

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**March 15, 2021**

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

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

The meeting begun with a moment of silence observed for Judson Albahm.

Mrs. Rhodes recognized the year anniversary of isolating to stop the spread of Covid and acknowledged that it has been a difficult year. She thanked the parents, teachers, counselors, administrators and staff for reinventing and pivoting to make this challenging situation work.

**Red Ram Recognition**

Mrs. Rhodes recognized sophomore student, Anka Chiorini who took first place in the Syracuse Shakespeare competition. She will compete at the national level on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Community Comment Time**

Carolyn Souser and Benedicte Doran made comments in support of the extension of the SRO contract.

Amalia Skandalis and Rachel Wagner Gilchrist made comments opposing the extension of the SRO contract.

Maureen Aliani commented about the K-6 ELA review and said there is no excuse for the neglect of the curriculum. She also commented on the SRO MOU and asked for an explanation of what the process should be according to NYS.

Paul Gratien commented about the return to full in person learning and asked why elementary schools must wait until May 3<sup>rd</sup> for a five day return.

Donald Sorbello commented about the return to full in person learning and expressed his frustration over having to wait another two months to return to full in person learning.

Tiffany Lynne O'Brien commented about the return to full in person learning. She expressed her frustration over having to wait until May 3<sup>rd</sup> to return to five days. She also expressed concerns over students' mental health.

**Approve Minutes of Board of Education**  
**Meetings, March 1, 2021**

Dr. Corcoran and Mr. Gross seconded the approval of the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of March 1, 2021 with amendments.

Motion carried (8-0-1). Mrs. James Murad abstained.

**Accept the Internal Claims Auditor Reports**

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz moved and Mrs. DeForest 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 Dr. Corcoran seconded the acceptance of the Recommendations of the CPSE & CSE from February 10, 22, 23, and 24, and March 2, and 3, 2021.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

**Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations**

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

***INSTRUCTIONAL***

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b><u>Appointments</u></b>		<b>Effective</b>
		<b>Annual Salary</b>	<b>Cert</b>	
Mary Dunham English Teacher Regular Sub Replacing K. Gallivan	HS	\$47,149.83 (B+M-30) (prorated)	English 7-12 Permanent	10/13/20-6/30/21

**Resignation**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Robert Bewley	Mod. Asst. Track and Field Coach	3/5/21
James Tuck	JV Asst. Football Coach	3/2/21

***NONINSTRUCTIONAL***

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b><u>Appointments</u></b>	
		<b>Salary</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Dylan Spencer Auditorium Manager	District	\$50.00/hr.	3/1/21-6/30/21
Matthew Spaulding Substitute Bus Driver	Transportation	\$21.10/hr.	3/16/21

**Resignation**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Benjamin Stroh Auditorium Manager	District	2/25/21

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

## **Approve Extension of the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding through June 25, 2021**

Dr. Smith reviewed the history of the SRO Task Force, the presentation on February 8<sup>th</sup> and the vote on March 1<sup>st</sup> which resulted in a 4 to 4 vote. He explained the need for an affirmative vote to move forward and stated that he stands with his recommendation in support of an extension of the MOU through June 25, 2021.

Mr. Gross asked for an update on the Safety Team. Dr. Smith responded he has been in touch with the Jamesville Fire Chief and will be connecting with one final person.

Dr. Archer asked what information has been found from the analysis of the additional qualitative data collected from our black and brown students. Mr. Franz responded that we are still in the collection phase trying to get as much information from students as possible.

Max asked who we would consider our mental health staff in the schools. Dr. Smith responded that our counseling staff are primarily tasked with providing social and emotional support. He said we do not have personnel dedicated to treating students with diagnosed mental health challenges but are pursuing a school based resource in partnership with the Onondaga County Mental Health Department.

Max shared his perspective and said if he had a vote, he would vote no to renew the SRO position.

Dr. Corcoran asked who is on the Safety Team and will they represent the diversity that we have. Dr. Smith responded that he is on the team as well as school board president, (or designee), asst. superintendents, district business official, MS counselor, elementary school psychologist, HS principal, MS principal and elementary school principals, a teacher from each building, a parent or family member from each building, a non-instructional staff member, Town of DeWitt Police Chief and a Town of DeWitt Fire Chief (or designee) and Jamesville Fire Chief (or designee).

Dr. Corcoran asked about checks and balances to make sure there is diversity and Dr. Smith said both he and Mr. Franz are working with principals to insure diversity is reflected.

Max asked if students were included as members on the safety team. Dr. Smith responded that there are no students on the team. Max asked if we can amend that and Dr. Smith stated the Board approved the members at a prior meeting, but yes the Board could make an amendment.

Mrs. DeForest mentioned that when the SRO was added in 2018 there were counselors added to the budget. She asked Dr. Smith to talk about the psychologists and social workers in the district. Dr. Smith said that at that time four counselors/social workers were added. He said that in total, we have either a counselor or social worker at each elementary building, four counselors and a social worker at the middle school and five counselors and a social worker at the high school.

Max asked if any counselors or social workers were added to the high school when the SRO was added. Dr. Smith responded no and added that at that time, there were many cameras added as part of the safety plan.

Dr. Archer asked if, moving forward, is this where we interrupt and start focusing on the DEI piece of the Strategic Plan and what is the District's vision for interrupting the cycle.

Dr. Smith responded that there is a lot of work going on to try to disrupt the disparities and experiences that our black and brown students, poor students and students with special needs have at J-D. Dr. Smith gave examples of teacher book clubs, professional learning opportunities, curriculum evaluations and training with the Metro Center and data analysis as some examples of ongoing work.

Mr. Leach moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the approval of the extension of School Resource Officer MOU through June 25, 2021.

Mrs. James Murad stated that she will vote yes with the understanding that there will be meaningful input in terms of any future MOU's and also wanted it known that her decision is based in part on statements made at last meeting from employees who indicated that in the past, when there was a student in crisis, four police cars would show up in the middle of the day and remove student in handcuffs and having an SRO de-escalates that situation. She also said she hopes going forward that there is more support and resources for mental health and equity issues.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that we understand the commitment to include the community in the development of the MOU was not done. She said we requested data about how safe schools are with and without an SRO and received data that says our schools are not safer with an SRO. She also said we had testimony from staff and students that the SRO is being used to discipline students and that staff rely on that, including mental health staff and counselors who are advocating even though it is their responsibility. For these reasons, she is voting no.

Motion carried. (5-4-0). Dr. Archer, Dr. Corcoran, Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz opposed.

### **Approve 2021-2022 District Calendar**

Dr. Smith shared the process and challenges of developing the district calendar. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Mrs. Rhodes asked if there is a way to work in Diwali and Dr. Smith said not as a day off, but recognition on the calendar would be appropriate. Mrs. Rhodes asked if, as discussed last year, buildings would refrain from scheduling events on days that were religious holidays and Dr. Smith stated that when the calendar is developed we identify dates where we avoid after school or evening activities.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if there is someone who can oversee this as she feels over the last three years, it has been talked about but things are still being scheduled and kids are still being left out. Dr. Smith stated that consideration has been made to not schedule events on particular religious holidays and added that this year there were very few school-wide events held due to COVID-19.

Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval of the 2021-2022 District Calendar.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

### **Resolution to Establish a Budget Hearing in Lieu of Annual Meeting**

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz moved and Mr. Gross seconded the motion to approve the following Resolution to Establish a Budget Hearing in Lieu of Annual Meeting:

## **RESOLUTION TO REPLACE ANNUAL MEETING WITH A BUDGET HEARING**

**RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, as follows:

**Section 1.** A public hearing on the budget in lieu of the annual school district meeting of said School District shall be held via Zoom, on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**Section 2.** The notice of said public hearing on the budget in lieu of the annual school district meeting shall be in the following form; to wit:

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET IN LIEU OF THE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING JAMESVILLE-DEWITT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Board of Education of Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District hereby gives notice that a public hearing on the budget in lieu of the annual meeting of said School District will be held via Zoom, on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., at which time the proposed budget for the School District for 2021-2022 will be presented for review and discussion in anticipation of the subsequent vote thereon by the qualified voters of said District to be held on May 18, 2021.

Notice is hereby given that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required for the ensuing year for school purposes, may be obtained by any taxpayer in the School District at each school house in the District in which school is maintained between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on each day other than a Saturday, Sunday or holiday during the fourteen days immediately preceding such public hearing.

**Section 3.** The School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice to be given of said public hearing on the budget in lieu of the annual school district meeting in the form hereinabove prescribed by publishing the same in "The Post Standard" and "The Eagle Newspapers," said newspapers having a general circulation within the said School District, four times within the seven weeks preceding such hearing, the first publication to be at least forty-five days before such hearing.

**Section 4.** This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

### **Approve Propositions for Annual Vote**

Mrs. James Murad moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded a motion to place the following propositions before the District residents at the annual school budget vote on May 18, 2021.

### **Proposition #1 School Bus Replacement**

Shall the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District (“District”) be authorized and directed to purchase three (3) gasoline buses with cameras at an approximate cost of \$111,487 each, one (1) gasoline bus with cameras at an approximate cost of \$84,294 and one (1) gasoline bus with cameras at an approximate cost of \$81,194, not to exceed \$499,952, such sum to be raised by levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the District to be collected in annual installments in the years and amounts as the Board of Education shall determine in accordance with Section 416 of the Education Law and, in anticipation of such tax, issue obligations of the District?

**Proposition #2 Library**

Shall the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District (“District”) levy and collect a tax in the amount of \$1,489,406 Dollars for the support of the Community Library of Dewitt & Jamesville, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law?

**Proposition #3 Ex-Officio Student Board Member**

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to appoint an *ex-officio*, non-voting student member to serve on the Board pursuant to Education Law § 1804(12), subject to criteria established by the Superintendent for selection of such a student member and further subject to the requirements that such student shall serve for only one year, shall be a high school senior and shall have been in good standing for a period of not less than two years prior to appointment to the Board of Education? If approved, such student member shall be entitled to sit with Board members at all public meetings of the Board and to participate in all Board public hearings and meetings. The student Board member shall not be allowed to attend executive session, and shall not receive compensation of any form for participating at Board meetings.

**Approve Resolution to Award Contract for Middle School Boiler Breaching to Airside Technology Corp.**

**JAMESVILLE-DEWITT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Resolution**

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the following resolution:

The Board of Education hereby resolves that upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Jamesville-Dewitt School District hereby awards Middle School Boiler Breaching contract be awarded to Airside Technology Corp. in the amount of \$139,000.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

**Policy Review – Second Reading**

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

- 6470 [Tutoring for Pay](#)

- 8260 [Title I Parent and Family Engagement](#)
- 8320 [Selection of Library and Multimedia Materials](#)
- 8330 [Objection to Instructional Materials and Controversial Issues](#)
- 8340 [Instructional Materials](#)
- 8350 [Use of Copyrighted Materials](#)
- 8360 [Religious Expression in the Instructional Program](#)
- 8420 [Opening Exercises](#)
- 8430 [Independent Study](#)
- 8440 [Home Instruction \(Home Schooling\)](#)
- 8450 [Home Tutoring \(Homebound Instruction\)](#)
- 8460 [Field Trips](#)

Mr. Reyes stated that Policy 8340 is coming back for a second reading with additional language being added that states the district will be responsible to ensure that each student who requires instructional materials in an alternate format will receive it in a timely manner and in a format that meets their needs.

Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the motion to approve Board Policies 6470, 8260, 8320, 8330, 8340, 8350, 8360, 8420, 8430, 8440, 8450 and 8460.

### **Potential Consideration for Future Meetings**

Dr. Smith shared there was a productive meeting with the Town of DeWitt where a number of topics were covered including sidewalks, sustainability initiatives and DEI. He said they discussed ways the district and town can work together to improve our community and support our kids. Mrs. Rhodes said that many of the topics for potential consideration would have overlap and can be done in tandem with the Town of DeWitt.

### **Budget Discussion: Athletics and Central Office**

Dr. Smith briefly reviewed the budget process to date and then presented the proposed instructional budget for the 2021-2022 school year (See Supplemental Minutes). There is a projected overall increase of 1.82% for this segment of the budget. He discussed the change factors including the removal of the strategic planning money from the budget, a contract for consulting for special education costs, the Metro Center contract, and addition of money for the K-6 ELA program and the purchase of end user technology through BOCES. Dr. Smith provided dates for what's next in the budget process.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked what the name of the consulting group we are working with for special education and how long have we worked with them. Dr. Smith responded the group is called Capture Aid and we have been working with them for approximately two years.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if teachers have been involved in the curriculum investment for ELA. Mr. Franz responded that the work had started pre-pandemic with teachers from different grade levels. He said that teachers visited schools to see programs in action and a selection team will carry over from last year to help with the options.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if lead learners are involved in the committee. Mr. Franz responded that lead learners and curriculum council members are both on the selection and review team along with support from the Metro Center.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if the \$80,000 technology lease will cover both staff and students' needs. Dr. Smith responded yes, that will replace a number of staff and student use computers.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked how many instructional coaches are going to be added and Dr. Smith responded between one and three, but likely to be two coaches.

### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Franz provided the Board with a 20 week Impact Report. (See Supplemental Minutes). The report covered the four focus areas of the Strategic Plan; Culture of Wellness, Curriculum and Programs, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Family and Community Engagement with data points, tasks and measures in each area.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if STAR assessments are for grades K through eight and Mr. Franz responded that the earliest learners actually take another assessment called Dibels which specializes in early literacy skills. He said second grade is where we see all the students taking the STAR assessment. Mrs. Rhodes asked how are the STAR results shared with parents and Mr. Franz responded that we need to revisit in order to have a common expectation on how scores are being shared. Mrs. Rhodes asked about what point in this process would a student be referred for services and Mr. Franz explained that that happens on an individual level with students.

Mr. Franz shared information on BIMAS which is the social emotional screening tool, which identifies risks and areas of needs or skills. He said the results helped determine a prioritized group of students to come back to full in person learning.

Dr. Archer asked about referral data for students with disabilities and if we knew how many referrals were aligned with something on their IEP. Mr. Franz stated that we did not get there specifically but realize that is the next step.

Mrs. Rhodes thanked Mr. Franz and said this presentation reflects the investment in our communications as well as our investment in the Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Equity and Diversity. She also said she was happy to see the direction Dr. Smith is taking to build capacity in ways that are really needed. Mr. Franz stated that this was a team effort between administrators.

Mr. Gross asked about the movement between cohorts and where would that student show up on the chart. Mr. Franz replied that the student shows up where they are on February 1<sup>st</sup>. He said it's not perfect, it is a moment in time.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how often Mr. Franz anticipated reporting to the Board and he responded that he is committed to reporting on a quarterly basis.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Smith updated the Board on increased in person instruction. He briefly reviewed the J-D reopening plan which was introduced last summer and stated that many months into the pandemic we are still focused on maintaining the health and safety of the students and staff. He spoke about the revised guidance from the Onondaga County Department of Health which allows the district to reduce social distancing from six feet to three feet with barriers. He said as a district we still need to maintain social distancing between adults and adults and students whenever possible, as well as wearing face masks,



washing hands and self-checking symptoms of students and employees daily. Dr. Smith explained the results of the survey that showed very few students at the elementary level will be remote. He said that there is a significant increase in students in grades 5 through 12 that will remain fully remote. Dr. Smith shared that students in grades K and 1, as well as some special education students will continue to attend school in person five days a week. He said that on April 12<sup>th</sup> students in grades 2 through 4 will shift to in person four days a week, and on May 3<sup>rd</sup> will transition to five days a week. Dr. Smith explained that the barriers are not expected to arrive prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> and he was not willing to take the risk that they would not arrive prior to April 5<sup>th</sup>, when school resumes from break. He also said that the barriers will need to be assembled and installed and that will take time.

Dr. Corcoran asked if the barriers will be fixed or will they move with the students. Dr. Smith responded that in grades K through 4, the barriers will be stationary and at this point, we are expecting in grades 5 through 12 that the barriers will move with the students. He explained that the barriers that the district ordered are lightweight, fold up and have handles, which make it easy to carry. He shared that they have discussed the possibility of a face shield in lieu of barriers, which would be more easily transportable but they can't entertain that idea until the county gives approval.

Mrs. Rhodes asked what the cleaning for the barriers looks like. Dr. Smith responded that the stationary ones will be sprayed every day similar to all the other surfaces in the schools.

Dr. Smith circled back to the elementary schools and said that after an adjustment period, the elementary schools will return to five day instruction on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He said this will give teachers an opportunity to manage and meet the needs of all students. He said that for students in grades 5 to 12, the District will shift to four days of in person instruction on April 12<sup>th</sup>. As there are more remote learners in grades 5 through 12, and as both the teachers and students have told us, Wednesdays have been useful for organization and ability to connect. For these reasons, the four day model will continue throughout the remainder of the year. Dr. Smith explained that a commitment survey is being put together which will ask families to commit to a model of instruction throughout May 24<sup>th</sup>. He said after this, there will be one more opportunity to change the model. Dr. Smith said that continued planning is taking place and that the transportation department will need the time to look at bus runs and make sure they are able to maintain social distancing. He said he is pleased that the community is doing what is needed to keep transmission rates down and that leadership is adjusting the rules and guidance appropriately in order to get students back into school.

Dr. Archer asked how information is obtained from families that have not responded to the survey. Dr. Smith stated that the district has had success by putting out reminders and then follow-up phone calls and emails.

Mrs. Rhodes asked what is being done to support teachers and students as they come back to the classroom. Dr. Smith responded that one of the most important things is this extended time period to realize that the changes are coming, hopefully alleviating some anxiety as well as a focus on social emotional support for teachers and students.

Mr. Gross asked who is paying for the barriers, the county or the district. Dr. Smith responded that at first it was reported that the county would be paying for them and then there was information that the federal stimulus money would provide school districts with funds targeted at recouping costs associated with the pandemic. He said he believes it is appropriate for the district to pay for the barriers, if necessary.

## **Board President's Report**

Mrs. Rhodes highlighted the board elections coming up on May 18<sup>th</sup> and that there will be three individuals elected. She said anyone interested in running should contact Tish Hauser at the Superintendent's Office for a petition. She also reminded the board of the upcoming retreat on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and asked Mrs. DeForest to share information on the retreat. Mrs. DeForest thanked all Board members for completing the NYSSBA survey which will be utilized to help prioritize areas for the Procedures Manual.

### **Community Comment Time #2**

Maureen Aliani thanked Mr. Franz for the STAR test information, asked that scores be provided to parents and wondered what will be done for high scoring students.

### **Unfinished and Continuing Business**

There were none.

At 9:30 p.m., Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz moved and Mr. Gross seconded the motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing current litigation and the employment history of district employees.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

At 10:33 p.m., Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz moved and Mr. Gross seconded the motion to adjourn from Executive Session.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

At 10:33 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: 4/12/21**