

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – January 27, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

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. in the Board Room of the District Office.

Others in attendance were Ann Wright, Carol Lynn Boice, Kerry Coleman-Herrick and Michael Fitzpatrick.

Community Comment Time

There were no community comments.

Minutes of January 13, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor moved and Mr. Souser seconded the approval of the minutes of the January 13, 2020 Board Meeting.

Motion carried (8-0-1). Dr. Corcoran abstained.

Claims Auditor Report

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

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Recommendations of the CPSE and the CSE

Mrs. James Murad 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 18, and 20, 2019, December 4, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20, 2019 and January 8, 10, 13, 14, 16,17, 2020.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

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

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointments</u> Salary	Effective
Rebecca Forgione Part-time Food Service Helper Replacing D. Thelen	Food Service	\$12.03/hr.	1/28/20
Ashley Halbritter Part-time Teacher Aide Replacing L. Saraceni	JES	\$11.80/hr. 19.75 hrs./week	1/28/20
Barbara Mattison Sub. Bus Attendant	Transportation	\$12.40/hr.	1/28/20

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

TENURE APPOINTMENTS

Moved by Mr. Souser and seconded by Mrs. Archer, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Sara Sofranko who is professionally certified in the K-6 Elementary tenure area, be appointed on tenure in the K-6 Elementary tenure area effective April 20, 2020.

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

Mrs. Rhodes stated that she would like the minutes to reflect that both she and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz are objecting to the process not to the candidate.

**Resolution to Award Capital Outlay
Project to the Lowest Bidder**

**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 Dr. Corcoran and seconded by Mrs. Archer to approve the resolution below:

BE IT RESOLVED, that PAC Associates is hereby recognized as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for scope of work pertaining to the 2019 Capital Outlay Project and that Board President, Susan Petrosillo is hereby authorized, on behalf of the School District, to enter into an agreement with PAC Associates for \$120,000.00 in such form as is acceptable to the Superintendent

and Counsel.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Policy Review - First Reading

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

- [Board Policy 3110 Media/Municipal Governments/Senior Citizens](#)
- [Board Policy 3140 Flag Display](#)
- [Board Policy 3160 Charter Schools](#)
- [Board Policy 3210 Visitors to the School](#)
- [Board Policy 3220 Use of Service Animals](#)
- [Board Policy 3230 Public Complains](#)
- [Board Policy 3271 Solicitation of Charitable Donations](#)
- [Board Policy 3272 Advertising in the Schools](#)
- [Board Policy 3280 Use of School Facilities, Materials and Equipment](#)
- [Board Policy 3290 Operation of Motor-Driven Vehicles on District Property](#)
- [Board Policy 3310 Public Access to Records](#)

The following Policies were brought back for a second 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 addressed comments and questions about the policies that were up for a first reading. With regard to Policy # 3410 Code of Conduct it was suggested adding a clause to reflect that the handbook/code of conduct is distributed differently at each level and that it should be available online for parents.

Regarding Policy 3412, Will asked about School Tipline. Dr. Smith responded that the Tipline is on the website.

With regard to Policy # 3420, the term, protected classes, was discussed and Mrs. James Murad said it is very confusing and we should make it as easy as possible and cross reference policies as needed. Will asked about the Civil Rights Compliance Officer and how that is announced to the public. Dr. Smith responded that we announce this every fall in the J-D Journal.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz recommended that the compliance officer and other particular titles should be included on the website.

Regarding Policy 3510, Will questioned Board meetings that take place on a snow day and it was decided that per policy, a cancellation of a Board meeting would be made known by posting on the website.

Mr. Souser questioned how the Board is responsible for enforcing the code of conduct as it is stated in policy. Dr. Smith responded that he reads the policy to reflect that the Board provides the resources to help with enforcement. Mrs. James Murad stated that the only time the Board is hands-on is if a Superintendent's Hearing is appealed.

Mr. Souser asked for clarification on intra-racial harassment and what is the recourse in this situation. Dr. Smith stated this would go back to the administration for determination. There was a conversation regarding this and Mrs. Archer stated that she believes that this conversation belongs with other conversations around cultural sensitivity. Mrs. Petrosillo agreed.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that with regard to the code of conduct, this will require stakeholder input and for this they have asked to use the thoughtexchange. There will be more conversation to come.

With regard to the policies brought to the Board for a second reading, Mrs. Rivera took Policy 3271, Charitable Contributions, back to the policy service and clarified that guidelines need to reflect how we execute an event such as Hoops for Courage or a canned food drive. For example, with the canned food drive, donations need to be in an open area where you would not be able to identify who participates and who does not participate. Competition can occur between grade levels but not be between classrooms, so as to protect individual choice as to participate or not. Dr. Smith stated he will bring this information to administration.

Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the motion to approve Board Policies 3110, 3140, 3160, 3210, 3220, 3230, 3271, 3272, 3280, 3290, and 3310.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. Petrosillo said she would update the list for the next meeting.

Mrs. DeForest suggested revisiting the financial commitment of Board and brainstorming contributions as well as recognitions of students and staff.

Budget Discussion – Transportation & Maintenance

Dr. Smith reviewed the goals for the 2020-21 budget and the debt service section of the budget, which was presented at the last meeting. Then he presented the proposed Transportation and Maintenance Budgets for 2020-2021. (See Supplemental Minutes). There is a 3.86% increase in the proposed transportation budget, which is due to additional bus runs, vehicle insurance, and resources to complete building repairs. Dr. Smith thanked both Jenn Palmer and Tim Decker for their research of alternative fuel school buses. The pros and cons of alternative fueled buses was presented. The recommendation is to purchase one diesel bus, three gasoline busses and one micro bus with air conditioning. Next, Dr. Smith presented the Operations and Maintenance Budget, which also has a slight increase. The increase in the proposed budget is due to the cost of gas and electricity, purchase of equipment, BOCES telephone and printing services, and an expected increase in BOCES data processing. The Maintenance Department is in need of a new district dump truck/snow plow. The Finance Committee has decided that this will be outside the operating budget and will be presented as a separate proposition. The Fringe Benefits portion of the Budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the Finance Committee has discussed the idea of propane busses and has decided they are not comfortable with this option but are excited about the possibility of electric busses. The Sierra Club has offered to assist the district to find funding for a prototype. Mrs. Petrosillo will be meeting with the Sierra Club. There was a discussion regarding the feasibility of electric busses and battery life. There was also a discussion regarding the possibility of the district having students walk to school within certain distances.

Quarterly Financial Reports

Mr. Decker presented the Board with the quarterly financial report. All accounts are in balance and following normal trends. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith presented the Board with the 2018-2019 High School Graduation rates, which were recently published by the New York State Education Department.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if we had more information about the numbers of Hispanic graduates. Mrs. Rhodes asked about a co-hort too small to report and if there would be any way of reporting that going forward. Both Dr. Smith and Mrs. DeForest responded that this would identify individual students if we did that. Mrs. Archer asked Dr. Smith if he is able to share the High School's ESSA targets for subgroups. Dr. Smith responded that this report comes from the state education department later in the school year. Mr. Souser asked how a student is determined to be economically disadvantaged and Dr. Smith responded that it is based on qualification for free or reduced lunches.

Dr. Smith also stated that the Board of Regents is currently involved in conversation regarding the revision of graduation requirements for New York State.

Dr. Smith shared that an article was published on Syracuse.com regarding Shoppingtown Mall's bankruptcy and that the owners of Shoppingtown have filed a plan for reorganization. He stated that the district is working closely with our attorneys to make sure the needs of our students are being protected during this litigation. Dr. Smith reported that the district has signed a contract with the

Metro center for research on equity to help with curriculum work and cultural sensitivity training. He said that a possible suggestion for a community forum would be to bring in a liaison from the Metro center. Dr. Smith provided a draft of a search plan for the Tecumseh Elementary Principal to replace the retiring Mrs. Zerrillo. He said he is seeking input from staff and families and will use the thoughtexchange beginning after the February break. Dr. Smith shared celebrations and congratulated all the students who represented the High School and Middle School in the Scholastic Art Awards, which are being showcased at O.C.C and to the students that took part in the Shakespeare writing contest.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Petrosillo shared that both she and Mrs. Rhodes will attend the NYSSBA Superintendent's Evaluation Conference in Rochester on March 27. Mrs. Petrosillo said she received an email asking if we can publish the minutes of the meetings as a draft prior to the meeting. Mrs. Rhodes stated that according to Public Meetings Law we are required to publish within two weeks. Dr. Smith stated that the minutes are put up after they are approved at the meeting, unless the meetings are further than two weeks apart. When that occurs a draft of the minutes are put on the website within two weeks. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that she has scheduled a meeting with Dr. Kragh and Mrs. Kadish of the Sierra club at 2:30 on February 28, 2020. Lastly, Mrs. Petrosillo stated that she received an email from a community member with regard to the addition of religious holidays to the calendar. This community member stated that they do not support the addition of more religious holidays and, in his experience, if you add one holiday, you will have to keep adding holidays and possibly not meet the minimum number of required school days. Will stated that JD does a good job of accommodating students that need to miss class to celebrate their own religious holiday.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Mrs. Rhodes asked if we should have a Board discussion regarding the upcoming parent forum and the work with the Metro Center since we need to publish the agenda two weeks in advance. Mrs. Rhodes suggested adding it as an agenda item for the next Board meeting. Mrs. Rhodes stated she received feedback asking for advance notice of what the topic of the parent forum will be.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz suggested a future agenda item be the financial trend forecast. It was suggested that Tim and Peter talk about when it would make sense to discuss it.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that she and Will took part in a community dialogue last week at FM for their Big Read, *How to Raise an Adult; Break Free of the Over parenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success*. Dr. Kevin Antshel, psychology professor at Syracuse University spoke about the two most important things driving stress and anxiety in students; overprotective parents and social media. Dr. Corcoran stated she knew that Dr. Antshel is looking to do studies with local school districts and she will share the flyer. Dr. Smith stated that last week the Middle School screened the movie *Angst*, and Dr. Antshell was on the panel for that screening and discussion.

At 8:58 p.m. Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. Rhodes seconded the meeting adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel negotiations and legal matters.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

At 10:55 p.m., Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the meeting adjourn from Executive Session.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

At 10:55 p.m., Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOE APPROVED: 2/10/20