

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – April 2, 2020
Via Zoom Meeting

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. Smith, Superintendent Mr. Decker, Business School Administrator Mr. Reyes, Assistant Superintendent

Via Zoom, Mrs. Petrosillo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There was a roll call to confirm all present.

Community Comment Time

Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, there was no community comment time. The community was directed to email the Board with any comments.

Superintendent’s Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the approval of the Superintendent’s Personnel Recommendations as follows:

INSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Request for Leave</u> Type of Leave	Effective
Kimberly Kalil School Nurse	MD	FMLA	2/28/20 –5/22/20

Motion carried (8-1-0). Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz opposed.

Policy Review – First Reading

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

- [5210 - Revenues](#)
- [5230 – Acceptance of Gifts, Grants, and Bequests to the District](#)
- [5240 – School Tax Assessment and Collection/Property Tax Exemptions](#)
- [5310 – Bonding of Employees and Board Members](#)
- [5320 – Expenditures of District Funds](#)
- [5322 – District Cell Phone Use](#)
- [5323 – Reimbursement for Meals/Refreshments](#)

- [5411 – Procurement of Goods and Services](#)
- [5412 – Alternative Formats for Instructional Materials](#)
- [5413 – Procurement: Uniform Grant Guidance for Federal Awards](#)
- [5510 – Accounting of Funds](#)
- [5511 – Maintenance of Fund Balance](#)
- [5512 – Reserve Funds](#)
- [5520 – Extraclassroom Activity Fund](#)
- [5530 – Petty Cash Funds and Cash in School Buildings](#)
- [5540 – Publication of District’s Annual Financial Statement](#)

Will commented on Policy # 5412 referring to alternative forms of instructions, Universal Design and asked if this was considered in this policy. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that this policy will be reviewed with Mrs. Menapace to include this concept.

Mrs. DeForest passed along a minor mistake on Policy #5332, there is an item b, but no item a.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that this was aligned as we do not charge district employees for cell phone usage.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz commented on # 5230, that a dollar limit of \$10,000 was added back in, as it was missing, # 5240 had no changes.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz updated the Board on Policy #3420 has taken the policy back to the committee for additional review. They are working on getting the language concise and inclusive.

Mrs. Petrosillo asked about district cell phone use and if it is common to charge back in the school industry. Mr. Decker responded that we do not charge back for personal calls as the plan is unlimited but if an application is downloaded, they are charged back for that, if there is anything beyond the normal cost of the plan, it is charged back. Mrs. Petrosillo asked if employees are clear that the cell phone does not belong to them, but to the district and Mr. Decker responded yes.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Smith updated the Board on the District’s Response to COVID-19., including Continuity of Learning, Child Nutrition and Child Care. He reminded the Board and the public that all decisions and guidance come from different sources including the US Dept. of Education, the NYS Department of Education, the NYS Dept. of Health, the Onondaga County Dept. of Health and our legal counsel. With regard to the Continuity of Learning Plan, the Governor has closed schools until at least April 15 and has required schools to provide continuity of learning through the vacation week. The Administration has put together and is working on Phase 2 of the Continuity of Learning which will begin on Monday, April 13th. At the K-4 level this will include delivery of packets to students every Monday; the Middle School level has moved to Google Classroom and the High School continues to use Google Classroom. Dr. Smith wanted to recognize Mr. Phil Lockette, our Director of Technology and his team for working exceptionally hard to get things organized and hand out computers where needed. Dr. Smith reported on the continuity of distribution and availability of meals. Meals are being distributed at Jamesville Elementary, Moses DeWitt Elementary and the High School, as well as being delivered. Dr. Smith stated that he would be remiss if he did not recognize the incredible hard work

and dedication of our food service management, cook managers and food service workers who are working exceptionally hard to provide service to our community. Dr. Smith also reported on Child Care Plan. He said that the district has received clarification and guidance. The district is not required to provide child care but is required to provide a plan to the State Education Department, which has been submitted and approved. It is the district's responsibility to provide information, primarily for health care workers and first responders, where approved child care is available. Dr. Smith reported that another significant change is that the school budget vote and Board of Education elections have been postponed until at least June 1st. The last item Dr. Smith spoke about was State Aid. He said that at this point, State Aid is a moving target, there is not enough information to comment deeply about it but the Finance Committee is working and keeping track of State Aid. Mrs. Rhodes also contributed her thoughts and said that the Governor was very clear and has the permission to cut aid on a rolling basis throughout the year so that budgeting this year will be very different and very challenging. Mr. Souser asked Dr. Smith if he could highlight the Tecumseh parade that took place as he had seen a Youtube clip of it and he was very impressed. Dr. Smith shared with the Board how the teachers at Tecumseh Elementary School organized a parade that went through the neighborhoods of students. The parade was led by a Town of DeWitt Police Officer and almost every staff member participated. The parade route went around the community and staff waved and connected with kids. He said it was a really great event and he hoped the students and families appreciated the effort and the connection. Mrs. Rhodes said her children saw the parade and even though they are not families of Tecumseh, her children were happy and excited. She stated the Moses teachers sent out a photo collage with a message embedded in it which she thought was very nice.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Petrosillo also spoke about the Tecumseh parade, thanked everyone who was involved and asked other teachers in other buildings to participate in some way. Mrs. Petrosillo asked Dr. Smith to clarify information on Shoppingtown and the district receiving tax payments from them. Dr. Smith stated that the payments were for the 2019-2020 school year and the payment came from Onondaga County as the County is responsible to make the school district whole. He thanked Onondaga County for the payment and stated that he hopes there will be some resolution soon as Shoppingtown is in Bankruptcy Court. Mrs. Petrosillo reminded people that we have to practice social distancing and referred to emails and phone calls that the Board has been receiving about young people congregating at the high school, on the turf, on the tennis courts and in the parking lots. She is asking anyone listening or reading this to please remind people to stay distant from each other. She thanked Dr. Smith and Mr. Decker for the signs that have been put up around the high school reminding people of the Governor's Order on social distancing. Mrs. Petrosillo also stated that because the meetings are being held via Zoom, they will be transcribed word for word and the audio will be posted. She asked Dr. Smith about the timing of the transcription. He stated that it is as soon as possible but he also shared that the transcription has not been as easy as it sounds and we are working to get it done as soon as possible. Mrs. Rhodes added that to be clear, any kind of ball sport is considered not social distancing. Mrs. Petrosillo ended her report by thanking everyone for working together on Zoom and for the public joining us, and thanked our committees as well.

Dr. Corcoran exited the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Will asked about the selection of the next student representative to the Board of Education and what that will look like in terms of the election process, if school does not reopen this year. Dr. Smith stated that this is a question for the High School Administration and the BOE Policy Committee, as well.

At 8:11 p.m. Mr. Souser moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (8-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

Board Approved: 5/11/20