

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – February 10, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	ADMINISTRATION PRESENT
Mrs. Archer Dr. Corcoran Mrs. Deforest Mrs. Petrosillo Mrs. Rhodes Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz Mr. Souser Mrs. Woodcock Dettor William Guisbond	Mrs. James-Murad	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 Jeff Winwah, Lori Pratt, Jodi Schwedes, Erica Schwedes, Steven Abdel-Aziz, Max Mimaroglu, Kate Brown, Sydney Cline, Bryan Fennell, Ann Wright, Edgar Smith, Chloe Parratt, Amelia Mesler, Brevin Scullion, Moustafa Hassen, Kelli Palumbo, Sabina Muradova, Christiana Semabia, Rachel Wagner, Lanya Liebler-Bendix, Azriel Linder, Teddy Mulvihill, Nathan Sellinger, Jack Carmen, Martin Fernandez, Michael Fitzpatrick, and Cara Glazier

Community Comment Time

Steven Abdel-Aziz commented about closing schools on Muslim holidays and how it relates to diversity and equity as well as enhancing knowledge of others.

Rachel Wagner commented on curriculum and the need for a professional that can respond to bias in each building.

Christiana Semabia commented on adopting changes to the calendar and the need to make sure that well-qualified persons and to insure that the search process and postings reflect our desire for candidates with skills and expertise relating to DEI.

Ali Hazama commented on the Islamic holidays and students/children not being able to celebrate their own holiday. He added that recognizing these holidays could help break a lot of barriers.

Minutes of January 27, 2020 Regular Meeting

Mrs. Archer moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the approval of the minutes of the January 27, 2020 Board Meeting.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Claims Auditor Report

Mrs. Rhodes moved and Mr. Souser 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 Dr. Corcoran seconded the acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee on Pre-School Special Education and the Committee on Special Education from their meetings on January 17, 21, 22, 24, 27, and 28, 2020.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

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

INSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Change in Status</u>	Effective
Dan Vinette Technology Teacher	Middle School	Additional Class - Every day – Second Semester	1/27/20-6/26/20

Name and position	Location	<u>Request for Retirement</u>	Effective
Tammy Farrell Speech Teacher	District		6/30/20
Lorraine Page K-6 Classroom Teacher	Tecumseh		6/30/20

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2019-2020

Coaching – Winter Season		
Name	Assignment	Stipend
Kyle Michael	Modified Boys Volleyball Coach	

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2019-2020

Coaching – Spring Season		
Name	Assignment	Stipend
Christian Daly	Boys JV Boy Asst. Lacrosse Coach	
Jeffrey Matt	Girls Varsity Asst. Lacrosse Coach	
Megan Murphy	Girls Varsity Asst. Lacrosse Coach	
Justin Bird	Girls Modified Lacrosse Coach	
Joshua Paduano	JV Head Baseball Coach – Volunteer	
Katie Ducharme*	Varsity Head Softball Coach - Volunteer	
Sean McMahon	Varsity Asst. Softball Coach	
Jordan Zapisek*	Modified Softball Coach	
Patrick Gillette	Boys Varsity Asst. Track Coach	
Michele Maciejewski	Girls Varsity Asst. Track Coach	
Steven Scaramuzzino	Boys Varsity Asst. Track Coach	

Robert Dixon	Boys & Girls Varsity Asst. Track Coach – Volunteer
Rachel Setek*	Boys & Girls Modified Track Coach – Volunteer
Robert Bewley	Girls Modified Track Coach
Caitlyn Lawless*	Girls Modified Track Coach
Nancy Raicht	Boys Modified Track Coach
Dennis Schahczenski	Boys Modified Track Coach

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointments</u> Salary	Effective
Sheila Schweitzer F/T Teacher’s Aide Increased enrollment	Tecumseh		2/24/20
Barbara Mattison Substitute Food Service Helper	Food Service	.	2/24/20

Name and position	Location	<u>Change in Status</u> Change	Effective
Heidi Withers Teacher’s Aide F/T position replacing C. Auriccho & T. Charles	JES to MD	P/T to F/T	2/24/20

Addendum Personal Changes – February 10, 2020

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Resignations</u>	Effective
Donald Courbat School Bus Driver	Transportation		2/21/20
Zachary Reed Auto Mechanic	Transportation		2/19/20

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that she and Mrs. Rhodes would be voting no and explained that they are not specifically voting no to the recommendations but to the process. Their concern is that there is a not a consistent process that is followed and there are some questions that are still outstanding in this regard. They are hoping to be able to vote yes in the near future.

Mrs. Petrosillo stated that Dr. Smith is working to address the concerns and that we have currently have a process in place that allows us to hire high quality people.

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

High School Field Trip

Mrs. Archer moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded approval for the Model United Nations Team to

travel to St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY for a conference from March 6, 2020 to March 7, 2020.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Mrs. Rhodes asked about kids that cannot afford or access funds from the school to pay for the trip. Dr. Smith responded that the advisor is responsible for making sure that funds are available.

Mr. Souser asked about students that were not able to afford the trip and Dr. Smith responded everyone that wants to and is eligible, will participate.

Dr. Corcoran asked if the field trip forms could be done electronically going forward.

Refunding Estoppel Notice and Bond Resolution

REFUNDING ESTOPPEL NOTICE

The Refunding Bond Resolution, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on the 10th day of February, 2020, by the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such Refunding Bond Resolution may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, Onondaga County, New York, is not authorized to expend money or the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty (20) days after the date of publication of this notice or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Mrs. River Ortiz moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the approval of the Refunding Bond Resolution. (See Supplemental Minutes)

Motion carried (8-0-0).

SUMMARY OF REFUNDING BOND RESOLUTION

1. Class of Objects or Purposes. The refunding the outstanding amount of its \$4,617,010 original principal amount School District (Serial) Bonds, Series 2008A maturing on or after July 15, 2021 (the "Series 2008A Bonds") and the outstanding amount of its \$11,000,000 original principal amount School District (Serial) Bonds, 2012 Series A maturing on or after June 15, 2021 (the "Series 2012A Bonds") (collectively referred to as the "Outstanding Bonds" and each as a "Respective Series") more particularly described on Exhibit A attached hereto.

2. Period of Public Usefulness. The maximum period of probable usefulness permitted by the Local Finance Law at the time of the issuance of the Outstanding Bonds, for the object or purpose for which the Outstanding Bonds were issued, is as shown upon Exhibit A. The last installment of the

refunding bonds authorized by the Refunding Bond Resolution will mature not later than the expiration of the period of probable usefulness of each of the objects or purposes for which the Outstanding Bonds were issued in accordance with the provisions of subdivision 1 of paragraph c of Section 90.10 of the Local Finance Law.

3. Maximum Amount of Obligations to be Issued. \$7,000,000.

The Refunding Bond Resolution herein summarized shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours for twenty (20) days following the date of publication of this notice at the office of the School District, Edinger Drive, DeWitt, New York.

Timothy Decker, District Clerk
Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District
Onondaga County, New York

EXHIBIT A

DESCRIPTION OF OUTSTANDING BONDS

A. \$4,617,010 School District (Serial) Bonds, Series 2008A

Object or Purpose:

To finance the renovation and reconstruction of School District buildings - Bond Resolution dated November 20, 2006; authorizing \$5,530,000 Serial Bonds.

Period of Probable Usefulness:

30 years pursuant to subdivision 97 of paragraph (a) of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, computed from June 20, 2007.

Terms of Outstanding Bonds to be Refunded:

Amount: \$825,000 (2021 to 2022)

Maturity Date: July 15 of each year

Interest Payment Dates: January 15 and July 15 of each year

Redemption Date and Price: July 15, 2020 and thereafter at 100%

Schedule of principal amounts and interest rates:

<u>Year of Maturity</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2021	\$ 405,000	4.00%
2022	\$ 420,000	4.00%

B. \$11,000,000 School District (Serial) Bonds, 2012 Series A

Object or Purpose:

To finance the renovation and reconstruction of School District buildings - Bond Resolution dated December 20, 2010; authorizing \$11,000,000 Serial Bonds.

Period of Probable Usefulness:

30 years pursuant to subdivision 97 of paragraph (a) of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, computed from July 28, 2011.

Terms of Outstanding Bonds to be Refunded:

Amount: \$5,725,000 (2021 to 2027)

Maturity Date: June 15 of each year

Interest Payment Dates: June 15 and December 15 of each year

Redemption Date and Price: June 15, 2020 and thereafter at 100%

Schedule of principal amounts and interest rates:

<u>Year of Maturity</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2021	\$ 740,000	3.00%
2022	\$ 765,000	3.00%
2023	\$ 790,000	3.00%
2024	\$ 820,000	3.00%
2025	\$ 845,000	3.00%
2026	\$ 870,000	3.00%
2027	\$ 895,000	3.00%

Policy Review - First Reading

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

- [Board Policy 4110 Administrative Personnel](#)
- [Board Policy 4210 Administrative Organization and Operation](#)
- [Board Policy 4220 Administrative Authority](#)
- [Board Policy 4230 District Committees](#)
- [Board Policy 4240 Evaluation of the Superintendent and Other Administrative Staff](#)
- [Board Policy 4310 Superintendent of Schools](#)
- [Board Policy 4320 Superintendent- Board Relations](#)
- [Board Policy 5110 Budget Planning and Development](#)
- [Board Policy 5120 School District Budget Hearing](#)
- [Board Policy 5130 Budget Adoption](#)
- [Board Policy 5140 Administration of the Budget](#)
- [Board Policy 5150 Contingency Budget](#)

The following Policies were brought back for a second reading:

- [Board Policy 3410 Code of Conduct](#)
- [Board Policy 3411 Prohibition of Weapons on School Grounds](#)
- [Board Policy 3412 Threats of Violence in School](#)
- [Board Policy 3420 Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment in the District](#)

- [Board Policy 3510 Emergency School Closings](#)

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz addressed comments and questions about the policies that were up for a first reading.

With regard to Policy # 4210, Will asked about the difference between line officer and staff officer. Mr. Decker explained the differences. In the old policy manual, the policy is immediately followed by an organizational chart. In the new policy we will only have the policy. Mr. Decker said we can have an organizational chart, but not in policy.

With regard to Policy # 4230, it aligns with Policy # 2210, there was question on the wording “District Committees” and whether it is clear in the policy language that District Committees are separate from District Sub Committees.

Mrs. DeForest moved and Mrs. Rhodes seconded the motion to approve Board Policies 3410, 3411, 3412, 3420, and 3510.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. Petrosillo said she would update the list this weekend and email to the Board

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said she would like to discuss acknowledging the student government guests going forward, thanking them for attending, and getting signatures on forms in a timely manner. Will is allowed to sign off on students’ forms, as well.

Mrs. Petrosillo acknowledged the student government guests.

Mr. Souser asked if the Board could break for signatures if the meeting goes past a certain time. He asked if students were required to stay for a certain length of time. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that going forward we will break for signature for students.

Budget Discussion – Fringe Benefits

Dr. Smith reviewed the goals for the 2020-21 budget and summarized the areas of the budget that have been covered to date. Then, he presented the proposed Fringe Benefits section of the Budget. (See Supplemental Minutes). There is a 6% increase in the proposed fringe benefits budget, which is due to a significant increase in the cost of health insurance as well as an increase in dental insurance. The Athletics portion of the Budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

Discussion – Public Forum Topic

Dr. Smith stated that since we have contracted with NYU Metro Center, the Board suggested a presentation from the director, Maria Hernandez, to talk about the scope of the work. The Board has agreed to this topic for the Parent Forum on February 24.

Mrs. Rhodes suggested a question and answer period be included.

Mrs. Petrosillo asked the audience to spread the word, that the Public Forum will take place on February 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Large Group Room of the High School. There will be an open discussion and no timer.

Dr. Smith stated that it will be publicized on the District website, backpack stuffers will go home, and School Messenger will be utilized to send an email to families. Mrs. Rhodes asked about further reaching out to the Middle School and Will volunteered to reach out to the Middle School student council.

Discussion – 2020-2021 District Calendar

Dr. Smith spoke about a request that was received from a parent followed by a petition that was signed by many people asking the board to consider adding Muslim holidays to the District calendar. An email was also received suggesting the Board not add additional holidays to the calendar. Dr. Smith provided the Board with a memo explaining the parameters involved with the development of the district calendar. He explained that a 185 day calendar is built, which meets the 180 day legal requirement for schools and allows for snow days. The calendar must be agreed upon by the union. Currently, there is a proposed Bill in the NYS Senate that would allow school districts to recognize religious holidays with a day off from school if at least 7.5% of its student population follows that religion. This legislation proposes that such days off from school would not count as part of the 180 day legal requirement.

There was a discussion around following BOCES calendars and the comparison between NYC school districts, which do not utilize the services of a BOCES. Will asked if there was any good reason that we would not add the holidays and Dr. Smith explained that there are a limited number of days from Labor Day to the Regents Rating Day in June and the district is legally bound to be in school for 180 days. Adding additional holidays to the calendar will make it more difficult to meet this legal requirement.

Will shared that he had been approached by many students that have been passionate about the support of Muslim holidays. He believes that the support is there and it would be an incredible opportunity to respect those who celebrate these holidays.

Dr. Corcoran stated that she believes the Jamesville Elementary School community is extremely diverse, which is a testament to our community, and given the direction our district is heading she supports the addition of religious holidays as this aligns with the community strategic planning.

Mr. Souser circled back to mid-winter break stating that this is an extra block of time. Dr. Corcoran pushed back and stated that pulling February break should not be the first answer. Mr. Souser stated that the Jewish holiday Rosh Hashanah is a two-day holiday and students are not given both days off so they are missing the second day. Dr. Corcoran stated the buildings do not schedule events on those days and the students are not penalized. Mr. Souser said that although they are not penalized, they are playing catch up. Mrs. Rhodes stated that it is not possible to be closed for every single holiday for every religion and that as a Board, they need to support Dr. Smith with direction as to what is important. She said she fully supports closing for one of the Muslim holidays and recognizing others on the calendar. We need to make sure to not put signature events on the calendar during religious holidays. Mrs. Archer stated that when we talk about the Jewish faith and Jewish traditions, it honors those traditions and prompts conversations, which would be the same thing that would happen with other religions and holidays.

Mrs. Archer asked if there was a prayer room for students that are fasting and Dr. Smith responded that he did not think this was the case in all of the buildings.

Mrs. DeForest stated that she stumbled across an Andover, MA website where there is a statement along with the District policy on the website that recognizes holidays where they may not close, but they are recognized. Will stated he would be very curious to see if we could involve the community in this, could we put on the agenda for the community forum. Mrs. Rhodes stated that we are looking to the colleagues on the Board on how to foster this. Mrs. Petrosillo agreed with Mrs. Rhodes. She said the community has given us input. She believes that this is for the Board to decide, this is our decision. Mrs. Rhodes stated that changing can set precedent, but this change is only for one year and there will be more opportunities for dialogue during that year. Will appreciated all the comments and agrees that we can do this for one year and see how it goes.

Dr. Smith asked for parameters or restrictions from the Board. Mrs. Petrosillo stated that in the community comments, she heard two Muslim holidays but that Ramadan is very important.

Mrs. DeForest stated that with regard to the other emails, we need to focus on other religions as well and she is not sure how we look at balancing the importance of diversity. She believes some years will be easier than others.

Mr. Souser stated once we embrace these holidays, we will have to define legal holidays as per policy and procedures. He wanted to be clear that he supports the idea of honoring other religious holidays but wants to stress that once you recognize a holiday one year, you cannot go back and say this year we will not do so.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz spoke about the bill that is pending relating to holidays and stated that if the bill is passed, we will then be required to add these holidays.

Will looked up the NYS Bill that is in the Senate and said it is currently in the committee.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz thinks we can do some research. We will not have all the holidays unless the data supports it.

Mr. Souser stated he is okay with drafting a one year calendar.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith updated the Board on the Assistant Superintendent Search Plan. The Board requested a copy of the job description and he will email it to them. The plan gives a June 1 date for Board appointment and an anticipated start date of July 1.

Mrs. Rhodes asked where we were with the Tecumseh Principal search. She said she saw the posting on Indeed and wondered if there was a way to amend the posting to reflect the work that has been done around equity and inclusion. Mr. Reyes stated that he enters the information with the district mission and equity statement and that it is present when he enters it.

Dr. Smith stated that Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz and Mr. Souser attended the CNYSBA's Legislative Forum where Dr. Rick Timbs presented, as well as Assemblyman Stirpe and Assemblywoman Hunter. Mr. Souser and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz shared their takeaways from the Forum and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz will share an advocacy toolkit which gives the steps to contact legislators and stay active in these conversations. Dr. Smith reiterated that the owners of Shoppingtown Mall have filed for Bankruptcy reorganization and the District is working very closely with its attorneys to make sure that the interests of the District are protected.

Dr. Smith offered congratulations to the cast, crew and pit of Guys and Dolls for an outstanding show. He congratulated the Middle School and High School students recognized for accomplishment on the Chinese Language Association Essay Contest. Dr. Smith congratulated Mr. Mike Keenan, High School Science teacher for being named CNYRIC Teacher of the Month. Dr. Smith noted the news article featuring the District's partnership between the elementary schools and the Ryan McMahon Advocacy Center. The Center's High Five Program is an important learning experience for students. Lastly, Dr. Smith updated the Board with upcoming events.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Petrosillo seconded the amazing performance of Guys and Dolls. She has received many emails supporting the addition of Muslim holidays. She is hoping that the public forum on February 24, 2020 is well attended. She stated that at the next meeting, on March 9, there will be a high level overview of the Strategic Plan. Both Lori and Will participated on the Planning Committee and they will offer insight. She stated that with regard to sustainability, which has been a topic that comes up often, the Sierra Club is thinking about alternatives to save energy as well as cost savings. Lastly, there is an article in the On Board Magazine that shows one district which implemented a sustainability policy which included recycling, composting, water filling stations, solar panels and no waste lunch.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

None.

At 8:58 p.m. Mrs. Rhodes moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the meeting adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel negotiations.

Motion carried. (8-0-0).

At 9:56 p.m., Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the meeting adjourn from Executive Session.

Motion carried. (8-0-0).

At 9:57 p.m., Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried. (8-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board