

## Transcript of Audio – Board of Education Meeting May 11, 2020

This is 7:00 p.m. and I will call the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District Board of Education meeting to order. As I call it to order, I am actually going to roll call for our Board members, so I would appreciate Board members saying you're here, yes I'm here, or if you're not, you're not. Okay, I'm going to go around the table, is Dana Corcoran on the line? Aye, I'm here. Dana, there you are Dana, thank you. Wendy Rhodes, Wendy? Wendy? Alright I don't hear Wendy yet. Is Lori on the line? I'm here. Lori DeForest? Yep, I'm here Susan. Yep, I got you. And Will Guisbond? Yep, here. Renee? Here. Very good, and Ken Souser? Here. Ken. Yes, here. Sharon Archer, Sharon Archer? I'm here. Christine Dettor? Christene, okay Juanita? Is Juanita here? Okay. And obviously I'm Susan Petrosillo, I'm here. Susan, this is Wendy I'm here. Hi Wendy, you're back, thank you. Okay. Peter, do you hear me okay? I'm getting a little feedback, but I'm assuming you can hear me. I do. You do, okay great. Okay, so for the record, Tish, Christine and Juanita did not announce that they were here. Okay, got it.

### BUDGET PRESENTATION

Alright, yep, okay so we're going to move on to the second item on the agenda which is our budget presentation and this is with Dr. Smith and I believe you're going to share your screen, right? Yes. Okay. Good evening everyone, we need to present the school district budget tonight and it has, let me begin by saying it has been an exceptionally difficult budget to plan primarily because our processes have been challenged with the COVID 19 pandemic and with the recent announcement last week of the Governor's Executive Order identifying June 9<sup>th</sup> as the district vote date, which then put into place a number of accelerated timelines for School Boards across

the state to adhere to and one of those is the that the budget needs to be presented tonight and legal notice has to be given starting tomorrow. But let me run through the school district budget for the 20-21 school year. The district budget began by identifying goals which include additional administrative support for curriculum, instruction and equity, adding professional development opportunities for all staff working on improving our curriculum and instructional program, communication, external and internal communication and providing more staff development for the Board of Education. When we develop the budget, we go through a series of segments of the budget and present them, and so let me run through the segments of the budget that have already been presented and then we'll do some new stuff tonight. So debt service is the first segment of the budget that was presented. This is principle and interest on projects that have already been passed by the voters and we are required to pay, obviously principle and interest on those projects. The outstanding debt service and projects already approved in 2006, 10 and 13, 14 and 16 you can see. And next year we will have payments, principal and interest payments on each of those projects and then also next year we will do a capital outlay project which is an allocation within the budget for \$100,000 to do a small project. In the 19-20 school year the capital outlay project is the replacement of the high school storefront, the main entrance, and that will include a new handicap accessible mechanism. So that's the type of project that is done in the capital outlay. The 2016 project is the most recently completed project which includes the middle school or the district Auditorium as well as the fire alarms and Renovations at the middle school and at all the schools. Over all the debt service budget is a slight decrease for next year. We received some good news recently in that there were a number of cullable bonds that were able to be sold at a significant savings to the district so the result is that next year's budget for debt service actually is a little bit of a decrease.

Transportation was the next sacrament of the budget that was presented to the board and as you can see overall we have a slight increase in the transportation budget. This is primarily due to the potential of adding an additional bus run. A couple of our buses have a number of student issues, not behavior issues but size of the number of students on buses and so we are exploring the idea of adding an additional bus run to alleviate some overcrowding on our buses. This is not something that we are necessarily going to do but we wanted to make sure we budget it in case during the summer when we do our bus runs that we identified at this need is still there. So have some increases in vehicle insurance and one of the most significant pieces of this budget is the fuel budget line and that is remaining the same for this year's budget. The board asked the administration to look into alternative fuel school buses this year. Currently we use diesel and gasoline fuel buses You can see some of the facts that surround the around our Fleet. We have 47 buses that travel approximately 500,000 miles per year. Our buses currently have a life expectancy of 10 to 12 years and the most significant idea to think about when purchasing new buses is the fact that predictability and reliability are critical. We looked at propane and electric buses and sort of went through the pros and cons of each of those different kinds of buses and came to the conclusion that really there are some significant cost concerns related to electric buses there are some significant safety concerns related to propane buses and that we are going to continue to purchase diesel and gas fuel buses in the near future but we are certainly open to the idea of electric powered technology and the opportunity that possibly electric buses made provide. When one thinks about the challenges associated with electric buses you know you think about the range of an electric car currently and when, if you apply that same sort of idea to a bus, you realize that a bus that is traveling, you know that was in the miles need to have a significant amount of range and so the battery capacity for a bus is really something that needs to

be expanded for us to be able to effectively consider that. One of the things that we do each year on our budget is we put a proposition to the voters for purchasing new buses. Again we rotate the fleet so that we are not having, again so that we maintain our reliability of our bus fleet. This year we will be asking the voters to approve a bond that will allow us to go out and purchase school buses. The proposition will allow us to borrow up to \$490,000 to purchase those buses and so that will be listed as a separate proposition on the ballot. Operations and maintenance was the next segment of the budget to be presented and you can see a very nominal increase there, \$11,000, .27% increase. We have some custodial equipment that needs to be purchased. We have an increase in the cost of gas and electricity and we have a significant decrease in the cost of BOCES telephone service which resulted in that nominal decrease which is a nice result in looking at things this past year. We do have an anticipated cost in BOCES data processing so that drives some of the expenses. But the very nominal increase in the operations and maintenance budget. Again another proposition that will be on the ballot for the voters to decide is whether or not to allow the district to bond for a new District dump truck / snow plow. This is, we have one major dump truck or snow plow that is used all winter and used for significant maintenance projects that is at the end of its current life the replacement cost is about \$244,000 and so we will be asking the voters to approve a proposition, again a separate proposition to allow us to bond for the purchase of a dump truck snow plow. Employee benefits is obviously a significant portion of the budget and you can see a slight increase there 1.65%. There are a number of factors that go into that increase. There was a slight decrease in a payment that the district pays to employee and teacher retirement system. There was a slight decrease in the amount due to Social Security. There was an increase in the health insurance premium costs overall but the negotiated contract that we have with the teachers allowed us to defer some of the

employee benefit costs into salary and so that was able to help us do some significant reductions in the employee benefit expenses for the school district. The central office budget, again a sort of nominal \$55,000 increase, 4.33% The change factors here include the Board of Education had requested some more funds for their professional learning and so we had a nominal increase there. The new ESSA federal guidelines require changes in how we report certain items in the budget and how we expense certain things and so there is an increase for BOCES support and state aid planning to address those requirements. And then we also saw some increases in our insurance policies and then as was presented at the April 20th budget, there was a decrease in the BOCES administrative budget that the district pays and a decrease in the BOCES capital budget that the district has to pay as well. We appreciate the fiscal approach that our colleagues at BOCES did to decrease the cost to the district associated with BOCES services. Athletics was the budget that was presented at the end of March. Again nominal increase, \$31,000 about a 3.33% increase in the athletic budget for next year. We have the addition of Unified sports beginning this year, was supposed to begin with basketball, hopefully next year we will have an opportunity to return to school to provide a Unified sports program for our students with disabilities and our general education students to come together in a competitive athletic environment. We had some increased costs of officials for Section III. This tree so read negotiate contract. And then we have some sort of increases in fees related to section, State, and Conference fees as well as entry fees to some of our meets and tournaments. The Instructional budget is new for this meeting and you can see that there is a \$570,000 increase which will equal about a to percent increase. This year, as mentioned in the beginning, one of the goals was the addition of an assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and equity. That position is in this budget as well as resources instituted for professional learning for all of our

staff, a contract with the Metro Center for education and equity. I'm sorry Metro Center for equity and innovation as well as we have funds allocated in the budget to support the K - 6 ELA program as well as some increases in personnel to support our special education models. We have some increase of costs associated with BOCES special education placement and then we have slated to approve a technology lease which will allow us to bring new instructional technology into the district and replace some obsolete equipment. One of the challenges and being able to maintain a nominal increase in the instructional budget is making some difficult decisions. The board and the finance committee or the finance committee has discussed some ways that we can save money in the instructional budget and we have identified a few ways and one of those ways is reduction in high school staffing due to decreased enrollment so we can reduce by .4 FTE. We have the reduction of an Middle School instrumental support instructor that is .4 FTE, and then we have, due to our decreased enrollment which we have been seeing over the past couple years and we're finally getting into a position now where that is impacting the staff, we can, we have identified that we can reduce two elementary sections due to decreased enrollment. And then probably the most challenging is to eliminate some of our Chinese program at Jamesville-DeWitt and this is what is sort of hard to do over Zoom, but the Chinese program, I'm going to give you some details about this. The Chinese program, we've seen some significant decrease in enrollment over the last couple of years. In 2017/18 the overall student enrollment in Chinese was 64 students and that held true in 18/19 as well. In 19/20. that dropped to 46 students and next year the 20/21 schedule is slated to have only 38 students in Chinese. specifically next year or this passed year 1920 we had seven students in 6th grade Chinese and 14 students in 7th grade Chinese, and there are about 23 students in high school. Next year, when you look forward, we will have some students at the middle school but only

seven students at the high school taking Chinese. And so, the district is committed certainly to a third language option for our students. I think that is one of those things that makes the school district special but the decrease in enrollment in Chinese makes this untenable at this time. With only 38 students next year, we feel that it is not fiscally responsible to continue with the program and To provide other opportunities for students to explore these ideas. I think when the, when the fiscal climate becomes more stable I think that the Board of Education will be looking to add a third language option and so we want to continue to take a look at things and find an appropriate replacement when things become more fiscally responsible. One of the most significant challenges associated with this is the seven high school students who have invested a significant amount of time in their Chinese education in their Chinese language. We have done research and found that the BOCES offers the opportunities for distance learning in the Mandarin Chinese program and so those seven students who are in the highest levels of high school Chinese will be able to continue their last year of Chinese. The most significant impact for reduction of Chinese is really for 14 seventh grade students who are currently enrolled in Chinese. Those students will need to either take Spanish or French for next year and that makes it a little bit of a challenge because those students have taken two years of Chinese. However, we have outstanding French and Spanish teachers at the middle school in and of course the high school and so there's no doubt that it will be a challenge to move into a new language in 8th grade but really with the support of the teachers, they will be able to make a transition and experience another language through the end of their middle school and into their high school career. So that's one of the more challenging aspects of this budget certainly. when you look at the entire expense plan, you'll notice this is the summary of all the pieces of the segments that I have just presented and what this results in is a very nominal 1.61% budget to budget increase

which given again the physical climate and the potential for reductions in state aid going forward which I'm going to talk about, seems like an appropriate budget given the climate that we are in. So we've got a 1.61% budget to budget increase from 2019-20 to 2020 to 21. Let's turn to the other side of the ledger, the revenue side and that includes for Jamesville DeWitt, major sources of revenue for JD which includes state aid, our tax levy and our designated reserves. Looking at our state aid summary over the past five years I was looking at the past three years especially, you see a slight decrease. One of the more significant challenges was this year in the budgeting process we get an aid run from the governor in January. And that's the number that's typically used to help us with our budget development. Then often when the budget is passed in April, we see, most often, an increase in the total amount of state aid that comes once that budget is passed. This year when the budget was passed in April, we actually experienced a decrease in the state aid coming to the district. Originally that number 14,054,000 is \$147,000 less than what we originally thought we were going to get from the state aid. This results in a local tax levy, if you look in the left three columns, you'll see 18-19 we had a levy of 39.4 million. This is the amount of money that we ask the taxpayers to pay to support the budget and you'll see in 18 - 19 a 39.4 million-dollar levy resulted in a 2.05% increase or was a 2.05% increase in the budget in the levy. 19-20 we had a 40.8 million-dollar levy that we requested that taxpayers to approve, That was a 3.66% increase in the levy and this year we are asking the taxpayers to approve 42.2 million dollars for the tax levy which is a 3.39% increase in the levy. So most importantly for taxpayers, it is the levy that results in a tax rate increase so those are in the two columns furthest to the right. And you can see, those two things don't necessarily equate a dollar increase in the levy does not necessarily increase in the levy resulted in a 1.42% increase in the tax rate. So we have a 3.39% increase in the tax levy for this year, we obviously don't know the tax rate is that in

August after all the assessments are done and we can't predict exactly what that is but we presume that it will be less than 3.39% significantly less based on our history. There is a very sophisticated formula that is used to calculate the amount of levy that a school district can ask for from its voters and that begins with a prior year tax levy that was 40.8 million last year, There's a tax based growth factor that is provided to us by the state so that results in a tax levy of 41 million. Then you can add in any pilots which the school district has none. Then you subtract out the prior year capital tax exclusions which for our district was 1.5 million dollars, they eliminate any torts and judgments and resulting with an adjusted prior tax year levy and our adjusted prior tax year levy was 39.4 million dollars. Then the state provides you with an allowable growth factor which is 2% or the lesser of CPI or 2% which was 1.81% so the adjusted prior tax levy is multiplied by the allowable growth factor and that allows us to grow the tax levy by \$713,000. That is the provisions that are outlined within the 2% tax cap legislation. When you add 39.4 the last year's adjusted tax levy with the \$713,000 allowable increase you end up with the tax levy limit of \$40,141,000, but you're not done yet because then you can add in any capital exclusions for the coming year which for the district was 2,085,000 which results in a maximum allowable levy of 42.2 million dollars. That's how you come to this number of 42.2 million dollars is through that formula right there and again the tax levy calculation is the amount the school district can ask the voters to approve to support the budget. I think it's a point of interest for the taxpayers again to understand the tax rate history. This is a 10-year history of the tax rates that have resulted in the levy increases in the course of years and you can see that through good budgeting practices, responsible budgeting practices, the district has asked for on average, a five-year average of a .55% tax increase, a ten year average of 1.48%. Again when you think about a 2% tax cap information that's important for the tax payer. So that's the taxes

that we are asking. Third most significant piece of the revenue piece of the budget is the designated reserves to offset the levy. sort of a complicated story here you can see that for years prior to 2014-15, for a year \_\_\_\_\_ budget was down 1.1 million dollars. That has been creeping up slowly and last year was 1.365 million dollars. This number is not beneficial continue to grow that number. This is again reserves that are used to support the budget. This year, I'm going to just spend a minute to explain the 915,000, we are number because when the state aid run came through and it was approved by the state legislature, there was a line in the budget called the pandemic adjustment which is \$350,000. As part of the pandemic and executive orders by the governor the budget that was passed allowed for the governor to withhold state aid throughout the course of the next school year. originally the number that was identified as a maximum number the governor could withhold was \$350,000. So the Board, and the finance committee in particular thought it prudent, given the physical climate to reduce the expense plan of the budget by at least the \$350,000 presuming that the governor will withhold state aid throughout the course of the year. This is what in particular made the budgeting this year exceptionally difficult, because typically we have a state aid number that we are going to receive and we build a budget around that . This year the governor has identified a potential cut and pandemic adjustment of \$350,000 but then has also stated that there may be other circumstances that allow the governor to withhold additional state aid throughout the course of the school year, next school year. And we have no idea how much that is and so we have tried to build a budget and tried to build contingency plans that allow us to take all of those into account. Plan A is to reduce the amount of spending the district was doing based on the pandemic adjustment amount which was \$350,000 so the district reduced the original expense plan by \$400,000 without using the cats I mentioned under the instructional budget. Continuing on, well

actually, I just want to spend one more minute they're so one of the things that we have is the reduction in the spending plan of \$400,000 to deal with the pandemic adjustment. Should we find ourselves where the governor continues to withhold state aid, Plan B for the district is if he withhold up to \$350,000 additional state aid we will then use money in the reserves to offset the budget after the expense plan first and then should we be in, in January or after the New Year 2021, if continue, we can free spending mid-year if necessary so that would allow us another \$250,000 to use toward the budget if that would be withheld. One of the things we really don't want to do is be in a position where we are faced with mid-year cuts of staff. And so we tried to make sure that we budgeted ahead of time for the potential savings that are necessary throughout the school year so we are not faced with that sort of worst-case scenario mid-year. When you look at the overall 20-21 budget plan again, the total expense side of the budget is \$58,640,975 again this is a budget to budget increase of 1.61%, this is offset by revenues, the tax levy increase of \$42,226,394, state aid as I mentioned \$14,054,592, reserves designated to support the budget, \$915,000 and then we received other aid of \$ 1.4 million from a wide variety of sources including billing to school districts from nursing services, billing to other districts for special ed services, etc., all totalling approximately 1.4 million dollars. Looking ahead, the ballot that district voters will receive towards the end of May, will be submitted by June 9th, will include three propositions on it. The first one is shall the Board of Education be authorized to expend the sum of \$58,640,975 for the school year and two Levi the necessary text therefore? second proposition as I mentioned is the replacement of school buses not to exceed \$490,840 again that would be authorizing the school district to issue a bond to do that and then finally asking the voters to approve the school district to approve to bond for \$244,000 to purchase a dump truck or plow. Before I move any further, Susan are there questions in the chat? Before I

be in there next slide is the Board of Education candidates we'll get there, but I want to first answer any questions, I also want to provide the opportunity for Wendy Rhodes, chairman of the finance committee or anybody else on the finance committee or Tim Decker to add anything to the presentation. Okay Peter, this is Susan, would you like Wendy to do her finance committee overview before we go to the chat? I would defer to Wendy on that. Okay. Sure, why don't we do that and that way if there's any more questions that you can address them all at once. So is Peter mentioned, this is Wendy Rhoades, I am the chair of the finance committee this year this is a very difficult budgeting cycle. As Peter mentioned the uncertainty of the state aid is looming question. So I want to be clear about a couple things in this budget. The first is that this is the max, what we are asking the taxpayers to approve is the max budget the district can spend. It's very likely possible decreases and state aid this budget may need to be decreased further before the start of the school year or even during the school year. So I want to be really clear to all of my colleagues on the board that this, unlike previous years, this is probably not a budget that is just going to be done at this time. This is a budget that we are going to have to continue to examine at each turn, when we get more information regarding state aid. I want to thank Tim and Peter in my fellow finance committee members Susan and Christine for their hard work on this budget. Because of the anticipated challenges that are not quite yet here, it's been very challenging. We all agreed that we think next year will probably be even more challenging budget year than this year and that's one of the reasons that we tried to take an especially conservative route regarding the reserves. We know that in past years we as a board have been very concerned of the amount that we have had to dip into the reserves and we wanted to reverse that Trend in a significant way that so we have a little flexibility to absorb cuts and state aid in the course of this year so that we don't have to make dramatic mid-year corrections and better

position us going forward to next year. So, that is the bulk of what I had to say. I am happy to answer any questions from the board regarding the finance committee process. For the budget or any questions that the board may have in that regard. I've got a couple questions I don't know if we want to wait to board questions or if I can go ahead, whatever works. Will, go ahead. I have a few questions as well. That's Sharon. Okay, Will and then Sharon. Okay thank you Wendy and Dr. Smith for this presentation, I just have a couple of questions. First about the language program so, understanding a difficult decision that this was the recommendation to cut the program, the Chinese program entirely, I myself was a student of the program for six years so I was disappointed but also I can see the point of view coming from conservatively from a financial perspective I'm just wondering were there other programs that were considered because I, like in terms of the financial feasibility here, doing the math in my head you know if it's, what I understand currently when full-time employee who is operating in your position as a teacher, cost-wise, is that just something that we were like okay we need to continue to be conservative we should eliminate this program anticipating further changes, or was this just a big cost savings, I obviously I'm not a budgeting expert I'm not really sure where that would play in oh, that's my first question. We can start there. Peter do you want to speak to that? Yes so this is primarily, will, education is primarily a people business and we looked, obviously the goal is to keep Cuts as far away from the classroom as possible oh, that is one of the most significant challenges. And one of the pieces that the finance committee focused on was reduction and not elimination of programs and this is a significant reduction. We are allowing the we will make a, make sure that the high school students that want to continue to take their final year or two of Chinese that those are accommodated so that we make sure that we can do that and so in that way it is a reduction, not an elimination. It does significantly impact the opportunity for middle

school kids. But really the goal is to try to keep the cuts away from the classroom as much as possible and so we did look at some of the non-instructional opportunities for reductions and we looked at other areas to cut and really, it was very challenging. We did cut some other things from the expense plan, the original expense plan in order to save some money as well. So there are some other things that were cut that you don't see upfront because they are part of the instructional budget that was never presented so we reduced certain lines so there are other things that are making as well and then you know, it gets down to, and you certainly, it becomes you know a feasibility, affordability piece, in the Chinese program with only 38 students, it becomes that program was struggling and it became the thing that we needed to look hard at. Okay so thank you okay yeah. So, just to add to that a little bit well, something that helps the finance committee in our conversations about this very difficult decision, because we recognize the impact that it has particularly on Middle School students and we recognize the uniqueness of JD offering Chinese, was the declining enrollment program mat program as well as the small enrollment compared to the other language programs so it seems like there's not the interest to support that program at a level that makes it financially viable for us to continue it. I don't know Peter if you have those numbers at your fingertips around the enrollment in other languages compared to the Chinese program but that was very helpful to the finance committee because it was such a significant difference. Yes and I'm sorry I don't have those numbers at my fingertips. Thank you, I guess that helps I guessed kind of reverberating back on Wendy's Point here you know those 38 students, I just want to make sure that that we are doing the best we can for them specifically at the high school level. I think this year especially, distance learning can be a really troubling thing for some students and obviously I would hope we would be presenting them as a choice to do that rather than forcing them to do so in line with specific graduation

requirements. And also at the middle school level, you know two years can be a big jump that somebody might have and also ensuring that our staff is doing the most that they can to support those students to make that difficult transition especially at a younger age. So I just want to make sure that we are putting thought into that. I don't know what that would look like, additional teacher, and I guess my real question that was just a comment, was that those 38 students, are we looking at a possibility to possibly add section to other language programs as a result of that if they are all being relocated into other programs? You know I don't have those numbers off the top of my head whether or not we will have to add a ... We certainly wouldn't have to add a teacher, we may need to add a section, and additional Spanish or French section but we it won't result in a ..... Okay. Thank you and then I apologize and then my last question here about the budget, relates to the recently voted in contract with JD faculty Association, where the spending measures that were recently voted in their also instituted when Taking this budget I don't know do we have any leeway on that matter knowing that it was approved by the board is that something that we can touch on specifically salary increase in the pensions? Can I add, Will, can you hold that question because as I am reading through the chats, Peter, we have a bunch of comments on Chinese so maybe we get through Chinese questions and then we will go to regular budget questions which I think we are moving on to. Yeah, that's fine. One of my questions, is related to Chinese as well, okay so Will hold your question I'm going to go to Sharon. Chinese and they we will close on Chinese because there are a lot of questions in her audience and Chinese that I want to get through so go ahead Sharon. So just a couple pieces on Chinese I know that instructional programming Cuts hour add unconsciously I understand that. I have a child in Chinese so this being only 38 students my child is one of those 38. So I'm wondering specifically about two things, is the decrease in enrollment in Chinese proposed

proportional to the decrease in enrollment in the district? No it's significantly larger. Okay. And I'm also wondering about phase out as opposed to, for our middle schoolers, opposed to what would it cost to offer that distance learning to are middle schoolers so they could continue as well if there is only like if you said like 14 of them or 20 of them would it tax the district immensely if we could continue that programming for those students as we phase out? So thank you. One of the challenges that we see with the Chinese program and with any second language program is attrition and by that I mean the number of students who continue on the program year in and year out and of the course that holds true across all the second language opportunities as kids enter high school they they meet the graduation requirements and then some students find other interests, curricular interests, and drop their second language program. And so, one of the challenges is that you know that when you think about, again, there are seven students in the high school and there is fourteen in 7th grade currently in the program so it would be two years before those students get to the high school and you would be continuing to look at some decrease and so really when you think about the 38 students who are in the program it's going to continue to decrease and by maintaining a teacher across a couple of different levels you really may not see any decrease if you hold on to, if you try to phase the program out, you're You have a significant amount of teacher sections oh, you're going to at least have .6, .8, or at least .6 while you're phasing that program out over the course, if you were to do that Over the course of the next few years and you couple that with the decrease in the number of students that are enrolled in the program and then by the end you may have a oh, you know over the course of three years you may have a .6 teacher with a an exceptionally small number of students. One of the advantages, not advantage, certainly not an advantage but one of the reasons why sort of now is that the, is a better time then others to do this with the 14 students who are in 7th grade it

provides us an opportunity to transition those students into a different language in 8th grade and so they will get the prerequisite requirement to help them meet the checkpoint A and so they get their High School graduation requirements taken care of. And what would that look like would that be, those eighth grade students in a classroom with six graders that would be... No, I would ask these current 8th grade teachers to accommodate the learning needs of those 14 students as they moved into the classrooms and you could either, you could investigate a couple different scheduling options were that whether you sort of make a class that is significantly populated by those 14 students and so the teacher can ingest their instruction to them or you spread them out in different sections and you provide them with sort of of more of a immersion type program. I would leave that to the Middle School. And then the for the seven 6th graders, the same plan? yes and they would transition over for 7th grade into either 7th grade French or Spanish yes. So they transition into a year to program? Yes. Without any French or Spanish? Right and most of the French Spanish and Chinese, there is some language absolutely that is taught. A lot of it is cultural development in 6th grade and so you know we've seen students switch from languages from 6th to 7th, not too many certainly, but every now and again you have kids that move a language from 6th to 7th and they have success. Remember to meet the check mark A requires a year of high school credit and so we give them two years in 7th and 8th grade. I know the Benchmark, I'm just concerned frankly for those kids who are going to be starting in a year to program is a year one student, including my own son. Right and those are the challenges that we are going to have to ask the teachers to help them through. Go ahead go ahead. I'm sorry I'm not sure if my video is showing or not but or you can hear me or not my name is Paul Hagenlough and Peter, I was on the Steering Committee. Hi Paul. And I just wonder.... go ahead. Paul, this is the board meeting the board members are talking about the Chinese program,

I haven't turned it over to the audience and so if you could hold your questions. Yes I'm sorry.

That's okay. Absolutely. Thank you. Alright do any other board members have questions on this Chinese program? Alright, Peter I have a lot of questions in the chat around the Chinese program. Some people have identified themselves which is important for a question because it needs to be in the minutes some people have not identified themselves so I do need to know who some of these people are so this is a learning curve with the zoom here. I'll read the first question on the Chinese program it says here from actually this one is from Barbara McDonald. Barbara is asking why are we actively discouraging to students from taking Chinese. My daughter is one of the 6th graders who is taking Chinese and loves it but her counselor encouraged her not to take it. It is her favorite class and the only class that meets regularly almost daily since we went remote education was introduced so the question is why do we actively discourage students from taking Chinese? I don't know the answer to that question. I don't know the answer to that question. Okay, all right I'm going to move on to the next Chinese, someone I wish PECI2 would tell me who they are. My daughter loves Chinese also. Someone named Jill. Jill said I'm very impressed with Miss Tung, since she is the only teacher that meets each weekday with my son via Zoom for 7th grade and my fifth grade daughter was looking forward to taking Mandarin next year to learn the same language. This is very disappointing that we are limiting our options. Okay and then PECI2 to said I agree and why are we limiting options while asking for more money? Peter? I think one of the things that we are doing, we have to make some very difficult decisions so we are actually not asking for more money well and making sure that we are being fiscally responsible and again meeting the challenges that are being faced that the district faces in these challenging times with the possibility of the governor withholding state aid it makes it exceptionally difficult and we have to be ready for what could be some real

challenges throughout the school year. Okay here's a question piggybacking from Alan L Port Allen asks how much specific during the Chinese program and let us have no illusions here, this is destruction, it will be extremely difficult to restart again once once gone. So he's asking how much specifically is destroying the Chinese program going to save oh, this is extremely vague so far oh, so how much is the Chinese program? I can't tell you exactly how much when it comes to salary and benefits but it's approximately \$75,000. Okay thank you. And then someone named bah said I'm very glad JD has Chinese as an option if it is terminated I would be very disappointed. Someone named Chris, our 7th grader has also appreciated the structure of daily Chinese classes during this period of distance learning. Chinese is one of the few classes where his dyslexia doesn't cause him additional struggles. Eliminating Chinese would be extremely disappointing. Let's see here, PECI2 again, my 7th grader and her classmates have put in a lot of effort in learning Chinese and they are coming along so well. They will be disappointed to hear Chinese is eliminated. Here's a question. This is along the line of Sharon archers question. It will be hard to start another language two years behind. It sounds like there hasn't been much thought to trying to keep the option and promote the language. And then there's an article here in a Google article that says teaching Mandarin Chinese should be a priority for All American schools. And then another question, here's a good one. Is there a possibility that instead of ending the Chinese program you could phase it out so that students that have invested in the program at JD can continue through it? Okay that's a good question Peter? Again, as I mentioned earlier to phase it out would be to maintain a .6 teacher for the course of another 4 years you know you would significantly reduce or you would maintain a significant amount of the cost of that program and again for a small number of students. And again we are facing the program out for the high school students making sure that they have the opportunity to finish the program. Okay

from Bobby Diel, as a student who has been in the program for five years I believe we should be phasing out so all our hard work can be carried through the program. He's in high school obviously. How much specifically will the destruction of the Chinese program save? I believe Peter answered that question, \$75,000 approximately. How will, this is from Amy Diel, how will JD accommodate the Juniors and seniors that want to continue in Chinese. Could you go into better detail that? Peter, do you want to answer that one? Yes when we, the high school principal will will confirm with the students that they want that in their schedule, we will reach out, there is a distance learning program that is offered through, not through our BOCES but with our BOCES contracts with other BOCES across the state to provide a distance learning program for our students. So, can I speak, can I ask a question or no Susan? That's Amy Diel, Dr. Smith. I'm just wondering if it is done during the school day or at home hours? School day. Thank you very much. Thank you. Susan, Will here. I just had a couple of comments I wonder if it would be more efficient for us if we could identify the questions from the chat and not read the comments in the interest of time and also making sure they are able to extract the right information for our community comments. Will, I agree, I'm going to ask Dr. Smith what you recommend. Typically we have a budget forum we are we are in front of a community of people and they can openly ask questions that we have to answer. I feel, I would feel remiss if we don't at least read these questions. I know that there are several more of them so... I agree. The board is going to have to make a decision on this budget and I think that the questions from the community provide an opportunity for the board to learn more about this and other issues related to the budget so I think that it's important that the board hears those. I agree, I was just referring to the ones in the chat that were specifically just comments that weren't questions. Yeah but they would have, if we were in a typical board forum, they would be able to make those

comments, if it was, yeah. Okay. Thank you I appreciate that. You're welcome. Thanks for the suggestion. Yep. Alright I'm going to keep going. just so we get through Chinese and I see almost to the end here. it says you know commissary, what, how will this, this is Barbara McDonald, how will JD accommodate 6th graders that are committed to a difficult language despite in counselors encouraging them not to take it and want to still take it. There has been a decrease in participation in football, was football considered for a cut? So we looked at the numbers of football and yes we evaluated the coaching that is associated with that and then to the question of will we I think it was how will we support the 6th graders, the incoming 6th graders will be asked to pick between Spanish or French. Okay. All right so for everyone worried about Chinese don't you question on how the request is to increase the budget yet cut a program. Seems like Chinese could stay without increasing the budget. Okay. What evidence is there that the decline in Chinese, this is Alan Allport, what evidence is there that the decline in Chinese enrollment will be a permanent rather than a transient phenomenon. It seems like this is being taken for granted. Peter can you comment on that? Yeah I think that you look at the 3 year trend and you see a steady decrease over the course of three years. This is not a one-year phenomenon. And again to Sharon's point, it exceeds the rate of decrease of overall student population. Okay, Amanda she lets us know that many districts in our area that are larger and smaller offer digital learning classes for Chinese and ASL. What have the trends over the past several years been for enrollment in Chinese. You have reviewed those Peter. Has a decrease occurred recently or has it been a long-term trend? Peter I think it was, what was the answer to that? I have four years of numbers in front of me and it's been decreasing over that. Okay four years, okay. Susan? Ken go ahead. I apologize for interrupting, your PECI2 did identify him or herself in there, Utane. Thank you perfect. Thanks, the next question is from LM, did the increase in the attrition in

Chinese students correspond with the acquisition of a new Chinese teacher three years ago?  
Peter? Know it started the year before that. Okay you're before that okay. Lynn oh, okay Lynn I have been a student of the Chinese program for 4 years, will I have the opportunity to ever take an AP LOTE class or join the National Chinese Honor Society, both of which I had been looking forward to for many years? Through the distance learning program we expect her to be able to take the AP class. I don't have the answer about the Chinese Honor Society. I'm not sure if there is a mechanism to do that through the distance learning program or not. Okay. Sounds like, from JLE, sounds like several parents are seeing kids who are discouraged from taking it, how much is the decline in enrollment due to that? I don't know if we know that. Okay, this is from Julie Morse. Peter, what additional training or support and at what Financial cost, will be provided to the other language teachers. Additional training and support and at what Financial cost will be provided to the other language teachers? Actually no additional training, no cost, all of the second languages, all of the languages other than English, Spanish and French teachers at the middle school teach and rotate through teaching grade 6 and 7 and 8 and so their familiarity with the curriculum and instructional level that are necessary for all those students and so they have the expertise to be able to do that. Okay thank you. For Tish, PECI2 is Yu-Tang, thank you. This is JLE, you are definitely asking for more money, two million dollars. 75k is a drop in the bucket compared to the proposed increase. Okay, this is from Paul Hagenlough, he actually spoke. He said Peter, doesn't this move go against the Strategic call of making the curriculum more diverse? There you go. You know I think the answer to that is yes that if we reduce this opportunity it makes it less diverse by offering one less language. Again. The board has made a commitment and understands that the importance of a third language opportunity and I think when the fiscal situation writes itself that we would be committed to be providing a third

opportunity for our students. That being said, I expect that our work with the Metro Center and the addition of the assistant superintendent for curriculum instruction and Equity will help us to provide other opportunities for culture for diversity in our curriculum and other areas. All right, thank you. Jill asks is the elimination of Mandarin even a debate or can we fight to keep at? So she's probably wondering if it's something we can still consider. I believe at this point we can still consider, correct? We haven't voted on the budget. correct. As a board, we haven't voted. To be clear though Peter, the board has to vote tonight on this budget correct? Yes it is scheduled for later on in the agenda yes. Because there is a deadline that we have to meet that is tomorrow? right. The legal notices and the ballots have to be created for the budget. This is again one of the significant challenges from the governor's executive order in timeline. Okay Alan Allport says how does acquisition of destroying such a critical Strategic language be justified given that by your own numbers it would save approximately .0001% of your total budget? Okay, I think the message here is that 75 K is a small amount given the increase in our overall budget, which is true, it is. Taxpayer, so let us get this right, with distance learning, Chinese meets almost daily but the other classes do not. What furloughs have happened with the staff? we will take that question later. What are the music, PE and art teachers doing that is beyond what the Chinese teacher does? I don't know if you want to answer that one Peter? What are music, PE and art teachers doing that are Beyond with the Chinese teacher does? I don't think it's beyond I think they are all providing continuity of learning opportunities for their students as expected and the current situation. Susan, can I just say something from the finance committee? This decision is not based at all on the Staffing. I want to be very clear on that. This decision for the finance committee, was based on the number of students enrolled in the program, the significant decline in enrollment over the past four years and what that looks like going forward in the face of us

needing to make cuts to the budget this year that would position us to weather this difficult time. So I want to be very very clear that this is not about a staff person or anything like that. This is about program enrollment and this is about having to make hard decisions as we look to the future. Okay is there an expectation oh, this is from Chris, is there an expectation that our 7th graders will be on par with their classmates when they get in to high school? So I'm not exactly sure what they are asking but the seventh grade students will be able to access all of the upper-level courses in the high school that are available in the languages. So you would expect them to be at the same level as any other student that enters High School, right? Right. So if a student alternately wants to take an AP in their chosen language, then yes, if they are a 7th grader then yes, they will have that opportunity. Okay. Lana, Lana Svetlana said as one of the seniors in the Chinese program I strongly believe that the program itself is very valuable. I know that the district has taken stride to working a more diversely inclusive environment however cutting the Chinese program would harm efforts already made. Chinese offers diversity and culture and while JD is trying to promote these principles, it seems harmful and hypocritical to destroy a program that brings these characteristics to the district. Okay, Lynn says if the BOCES program is during the school day, does that mean the students will be sitting in a classroom alone with a computer, this is Lynn Casper and the other question was from her daughter Anka. So are they in a classroom alone with a computer? So no, there will be a teacher supervising, supporting them. Obviously speaking Chinese but helping and monitoring them. Okay. Lania asks has the board look into why the numbers of the Chinese enrollment have decreased this much? Instead of cutting maybe the board could focus on making the program better and perhaps the enrollment would increase. I think the students would provide a good perspective. Okay. What experience do the other language teachers have with accelerated teaching and learning with the loss of

Chinese from Julie Morse. Peter, what other, she's saying what other experience do language teachers have with accelerated teaching and learning with the loss of Chinese? Oh I think What that question is asking is are they able to bring a student who has not participated in a year or two up to speed. Yes I think that it is a challenge, certainly but I think that the familiarity with the curriculum with 6th, 7th and 8th grade and each of those languages and the progression of language development over the course of those three years will allow teachers to accelerate and support students as necessary. Okay this is from Alex Barclay. Alex and I went through this years ago with the Chinese program. Alex says our child, currently a sophomore has loved this program and has one year to go. Will she still have the option to take part in the Honor Society through BOCES? The program truly sets JD apart from other high schools. Chinese is the number one spoken language in the world. It seems like a much more relevant language option than the others that continue to be offered. Not being able to participate in the Chinese Honor Society after all these years of commitment is completely unfair and unacceptable. So the question is will she still have the option to participate in the Honor Society through BOCES? I think it's incumbent on oh, and I got this question earlier oh, I think it's incumbent on and I think that we will be able to investigate what the requirements are for our students to enter the Chinese language Honor Society and I think we need to do our due diligence to make sure that our students have that opportunity. Okay and then Chris is clarifying her question wasn't about our 7th grader having an opportunity to take AP classes in high school, it's about how he will be greeted in ninth grade foreign language after 1 year of preparation. this is Chris Velardi for the record. Yes and I think that there will be, that 9th grade and high school teachers will be aware of the circumstances surrounding the students who had to change languages mid-year or in their middle school year. Okay. Peter, this is Lori. Just a quick question with that piece, are foreign

language teachers being able to help students adjust not all districts offer the program in the same increments we do. So if they are receiving transfer students they are already experiencing students not having the background knowledge and needing to touch them up and accelerate them? Yes that happens most OP in in 7th grade our district is obviously unique in starting students in 6th grade. Other District start in 7th grade and some District start in 8th grade and so students who transitioning to the middle school after 6th grade off and face the same situation.

Thank you Lori. From the taxpayer, maybe the taxpayer could identify him or herself. Nobody said it was about the staff, the confusion is how can the budget be increasing when enrollment is decreasing and programs are being cut, it is more of common sense not common core. This should not be a conversation on how to add 75k to the budget but how to keep a program and still decrease the budget. Schools have been shut down for four months plus the summer, there is a lot of money being saved there. Status quo is always asking for more. Okay I think this is the last question from Lania, once again, because it was not answered, has the board actually looked into why the Chinese enrollment has decreased? Peter? No. No the board has not asked exactly why the decrease, we just observed the student numbers decreasing over the course of the years.

The last Chinese related question in the chat room do any of the board members. Yep, go ahead Sharon, I have a couple more questions. One related to Chinese and one overall. What is the rationale for Middle School students to not participate in distance learning for Chinese? I think it came down to first of all oh, I think it came down to the idea that the current 6th and 7th graders oh, this is an opportunity now to change their, choose a different language. This is the opportune time before they have invested a couple of years and need to switch in their sophomore or freshman year of high school, that if we can get that changed now oh, it's a more appropriate time n train to change later on if something happens with the distance learning program. So is it

not physically possible for middle schoolers to participate in distance learning? I honestly did not explore if a distance learning program was available for middle school students I only explored, I only wanted to make sure that the high school students had the opportunity to finish out the program and so I looked for the high school program. I think that we need to extend that to all of our students in Chinese. My other question is a little bit more General, I don't know if we have moved off of Chinese if I can ask more of a general question, are we good Susan to move to a more general question. Yeah, it looks like all of the Chinese questions have been asked, yep. What savings have been incurred from being enclosure? I am going to defer that to you. That's fine. So there's kind of some general savings, again, as you know teachers have been teaching. A lot of support staff has been around. People that haven't, where we are seeing savings is this last quarter of this year is really the lack of Athletics which is roughly about 200,000, fuel is about 5k. Summer maintenance we won't have to, our custodians have been working and they are getting a jump on the summer cleaning so we won't have to hire summer cleaning this year so that will save us about 40K . Obviously overtime and subs there is no need for that so that is about 20K. roughly somewhere between \$350,000 roughly and the reason oh, what we are looking to do with that is to take those funds and to put them into a reserve so that as we move into this next year, there is going to be reduction oh, there is the potential for reductions in state aid mid-year next year and we are going to need to come up with some funds to be able to do that. So the question becomes we look at putting that \$350,000 in a reserve so that we can tap it if there is a reduction mid-year next year, without having to reduce that. And Tim, just to clarify for that that's a specific reserved for the TRS and the ERS because we are expecting that not only will there be a decrease in state aid but over the next several years and increase in those liabilities for the district. Correct? Correct. Okay I will say for many people, I have been on the board for

nine years in Chinese was on The Chopping Block I don't know what that was maybe seven years ago or eight years ago and there was the same outpouring of support for the Chinese program at that time so for all of you on the phone here, I feel your pain. I hear what you're saying. Chinese makes us unique and diapers and it is a world language that I even have to deal with in my own job today. So I am sorry that we are looking at the Chinese program to cut. I do appreciate that the enrollment is down. When we did this eight years ago we did look at promoting and trying to increase enrollment so at that time they did a Roadshow and they did a Chinese day and they were trying to get a lot of interest into the program so that the enrollment would not decline and so someone in the audience suggested that and that is something that we did years ago. Anybody else have anything? Susan, this is Juanita. Yes go ahead Juanita. So I'm obviously discouraged like everybody else and having to cut the budget and we have her decisions to make. But my question about budgets always is are we working with the teachers and the students and our staff in the building to come up with creative ways to cut the budget where are we purely looking at the numbers because sometimes without the qualitative conversation hard to not miss opportunities to modify the budget and I just don't oh, I'm not on the finance committee, so I don't know what has been done there but I know when we are talking to students in when we are talking to staff, there is always conversations about waste that we don't want to have publicly but are we having those conversations privately with them to find ways to find money. So this is Wendy and I'll say from the finance committee perspective we tasked Peter and Tim with looking for savings with talking to their teams, with talking to their administrators and their teachers to bring that savings. They came to us with a list of potential things where we could find savings. We prioritized those. we discussed them extensively and I will let Tim and Peter talk about how they came to the conclusion that they came to to make the

recommendations that they did. So again we as Wendy just mentioned, we made a laundry list of or a long list of ways we could make reductions and again the priority was to reduce not cut and unfortunately Chinese is in the cut category but really when we look at the other decreases in the budget, it is, and we are able to do a lot of things and save a lot of money due to the decreased enrollment and we looked at some of the most recently added things that have come out of the budget over the last couple years and in discussions with administrators and the finance committee we all made the decisions that you know, there are certain programs and support systems that have been added over the past couple years that are critical that we want to maintain and in looking at the Strategic Plan and the needs of the curriculum and making sure that we are able to move that forward with the addition of an Assistant Superintendent and money for ELA, Elementary ELA and staff development and professional learning for our teachers and our contract with the Metro Center and so it is really a question of you know trying to reduce where we could, you know trying to not impact the kids as much as possible. Susan, I have a question about the budget I don't know if you wanted to address that now or later. Peter, I would like to close on the Chinese program so you know reading in the chat there's probably about 10 people, unique people in the chat that are supporting Chinese. I don't know is that enough people for you to consider a different approach with Chinese or is it a done deal we are going with eliminating Chinese? I'm just bringing it up because the number of people and if they're not able to address us in person, you know we're not seeing the impact of their presence. And so I'm one of the partners of the Finance Committee, and from the perspective of and the recommendation of the superintendent is based on the enrollment of the program that unfortunately I think that this is the year that we need to, given the current fiscal situation we are in, I think we need to exercise this program at this time. Again, with the idea that I clearly understand that Chinese and 1/3 language

is an important opportunity for students, it makes JD unique and I think that as soon as we possibly can, we need to investigate and provide another opportunity in this department for students again as soon as we can in the future. But from the superintendent perspective my recommendation is that we continue with this budget with the reduction of the Chinese program at the middle school allowing the high school students to continue through a distance. okay a question or a comment just came in I'm not sure where that a woman named Glen said when you say that there is approximately 10 people speaking for Chinese, they just heard less than an hour before the meeting was going to start that the program was going to potentially be cut with no time for others to join the conversation. How do these people how do all these people on the phone know, Peter did they all know about the Chinese program being cut. The ones that were able to join us. Certainly, when cuts are occurring we want to make sure that our teachers hear it from us before they hear it from a public meeting and so we reached out to the impact the teachers today to let them know that this conversation was taking place so that they were not blindsided. Okay and so the teacher may have communicated the cut to the people affected, Is that right because you didn't send it out to students affected did you? I did not. Okay. Alright we should probably move on from to the other questions on the budget. So board members, do you have other questions on the budget overall? I have a question that really relates to the teacher's contract I don't know if that's an appropriate time now or we should wait. Yes you can ask about that. Yeah I know there were concerns by a couple people on the Board here about the financial feasibility of a three-year contract as it related to our teachers union, I'm just curious if this spending that was allocated for that, is there any kind of leeway as it relates to these other cuts that we are making with the Chinese program in the other things that Dr. Smith mentioned. So that would require reopening a contract that's already been approved by the board and we have

not approached the union at this time about doing that. If we end up in a catastrophic situation we may need to approach that unit about reopening the contract but at this time we have not done that. Okay so that is a possibility that would be considered if we were to get to that situation then. Right. Thank you. That's something that has been done in the past as well. Okay anybody else, any other board members on general budget comments or questions and then I have some in the chat also. Okay. Reading in the chat general budget, how is the district, this is from taxpayer, taxpayer maybe you could identify yourself in the chat, your name please. Taxpayer says how is the district possibly asking for an increase in spending by the taxpayers? You know I think that there are, within each of the budgets there are cost increases in everything from health benefits to the price of gas to the again as I mentioned some increase in reporting requirements to the state and so there are some assumed increases in each of the sectors of the budget except for The Debt Service where there was a decrease but what we are trying to do by making some of these hard decisions is minimize the budget to budget increase and I think we have done, and I tried to do as best of a job as we could and when you look at a 1.6% budget to budget increase I think the finance committee and the business office have done a good job of identifying areas where they could pinch and save as much as possible. Okay the next question on the budget in general is again from the taxpayer, given the current situation with one-third of this year missing, what school tax year refund will be proposed since there have not been any costs associated with Athletics, busing, far less use of fuel, less maintenance lower utilities, Etc. What school tax refunds will be proposed because of all these reductions. No school tax refund is being proposed but we are using that money as Tim mentioned and putting it into a reserve to help offset costs, anticipated costs of Employee Retirement and teacher retirement systems. Okay. Why would the, this is taxpayer, again. Why would the requested budget be six million dollars more than

three years ago when enrollment is down 14%, so what are the cost drivers there I guess. Again of number of different things one of the most challenging things is that the mission that is expected of schools has expanded over the past couple of years where now we are providing safety and social emotional support for students in an ever-changing world you know with the addition of things like the school resource officer and additional mental health support staff or students, broadens the expectations for what the school district provides in that costs money and certainly the mission of the district in all schools have expanded which results in increased costs. Okay. Let's see here, taxpayers says of course the levys and tax rates will not align because----- assessments can go up as well, but still a 3.39% increase is being requested so the question is they're still has a 3.39% increase especially with the current unemployment rate due to the pandemic, are we requesting a 3.39%, I don't see that I see 1.6%. 3.39% is an increase in the tax levy. Okay. So the answer is yes we are proposing a 3.39% increase in the tax levy, correct. Correct. Especially with the current unemployment rate. Correct. There's a lot here. Okay here's one taxpayer. Taxpayer is a financial person instead of asking the taxpayers for more money couldn't the administration and staff not be asked to go, could the administration and staff be asked to go without raises could the administration and staff... I think they're saying to go without raises. Salaries could the administration and staff be as to go without raises. Those are negotiated items and we would have to come to an agreement with the unions. So the answer is yes through negotiation. Go ahead. Susan, Christine Dettor, hi everybody. I'm on the finance committee with Wendy and Susan. I guess right now procedurally, I know these are questions on the budget, right? The budget that the finance committee is putting forward to the board and I know it's a little unusual with the chat versus our typical Community comment type. This is actually a board forum Christine. So, what is June 1st. So remind me, this is the budget proposal

and in the Forum. What happens on June 1st? On June 1st we present the adopted budget as a informational session for the voters. And so on June 1st are there opportunities for folks to submit questions? No. What happens on June 1st with regard to the boulders and their questions? No questions are submitted, it's a presentation. okay and then that is, it's very similar to the presentation that you gave tonight, right? Typically yes. Okay and then that's it? And so it's another opportunity to be informed of the budget that is presented? Correct. So that voters have another opportunity to hear the budget, this is the farm where folks can ask questions but I'm June 1st is when the budget that has been approved by the board goes forward and there's another presentation so that voters have another opportunity to understand the details so that when they go to vote and this is unusual period of time, voting is going to occur via absentee ballot, right. Correct. That is sent out in the mail oh, they're not going to line up at the high school and other places like we typically do. So I guess the questions on the budget tonight is the opportunity. Right? Correct. Good clarification. The June 6th is the hearing that everyone can hear the budget but we can't take any questions. Tonight we can take questions and then we as a board have to vote to approve this budget or adopt, I don't know what the language is, approving we are approving a budget. There was another question, looks like there was more on Chinese then. May I follow up on Christine's question? Yes, go ahead Ken. so if the board for some reason elected tonight to vote not in favor of the budget for any reason, there really is no turnaround time to get it done oh, am I saying that correctly? If the board were to vote down this proposed budget for whatever reason, we would not have a budget in time? Ken it's Wendy, Tim and Peter you can correct me but my understanding is if the board has changes to this budget then we sit at the table tonight until we have hashed that out because we have to have a budget to by tomorrow that we are recommending to voters and this is based on the new timeline released by the

governor. Thank you Wendy. Tim and Peter are their nuances there that I am neglecting. now that's it. Okay going through a lot, there's a lot here. So, are you telling the taxpayers, this is from JLE, are you telling the taxpayers that all staff, administration, support secretaries, coaches and maintenance are all working full-time? This is during the distance learning time, So around the idea that there should be a lot of savings again my staff, administration, teachers, support, secretaries, coaches and maintenance are all working full-time? That's the question. Are they? Not everybody is working full-time we've got everybody on some shift either full-time or on some shift, some rotating shift. I'll people are being utilized or on call. We have not furloughed anyone. Peter, to be clear there are coaching assignments, things that are not happening that are extracurricular, are some savings that were found during this time. Correct. Okay the athletic budget is increasing so it was a comment was made, so the budget is being cut, the budget is not being cut, the budget is increasing. The program is being cut, alluding to the Chinese program and then someone said but you are increasing the athletic budget oh, is that correct? The athletic budget is increasing. One program is being cut, but we are making additions in investments in areas of curriculum development and professional learning and support. So to clarify the main reason, our understanding, is that there was a need for and we have the new High School athletic program, do you want to talk about that Peter. I can't remember the name for it now. It's the Unified... So the increase in part of the athletic budget was to support the modified boys volleyball team which was added this year and then also we added for the spring, the Unified sports program which requires a coach and an adviser for the school district to participate in that program so that's been added to the budget this year as well. And again those are to help make sure that students of different abilities and backgrounds are able to participate in our programs. Correct. Okay then there's a question from Barbara McDonald it is around football. So people

are, someone asked one question about football and there's some comments. Last year you had 19 senior football players with only 19 JV players why is that attrition not looked at and why is football not cut. Why is an academic program being cut while the athletic department is having an increase? How much does football cost? Okay so 19 senior players 19 JV players, why is this attrition not being looked at why isn't football being cut? So what we looked at there is we looked at identifying whether or not and we can't make this decision right away, but we will be looking at whether or not we have the numbers to support two modified teams and that's where we may experience some attrition in the football program and depending on the sign ups there. Okay. We still have enough numbers to support a varsity and a JV program for the football team. Okay and how much does football cost approximately? I don't know the answer to that question, Tim do you know off the top of your head? No we never broke it out specific I'd have to look specifically at equipment cost reconditioning and that isn't a cheap program it's not an expensive but it's not the cost of a teacher either. And my understanding when we discussed the finance committee that a large portion of that budget is also shouldered by the Boosters and that helps so that the district does not assume the whole cost of that program. We get a tremendous amount of support from the JD Athletic Booster committee who supports everything from equipment to all kinds of different things with the athletic program. Okay moving on from there, dr. Smith never answered the question if there are cuts to football with decreased enrollment, it sounds like there was not a decrease in enrollment in football, is that what you said? We've seen the numbers ab and flow but it hasn't reached the point where we need to cut a team, but again based on the sign ups we will be looking to evaluate whether we need to have two modified teams or not. Okay and then someone asks maybe the pension and retirement program should be re-evaluated. I don't know what that entails. That is a state run program. We are required to pay into that

program. Correct. What is the cost per-student participating in a BOCES Chinese program?

They don't break it out by cost per student, is actually a service that we buy into. Okay. And have we already bought into the service so we are not adding additional costs? No but it's a nominal amount. We have not indicated necessarily that we are ready. We have laid the groundwork. People know we are ready to go and it will be a nominal additional fee. Okay. And then Barbara McDonald said need to encourage all that received their ballots to vote down the budget to get the Chinese program back. I hope that's not the case Barbara that you're going to go that route. I don't know if that's going to get the Chinese program back. Perhaps the most helpful answer to that question would be if Tim and Peter could explain what happens if the budget does get voted down. Well that's exceptionally challenging because typically there are a couple of different options when the budget gets voted down and that you can present a contingent budget or you can develop a different budget and have a voted on. There's a couple of different options. And oddly enough, associated with the governor's executive order about the change of the budget date, there has been absolutely no provision common of information provided to school districts about contingency budget planning and so we are, as are all school districts faced with the challenge of what to do if budgets go down. We are looking and seeking a legal opinion on that. Certainly we will need, you have to have a budget you have to have a budget approved. There will be some mechanism in place, we just have not identified or received that information yet. The one additional thing to add there is that in the past, you know we don't have the executive order we can't specifically speak to it as dr. Smith has said, however, in the past, you could take it up for a revote, if it fails in the re-vote, you cannot raise your taxes from the prior Year's level. So you would have to cut programs by them out of the increased taxes. The increase taxes if you look at it at 3.39%, equates to almost 1.3, 1.4 million dollars that we would need to cut from the

budget so we would have to then have to then probably have to look at much harder instructional in cups to come up with the 1.3, 1.4 million dollars district-wide.

So Susan just texted me that she lost internet connection and asked me to keep reading the questions. This is Wendy. Okay so, Lanya asks, I was wondering why this budget controversy is being addressed so late with the deadline being tomorrow people obviously have many feelings about not cutting the Chinese program. I wish the public had more of a warning and the board had been more transparent about the finances of the Chinese program. Why was this brought to our attention just hours before the budget was due. So I'm going to answer that quickly and then I'm going to turn it over to Peter and Tim. From the finance committee's perspective that timeline oh, there was a lot of uncertainty about the timeline and the governor's been making decisions in a very compressed timeline so because of that that's the main reason that we are discussing it tonight but I also want to highlight that we are not required to have a budget for him and Peter and Tim and Susan and I felt that it was important to incorporate that into this meeting this evening even though it's not a requirement, we wanted to be more transparent and have the opportunity for the public to make comment tonight on the budget as a whole. So that's why we are here on such short notice, because we wanted to have that conversation even within the confines of this compressed time. But Peter and Tim I don't know if you want to speak to that any further. No, just that the governor's executive order and the compressed timeline coupled with the fiscal situation makes this exceptionally, exceedingly difficult. The next question is from Rachel Wagner, what are the goals associated with having an SRO position at the high school and how are those goals being measured? The goals for the school resource officer were to maintain safety, security and safety for the students, build connections with students by support in classes and some practical classes, some practical information provided to classes,

Provide support at extracurricular activities as well. Those are measured through monthly reports from the Town of DeWitt and an annual presentation to the Board of Education. Okay. Peter, this is Christine I'm to understand that as we discussed in prior board meetings with 10-month contractual agreement and obviously, I think since March 16th, I think Tuesday March 16th school has not been in session, have we manifested some cost savings because I wear SRO has not been on duty? Yes, we have not paid for her since that day. Okay so then there are some more questions that have come up about the Chinese program, one of which you have answered before but perhaps you can just run from it again, Peter, which is can we investigate adding middle schoolers to the Chinese BOCES program? I will take a look at that yes. And the next question from Dan F. is can there be a booster program for Chinese or other languages so that families can contribute to save the program? That's a board decision, in the past typically, we have drawn the line for accepting of support for, typically not personnel-related costs. We typically try to receive from the boosters or any support group, equipment and that sort of expense not necessarily a personnel-related expense. And the challenge associated with something like that is the sustainability of that revenue. Okay. The next comment is from Paul Hagenloh which is during the recent strategic planning process, the Chinese program it was identified many times as a strength of the district. It is short-sighted to cut this program and it doesn't show much respect for the extensive Community input there in here. The last comment from taxpayer, text Pierre if you could identify yourself that would be very helpful, it's a 1.4 million dollar increase he adds why couldn't you use last year's budget with no increase to the taxpayer. To Will's point maybe reopen contract negotiations. Again but there are other fixed costs that are embedded in the contract or within the budget as well that drives other aspects of the budget as well. To the other point also is with the tax cap legislation that took effect 2010-

2011, there is a requirement that if your budget does fail you cannot raise your taxes, the taxes are planned to go up \$1,384,000 so we would have to cut that amount of money from this budget to make sure the revenues match. And there is another comment is from Jill which is have there been any thought of what would happen to the budget if there is prolonged distance learning into the fall or a mix of in school and distance in the case of this virus stays or returns? the question and one that again all school districts are wrestling with especially right now. And the best you can do is sort of forecast you know what is it you know that may change in our day-to-day lives lives and in running a school district we might incur costs. As I looked at it, I don't know that there are costs increases associated with personnel. I see equipment and supplies and materials primarily as cost increases. Again we are sort of beholden to information coming from the state government. You know that the government has convened a task force to help school districts think about reopening or reentry and we are waiting for more information for that but for the purposes of budget we have tried to forecast ahead and what cost might be associated with either increased distance learning or social distancing requirements that might come in the fall which are exceptionally hard to predict but again my best estimate is that not necessarily costs associated with personnel but more supplies, materials and equipment. And I will say from the finance committee's perspective, we have asked Tim and Peter to start doing scenario planning around this and I anticipate that that will continue through the summer. We know that we have very limited information at this time from the governor but we want to do scenario planning with such information that we do have regarding both prolonged distance instruction or possible hybrid returns to classroom as well as potential state aid cuts. So that is the end of the chat right now and I imagine Peter that we are going to want to give it to board discussion again and talk about where we want to go from here with the budget. Susan is still not with us. Additional

questions from the Board? This is to the finance committee and Peter and Tim as we looked at the declining enrollment did we have other positions whether they be due to retirement or different pieces with enrollment due to decline that we are not filling? The two Elementary positions oh, we are able to absorb one of those due to attrition. Oh, and I'm sorry I'm a we are having yes, we received a number of retirements Tama requests for retirement from teaching assistants and so we are evaluating all of those positions as they come in to see if they need to be filled or not and so thank you yes we are using all of those opportunities to take a look at our staffing to see if we can be creative and utilize people in a different way or if we need to refill those so thank you. And, for the board, I just want to be very clear that this is the max budget that we are asking to go through. It is very likely that based on the situation at the state level, that we will be readjusting this budget before the start of school in the fall based on potential cuts to state aid. Wendy, this is Juanita, I have a question. Just looking at the reserve number and I understood the desire to be conservative in trending the opposite way of where we have been trending but if we were at status quo of last year 1.2, 1.3 million dollars, would any of these instructional cuts that we have discussed last fall and change be necessary? Probably not but we are anticipating that this budget is going to contract further over the summer. Right. And during this time, I don't know Peter if you have have the answer to this part, are we continuing to ask staff about finding dollars considering that we think that the budget is going to contract somewhere or are we not pursuing that at this time. No, this is when we do a lot of our supplies and materials request and so the principles have asked the staff to be thoughtful and deliberate about those choices. We have looked over the technology budget for next year and tried to be prudent there, so we are trying to scratch out any savings where we can. And for the board, to be clear, the priorities that we really look at going into this budget we're maintaining the priorities

that we identified in the Strategic plan in a way that would benefit the most number of students in the most meaningful way. So, we prioritized preserving the new social and emotional support that have been introduced over the past few years, funding for professional development and curriculum, funding for the new assistant superintendent of curriculum equity and instruction and Peter, you can jump in if there's any other ones that I am forgetting, but those were our key priorities to make sure that we were still supporting that there could be, that we could still keep moving in this strategic direction that was outlined in the Strategic plan. Correct. So then I guess we will now pivot back to board action. Actually, before we leave the other import of business associated with the vote on June 9th is the Board of Education election and again, for the Governor's requirements Ana Board of Education candidates had to identify themselves today, by the end of today and I'm pleased to say that we had eight community members submit a intent to run for the Board of Education. You should see those eight names on those screen. This Is How They will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order. This will be part of the ballot that is being voted on on June 9th.

#### BOARD ACTION - ROUTINE BUSINESS

#### APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 23, APRIL 2 AND APRIL 20, 2020 BOARD MEETINGS

Okay so let's go to board action. A, Routine Business. Item #1 is to approve the Minutes of March 23rd, April 2nd and April 20th Board Meetings? Do I have a motion to approve those? I'll make a motion Wendy. Thanks. I'll second it Wendy. Thanks. So who was the Motion. Dana. Tish did you get that? Yes. Dana made the motion, Ken seconded it. All in favor? I guess, I will a roll call now Peter, is that what we are going to do? Yes, sorry, I just almost

ended the meeting for everyone. So Lori. Yes. Okay, Ken. Yes, mam. Renee, Yes. Dana, Yes Sharon, Yes. Christine. Yes. Juanita. Yes. Wendy. Yes. Alright that's everybody that's one right now from the Board, right? Right so we are just missing Susan. Correct, Okay.

#### ACCEPT THE INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDITOR REPORT

Next is to accept the Internal Claims Auditor Report. As you all received, no issues, no concerns from the Claims Auditor, Internal Claims Auditor. Okay, do I have a motion to approve? I move. Renee and second by Sharon. All in favor. Ken. Aye. Lori. Aye. Dana. Aye. Renee. Aye. Sharon. Aye. Christine. Aye. Juanita. Aye. Wendy. Aye. Got it.

#### ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CPSE AND THE CSE

Next is to accept the Recommendations of the CPSE and the CSE. So one thing of note within the one recommendation of note within the CPSE recommendation is for a student BEING placed in a BOCES program. Parents are in agreement as well as all the other meeting outcomes. Can I have a motion to approve the CPSE and the CSE recommendations. I'll make a motion, Lori. Okay, Lori makes the motion, Ken will you second? I'll be happy to. So then we're gonna do a roll call again. Ken. Yes, mam, Aye. Lori. Yes, aye. Dana. Aye. Renee. Yes. Sharon. Aye. Christine. Aye. Juanita. Aye. Wendy. Aye. Got it. Did I miss someone? No, you got it.

#### APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Okay the next one is to approve the superintendent's personnel and tenure recommendations. So we will take these separate beginning with the Personnel recommendations you see an appointment of administrator, an administrative intern, three requests for retirement is a

mentioned earlier during the budget conversation and one resignation. Okay do I have a motion to approve these, the Personnel recommendations? I move. Okay Renee moves Dana seconds to approve the Personnel recommendations. Okay, Ken. Aye. Lori. Aye. Dana. I seconded so yes. Sorry. That's okay. Renee. Yes. Christine. Yes. Sharon. Aye. Juanita. Opposed and I vote opposed as well. As always, I would highlight it's not about the candidates it's about clarifying the process and we're working with Dr. Smith on that. If I could interrupt on that real quick with that approval, the Board of Education, can I make a statement? Please. With that approval, the Board of Education has appointed Tokinma Killins as principal of Tecumseh Elementary School. Ms. Killins will begin her New Edition on July 1st 2020. Tokinma has enjoyed a successful career as a social worker and a current administrator. She has over 8 years of administrative experience most recently serving as an assistant principal in a neighboring School District. You will find that Tokinma, is a warm and generous person who is passionate about her work with students and adults and brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and unbridled enthusiasm towards her new leadership role. She is looking forward to becoming part of the Tecumseh community and she is very excited to meet and work with everyone. I hope that everyone can join us welcoming Tokinma to Jamesville-DeWitt. She's excited, we're excited. I want to take a minute to thank all of the interview committees, all of the parents and faculty who provided input into the process. I think we have a great outcome and I am looking forward to bringing Tokinma on staff. She starts July 1, correct Peter? That is correct. Great.

#### APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

So the next is Tenure Recommendations, correct? That is correct. So the tenure recommendations are generally taken as a group. we have six Educators between the Middle School in the high school who have done an exceptional job. The board has received the

recommendations from the principals as well as their APPR scores. Just to note, some of the candidates had tenure in a previous District so therefore they were on a three-year tenure appointment as opposed to a four-year tenure appointment. And of course, given the spring time and the no state test scores, we do not have an APPR score, an evaluation score for the 19-20 school year. It is my honor and pleasure to recommend all these candidates for tenure. Do I have a motion for the candidates presented for tenure? I'll make a motion. Thank you Dana. Do I have a second? I'll second. Thanks Lori. All in favor, here we go. Ken. Aye. Renee. Aye. Christine. Aye. Sharon. Aye. Juanita. Opposed. And I'm opposed. That's everybody, right? I think we are missing somebody. Ah, Wendy, this is Juanita, do we have Susan on a phone line where she might be muted? I don't believe so. Okay. Tish, Dana moved and I seconded, so we're ayes. Okay so it was Juanita and Wendy opposed. Yes. Do those numbers add up? Do you got everybody Tish? Got it. Everybody's in different places on my screen, so I don't want to forget anyone.

#### ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A BUDGET HEARING IN LIEU OF AN ANNUAL MEETING

Okay, so the next item is to adopt a resolution to establish a budget hearing in lieu of annual meeting. Yes this is a resolution that was previously passed on March 23rd. The resolution had to be rewritten with new dates, the hearing being June 1st in the legal notice going out on May 12th as well as instead of the legal notice being submitted four times, it will be submitted twice per the new legal requirements. So this is something the board already passed, just some changing dates to be approved by the board again. Do I have a motion to adopt the resolution to establish a budget hearing in lieu of an annual meeting? I move. Who is that, I'm sorry. Renee. Okay

thanks. Do I have a second. I'll second. Okay. So Renee moved, Christine seconded. Ken. Aye. Lori, Aye. Dana. Aye. Sharon. Aye. Juanita. Aye. And I am an aye as well. Okay we are good.

#### APPOINT CHAIRPERSON FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET VOTE

And then, Item #6, is to appoint the chairperson for the annual meeting and budget vote. So annually we have to appoint a chairperson for the annual meeting and budget vote. This year we have reached out once again to Linda Schellinger, who has done this in the past to chair the annual meeting and the budget vote. This is The person who reads the resolutions and kicks off and closes the voting. In a future meeting we will need to appoint a number of election inspectors who will help us canvas and count the vote and that process. Peter, can you just talk for a minute about what this election is going to look like since it is so different than previous elections. Sure, so again the legal notice going out tomorrow. We are in the process right now or, starting tomorrow, we will begin working on create should have the balance that will then need to be printed. Working backwards, the due date for all of the ballots is June 9th at 5 p.m., everything must be received. That means the either must be mailed and we have to receive them or they will have to be dropped off before that date. And so, working backward we have to make sure that we provide voters with an absentee ballot come up the governor's executive order required that voting take place not in person but by absentee ballot and so we will send an absentee ballot to all of our district residents who are eligible to vote. The way we are creating that list is we received a list of residents from the Board of Elections, we are cross-referencing that list against our bulk mailing list and making sure that all, again all eligible voters receive a ballot and so that means it's not one ballot per house, it's one ballot per person. That package will include ballot, information about the budget itself, a certified envelope, a person will put their ballot in, they will sign their name to indicate they are the person who sealed the envelope, then that envelope

will go into another envelope and it will be mailed to the school district. So we are working on printing, creating that entire package. It is the goal of the school district to get it out by May 26th. That would provide enough time for someone to notify the school district if they did not receive a ballot and we can get that out to them so we expect to hear from people by June 1st. That's that turn around. And as I mentioned, starting on June 9th at 5:00 p.m., the voting will be closed. After that comes the counting of the ballots and we are waiting for some legal opinion, essentially what that is is every ballot needs to be oh, it's actually not required but it's best practice that every ballot be canvassed and recorded and seen by two people and so we are looking at, trying to figure out a way to record the procedure, we want to be as transparent as possible we are looking at recording the proceedings identifying volunteers to help us again handle those, all those ballots open all those ballots, record and tabulate the results. We are not really sure how long that is going to take and and again we are trying to work with our legal team to help us identify what is a foolproof and transparent way to do the counting. so we will have more information for the board once we move through the process. Any questions on that? It's just, again challenging situation. Peter, can I step in for a second? Yes please. so roughly our list contains about 12,000 people. We are going to be sending out a postcard letting people know that everything is going to be by absentee ballot and or, if you did not, so we are only going to, 12,000 people are only the registered voters from the office of election, the Board of Elections, so we don't necessarily have everyone. So if you know of somebody that is 18 oh, u.s. citizen, has lived in the district for 30 days or more, you do have the ability to request a ballot for them specifically. That will be on the postcard we are sending postcards to every household like you would normally get with their newsletter to informed them to contact us they can look on the website or they can contact myself at my email address that's on the website for Tish Hauser

which is on the website as well and we will get out that absentee ballot. absentee ballots due need to be returned by 5 on June 9th. We have to have them. Having said that, the answer to the question what if I can't get it there in the mail two to three days before? We are going to have a drop box by the district office and we are going to be checking that right before the end of the day right at 5:00 p.m. Anyone that is there will be canvassed as well. Obviously we want to maintain social distancing as best as possible in regards to people dropping off of late absentee ballots but we will have a plan in place for that. Thank you. So, can I have a motion to appoint the chairperson for the annual hearing and budget vote to be Linda Schellinger? I'll move Wendy, it's Juanita, Thanks Juanita. Is there a second? I'll second, it's Renee. So, Ken. Aye. Lori. Aye. Dana. Aye. Christine. Aye. Sharon. Aye, and I'm an Aye. Ok. Got it.

#### NEW BUSINESS - APPROVE 2020-2021 BUDGET

Now we are moving on to new business. The next item is to approve the 20-21 Budget. I would add that is there any other questions from board members before we want to vote on this? Everybody's ready to vote? Okay. Can I have a motion to approve the proposed 20-21 budget? I will make that motion Wendy. Thank you Christine. Is there a second? I will second. Thanks Renee. All in favor? Ken. Aye. Lori. Aye. Dana. I just want to clarify, so, this is the official budget then that will be brought to voters and be on the ballot with the potential cuts at which at some point this could be changed? Correct. Okay. I just want to clarify that. At some point it could be changed to be less largely if state aid is cut. Correct. I know if stated Aid is restored then it could go the other way as well. Correct. Right Tim? We wouldn't be, can you explain what would happen if state aid is restored? Or, if we get what we are expected to get or have received in the past? Well we can't expend more than the budgeted amount. That amount is the highest. How we go about spending that is up for discussion oh, that will always be maintained.

We can always have that discussion. Okay. I'm having a tough time. I'm going to vote Nay on this. I'm voting Nay. Yes that's fine so who is left to vote? Sharon? No. Juanita? I have to disclose that I am not in support of any cuts to instructional budget at this time. I think if the budget was revised and we didn't have any instructional budget cuts I would vote yes but at this time I vote no. And I'm a yes. Did we get everyone? I have four yeses and three nos so we are missing someone. Who didn't vote. Susan didn't vote. No that would be nine. Wait do I have four yeses..... That would be seven. Did you get Renee? No I don't think we got Renee. Did we? I'm a yes. Okay so we have five yeses and three nos. Okay.

#### APPROVE 5 YEAR CONTRACT WITH OCM BOCES FOR LIT FIBER FOR HIGH SPEED COMMUNICATIONS

The next item is to approve a five-year contract with OCM BOCES board rent fiber for high speed Communications. As it says, it is a lease agreement to maintain our we're lit fiber for high-speed Communication Service through BOCES. I'm not sure if Lori or 10 you want to add to that. but it is a BOCES contract, it is a lease that allows us to maintain our service, our bandwidth connection. This is one of the things BOCES and the ric did a great job on for us negotiating with our vendors. Normally this is upwards of \$70,000 so we are doing a five year for \$44,000 instead of close to \$70,000. It's already accounted for in the budget this way but they did a good job. So, can I have a motion to approve this five-year contract with ocm BOCES burlette fiber for high-speed communication? I'll make that motion. Christine. Thanks Christine. And I have a second? Juanita thanks Juanita. All in favor question Ken. Aye. Lori. Aye. Dana. Aye. Renee. Aye. Sharon. Aye and I'm an Aye. Got it.

## APPROVE FIVE YEAR CONTRACT WITH OCM BOCES FOR CLASSROOM AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

The next one is to approve a five-year contract with ocm BOCES for classroom and other instructional technology. So again, this is another lease agreement to expend no more than \$50,000 which allows us to purchase up to \$250,000 worth of new equipment. Obviously Funnyin this time period of distance learning we need to continue to maintain our instructional technology and instructional Hardware is best as possible. This lease again allows us to do this and a very cost-efficient, cost-effective way and so I would recommend approval. Any questions? Can I have a motion to approve a new five-year contract with ocm BOCES for classroom and other instructional technology? I'll make that motion. Thanks Ken. Dana are you seconding? Yes I'll second that. Lori. Aye. Renee. Yes. Christine. You're muted Christine. Now you are good. Is that an Aye. Okay we've got a thumbs up. Okay. Sharon. Aye. Juanita. Aye and I'm an Aye as well, Tish. Okay. Got it.

## BOARD POLICIES - FIRST READING

And now we are onto the board policies it says first second reading. Oops. Is that a first reading? First reading. Okay. Peter or Juanita do you want to provide any context about these? Juanita do you mind if I jump ahead? Yeah, no I don't mind please do. There was just a few you know obviously the policy committee would field any questions from the but I wanted to point out just a couple of things if I could please. Specifically Policy 5630, I'm flipping through it myself. One of the things that we have identified in 5630 is the board policy requires that we establish a health and safety committee to ensure all of our facilities are properly maintained. This is work that we are currently doing but we noticed that within this policy, that we actually

have to create a health and safety committee and so we will do that beginning next year, we will establish that committee which will include, at a minimum the director of Transportation, director of facilities, Tim, myself and then we will also ask the BOCES health and safety inspector to join that committee as well. That was one thing I wanted to point out on that policy. Policy 5650 is around energy conservation and recycling in the schools. We wanted to point out the fact that the district is committed, second paragraph, the district is committed to energy conservation efforts that address capital related energy projects. Really you know this has been a discussion throughout the fall and I know that our student body is exceptionally interested in making sure that the district is committed to energy conservation and recycling in the schools. This policy calls us out and establish should some expectations for the school district that are appropriate and good so I wanted to make sure the board was aware of that. Policy 5661, no I'm sorry, 5660, I'm sorry. Meal charging and prohibition against meal shaming. this is a policy that was recently reviewed by the board and now is obviously back up. We asked our director of food services program to take a look at this policy. He made some suggestions which have been incorporated by the policy committee and so that policy is reflecting those modifications and customization to our school district are included in 5660. Policies 5671 through 75 are either new or revised policies all relating to cybersecurity protections and responses. You can kind of look at those as a package I would just draw your attention to the fact that I think that it is great that we are getting these policies approved but also remind the board that the auditors will be taking a look at our cyber security processes so they will be using these policies to help guide their work and that culminates in Policy 5676 which is the privacy and security student and teacher data, this is a new policy. it is very broad and it addresses all of the education 2D law requirements around data privacy and protection of student personally identifiable information. I

wanted to, I know that the board typically I want to hear about the conversations that took place at the policy committee. Those were the policies that were primarily discussed with changes that were added. I would defer to anyone else that was on the policy committee or to Tim or to Pete to add anything or ask any questions that anyone may have. Will, I see your hand. Yeah, I just had a question about the sustainability policy I think it is 5650. I just wanted to say thank you for including this, I'm not sure if it was part of the template policy manual or not and I think that shows that we are making strides towards conversation we've been having here on the board table for a long time. I just had a question, it was about the wording in the last part I believe it was waste prevention strategies. That was just one of them, I don't know what oh, I know obviously we don't have to get that specific in the policy but in practice what does that mean to you? But see if I can't find it. Yeah the very last sentence of the last paragraph okay. Yep. To be honest with you I think of it as exactly that, making the most of our resources, making sure that we are not providing undue pressure on the environment and then also being fiscally responsible with our resources as well. Okay. Thank you. Anybody else on the policy committee want to add to that? Yes thank you I had a question on another one I think it was 5620 but I don't know if you want to take questions first on anything else or wait and we can come back to it. Go ahead Will. I guess, this isn't really according to the policy, premise of it more, we had just approved the contract for, the five-year contract with BOCES for increased technology leases, I know when we, when school initially went out of session in March, about insurance deductibles or like an individual Chromebook and how Mr Decker said that it didn't meet that threshold, so anticipating that we would have to go now out the materials again, is there any like around oh, I don't even know if we can do it it's just a thought I had, adjusting that deductible or or there could be Provisions you know next school year say where in distance learning again, planning for the

worst, you know I don't know how much risk risk we are assuming with that we haven't brought those materials back to the school we don't know what the status of them will be. So I guess it's more of a practice question than a policy. Ss the deductible right now is \$1,000. It can be as low as \$500, it doesn't solve our problem with Chromebooks. Right. So you know it's something we can certainly evaluate you know you're right it's in practice not in policy. I can't imagine us being able to get much lower then the \$500 threshold. So you know the Chromebooks won't be, I don't know how we go about capturing that. Right. Okay thank you it's something to think about I appreciate it. Any other questions from the board? Okay. Is any action required on the first readings Peter? Nope. They will be back for the next reading next round.

#### BOARD POLICIES - SECOND READING

Okay so now I'm moving on to Item #5, Board Policies, second reading. again the policy committee took a quick look at those. There were no suggestions from the board from the previous meeting so they are back as reviewed at the last meeting. Peter, this is Juanita I know I wasn't present at the last policy meeting but there was a question from the previous meeting of the wording of the special classes. I don't know if you guys had a chance to talk about that at all. We did not. Okay. So I think that's the only open question that I had from the previous board meeting that I don't think we have a resolution for the board tonight. And I'm sorry which policy was that Juanita? 3420. So tonight would be like approve of the policies except for 3420 or are you bringing them all for approval Juanita? I would say everything except it because we didn't get a chance to address the board's concerns about the language. But the rest of the policies I'm good with that. Okay. Peter, do we approve these as a slate or one by one? No, we can approve these as a slate. so the policies that are listed on the agenda with the exception of 3420 so 5220 through 5573. Alright. So can I have a motion to approve policies 5220 through 5573 as listed

on the agenda. I'll make a motion Wendy. It's Dana. Thanks Dana. Second? Aye. Thank you Ken. All in favor. Lori. Aye. Renee. Aye. Christine. Aye. Sharon. Aye. Juanita. Aye and Wendy. Aye. Wendy before we move on from policies I just have one new additional item for the board to discuss night I got a question from a board member on our ex-officio student board member policy and I'm going to let Will kind of go over the question with us if you don't mind and then I would like to have some thick discussion about it. Sure. Thank you. Wendy, do you want me to chime in or do you want to take it? No. Okay. Thank you for bringing this up. I think it was a question I might have floated maybe two or three months ago. We have preliminary discussions about this in terms of the lapse that's going to occur and I guess it's going to be in July starting in July where I will no longer be on the board and we will not have a new student representative to fill the position because no election taken place since school is out of session obviously and in preliminary conversations with Mr. Gasparini and Dr. Smith, we sort of moved that the best idea would be to have an election in the fall, obviously keeping in line with our boards values that were discussed last year. So this again lapses in summer and possibly the beginning of the school year where there wouldn't be a student on the board and we wanted to one make sure that we were within the limits of doing that and to also set a precedent for what it means as a board and what it would mean presumptive that an election would occur sometime in the fall and specifically to me that means that in that last, while it is the summer and right now we are really not in school anyway that means that students are still included in decision-making process and I would be happy to assist with that and I have some ideas that could happen especially in the beginning of the school year so that an election would take place on a certain date, so that we are really not cutting into this person's term. I know speaking from personal experience one year is short and when it is a couple months that are edged off the front, we want

to make sure the person has enough time to get in and get situated, get things done and then hand the position on to the next person. So I think Juanita and I just wanted to facilitate some discussion to see what that would look like. Thank you Will and for anyone that doesn't know the policy we are talking about it is 1323 and when will raise this question through email, I missed it the first time but when he resent it, I reviewed the policy and I think one of the key framework components that we, when we built this policy we used, I was keeping it very high level so that the execution of the appointment could be done by a school administrator. So when I read the policy I don't think the policy prohibits us from having someone be appointed in the fall or elected in the fall but what I do think needs to be super clear is what the student and what the board can expect about this process going into the fall considering we are doing Board elections now. So I know it's not super clear in the policy but I think it should be super clear especially to the students who are interested in taking that position, how things are going to go. So I don't know if you guys have a different opinion on the policy read but I think it's perfectly fine in the policy to holdoff but I do think there needs to be a lot of clarity considering so much is in upheaval right now for the student. Wendy has a question. Do you have a recommendation about what that could look like. I don't have a recommendation. I think, you know, when we developed the policy we left it up to the administration to provide those guidelines. I think that what my recommendations is, is that those guidelines be forthright so not waiting until we get two months into the school year to decide that we discussed that now and then students were interested in that position have a full opportunity to explore it and run for it and have the position for a full year as intended. And I think, just to echo of a point, this point here is a, specifically now, I am sort of envisioning that we sort of put out some feelers now, electronically or otherwise. Certainly I would be happy to help with that, I'm sure Mr. Gasparini would as well,

sort of letting students know, this is what's going to happen, this is when the election is going to occur, in the fall, so if you are interested in doing it you know I'm not sure anyone will really be thinking about it the whole summer but at least you will get it in this kid's head and then when the school year starts we have a plan in place for when and how that would occur and I would leave that up to Dr. Smith and Mr. Gasparini to determine the specifics. Will, tell me what's been going on with student government? Because typically this coincides with student government elections. Obviously everything's out of sorts. What have our various meters Student Government been discussing? Have both suppress you that you know knows you're going to be graduating and there's been you know May 1st and Senior Sunday and all kinds of things to support our seniors but we're has students upperman at the high school kind of landed? Yeah sure that's a great question. We have had a lot of conversations granted most of them have been around graduation, ball, prom all those celebrations and this is one that hasn't been touched because of the scope of the world right now where everything is so immediate and changes in the matter of an hour, thinking about the fall would require such an abstract concept sometimes. So, we have talked about it we really haven't made any concrete plans and I really wouldn't want to be having a discussion like this so normally they would coincide with the government election. I wouldn't see why not and with the special circumstance I also see why that wouldn't take place earlier in the year. And so has student government decided yet? No. I guess my personal feeling is you know, I've done a lot of work for not-for-profit organizations in various boards and even though our policy says ex, I believe that our board can pass a special resolution, like if we decide this is what we want to do and if you would be willing to extend your time, a certain rent in time and like obviously I think all of us who are able to resign hey, if you go off to college God willing like my two college kids August 23rd, 21st, whatever it may be you know like look

School hasn't been back but I think and I don't have the policy right in front of me I am happy to, if the board is willing to extend your time with us oh, I mean it's been absolutely fantastic to have you with us this year and likewise I do feel like it's the will of a high school student population election for school board person within the confines of our policy you know all the things that are in the policy in the first place should coincide with the student government elections right, as it was intended. So I think Wendy, your question was do we have a proposal or maybe we don't but my proposal and I'd be happy to put forward is that we extend Will's term and continued participation past June 30 should he accept that considering the circumstances and that we again, we always left this decision as you guys remember, to how the high school and the student government wanted to approach it. So I would think that the student representative on the board of education would be elected in with the student government elections in the fall. So, that would be my proposal. I'm sure it's within our realm to be able to move that forward. I don't know, I'll mute myself and let me know what you guys think of that and Will whether you would be willing to continue, everybody's got a lot of time on their hands in the summer we are still meeting. So, if you would be interested I would be happy to make that motion. Yeah thank you, that means a lot to me. I would want to explore the legal requirements and all that and make sure everyone is on the same page but I really appreciate it if it means a lot to me I really appreciate your resolution there. Is that something that we would hand off to Dr. Smith or I would obviously want you to discuss that with Mr. Gasparini and the student government. so, Peter is this something that you would maybe want to take back to call and talk to him about student Government timing and process and what his ideas were and have a more in-depth conversation with will and maybe come back to us at the next board meeting with a recommendation and a plan? I think that's a very prudent approach. Juanita, is that something you are comfortable

with? Oh yeah, definitely, that's great. I think that's really what we I'm looking for a plan from the administration and how they want to proceed. Great. Thank you guys, I appreciate it. Thank you Will. Thank you so much for your service on the board. We have really benefited from you being a part of us this year. It's been an honor.

## REPORTS - QUARTERLY FINANCIAL

Okay, moving on to #5, Reports. Tim, do you want to start with the quarterly financial report? So everybody has a copy of the quarterly report. One of the things that you are going to start seeing, maybe not this time but next time is as you look at the treasury report, the school lunch fund is down, currently on the report it shows \$106,000. As you know, we have been feeding and not collecting revenues if this point, so we having had any sales, right and feeding both so there is an expense there without any revenues coming in. at some point, in very short order here if this continues without any federal government money comes in to help support this yet, I think we'll get that in the long run wait for cash flow issue we may need to borrow a little bit of funds from the general fund to help support and shore that up, you just need to be aware of that. Nothing that you need to do it's just one of those things that we are working with their auditors to make sure we are doing it properly. That's the first thing. The second thing look at the special aid fund, some standard stuff. You know that the incarcerated youth is always a two year lag, that's old business. Still flowing. Going to the general fund, page two of the general fund, you're going to see a - \$90,000 which has been the cost of legal services for Shoppingtown. That at the end of the year, we'll have an adjustment to our tax cert to reduce our tax cert by \$90,000 make that number whole to the general fund. So just be aware that that's a one time, when this year is over we will be making that adjustment. And Tim, it's Christine, that's our share the representation? Yes that's our share of illegal bees up-to-date for Shoppingtown alone. Arts & Ed that's a

standard thing, that's a new BOCES program that we are getting that we will have to clean up at the end of the year. We just did that to make sure where that's where the money is coming from, We are tracking it that way, That will get cleaned up that is on page 10 no big deal there. Again we received BOCES aid on things in the past we didn't receive BOCES aid on, so that was a good thing. Great move by Pete Reyes. And the final ones at the end of the... or not the final one, at the end of the general fund, you'll see an interest band and our bond payment and the 9.5 million dollars and then interest on 9.5 million dollars, that will be offset at the end of the year when we go off the bond, the 12.1 million dollar project that we have not yet completed because of not being able to have companies in doing their work to complete the project so that's been kind of dragging on. We will be, hopefully open, although coming from the governor with our oh, and our County, we are hoping that we are going to be able to get everybody back in here shortly after May 15th and that we can commission our auditorium and close out some of the electrical and fire projects and be done with that project. We are sitting in pretty good shape in regards to that project right now. We haven't over spent it. there are some things that we are looking at some things that we are trying to purchase this year out of the capital projects to help maybe alleviate some of the pressure specifically in regards to technology how much I need to get some of that stuff under the capital project so that it frees it up with a little more cash when we enter the general fund for next year. That's generally an overview of the quarterly report. Any questions? Tim, it's Juanita, I have two questions. Yep. The first question is about the lunch program and the food purchased. Is that a contract no, it's not a contract. We don't Outsource our food service we have our people doing it, putting things together. We do purchase some prepackaged stuff but we do also package some so no it's not contracted. So, the thing I was thinking through is the last couple years we talked about the lunch program, we have had

decreased meals served oh, you know there wasn't a lot of interest in the lunch program and there was some Financial concerns about it. My question now is in students are not in the building, are we planning on doing food programs throughout the summer? I think we have to wait to see, right? Right now there hasn't been any directed yet. I wouldn't be surprised if there is quite frankly but I guess we'll see. Peter, have you heard anything on it yet? No, that's one of the things we are waiting on. Okay. It looks like a big chunk of money and I just wanted to know if we have explored doing any oh, any actual outsourcing of the food service to local restaurants. So if oh, I'm just wondering, maybe it's something to explore because it seems like we're spending an awful lot of money on food service, and it seems like a way we could infuse those funds back into the local community. We have not done that, the extent of our exploration on that has been listening to the feedback of school districts who have outsourced their meal programs and generally the consensus is they have been disappointed with that and so we have taken that antidotal evidence to guide our decisions. We have never done a full-blown exploration of the dollars and cents behind it. Initially, from listening to other schools districts who have gone through this, initially in the first year or two, you see increased sales and then a significant decrease after that. Actually there are a couple of school districts, Tim would know, who have actually gone back and re-pulled those contracts out and are returning and doing them in house again. We are better than them though. A different direction Juanita, if we were in a different situation than we are now, Francis is doing an outstanding job he is looking for donations as well. I know he got that large chip donation not only for our district but for alot districts countywide. He got donations from Frito-Lay to help support some of that so that was nice. So he is atuned to a lot of those opportunities so we will continue to ask him to look into those, those sort of opportunities not outsourcing the entire thing. Yeah, I don't think outsourcing

is necessary, I just mean any kind of sourcing opportunities, co-sourcing, in-sourcing with local farmers, I mean there are a lot of opportunities right now and I would hope that we would think outside the box especially now with the situation we are in financially. Yes. And then the second question is there was one line item called co-op bid, I just don't remember what that is. So, was it under Athletics? I'm trying to remember which one it would be. I don't think it is let me see if I can find it. There are some Cooperative we have purchased certain items from athletics was one of them, there is another supply code..... And so what we tend to do is BOCES does some bidding for us and then we purchase through them to get a better deal under mass purchasing. It is usually under operations and maintenance and athletic supplies without looking. I am not finding the exact one but that's what that normally means. Okay. Thank you. Are there any are there questions for the quarterly financial report? If not, let's move on to the superintendent's report.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A few things to update the board on regarding covid-19 and our response and other things. One is one of the significant challenges that has been associated with providing remote instruction is assessment of student learning. Trying to identify tools and opportunities to determine whether or not students are actually progressing as we would hope that they would be. I know that our teachers have been collaborating across the county to identify effective means to measure student progress and what we've learned is this is a little bit easier in the upper grades, still very difficult but the accessibility of online tools in the upper grades makes it a little bit easier. I know that at the elementary level they are using a combination of electronic tools and asking, beginning to ask for materials to be returned to the district so that they can get a better handle on how well students are doing and so some of the electronic assessment tools that are available and also

bringing stuff back into house will help us do that. At the youngest grades, we are hearing stories in our district and other districts about the real Challenge and our youngest students, kindergarten first grade and some second graders primarily because assessment is typically done either one on one or in small groups by observation or working hand over hand with kids and so obviously in a remote learning environment that type of assessment is exceptionally difficult and they are still working to identify ways that can be effective but really that is a significant challenge facing the district. With this comes the challenge of assigning grades and measurement and progress measures and so there has been discussions at each of the levels of the approach to take as it comes to reading and assessment of learning. The overall approach from the district standpoint is to make sure that every teacher recognizes that these are exceptionally challenging times and that teachers need to be flexible in recognizing effort and product. At the High School, Paul had worked with his Department chairs and has gotten a lot of input from the teachers to come up with a system that they think is fair. They are trying not to deviate too far from their current system so the students will still receive number grades based on the current hundred point system. Course averages will be calculated using all four quarters for full year courses or the third and fourth quarters for semester courses. One of the most significant things is that all, obviously all the Regents exams and now all the final exam have been canceled so those are all grades that are going to be calculated based on class work and participation. At the Middle School, You know similar, didn't want to deviate too far from the current system that is in place and students will receive grades based on the hundred point system. And again they don't do final averages at the middle school, each quarter is a learning segment onto itself and so they will continue to do the same thing. At the elementary level, we have had some robust conversations about the best way to report progress and I'm really think it's coming down to the fact that we

need to make sure that our parents receive some, continue to use the report card as we typically use it to provide number grades as appropriate but also supplement that information as appropriate with narratives. We have to make sure that the teachers provide enough information to parents as they can on the individual progress that they have observed with their students, and the they have had for their students over the course of the third and fourth quarter and especially the fourth quarter and how students have done on that and so parents can expect to see the same report card come home but a little bit different in that it should be more narrative trauma more emphasis on the narrative and less emphasis on the number grades that are given. Peter, can I just ask a quick question? In high school in particular I know that Regents have been cancelled, final exams have also been cancelled? I heard it from the kids but I have not neither confirmed nor denied the accuracy of that. That's accurate? That is accurate. Okay. Yes. Some questions came up from the public about how are we using the Metro Center to support our staff in equity efforts and we had conversations early on in the closure with the Metrocenter regarding providing professional development to our staff and the Metrocenter suggested that we continue to wait until we are able to provide their professional development in person so we have been sort of on hold with them regarding that. However, they have provided some information around culturally responsive distance learning opportunities and so we will be passing that information on to our staff as well. You know, very helpful resources around culturally sensitive material so thats a great place. As well, I wanted to report out that at Jamesville Elementary School, you may remember that Marcy presented her plan for her staff over the course of the year and it involves some work around trauma informed instruction and they have been able to continue that work with the BOCES expert and have done a tremendous amount of learning around trauma informed work so I applaud their efforts and it will definitely take you for the Jamesville students. some

questions about how the district is engaging students and families to understand their needs in this new learning environment. We recently did a few weeks ago, a survey of our staff, or we used the thoughtexchange to get feedback from our staff around, you know how are you doing with the technology, what support do you need, is it technical support or is it instructional technology support and we were able to use the information that came back from the staff and make some improvements on our professional learning as well as some peer-to-peer sharing in the area of instructional technology. So that was tremendously helpful. We expect that all of our teachers and counselors and social workers are reaching out individually to families to identify the supports or concerns that they may have and this is done at a building or individual or personal level. And then there was a question about how we are supporting the staff's social emotional needs and you know the principals have maintained their schedule of faculty meetings, team meetings, facilitating work with colleagues, making sure they are communicating with their staff and again as I mentioned we did the survey on technology and supporting professional learning needs. So it's really maintaining contact with families and staff to make sure that people's needs are being met. I wanted to turn the conversation a little bit towards the end of the year. We are in a little bit of an interesting situation in that we are beginning to, as you know, the teacher's contract identifies the number of workdays per year and our current schedule, given that the governor required that we continue to provide instruction through the April break, if we continue to the scheduled end of the year, June 26th, we will be beyond the contract identified work year and so we are waiting for some guidance from the governor regarding whether or not we have flexibility on the end date so we maintain our contractual obligations. One of the biggest concerns of the community and of the staff are planning for graduation and recognition of our graduating seniors. We have a meeting this week with the county executive to hear some

thoughts around what we can do what we cannot do and once we have that information in hand we can begin putting some plans together that adhere to whatever guidelines we are given but also make sure that we honor our seniors with a graduation ceremony. Peter, it's Christine can I just ask a question, is this all of the area superintendents? Yes. Again, as I mentioned at the last meeting we are definitely committed to honoring our seniors with a graduation ceremony or just not sure exactly what that looks like at this point. Bear with me for a second. Peter, well you are looking, circling back on the 180 days, do you see school, as we know it, ending sooner, rather than later or about the 12th, 13th, or 14th? I can't commit to one answer one way or the other. I think we're probably not going to make it, I think, if I had a crystal ball, I would say we will be terminating sooner than June 26th. Understood. Also, looking forward to the end of the year stuff you know we are identifying ways, and we have some logistical challenges around you know students have stuff in their Lockers, in their classrooms and so we are putting together plans to make sure we are able to either get kids into the building's on a staggered schedule to pick up their materials or at the elementary level packaging up the materials and sending them home via deliveries that are taking place. Turning to fall, looking to reentry in the fall, we have a couple of things happening. As you know the government where the governor has convened a task force who are really looking for sort of guard rails, actually big topics, things to be thinking about when it comes to reentry. I and a couple of other superintendents are working with our Architects to think creatively about how we can differently utilize space to provide some social distance thing should we be in that situation and so we eventually, when we have some bigger areas focus on we will reconvene our district Emergency Management committee and begin talking about all District Operations and how it might look in all sorts of creative ways and what re-entry might look like in the fall. I have a couple other things but I will stop there and answer any

questions the board might have. Peter, this is Wendy, go ahead Juanita. No go ahead Wendy I'll go after you. You mentioned trauma-informed work at Jamesville Elementary is doing and I know when they started this work earlier this year, it was presented sort of as a proof-of-concept that could then maybe extend to the other elementary schools, do we have any thoughts on timing or strategy of what that could look like? So we are not at the end of that process yet. What I want to do is step back and talk to the staff and talk to Mercy about you know, the effectiveness of not only the information that was presented but how it was presented and the facilitator is well and see, Remember when we talked about this in the fall we talked about whether or not this would be a model that could be used at the other schools, so I want to do any valuation of that before we talked about applying it to other levels. I think information is certainly important and we need to figure out if this is the best mechanism to do it. From where I sit, it seems like people are very pleased with the presenter, the facilitator that helped and the resources seem to be well received but I just want to confirm all of that before committing the other schools. Sure, and then the other, I had is that we received a number of emails from parent expressing frustration at weaknesses they perceived in communication from building leaders and teachers, both in terms of not having a unified communication system and seeming like communication is very different teacher to teacher. Can you just clarify for the board what the expectations are work communication from the building leaders were from teachers to parents so that they can understand what that is and how you are helping them to be able to communicate with their students and parents. So the expectation is for each teacher to reach out at least two times and touch base with all the students and parents in the classes. And then the other expectation, sort of a bigger measure of people's social, emotional as well as academic progress and make sure to see if the people need additional assistance work their fight or answer any additional questions that

they have, but then we also have to look bigger picture about you know making sure that all of our students are engaging with learning and so all of the principals have maintained contact with a spreadsheet list and they are keeping track of trying to chat with families, engagement with families, measure through engagement with online and materials or direct contact and making sure that every kid is accounted for and significant attempts are made at trying to reach out. So that is either the teacher reaching out, the principal reaching out oh, the social worker or guidance counselor reaching out and we have had varying levels of success. Some families have been really receptive that assistance and some people have, we have experienced where families are frankly overwhelmed and the family dynamic and family need as well. And so, you know the expectation is that we are keeping track of all students, checking to make sure that they are engaging with their learning, making sure that they are all following up and at a minimum teachers are touching base with families at least twice a week. Thank you. Juanita, I think you had another question. Yes my question is about the thoughtexchange reach out that you did with staff, that sounds fantastic. It sounds like you have got good results, have we done anything like that with the families or the students? Or do we plan to. You know, we have not, it might be interesting. It was great to use the thought xchange with the staff around technology because there was a very focused and specific question and like you noticed we got really good feedback and we were able to have it on some things so I want to have a very specific topic or question to talk to either students or staff about and it would certainly inform not only our current practice but should we be facing this in the fall it could really help us. Yeah, I would love to know how they feel about the engagement that we are talking about and also how they are feeling about social and emotional support because those are the two things that as a board member I get the most reach out from parents about. I have gotten a lot of texts, emails, calls, outside what we get

as a board and it does seem like there is a disconnect in terms of what the expectation is, then what the actual experience is for families of students. So helping everyone bridge that Gap would be an incredible opportunity. Thank you. Moving on, I just wanted to highlight a couple of things for the board. First of all, I mentioned this at last board meeting but I want to remind you that the High School drama wait, no Jamesville-DeWitt High School had a number of finalists and semi-finalists who are going to have their plays performed virtually Syracuse Stage. I wanted to but a bug in your ear because that starts tomorrow night and runs through Friday at 7 p.m. so you can visit [Syracusestage.Org](http://Syracusestage.Org) or the Syracuse Stage Facebook page to look at those performances. I certainly will check that out. I also have a new and exciting announcement and that is that the High School drama club is performing their show, No Exodus virtually with a performance on Sunday. Really neat, the show No Exodus was written and will be directed by a senior, Alethea Shirilan-Howlett, Will do I have that name right, Yeah, Alethea Shirilan-Howlett. Yup. So, performance has been scheduled for June 7th it is going to be a multimedia performance, I'm reading the blurb here, it will be a multimedia performance harnessing the talents of the entire JDHS Arts community. The show will be linked to a fundraiser in lieu of ticket sales and all profits from the fundraiser will go to CNY Arts to provide scholarships for children in the area who want to attend art and music camp. So that will be live streamed on Sunday, June 7th at 7 p.m. We will get some information up on the website about how to access that. I mentioned in an email that went out to the community that our school district, Tecumseh Elementary School and Jamesville DeWitt High School were recognized by the New York State Education Department as Recognition Schools. And also, Jamesville-DeWitt High School was recognized as a 2020 best High School by US News and World Report. Various categories are considered, academic progress, closing the gap and also attendance rates and all those things US News &

World Report focuses on; AP exams and access, as well as a couple of other categories. As well, I wanted to let the board know that Jamesville-DeWitt has been designated among the best communities for music education, a designation given to districts who demonstrate an exceptionally high commitment and consistent access to music education as part of the whole rounded education. JD is among a meet 750 school districts across the country that were recognized by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation. So congratulations there. I wanted to let the board know that on Saturday, last Saturday, the high school staff and administration organized a senior sign distribution where the ptg and with support from the Board of Education was able to purchase lawn signs for are high school seniors and Paul and his staff arrange sort of a parade route for students to come into the school grounds in their cars. A huge number of teachers were there, the DeWitt fire department was there, the police department was represented, the kids received a lawn sign and got to see their teachers, you know respecting social distancing guidelines. They got some candy and got some graduation information from the guidance Department. It was really, really neat and well needed connection, reconnection of students to the staff. It was just so cool, you know it's not cool to see somebody cry but it is really cool to see our staff and kids brought to tears as they were able to reconnect and drives home the point of how important the relationship and the actual physical connection is to learning to our students and to our staff and so it was a great event and I want to commend all those were involved in it. That's the end of my report. Great, are there any questions for Peter's Report?

#### UNFINISHED AND CONTINUING BUSINESS

Susan is not here so we are going to skip the president's report and move on to #6, Unfinished and Continuing Business. Will? Yeah, I have a couple items that I want to quickly update the

board on. One being a quick update on how we have sort of been navigating oh, I think Christine sort of mentioned this earlier in her question about Student Government. I have been writing some very informal reports to the Rampage to update the student body, one in which I have written oh, I have emailed to Dr. Smith, so that will be the next one, The one before then, just kind of updated the students on what's going on with the board and I just wanted to inform the board that seems like a very good way to get in touch with the students. I was informed that the page had over 1,000 hits, so it was a little crazy but I guess if anyone has any information but they would like to pass along to the student body in more of an informal way, feel free to reach out to me, I would be happy to do that and whenever that next thing happens I would be encouraged to write them more frequently. And then, my next question, which is stemming from an email that I sent before this meeting and I guess this would probably be a question for Susan but she's not here I will address it anyway, regarding the topics for consideration for future meetings or whatever that agenda item was called and just sort of how we have a lot of topics that are still important to us as a board and we have spent a lot of time talking about them I'm just curious when those will be, like put back on the agenda? I know Lori, thank you for the spreadsheet that you sent out, that was really insightful and it had a lot of really good data about which ones were more important to us and obviously it's hard to do so because they are all so important but I would like to start the conversation about what that would look like especially if we are in this format for the long run it's going to get harder to use this as an excuse she kind of put out that work although I know this is really difficult, so I just wanted to facilitate that. Absolutely, so I think that Susan and I are in the same agreement with that and I would imagine that the rest of the board is. I am hopeful that we will be able to start seeing some of those topics in our next meeting agenda and Lori's survey I think will be really helpful as we look to

prioritize that. I am imagining that we will be Balancing Act with whatever else is on the agenda and so it will be going in priority order but also in a little bit of time order in terms of things that seem most pressing and or might have more significant discussion but I am more hopeful that we will start seeing them on the next meeting agenda. Great. Thank you. Sure. Anyone else? If not then I move that we... Juanita? I have, Lori and then mine is just quick so go ahead Lori.

Okay, Lori. So my question is just tied with Dr. Smith's report a little bit about staying connected and I would just like to share in talking with a community member, I learned of a 5th grade class that was doing poetry. So I would like to take a minute to thank Reese and read her poem because I think that piece of connection is so critical so her home is titled "Remember When" Remember when we had that party with the circle that everyone danced? Remember When we decorated Christmas cookies sugared up and ready to go? Remember when we had a feast to celebrate the end of Winn-Dixie? Remember when we had that great teacher? As a matter of fact we still do. Encouraging us to move forward, you can do it, keep on going.

Remember when the year was cut short by the enemy COVID? Who cares. We still are a class Who cares. We still are still a family. Connected though digitally connected. And we always will be. One class. One Family. so, as we closed out last week we thank their teachers and I just want to thank our whole community and just remember we are JD and We Are Family and just to all the families out there while we we may not be connected physically we still are virtually and we care and just want to thank Reese for reminding us of that and reminding us how important it is for us to keep reaching out during these tough times. Absolutely. Thank you for that. Juanita did you have something else? Yes, my quick question Was just about the Strategic plan. I know you mentioned it in your budget presentation but I haven't seen it yet. So I just wanted to ask, has anyone seen it and will we be seeing it soon? I think that came up as the top item in the survey

that Lori highlighted of how we were prioritizing items for future meetings. Peter I don't know if there is anything else you would want to say about that? I think it is absolutely imperative that we get this out. We just have to work around the barriers that have been put up in front of us. I think we need to find a timeline and get it out there. So Juanita, I would say I think that obviously Susan will strongly shape the agenda but I would imagine it will be on the agenda for our next meeting. Okay. Whenever it is on the agenda is fine I just need to see it because I think we have been promised it for a couple of months, I would like to see it. So whenever it gets on the agenda is great. We have been patient. We should see a copy of it, I agree. And, just to share with the community we had 10 different topics that we had brainstormed as a board and we did a survey to rate them and I sliced and diced them three different ways but no matter how they were sliced and diced, the 4 remained consistent so just for the community to know what's out there report on strategic plan is number one, curriculum culturally responsive framework number two, DEI vision and plan, 3, and parent engagement 4 and they came up same with three different mathematical configurations, so thanks. Thank you for doing that Lori. Sure.

#### ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

So there is no other unfinished or continuing business, can I have a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel matters? Yes. I can make that motion. Thank you Ken. I will second that motion. Thank you Christine. All in favor? Lori. Aye. Dana. Aye. Renee. Aye. Sharon. Aye. Juanita. Aye and I'm an Aye as well. Got it. Okay.

So for the public, we will now create a breakout room within the Zoom environment and I will assign the board members to that breakout room. We will leave the public meeting open. At the end of the executive session, we will come back to public session and adjourn the meeting. For

the public's benefit, there is no action that the board will take following the executive session. I'm assigning people now. Goodnight everyone. Goodbye Will. Thank you Will. Stay well. Goodnight Will. Okay, are we all here. I'm nervous that we all didn't make it. And this meeting is being recorded? Yeah, it's still being recorded. Not the executive session. I don't think. It just said it was. It just said it was being recorded. Yeah.

Okay so I have a motion to adjourn the meeting. I move, thank you Renee. Do I have a second? Thank you Dana. All in favor. Last roll call of the night. Christine. Aye. Lori. Aye. Ken. Aye. Juanita. Aye. Sharon. Aye. Wendy. Aye. Tim, you've got all that for Tish. So then the meeting is adjourned. Goodnight everybody.

ADJOURN