

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**December 21, 2020 - Via Zoom Meeting**

<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
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 recognized and thanked Mr. Zaryski and the Food Service staff for their initiative and hard work in getting J-D approved for the free breakfast and lunch program that runs till the end of the year. She also said there were numerous emails from parents in the District recognizing teachers for their excellent examples of engagement with students at this time of hybrid/remote learning. She congratulated the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Scholar Athletes and coaches. In addition, Mrs. Rhodes acknowledged the High School Chorus concert video and thanked all involved for their hard work on the concert.

**Community Comment Time**

There were no comments.

**Approve Minutes of Board of Education Meeting, December 7, 2020**

Mrs. James Murad moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval of the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of December 7, 2020.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

**Accept the Internal Claims Auditor Reports**

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the acceptance of the Internal Claims Auditor Reports.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

**Accept the Recommendations of the CPSE and CSE**

Mrs. DeForest moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the acceptance of the Recommendations of the CPSE and CSE dated November 6, 10, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 30 and December 2, 8, 10 and 14, 2020.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

## Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. James Murad 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>Appointment</u></b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Ghada Abu-Ramadan Teaching Assistant Probationary Appointment Replacing J. Wagner	Middle School		\$16,864.56 (pro-rated)	1/4/21

### ***NONINSTRUCTIONAL***

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b><u>Appointment</u></b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Julia Hoke Teacher Aide Probationary Appointment Replacing C. Fleszar	High School		\$12.50/hr.	12/22/20
Jeffrey Swidowski Custodial Sub	Custodial Dept.		\$12.50/hr	12/22/20

### **Request for Leave**

<b>Name and position</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of Leave</b>	<b>Effective</b>
Betty Williams Belin School Bus Attendant	Transportation	Unpaid	11/16/20 - 6/30/21

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

### **Approve Funds to Implement Three-Year Contract with Jamesville-DeWitt Custodial Association**

Dr. Smith reviewed the terms of the Custodial Association contract as well as the two Memorandums of Agreement for Confidential Clerical Employees and Non-Instructional Management Employees. Dr. Smith stated that the remaining contracts to be negotiated are the food service employees, mechanics, maintenance and transportation.

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the approval of Funds to Implement a Three-Year Contract with the Jamesville-DeWitt Custodial Association.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

### **Approve Memorandum of Agreement for Management Confidential Clerical Employees**

Mrs. James Murad moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for Management Confidential Clerical Employees.  
Motion carried. (9-0-0).

**Approve Memorandum of Agreement for  
Non-Instructional Management Employees**

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. DeForest seconded the approval of the Memorandum of Agreement for Non-Instructional Management Employees.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

**Approve Resolution Authorizing Participation in Cooperative  
Energy Purchasing Service (NYSMEC) for Electricity**

Dr. Smith explained the Cooperative Energy Purchasing Service for both Electricity and Natural Gas. He said the service is offered through BOCES and gives us a better price as more schools are involved. He said this allows for our cooperation but does not commit the district to participate.

Dr. Corcoran asked if it was only for the year we are in and Mr. Decker stated that it is for one year and up to three years. He said it helps us with the management of bills.

Max asked about renewable energy and if we are able to sell excess energy to the grid, would it be deducted from the cooperative or our individual energy expenses. Mr. Decker said it would come out of our energy expenses, not the cooperative purchasing price.

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN  
COOPERATIVE ENERGY PURCHASING SERVICE  
(NYSMEC) FOR ELECTRICITY**

**WHEREAS**, Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law authorizes municipal corporations to enter into cooperative agreements for the performance or exercise of services, functions, powers or activities on a cooperative or contract basis among themselves or one for the other, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 119-n of the General Municipal Law defines the term "municipal corporation" for the purposes of Article 5-G as a county outside the city of New York, a city, a town, a village, a board of cooperative educational services, a fire district or a school district; and

**WHEREAS**, Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Participant") is a "municipal corporation" as defined above; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wishes for this municipal corporation to become or remain a Participant pursuant to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement For Energy Purchasing Services dated the 1st day of May 2005 (the "Agreement"), among municipal corporations collectively identified as the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium ("NYSMEC") upon the terms of the Agreement and further wishes to authorize participation as an energy consumer as specified below.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Board hereby determines that it is in the interests of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, to participate in the NYSMEC, and authorizes and directs Timothy Decker, Clerk of the Board) to sign the Agreement/and or the Billing Schedule and Agreement for electricity on its behalf; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Board authorizes the Administrative Participant (as defined in the Agreement) to prepare, advertise, disseminate and open bids pursuant to the General Municipal Law and to award, execute and deliver binding contracts on behalf of this Board for the

purchase of electricity delivered to the delivery point of the local utility distribution company for the Participant's facility or facilities, on a firm basis, for this Participant to the lowest responsible bidder as is determined by the Administrative Participant at a price for such commodity electricity not to exceed \$0.0736 cents per kWh for a term of at least one year and no more than three years commencing May 1, 2021, and other terms and conditions, all as may be determined by the Administrative Participant, or to reject any or all such bids; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Participant agrees to advertise said bid as may be directed by the Administrative Participant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the officers and employees of this Participant are authorized to execute such other confirming agreements, certificates and other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

**Approve Resolution Authorizing Participation in Cooperative  
Energy Purchasing Service (NYSMEC) for Natural Gas**

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN  
COOPERATIVE ENERGY PURCHASING SERVICE  
(NYSMEC) FOR NATURAL GAS**

**WHEREAS**, Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law authorizes municipal corporations to enter into cooperative agreements for the performance or exercise of services, functions, powers or activities on a cooperative or contract basis among themselves or one for the other, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 119-n of the General Municipal Law defines the term "municipal corporation" for the purposes of Article 5-G as a county outside the city of New York, a city, a town, a village, a board of cooperative educational services, a fire district or a school district; and

**WHEREAS**, Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Participant") is a "municipal corporation" as defined above; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board wishes for this municipal corporation to become or remain a Participant pursuant to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement For Energy Purchasing Services dated the 1st day of May, 2005 (the "Agreement"), among municipal corporations collectively identified as the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium ("NYSMEC") upon the terms of the Agreement and further wishes to authorize participation as an energy consumer as specified below.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Board hereby determines that it is in the interests of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District, to participate in the NYSMEC, and authorizes and directs Timothy Decker, Clerk of the Board, to sign the Agreement/and or the Billing Schedule and Agreement for natural gas on its behalf; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Board authorizes the Administrative Participant (as defined in the Agreement) to prepare, advertise, disseminate and open bids pursuant to the General Municipal Law and to award, execute and deliver binding contracts on behalf of this Board for the purchase of natural gas delivered to the city gate of the local utility distribution company for the Participant's facility or facilities, on a firm basis, for this Participant to the lowest responsible bidder as is determined by the Administrative Participant at a price for such commodity natural gas not to exceed

\$0.583 cents per therm for a term of at least one year and no more than three years commencing May 1, 2021, and other terms and conditions, all as may be determined by the Administrative Participant, or to reject any or all such bids; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Participant agrees to advertise said bid as may be directed by the Administrative Participant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the officers and employees of this Participant are authorized to execute such other confirming agreements, certificates and other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

### **Approve Resolution to Adopt the Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records**

Dr. Smith explained that this is a new retention schedule that needs to be approved; normally it is done at the reorganization meeting in July.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if the new schedule will result in disposition of records immediately and Dr. Smith responded that we typically dispose of records during the summer.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LFS-1), issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A

- (a) Only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;
  
- (b) Only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

### **Policy Review – First Reading**

The following Board Policies were brought to the Board for a First Reading:

- 7610 [Special Education: District Plan](#)
- 7611 [Children With Disabilities](#)
- 7612 [Grouping By Similarity of Needs](#)

- 7613 [The Role of the Board in Implementing A Student’s Individualized Education Program](#)
- 7614 [Preschool Special Education Program](#)
- 7615 [Least Restrictive Environment](#)
- 7616 [Prereferral Intervention Strategies](#)
- 7617 [Declassification of Students With Disabilities](#)
- 7618 [Use of Time Out Rooms](#)
- 7620 [Students With Disabilities Participating in District Programs](#)
- 7621 [Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#)

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked Mr. Reyes to share any significant changes to the policies up for a first reading. Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that Policy 7610 had additions that call out BOCES specific provisions. Mr. Reyes said in Policy 7611 there was a significant change as it applies to universal design principles. He explained that universal design principals should be used in working with all children and policy 7611 specifically talks about services offered to students with disabilities. Specially designed instruction is a strategy used to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Mr. Reyes stated there were no major changes in Policies 7612, 7613, 7614, 7615, 7617, 7620 & 7621. He said that in Policy 7616, the term from instructional support team was changed to pupil support team to match language used in the district and in Policy 7618 language from the previous policy was used to address unanticipated challenges.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about Policy 7612, item b, where there is mention of preschool students in the policy but it is under CSE. Mr. Reyes explained that if we were to contact our policy service they would probably explain that it is meant to be comprehensive. Mrs. Rhodes said we should ask the policy service for clarification.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how these policies compare to our previous policies. Specifically, she asked if there policies that we have dropped or are there new policies.

Mr. Franz added the following information on the policies:

- 7610 is existing and is similar in content
- 7611 is the same with updates
- 7612 similar with slight changes
- 7613 is renumbered
- 7614 is consistent with what we currently have
- 7615 has changes as our current policy is around discipline
- 7616 is around time out and becomes 7618 in new policy manual.

He said that many of the policies have been renumbered.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz stated that Policy 7620 is a new policy that was added from the Policy Service.

Mrs. Rhodes asked about Policy 7610, Special Education District Plan, and where would someone go to find the plan. Dr. Smith responded that it should be on the PPS website.

## Policy Review – Second Reading

The following Board Policies were brought to the Board for a Second Reading:

- [7550 Dignity For All Students](#)
- [7551 Sexual Harassment of Students](#)
- [7552 Student Gender Identity](#)
- [7553 Hazing of Students](#)
- [7560 Notifications of Sex Offenders](#)
- [7570 Supervision of Students](#)
- [7580 Safe Public School Choice](#)

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the approval of Board Policies 7550, 7551, 7552, 7553, 7560, 7570, and 7580.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

### Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. Rhodes stated that the Board would be coming back to the items for consideration, in January.

Dr. Corcoran gave an update on sustainability. She said that she and Max met with two members of the high school environmental club as well as a former student. She said that they will touch base with Dr. Smith after the break to talk about the direction we are moving in and engaging the Town of DeWitt and the Sierra Club for support.

Max stated that there will be a survey going out to all high school and middle school students on what students feel are the most pressing issues.

### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith gave the Board an overview of the work that has been taking place in the area of cultural wellness and supporting the social emotional wellness needs of students. He said the District, under the leadership of Mrs. Menapace, has been investigating tools to help assess social emotional and behavioral needs of our students and chose the Behavior Intervention Monitoring Assessment System (BIMAS tool). He said teachers in grades K-8 have administered the BIMAS tool to assess student needs. The biggest challenge is administering the tool while many students are learning remotely and that the goal is to implement the BIMAS tool to our high school students after the break. Dr. Smith said the next steps are to identify some tier one strategies, identify students that need tier 2 and tier 3 supports, and identify professional learning needs for our staff. Dr. Smith said the team has been trained by the writers of the tool throughout the process and recently attended a training session on how to effectively use the information. Dr. Smith said Mr. Franz has been involved in the implementation of the BIMAS tool.

Mr. Franz highlighted the follow up with a community of learners after the first administration of the tool. He said that administrators, counselors, psychologists, and PPS staff looked at the data and reports, as well as different protocols and best practices used by other districts. He said it was a great sharing across the community.

Dr. Smith stated that this is part of the information that will be provided on a regular basis as part of the data dashboard.

Mr. Leach asked for more information about how the BIMAS tool is administered. Mr. Franz responded that it is completed by a teacher. The teachers rate the students based on the interactions they have had with them. He said the older kids complete the survey themselves.

Mr. Leach asked for information on tier 2 and tier 3 interventions. Dr. Smith said those interventions could be anything from support from a teacher, counselor, social worker, or it could be meeting with parents and families to make recommendations for more extensive support.

Max asked if there is a plan to make sure there is complete participation for the students who are taking the survey as well as ample time to complete it. Mr. Franz responded that Mrs. Menapace is working with the high school staff, social workers, psychologists and counselors to ensure everyone has ample time. He said it is being administered by grade level and cohort to be able to spread it out and make sure everyone is assessed and most importantly having the right support staff available to be able to respond to students' needs

Max asked if our goal is 100% participation and Dr. Smith responded yes. Max asked if we think that is achievable and Dr. Smith responded yes. He said he believes there are some challenges with remote learning but that should be our goal and that this is not an area that we would want a student to fall through the cracks. Mr. Franz said that K-8 had approximately 97% participation and that during the administration of the tool, you can see the participation percentage to be able to go back and achieve 100%.

Mrs. Rhodes asked how parents engaged in this process. Dr. Smith stated that parents were made aware before the BIMAS was administered and follow up would include a connection between the school and parents.

Mrs. Rhodes asked what kind of communication plan we have to remind parents this is happening. Dr. Smith said information is available at Board meetings, and at school levels, letting parents know this is part of the District's Strategic Plan, making sure this at the forefront of communications and at the building level.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if the outcomes of these assessments are the interventions. Dr. Smith responded that the outcome is the collection of the data which help us to identify the most useful interventions and to identify students who have individual needs.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz asked if the data would be used to provide services to the students based on their needs and will parents need to be involved to contribute to the assessment.

Dr. Smith stated that we gather the data and present the information to individual families as needed and also we can take a wider lens to look at each level to identify changes that need to be made and the data can be used at the district level to make more global changes.

Max asked what our ethical obligation is, in sharing responses with parents and will we have a policy to protect the students.

Dr. Smith asked Mr. Franz if this was addressed with the author of the study. Mr. Franz stated they spent significant time discussing suicidal idealization, but unfortunately more on the response on the item, not on the policies that would go into place around it. He said this is where there would be other staff members involved coordinating the response. Max also asked if there would be a way of using this data in disciplinary action or student hearings. Dr. Smith said he does not know how this



information would become part of a disciplinary action or student hearing. The purpose of this tool is to provide support for students, not to be used for disciplinary purposes.

Dr. Smith said this is an important step towards social emotional support for students as well as a growth opportunity for staff. He said he appreciated Mrs. Menapace and her work in this area.

Dr. Smith gave the Board a brief COVID update including testing requirements, asymptomatic testing, and numbers for the buildings. Dr. Smith also gave his thoughts on moving to fully remote. He shared that other districts that are moving to fully remote are doing so mostly due to challenges in staffing more than the spread of cases in the schools. He said that we have been able to fully staff our schools. He said we want to provide in-person instruction as much as possible and that he has been monitoring the situation regularly. He said he feels comfortable that we are able to staff all buildings tomorrow.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz said she wanted to make sure everyone saw the article about the creative way CBA is utilizing alumni as substitutes.

### **Board President's Report**

Mrs. Rhodes shared that our BOCES representative on the Board of Education, Ann Wright, who recently passed away has been replaced by Marissa Mims, member of the Fayetteville-Manlius Board of Education. Ms. Mims will be invited to an upcoming meeting to see how the districts can work together. Mrs. Rhodes echoed Dr. Smith and said that we are doing everything we can to provide in-person instruction, as well as effective remote instruction and is looking towards 2021 with hope and optimism. She said this is the time to remain vigilant and encouraged everyone to follow the practice of wearing a mask and social distancing. She wished everyone a wonderful holiday.

### **Unfinished and Continuing Business**

There was none.

At 8:09 p.m., Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker  
Clerk of the Board

**BOARD APPROVED: January 12, 2021**