

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
May 24, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Archer
Dr. Corcoran
Mrs. DeForest
Mr. Gross
Mrs. James Murad
Mr. Leach
Mrs. Rhodes
Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz
Mrs. Carolyn Souser

MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

Mrs. Rhodes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Oath of Office,
Mrs. Carolyn Souser

Mrs. Rhodes welcomed Mrs. Carolyn Souser to the Board of Education. Mrs. Souser read and signed the Oath of Office.

Red Ram Recognition

Mrs. Rhodes recognized School Nurse Day, and thanked all the nurses in the district who have worked tirelessly to navigate their jobs during the pandemic. Mrs. Rhodes also recognized Speech Language Pathologists as May is Better Hearing and Speech Month. She thanked the SLP's who work with students with communication disorders to navigate hearing and speech. Lastly, Mrs. Rhodes congratulated the five JD High School Students who were chosen as finalists in the Syracuse Stage Young Playwrights Festival. She said that five of the eight finalists are from Jamesville-DeWitt High School.

Community Comment Time

There were no comments.

**Approve Minutes of May 10, 2021 Budget Hearing and
May 10, 2021 Board Meeting**

Mrs. James Murad moved and Dr. Archer seconded the approval the Minutes of the Budget Hearing of May 10, 2021 and the Board of Education meeting of May 10, 2021.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

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. DeForest moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the acceptance of the Recommendations of the CPSE & CSE from April 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29 and May 4, 6, 10, and 11, 2021.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Smith presented the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations and Tenure Recommendations. He explained that there is currently a bill on the Governor's desk that will set aside APPR scores for the 2020-2021 school year. That bill has not yet been signed but is expected to be signed this week. Dr. Smith recommended tabling the tenure recommendations until the next board meeting.

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the following Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations and the tabling of the Tenure Recommendations to be brought back to the Board for Approval at the June 7, 2021 Board of Education meeting:

INSTRUCTIONAL

Change in Status High School

Name and position	Change	Effective
Laura Williams Regular Substitute	Contract ended early due to regular teacher return per JDFA Contract	9/14/20-4/12/21

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Extra Duty Assignments/Extending Teaching 2020-2021 High School – Second Semester

Name and position	Location	Stipend
Donna Oppedisano	Cafeteria Supervision (additional .5)	\$488.06

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Appointments

Name and position	Location	Salary	Effective
Amaree Granan Substitute Food Service Worker	Food Service	\$12.50/hr.	5/25/21
Tuan Nguyen Substitute Custodian	Custodial Dept.	\$12.50/hr.	5/25/21
Michael Tyrrell Substitute Custodian	Custodial Dept.	\$12.50/hr.	5/25/21

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

Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval to authorize OCM BOCES to provide the following programs:

EQUIVALENT OF ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

This agreement will remain in force unless a request is submitted by the school district to terminate the agreement thirty (30) days from the date of notification. The Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services agrees to provide the Equivalent of Attendance Program for residents of the district who are:

- (a) 18-20 years old and attend instruction at sites throughout the counties; and
- (b) attend the program as approved by the district's E.O.A. designated contact person.

The training is in the High School Equivalency Program, Basic Education Instruction, English as a Second Language. This agreement will be null and void if the Onondaga Cortland-Madison BOCES fails to have the program approved by the New York State Education Department. The billing for this program will be once a year. The amount of billing shall be equal to the district's E.O.A. contact hours at \$6.00 per hour.

The BOCES shall assume responsibility for the attendance of the students and any inaccuracies or penalties a District may suffer shall be paid by the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

EMPLOYMENT PREPARATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

This agreement will remain in force unless a request is submitted by the school district to terminate the agreement thirty (30) days from the date of notification. The Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services agrees to provide the Employment Preparation Education program for residents of the district who are twenty-one (21) years or older. The education includes high school equivalency (Adult Basic Education, Adult Secondary Education, Home Study, National External Diploma Program), Basic Education, Life Skills, Occupational Training, Work Experience, and English as a Second Language. This agreement will be null and void if the OCM BOCES fails to have the program approved by the New York State Education Department.

ONONDAGA-CORTLAND-MADISON BOCES Adult and Continuing Education Resolution

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District authorizes the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Education Services to operate Cooperative Adult and Continuing Education programs at no charge to the district; without affecting their right to operate district programs.

WHEREAS school districts are authorized to provide Adult and Continuing Education programs in a consortium administered by their BOCES, and

WHEREAS the number of enrollees in certain programs in a single school district does not warrant the operation of those programs, and

WHEREAS there is ample evidence that there is a sufficient demand among adults in the supervisory district to support self-sustaining instructional programs,

THEREFORE let it be resolved that the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District authorizes the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES to operate a self-sustaining Adult and Continuing Education Comprehensive Program, during the 2021-2022 school year at no charge to the district.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Approve Annual Cooperative Bidding Resolution Notification

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of the Annual Cooperative Bidding Resolution Notification with OCM BOCES. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Approve Five Year Contract with OCM BOCES for Classroom Technology, Library Automation and other Instructional Technologies

Mrs. DeForest disclosed that she is an employee of OCM BOCES and that she is comfortable voting on this resolution. She said that if anyone objected to her voting she would abstain. There was no objection. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz moved and Mr. Gross seconded the approval of the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE JAMESVILLE-DEWITT SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Jamesville Dewitt School District desires to enter into up to a 5 year service contract with the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services (hereafter referred to as OCM BOCES) in order for the Regional Information Center (RIC) to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being but not limited to classroom technology and library automation and other instructional technologies in CoSer 562 and/or CoSer 620.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the above School District agrees to enter into a contract with the OCM BOCES for the provision of said services to the District in total over the life of this agreement not to exceed the principal amount of \$700,000.00 plus related borrowing fees incurred by the OCM BOCES on behalf of the school district, plus yearly Regional Information Center support during the term of this contract. This amount may be amended with the approval of both parties. Payments will be made as part of a regular annual BOCES contract for services. Further, this contract will be finalized by the Superintendent of the school district and is subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education for both this multi-year service agreement and the OCM BOCES Installment Purchase contract which will be entered into on behalf of the school district at its request. This contract will be for a maximum period of 5 years commencing on or about 07/01/2021

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Approve Resolution Authorizing Commencement of Vaping Litigation

Dr. Smith explained that vaping litigation was discussed the last meeting and that a vote would be needed to approve the Resolution.

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMENCEMENT OF VAPING LITIGATION

WHEREAS, in recent years the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices has increased dramatically among high school and middle school students, leading to significant risks of addiction and potentially life-threatening respiratory ailments;

WHEREAS, makers of e-cigarettes, including Juul Labs, Inc. have engaged in marketing practices that have targeted children, thereby endangering the health of millions of children who have become addicted to nicotine and nicotine products;

WHEREAS, the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices by students has and/or likely will cause the Jamesville-Dewitt Central School District (“District”) to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops;

WHEREAS, the Jamesville-Dewitt Central School District Board of Education (“BOE”) has been invited to join a nation-wide lawsuit by school districts against Juul Labs, Inc. the largest seller of e-cigarettes in the United States and Altria Group, Inc. formerly known as Phillip Morris Companies, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, the BOE wishes to join this lawsuit to discourage the proliferation of e-cigarettes, end the marketing of e-cigarettes to children, and seek compensation for harm caused to the District due to e-cigarette use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Jamesville-Dewitt Central School District Board of Education hereby resolves:

1. To appoint the law firms of Bond Schoeneck & King, PLLC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC to provide legal services in connection with pursuing claims for damages associated with the Juul Electronic Cigarette litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and others consistent with the recitals above;
2. To approve the contract for such legal services; and
3. To authorize the Superintendent to take all steps necessary to become an active co-plaintiff to litigation filed on behalf of school districts by Bond Schoeneck & King and the Frantz Law Group.

Motion carried (8-1-0). Mr. Leach opposed.

Accept Internal Auditor Report

The Internal Auditor's Report was reviewed (See Supplemental Minutes). Dr. Smith said the report shows no significant deficiencies or weaknesses, and acknowledged Mr. Decker and his team.

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

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Approve Requests to Close Inactive Student Activity Accounts

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of the requests to close inactive student activity accounts. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Dr. Corcoran asked if the clubs associated with these accounts could be coming back, for example did they disband because of Covid or are they no longer in existence. Mr. Decker said he would check with Mr. Gasparini.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if there had been any changes or discussion to the methodology of how funds are disbursed. Mr. Decker responded that funds go to the main student account and that is where they have always gone. He said that when an account becomes inactive, there is no decision to be made at that point unless the students make a determination prior to that account closing. He said there have not been any additional discussions regarding this but it could be changed if a student club made a request.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Jamesville-Dewitt Board of Education Governance Handbook - First Reading

The following items for the Jamesville-DeWitt Board of Education Governance Handbook were reviewed for a first reading: (See Supplemental Minutes).

- Managing Public Comment Sessions (Section III. Board Meetings)
- Executive Session and Disclosing Confidential Information (Section III. Board Meetings)
- Communicating Between Board Meetings and/or Using E-mail (Section IV. Communication and Information Sharing)
- Expressing Opinions About Board Member Performance (V. Team Development)
- Conducting Self-Evaluations (V. Team Development)

Jamesville-Dewitt Board of Education Governance Handbook – Second Reading

The following items for the Jamesville-DeWitt Board of Education Governance Handbook were reviewed for a second reading: (See Supplemental Minutes).

- Calendar Framework (Appendix A)
- Requesting Information about a Non-Agenda Item (Section IV. Communication and Information Sharing)
- Professional Development for the Board (Section V. Team Development)

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. Rhodes discussed the topic of the structure and functions of the Parent-Teacher Groups and the financial liability of the District. Dr. Smith shared that he spoke with the legal team about this and their reading is that our current policy and regulation entangles PTG groups and the District and opens up the District to potential liability. He said the recommendation is to have degrees of separation between the groups and the District. This may be accomplished by revising Board policy and having conversation with administrators that work closely with the PTG groups, all while being mindful of the tremendous service and support these groups are to the buildings.

Quarterly Financial Reports

Mr. Decker reviewed the Quarterly Financial Reports (See Supplemental Minutes). He said it was an interesting year and shared a few of the big picture items that have negative balances. He said Shoppingtown is settled out but we will need to do a journal entry at the end of the year to account for the shortage from taxes. He talked about the federal funding that is coming which will reimburse the supplies needed during the pandemic as well as help the cafeteria fund and other areas. He also talked about the incarcerated youth which always lags a year or two behind in reimbursement.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith started by thanking the community coming out to vote and approving the budget with an 86% approval rating. Dr. Smith spoke about the Universal Pre-K federal funds that are coming to District and shared a presentation (See Supplemental Minutes). Dr. Smith said the money that has been designated to the District for Universal Pre-K would allow 72 seats for a full day program for four year old children. The aid is based on \$5,400 per student, is guaranteed for three years and since this is an item to be addressed in year two of the Strategic Plan, it was an opportunity to get started with the exploration. He shared some specifics, such as a necessary application to NYSED, which is not yet available, the lottery system if more children hope to attend and there are not enough seats, and a time frame for moving forward. Mr. Gross asked about the three-year funding window and if we would be closed out if not used in year one. Dr. Smith said he received confirmation that we would not be closed out if we don't use year one funding. Mrs. Rhodes asked if the Board would need to vote at any point to move this forward. Dr. Smith said he didn't know if the Pre-Kindergarten program would need a vote, but any new staff would need to be approved. Mrs. Rhodes asked if there is any other funding available and Dr. Smith responded that other districts have done it with their general operating budget. Next, Dr. Smith shared information on the federal stimulus money that is coming to Jamesville-DeWitt from two sources; CRRSA and ARP. CRRSA is money that will go back to support the school for the costs associated with the coronavirus from last March through September 2023 and then the ARP is focused on maintaining the continuity of education and costs associated with providing a safe, in-person learning environment. Dr. Smith shared numbers on the vaccination clinics held at the high school and how fantastic it was to have such a large number of students receiving the vaccination. Lastly, Dr. Smith shared information on the Super Eval program for superintendent evaluations and board self-evaluations. He said it is an online platform which was purchased to streamline the process, is much easier to navigate, and eliminates previous issues. He said a welcome email would be coming to board members.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Rhodes also shared information on Super Eval and asked the board to check for the welcome email.

Mrs. Souser stated that she did not feel she should participate in this evaluation due to the fact that she recently joined the board. Mrs. Rhodes thanked all the volunteers and staff involved in the budget vote and election. Lastly, Mrs. Rhodes asked Dr. Smith to share information on graduation. He said that graduation is scheduled for Sunday, June 20th at 9:30 a.m. in the JD stadium. He said that there are rain dates scheduled and reminded the board members to let Tish know if they would be attending and if there are any specific seniors they wanted to award a diploma. Mrs. Rhodes encouraged all board members to participate as it is a great way to show the graduates support, especially since this graduating class has borne the brunt of this pandemic.

Community Comment Time #2

There were no comments.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

There was none.

8:37 p.m., Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting to Executive Session to discuss the employment history of an employee.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

At 9:05 p.m., Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Archer seconded the adjournment of Executive Session.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

At 9:06 p.m., Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the adjournment of the meeting.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOARD APPROVED: 6/7/21