time. He stated that it is likely that a draft will be provided at the January 27th meeting.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked how we, as a Board, will see progress against the plan. Dr. Smith responded that we will identify quarterly dates where reports will be presented.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz had an equity question from Junior parents, as a notice came home about the SAT Prep classes at the High School. She said that the registration is on a first come, first basis. She asked about the parents who don't have money before Christmas and how do those students have the same access for these exams. Mrs. DeForest stated that many people use Kahn Academy as well. Will stated that the SAT Prep courses are usually filled within a day. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that maybe we should be offering more classes.

Community Comment Time #2

Kieran O'Connor commented about Community Comment Time and asked the Board to consider not requiring people to give their name when commenting, per Open Meetings Law.

Rachel Wagner commented on Community Comment Time and while she was thankful for the response to the many requests, she was disappointed that her six minutes has now been cut down to three minutes. She asked if there was a way to optimize the agenda to see what is going to be discussed.

At 8:00 p.m. Mrs. James Murad moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the meeting adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations and litigation.

At 9:20 p.m. Mrs. Rhodes moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the meeting adjourn from Executive session.

At 9:21 p.m. Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Rhodes seconded the meeting to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board