

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 25, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	ADMINISTRATION PRESENT
Dr. Archer		Dr. Smith, Superintendent
Dr. Corcoran		Mr. Decker, School Business Administrator
Mrs. DeForest		Mr. Reyes, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Gross		Mr. Franz, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Leach		
Mrs. James-Murad		
Mrs. Rhodes		
Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz		
Mrs. Woodcock Dettor		

Mrs. Rhodes called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Red Ram Recognition

Mrs. Rhodes highlighted the regional Scholastic Arts and Writing Achievement Awards. She shared that there were 23 students recognized for a total of 41 awards. She recognized and congratulated the students that won awards. Mrs. Rhodes shared that February 3rd through 7th is National Counseling Week and recognized the counselors in our district for the exceptional work they do with our students. Lastly, Mrs. Rhodes recognized the Honors Chorale as they released another performance to honor MLK day. She said the links for both the Scholastic Awards and the performance will be on the website.

New York State Master Teacher Presentation

A presentation on the NYS Master Teacher Program was given to the Board by the following J-D Master Teachers: Charles Clinton, Betty Wood, Jodi Yudin, Molly Anthony, Sarah Levesque and Anna Endreny. They shared information on eligibility, participation requirements, collaboration and networking opportunities, high quality professional development, promoting of equity goals, and their hopes for opportunities for expansion in the future.

Mrs. Rhodes thanked the Master Teachers for the presentation

Community Comment Time

There were none.

Dr. Smith requested to modify the agenda, to table Item #7, Approve Funds to Implement a Three Year Contract with the Transportation Unit, as negotiations are not complete.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the Motion to table Item #7, Approve Funds to Implement a Three Year Contract with the Transportation Unit, until next meeting.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Approve Minutes of Board of Education
Meeting, January 11, 2021

Mrs. DeForest moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of January 11, 2021.

Motion carried (8-0-1). Mrs. Woodcock Dettor abstained.

Accept Internal Claims Auditor Reports

Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the acceptance of the Internal Claims Auditor Reports.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Accept the Recommendations of the CPSE & CSE

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mr. Gross seconded the acceptance of the Recommendations of the CPSE & CSE from December 14, 16, 18, 21, and 22, 2020 and January 4, 5, 7, 8, 13, and 14, 2021.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

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

INSTRUCTIONAL

Request for Extension of Leave

Name and position	Location	Type of Leave	Effective
Kristin Gallivan Language Arts Teacher	HS	Unpaid Leave	2/1/21-6/30/21
Lindsay Voigt Teaching Asst.	MS	Unpaid Leave	2/1/21-6/30/21

Resignation

Name and position	Location	Effective
Kevin Sommer Science Teacher	HS	2/18/21

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Appointment

Name and position	Location	Salary	Effective
Jill Krawek Substitute Bus Driver	Transportation	\$21.10/hr.	1/26/21
Shawn Madison Substitute Bus Attendant	Transportation	\$13.30hr.	1/26/21

Change in Status

Name and position	Location	Type of Leave	Effective
Lindsay Amidon Teacher Aide	MS	FMLEA	2/1/21-6/30/21

Request for Extension of Leave

Name and position	Location	Type of Leave	Effective
Lindsay Amidon Teacher Aide	MS	FMLEA	2/1/21-6/30/21

ADDENDUM

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Name and position	Location	<u>Appointment</u>	Salary	Effective
Charity Bianchi Full-Time Teacher Aide Probationary Appointment	Tecumseh		\$12.50/hr. 32.5 hrs/week	1/26/21

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

**Approve Funds to Implement Three-Year Contract
with the Jamesville-DeWitt Automotive Mechanic Unit**

Dr. Smith reviewed the terms of the Three-Year Contracts with the Automotive Mechanic Unit, Maintenance Unit and the Non-Represented Administrators. He recommended approval.

Mrs. James Murad moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the motion to approve of Funds to Implement a Three-Year Contract with the Jamesville-DeWitt Automotive Mechanic Unit.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

**Approve Funds to Implement Three-Year Contract
with the Jamesville-DeWitt Maintenance Unit**

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the motion to approve Funds to Implement a Three-Year Contract with the Jamesville-DeWitt Maintenance Unit.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

**Approve Memorandum of Agreement for
Non-Represented Administrators**

Mrs. Rhodes asked if the Non-Represented Administrators were previously on a three year contract and did we push for three years or did the Non-Represented Administrators.

Dr. Smith responded that in the past, there were a series of MOA's with different lengths of time that were changed at different times for different reasons. He said this was mutually agreed upon.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mr. Gross seconded the motion to approve a Memorandum of Agreement for Non-Represented Administrators.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

**Approve Day Automation Energy Performance
Contract in the amount of \$4,573,657.**

Dr. Archer moved and Mr. Gross seconded the approval of the Day Automation Energy Performance Contract in the amount of \$4,573,657.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

**Approve Change in Board of Education
Meeting Calendar**

Dr. Smith explained the change in the calendar to reflect the addition of a Board meeting on April 19, 2021 and elimination of the Board meeting scheduled for April 26th. The change is due to the requirement to adopt the budget by April 19th. The revised Board meeting calendar will be posted.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the motion to approve a change in the Board of Education meeting calendar.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Policy Review – First Reading

The following policies were brought to the board for a first reading:

- 8110 [Curriculum Development, Resources, and Evaluation](#)
- 8130 [Equal Educational Opportunities](#)
- 8210 [Safety Conditions and Prevention Instruction](#)
- 8220 [Career and Technical Education](#)
- 8240 [Instruction in Certain Subjects](#)
- 8241 [Patriotism, Citizenship, and Human Rights Education](#)
- 8242 [Civility, Citizenship, and Character Education/ Interpersonal
Violence Prevention Education](#)
- 8250 [Animals in the School \(Instructional Purposes\)](#)
- 8271 [Internet Safety/Internet Content Filtering](#)
- 8280 [Instruction for English Language Learners](#)

Mrs. Rhodes asked about Policy # 8110 and if the draft policy was changed, how the policy reflects curriculum review, work with the Metro Center, and alignment with the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Reyes stated that Mr. Franz's title was added to the document. Mr. Franz stated that in the curriculum evaluation component, the terms "continuing evaluation" and "evaluation in a systemic manner" are appreciated as pieces outlined in year one as well as years two through five of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Gross asked about Policy 8241, the Patriotism Policy, first paragraph, does that come directly from State Education Law. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said it was modified slightly to take out the comment about morality.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about Policy # 8242, Civility, and if came from State Ed Law. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said it comes from statute but asked Mrs. James Murad to confirm that.

Mrs. James Murad said that these policies come from Education Law and set forth specific requirements that need to be taught throughout the year.

Mr. Reyes mentioned within this grouping, Policy # 8260 needed further review and investigation.

The following policies were brought to the board for a second reading:

- 7630 [Committee on Special Education \(CSE\)/Committee on Pre-School Special Education \(CPSE\)](#)
- 7640 [Student Individualized education Program \(IEP\): Development and Provision](#)
- 7641 [Transition Services](#)
- 7642 [Extended School Year Services and/or Programs](#)
- 7643 [Transfer Students with Disabilities](#)
- 7650 [Identification and Register of Children with Disabilities \(Child Find\)](#)
- 7660 [Parent Involvement For Children With Disabilities](#)
- 7670 [Due Process Complaints: Selection and Board Appointment of Impartial Hearing Officers](#)
- 7680 [Independent Educational Evaluations](#)
- 7690 [Special Education Mediation](#)

Mrs. Rhodes asked if the Committee pursued the recommendation ensure that the policies are readable to lay persons and parents. She asked if parents were involved in the review process and if that was taken back to the Committee.

Dr. Smith responded that there was no other parental or other input.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if the Committee believes that these policies are easy to understand for people not well versed.

Dr. Smith responded that if there is confusion on the policies, the procedural safeguard notices, available on the PPS website and sent to parents are beneficial and written in language to help navigate the special education system.

Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval of Board Policies 7630, 7640, 7641, 7642, 7643, 7650, 7660, 7670, 7680 and 7690.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Dr. Smith discussed the upcoming parent forum on February 25th. He said he took the topics that were brought up and discussed them with administrators. The need for public input on the evolving K-6 ELA program selection was identified as a significant forum topic. He said it would be useful and timely.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how much is reasonable to accomplish at the Public Forum, one or two topics. Dr. Smith responded not more than two and that we would not want to give less than an hour of time dedicated to a topic. Mrs. Rhodes reviewed the three topics that have been brought forward as potential topics for the public forum: Lessons learned from COVID, prioritizing investments in the budget process, and ELA resource selection. She said she believes lessons learned from COVID could be done at a later date. She asked the Board for input whether we should try to encompass both topics or just one topic. Dr. Corcoran asked when was the last time we had a K-6 comprehensive ELA selection. Dr. Smith responded in 2003 we purchased the Scott Foresman program which was utilized by K-6 and then the standard were reviewed with the adoption of the Common Core learning standards and modifications for the next generation learning standards. Dr. Corcoran said she agreed on the two topics. Mr. Gross concurred. He asked about the budget forum in the spring, and if we would be covering that twice. Mrs. Rhodes said that as the budget forum in the spring is more of a last chance to learn about the budget, this would be more of an opportunity to offer information at the beginning of the process. Dr. Smith responded that it is much earlier in the process at this point, but the challenge is that there is not a lot of information available so the forum will be focused on concepts.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about the investments and is that bucket is that available to all grades or just specific to K-6 and Dr. Smith responded that it is available districtwide, including non-instructional. She said sees these topics as integrated with one another, not independent topics. She said possibly present three recommendations to the public in terms of, this is what we are thinking, and asking to hear others' thoughts.

Mrs. Rhodes suggested that while diving deeply into COVID right now might be too hard to accomplish, in addition to the budgeting of investments and K-6 ELA selection, Dr. Smith could let us know if there were any changes such as the need for additional technology or professional development with regard to the pandemic and remote learning.

Mrs. Rhodes said we will get the agenda up and district communications will get the word out.

Mrs. Rhodes has asked if there has been any progress with the meeting with the Town. Dr. Smith asked who should be included and Mrs. Rhodes indicated that it should include, Dr. Corcoran, Mrs. DeForest, Max, and her.

Budget Discussion: Debt Service, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation

Dr. Smith gave an overview of the budgeting process including our current budget, what is supported by the current budget and the goals to be accomplished with the current budget. (See Supplemental Minutes). He said the debt service, O& M, and transportation budgets are generally rolled over after being reviewed. He then presented the Debt Service, Operations and Maintenance, and Transportation portions of the budget. The debt service schedule for 2021-2022 has a 1.88% increase over last year. He said the operations and maintenance budget is mostly flat and that a data processing line was added to this budget. Mr. Decker explained the need for new custodial equipment. The O&M budget has an increase of 3.32%. Next, Dr. Smith presented the Transportation budget which has an increase of 3.44% due mostly to salaries. He said there is a decrease in equipment as all buses have now been equipped with cameras. He said a charging station, which is part of the next capital project, will allow us to begin to purchase electric vehicles. Dr. Smith then shared information on the replacement buses, which will be a separate proposition. He shared a plan where we will purchase three new buses and two new, but older model buses which will benefit the District. Lastly, Dr. Smith shared the upcoming schedule of budget review.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor asked how we are going to have a parent forum with comments on the budget when it is so tight and so many unknowns.

Mr. Decker referred back to Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz's comments about focusing in on items that have affected us, such as technology. He said that might be one of the items that affect the budget but also might affect the Strategic Plan eventually, as well as our K-6 curriculum. He said those are large dollars that do relate to all three of the topics that were brought up.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith updated the board that on Friday afternoon, there was a surprise announcement that the NYSPHSAA had authorized high risk sports to begin practicing on February 1st. He said that no leaders or Athletic Directors saw the announcement coming. He said that was a significant change in the guidance.

He said a question came to him from the Board, asking why we can do high risk sports but not come back to school full-time. Dr. Smith said he wished we received guidance allowing school to resume full-time but we are still bound by the NYS DOH guidance. He said the NYSPHSAA released updated guidelines just as this meeting was started. He said some of the guidance is subject to local health department approval and the superintendents are trying to get a meeting with Dr. Gupta and her team for interpretation and guidance. He said we are tentatively scheduled to begin sports on Monday, February 1 but that there are a number of details to be worked out. He reflected back to fall sports and said they went very well, with no positive cases of COVID-19 at JD and very few in Section 3.

Dr. Corcoran asked if we, as JD, know that sports are definitely starting on Monday and Dr. Smith responded that we will start as long as we know we can do it safely, but we need guidance from the NYSPHAA and the local department of health.

Dr. Corcoran stated that although she is all for sports the focus should be on school and was confused as to how this could happen and where the priority shift is here. Dr. Smith responded that this announcement surprised everyone. Dr. Corcoran stated that she is voicing her concerns as these are student-athletes, student should come first. She also asked why musicals or productions are not taking place. She said she didn't understand the difference.

Mrs. Rhodes said she shared the same concerns and wanted to know if, as a district, we could opt to not restart sports and if so, who would make that decision.

Dr. Smith said yes and it would be done collaboratively with Board of Education and Superintendent.

Dr. Archer said she thinks it deserves a conversation and, as a district, she does not see how we can consider athletics until we provide in-person education to all our students.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked about the decision making process we use around this to determine it is safe.

Mr. Gross said he wants to know what this means, what controls are in place but we don't have the information yet and that all we have is the brief announcement.

Mrs. James Murad said the NYSPHSAA was surprised when the Governor's office made the announcement. She said the push came across the state as students were already playing in other leagues and going to tournaments. She said we should get guidance and let the parents decide whether or not they want their student to participate.

Mrs. Rhodes said she hopes we are working with the local health department and would like to know what specific safety protocols we would require and what our process would be.

Dr. Smith responded that it will begin with gathering more information and then specifics will come from the NYSDOH and local health departments.

Dr. Corcoran said it feels like we already made the decision and promised kids that they would start playing on Monday and we don't have the metrics or specifics. We need pieces of puzzle discussed first.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said this raises significant questions around equity, if we allow for athletes but not for artists and academics. She said there was an email a few weeks ago where this was being lobbied and it concerns her as we should be putting safety first.

Mr. Gross said that our school data is put on the New York State website dashboard and asked what reporting requirements are required for sports.

Mrs. DeForest stated that we need to keep all groups of students engaged and connected during these difficult times.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how is it safe to be masked or unmasked and intertwined in sports but not okay for kids to be in a classroom six feet apart. She said we have a responsibility to keep our students safe.

Dr. Archer stated that as a building administrator she knows first-hand what needs to go into safely running a school. She said JD is doing a good job keeping schools safe but she would be nervous about overextending resources.

Dr. Corcoran asked about the training and protocols in place for coaches. Dr. Smith replied that will be part of the guidance that comes from the health department.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how much time between when sports start practicing and competing. Dr. Smith responded that different sports have varying numbers of practices. Mrs. James Murad said it is eight days.

Dr. Corcoran commented about guidance for opening up, scrimmages, and playing sports in other districts as well as athletes from other districts coming to our gyms. She hopes that there will be guidance on that too.

Dr. Archer stated that the implications for contact tracing would be significant.

Dr. Smith stated that this is ongoing and will be in touch with the Board as he receives additional information.

Mrs. DeForest stated she recognized that Dr. Smith and all the superintendents in our area were surprised by the announcement and that he is trying to meet the needs as best as possible. She thanked him for continuing to investigate.

Dr. Smith said he completely agrees with Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz from an equity perspective, if we are allowing athletes to play, we need to open up to artists as well. He said there is tremendous stress on kids right now we need to give them outlets for their social emotional needs. He said safety is our priority and that if that can be done safely, it is one step closer to normalcy.

Dr. Smith gave the Board a COVID update. Mrs. Rhodes asked if we are seeing trends and that tracking is important information when talking about sports and what would cause us to change the course.

Mr. Gross asked if we have tracked how many faculty have received the vaccine and does this have an impact on bringing students back full time. Dr. Smith responded that we are not allowed to ask that question. He said that the Department of Health surveyed employees but he has not seen the results yet.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Rhodes said vaccines are a glimmer of hope and it is exciting to see faculty and staff receiving them, but we still need to be vigilant in wear masks and social distancing. She said that today was the deadline for sending her the interim evaluations. She has only received four so far and asked the rest of the Board to return them to her. Mrs. Rhodes recognized the Board of Education for their service and thanked them for all they do during this challenging time.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz reported that she attended the US Department of Education webinar on learning laws. She said there was a lot of good discussions on how to move forward post COVID. She will forward the recap to Board members. She asked how students are performing academically in the current environment.

Dr. Smith responded that information will be presented to the Board soon.

At 9:23 p.m., Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOARD APPROVED: 2/8/21