

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION – January 24, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Archer
Mrs. DeForest
Mr. Gross
Mrs. James Murad
Mr. Leach
Ms. McKenney
Mrs. Souser
Mr. Zoghby
Ms. Evans – Student Board Member – attended virtually

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mrs. Austin

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Dr. Smith, Superintendent
Mr. Reyes, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Franz, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Timothy Decker

Mrs. DeForest called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office.

Red Ram Recognition

Mrs. DeForest recognized the 11th and 12th grade students who participated in the Shakespeare Monologue Competition. She thanked the staff that supported the event and congratulated the winner who will represent Jamesville-DeWitt at the Syracuse competition in March. Mrs. DeForest shared that January is National Mentoring Month and recognized and thanked all staff, advisors, coaches and students for their mentoring. She encouraged everyone to thank an important mentor in their life. Lastly, Mrs. DeForest congratulated Theresa Groman, a teacher at the High School who was recognized as an influential mentor, by a former graduate of Jamesville-DeWitt, who is a RIT scholar. Mrs. Groman is a wonderful example of a mentor to students and she will be honored at an event at RIT.

Community Comment Time #1

There were none.

Approve Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes of January 10, 2022 Board Meeting
- b. Accept Internal Claims Auditor's Reports
- c. Accept the Recommendations of the CPSE and CSE
- d. [Approve Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations](#), and Substitute Appointments

Mr. Gross moved and Ms. McKenney seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda, which included the following personnel recommendations:

INSTRUCTIONAL

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2021-2022

Middle School

| Name | Assignment | Stipend |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Faith Carapella | 5/6 Set Production Design | \$1,699 |

Request for Extension of Leave

| Name and position | Location | Type of Leave | Effective |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Lindsay Voigt Teaching Asst. | MS | Unpaid Leave | 1/31/22-6/30/22 |

Resignation

| Name and position | Location | Effective |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Jeffrey Cantor | Modified Girls Basketball Coach | 1/10/22 |
| Kurt Sweeney | Varsity Girls Basketball Coach | 1/14/22 |

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2021-2022

Coaching – Winter Season

| Name | Assignment | Stipend |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Brian Cieplicki | JV Girls Head Basketball Coach | \$1,336 |
| Keith Cieplicki | Varsity Girls Head Basketball Coach | \$3,175 |

Request for Retirement

| Name and position | Location | Effective |
|--|-----------------|------------------|
| Clete Gualtieri Guidance Counselor | High School | 6/30/22 |
| Loretta Krewson K-6 Classroom Teacher | JES | 6/30/22 |
| Andrea Ninestein Math Teacher | High School | 6/30/22 |
| Elizabeth Wood Math Teacher | High School | 6/30/22 |

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Appointments

| Name and position | Location | Salary | Effective |
|---|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Mary Kay Brownson Seasonal Grounds Worker | MTCE | \$13.30/hr. | 1/10/22 |
| David Chrysler School Bus Driver Probationary Appt. (52 weeks) Replacing L. Simone | Transportation | \$31.36/hr. | 1/25/22 |

Resignation

| Name and position | Location | Effective |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| David Lail Groundskeeper | MTCE | 1/12/22 |

(See Supplemental Minutes for Substitute Appointments)

Motion carried. (8-0-0).

Board Policies –Second Reading

The following Board Policies were brought to the Board for a first reading:

- 7110 – [Comprehensive Student Attendance](#)
- 7420 – [Sports and the Athletic Program](#)
- 8210 – [Safety Conditions and Prevention Instructions](#)
- 8260 – [Title I Parent and Family Engagement](#)

Mrs. James Murad reviewed the policies that came to the board for a first reading. Regarding Policy # 7110, incentives required by the Commissioner’s regulation were added, each building will develop their own incentives. Mrs. James Murad explained Policy # 7420 and said there were no changes to the policy. There was a brief discussion regarding transgender athletes. It was suggested that the Board have a discussion on this topic. Mrs. James Murad stated that this as well as other topics surrounding gender assignment are governed by the Commissioner’s Guidelines. Mr. Leach asked who makes the decision on an injured athlete being allowed to practice or play. Dr. Smith explained that there is a trainer at all home games who makes the decision. He said we have a full-time trainer with a three-year contract service through SOS and that substitutes are provided if needed. He explained that this past fall, SOS was unable to fill that position. Dr. Smith said it was worth taking a look at listing the hierarchy. Mrs. James Murad explained that there was language added into Policy # 8210, and that Policy # 8260 needed to be customized to reflect the District’s practice. Mr. Gross referenced the student attendance policy and said anywhere the word *parent* shows up should be changed to *caregiver*. These four policies will come back to the next meeting for a second reading.

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. DeForest said Mr. Reyes will share a personnel presentation with the Board in April.

Superintendent’s Report

Dr. Smith’s report included an update on the partnership with Syracuse University, an update on COVID-19, and upcoming events. Dr. Smith shared information regarding the partnership with Syracuse to help diversify our staff through the Baldanza Fellowship. He explained the program and timeline. It is expected that candidates will be screened the following week. The selected candidates will student-teach at J-D and then be hired for the 2023-2024 school year. Dr. Smith said this is an amazing opportunity for our District, as we are committed to this work. Dr. Smith provided the Board with a construction update including pictures of the progress at the Middle School and High School. Dr. Smith shared an update on COVID -19 including daily positive cases. He said the trend of positive cases continues to go down as evidenced by the graph presented. He explained that these numbers include weekend days as well. Dr. Smith said the daily attendance number is one piece of data to evaluate when determining the need to shift learning models. Based on the graph, we continue to have significant numbers of students attending in-person. Mr. Gross asked if we have put any thought into tracking students with long haul COVID-19 to see if there would be need for additional support. Dr. Smith updated the Board on upcoming events.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Franz shared a presentation with the Board on the District Equity Council, which included the principles established, how and why the Council was formed, information on membership and the selection process, focus areas, and meeting topics. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Student Board Member Report

Ms. Evans was having technical difficulties and was unable to present her report.

President's Report

Mrs. DeForest thanked the Board for participating in session one of the book study. She said they will meet next on February 10th and shared the next reading assignment and discussed meeting ahead of the next session. Mrs. DeForest shared upcoming events, including an upcoming CNYSSBA Roundtable, and a webinar from NYSSBA. Mrs. DeForest said that Dr. Smith will share an update on his goals at the next meeting and after that, she will send questions to the Board, compile the responses then come back and discuss during executive session on February 14th.

Mr. Gross provided an advocacy update. He said, as this is budget season, it is a good time to advocate to your legislatures for school districts. He asked if anyone is interested in helping out with this, as the assistance would be appreciated. Mr. Gross said he would share an advocacy sheet from NYSSBA with topics that they have prioritized. Mrs. DeForest asked if it was best to advocate individually or as a group. He said starting out with virtual lobby day is a good first step and as a group, we could put together a letter.

Community Comment Time #2

Melissa Vahey, a teacher at Moses DeWitt Elementary commented on her concerns on book that is available to students in the school library.

David Scibilia, a senior at the High School, as well as school newspaper's opinion and public editor, commented about Board Policy 7411, Editorial Control of School-Sponsored Student Publications and Activities. He asked the Board to revisit this policy to allow for more freedom to meet their goals.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Ms. McKenney shared that she received a thank you note from a community member, as January is National School Board Month. She thanked the rest of the Board for their service.

At 8:30 p.m., Mrs. Souser moved and Mr. Zoghby seconded the adjournment of the Board of Education Meeting

Motion carried. (8-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOARD APPROVED: 2/7/22