

MINUTES OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – September 14, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Archer
Dr. Corcoran
Mrs. DeForest
Mr. Gross
Mr. Leach
Mrs. James-Murad
Mrs. Rhodes
Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz
Mrs. Woodcock Dettor

MEMBERS ABSENT

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

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

Community Comment Time

Mrs. Rhodes opened Community Comment time by stating there are a number of requests to speak and suggested the Board make a motion to extend the Community Comment Time to allow an extra half an hour at the beginning of the meeting so as to hear them all at the same time.

Dr. Archer moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the motion to allow an extra half hour be attached to Community Comment Time.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Dr. Smith asked the Board to add a new item under new business to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Town of DeWitt for an SRO from September 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Mrs. DeForest moved and Mr. Leach seconded the Motion to add an item of New Business to the Agenda; Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Town of DeWitt for an SRO from September 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

The following people spoke during Community Comment Time:

Christiana Semabia commented against an SRO.

Ruth Arena was on the list to speak but was not in attendance. She emailed her comments

Catherine Dziedzic commented against an SRO.

Jean Leiker commented in favor of an SRO.

Kenneth Hildreth commented in favor of an SRO.

Julie Morse commented against an SRO.

Benedicte Doran commented in favor of an SRO.

Yusuf Abdul-Qadir commented against an SRO.

Rachel Wagner commented against an SRO.

Shukri Mohamed commented against an SRO.

Mike Durkin commented in favor of an SRO.

Gera Rezar commented in favor of an SRO.

Ben Hughes commented against an SRO.

Elaine Howe commented in favor of an SRO.

Brian Damon was on the list to speak but was not in attendance.

**Approve Minutes of Board of Education Meetings,
August 24, 2020 and August 31, 2020**

Mrs. DeForest moved and Dr. Archer seconded the approval of the minutes of the Board of Education meetings of August 24, 2020 and August 31, 2020.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Claims Auditor Report

Mrs. James Murad moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the acceptance of the Claims Auditor Report. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Recommendations of the CPSE and the CSE

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mr. Gross seconded the acceptance of the recommendations of the Committee on Pre-School Special Education and the Committee on Special Education from their meetings on August 27, 2020.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mr. Souser seconded the acceptance of the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations as follows:

SUPERINTENDENT'S PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS

INSTRUCTIONAL

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2020-2021 **Jamesville-DeWitt Middle School School**

| Name | Assignment | Stipend |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| April Butler | Lunch Duty | \$1,655 |

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2019-2020 **Coaching – Fall Season**

| Name | Assignment | Stipend |
|-------------------------|---|----------------|
| Tracey Fishkin | Varsity Head Gymnastics Coach | \$6,416 |
| Elysssa Rosenbaum | Varsity Assistant Gymnastics Coach | \$4,079 |
| Daniel Law | Varsity Boys Head Soccer Coach | \$6,202 |
| Paul Krause | JV Boys Head Soccer Coach | \$5,141 |
| David Bunyan | Modified Boys Soccer Coach | \$3,642 |
| Jamie Archer | Modified Boys Soccer Coach | \$3,540 |
| Hayley Nies | Varsity Girls Head Soccer Coach | \$7,091 |
| Bernadette Dziczkanieck | JV Girls Head Soccer Coach | \$4,558 |
| Justin Bird | Modified Girls Soccer Coach | \$3,432 |
| Melissa Quinn | Modified Girls Soccer Coach | \$3,772 |
| Rebecca Peter | Varsity Assistant Girls Soccer Coach – Volunteer | \$0 |
| Robert Bewley | Varsity Girls Head Swimming Coach | \$7,342 |
| Joseph Amedro | Varsity Girls Head Swimming Coach | \$3,602 |
| Lisa Patchen | Modified Girls Swim and Dive Coach | \$3,152 |
| Maggie McBurney | Modified Girls Swim and Dive Coach | \$3,026 |
| George McNamara | Varsity Girls Head Swimming Coach – Volunteer | \$0 |
| Eugene Sul | Varsity Girls Head Tennis Coach | \$5,133 |
| Joseph Goldberg | JV Girls Head Tennis Coach | \$3,592 |
| Emily Rowles | Varsity Boys Head Cross Country Coach | \$5,171 |
| James Lawton | Varsity Girls Head Cross Country Coach | \$5,871 |
| Nancy Raicht | Modified Girls Cross Country Coach | \$2,860 |
| Michele Maciejewski | Modified Boys Cross Country Coach | \$2,521 |
| Caitlyn Lawless | Modified Girls and Boys Cross Country Coach – Volunteer | \$0 |
| Steven Scaramuzzino | Varsity Girls and Boys Cross Country Coach – Volunteer | \$0 |
| Paul Valentino | Varsity Boys Head Golf Coach | \$3,432 |

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2020-2021 **Jamesville-DeWitt High School**

| Name | Assignment | Stipend |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Barbara Barker | Bus Supervision AM | \$1,158 |
| Andrew Cottet | Bus Supervision AM | \$1,158 |
| Donna Oppedisano | Bus Supervision AM | \$1,158 |
| Elizabeth Quackenbush | Bus Supervision AM | \$1,158 |
| Stephanie Rice | Bus Supervision AM | \$1,158 |
| Sabrina Scott | Bus Supervision AM | \$1,158 |

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Appointments

| Name and position | Location | Salary | Effective |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Darryl Jones Substitute Custodian | Custodial Dept. | \$11.80/hr. | 9/15/20 |
| Jeremy Laframboise Custodial Worker Probationary Appointment Replacing D. Bersson | Custodial Dept. | \$16.55/hr. | 9/28/20 |

Request for Leave

| Name and position | Location | Type of Leave | Effective |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Bonnie Sukert Teacher Aide | Tecumseh | Unpaid Leave | 9/11/20-1/29/21 |

Resignation

| Name and position | Location | Effective |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Theresa Quinn Food Service Worker | Food Service | 9/10/20 |

Dr. Smith said the coaches being recommended are only for fall. He shared information regarding Gov. Cuomo's directive of which fall sports are allowed to practice and play. He said high risk sports, football and volleyball, are being moved to the spring season. This fall, the sports allowed to participate are soccer, gymnastics, swimming, cross country, golf and tennis.

Mrs. James Murad asked about the policy that would allow for parents to drive their students home and if there would need to be a change in the policy or procedure. Dr. Smith said we have a legal document created by our attorneys that allows parents to take their students to and from competitions which has been used in a limited extent. He said there will need to be a conversation between the Board with regard to logistics in the future.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if it should be placed on the Agenda and would there need to be discussion.

Dr. Smith stated that it might not need a legal decision but more of an awareness of an expansion of an option already in place.

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor shared for anyone that is not aware, that there is an option in place through the Athletic Department and to discuss it at a future time would mean to expand on what is already there.

Dr. Archer shared that she had a family member that is part of the recommendations and if it no one objects, she would like to vote. (No one objected).

Mrs. Woodcock Dettor moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations.

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

Dr. Corcoran moved and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz seconded the approval of the 2020-2021 Combined Sports Teams.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

**Approve an Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of DeWitt
For a School Resource Officer**

Dr. Smith stated that after the meeting on September 10th, with our attorney present, the Board suggested revisions to parts of the MOU to be considered for a vote at tonight's meeting. He reminded the Board and the public that a Task Force to review the roles and responsibilities as well as whether an SRO is appropriate, has been formed and will meet throughout the fall. He said that changes to the MOU were put into place based on the discussion at the meeting on Thursday and that the MOU will be short term, taking effect tomorrow and expiring on December 31, 2020. He asked for questions and comments from the Board.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if additional comments would be best to do here, such as the report from the Chief of Police. Dr. Smith responded that he would like the Chief's comments to be with the reports to leave his comments and opinions separate from this decision.

Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz commented that there are Dept. of Justice recommendations for SRO's including specific responsibilities which many of our students, staff and parents say that they appreciate but they are not outlined in the MOU. She asked if there has been any thought of using the standard recommendations from the Dept. of Justice to inform our MOU as it relates to the responsibilities and objectives and she would be in favor of an MOU that has gone through that review.

Mrs. DeForest said that in reading Section 1.6 of the MOU, working with administrators to address safety issues in schools, she interprets that as a bigger umbrella.

Mrs. James Murad stated that she would hope that the Dept. of Justice recommendations would be part of the Task Force review as well as the Commissioner's Emergency Regulations which require stakeholder input.

Mr. Franz said the Task Force will definitely look at both of those pieces of information in work they will be doing.

Mr. Gross moved and Mrs. Woodcock Dettor seconded the motion to approve the temporary Memorandum of Understanding.

Mrs. DeForest qualified her decision that it was thoughtful to the feedback she has heard. She said, in April of 2018, when the plan was implemented, one SRO was put into place with four counselors and social workers. She also said, as we have heard of the trauma tied with officers, hearing of the school familiarization and multiple officers rotating into our schools without training that our SRO has, is another factor which she took into effect.

Motion carried. (5-4-0). Dr. Archer, Dr. Corcoran, Mrs. Rhodes and Mrs. Rivera-Ortiz opposed. Mrs. Rhodes stated that she understands the Town of DeWitt is similarly approving the MOU this evening. She asked Dr. Smith what the start will look like.

Dr. Smith said he had a conversation with the Police Department and with scheduling challenges, the

SRO will not be able to start until Monday, September 21st. He said the MOU will be signed this week and it will be attached to the District Safety Plan to be reviewed by the District Safety Team.

**Approve SEQRA Resolution for
Capital Outlay Project**

Mr. Decker presented information on the SEQRA Resolution for the Capital Outlay Project. He said that we will be continuing with the doors at the High School and that the project has no environmental impact.

Mr. Gross moved and Dr. Corcoran seconded the approval of the following SEQRA Resolution for the Capital Outlay Project:

It is, **RESOLVED**, that the SEQRA Resolution is a **Negative Declaration** – Pursuant to Article 8 of the Environment Conservation Law, Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District will act as Lead Agency, with said entity located at 6845 Edinger Drive, DeWitt, NY 13214 and the contact is Peter Smith, Superintendent, (315) 445-8304.

WHEREAS, according to the regulations of the New York State Education Department, the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District is primarily responsible for assuring compliance with the procedural and substantive requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act and the regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York (6 NYCRR Part 617, as amended) promulgated there under (“SEQRA”); and Based upon review of the proposed project, the Board hereby declares itself lead agency to the extent necessary for this purpose and hereby finds that the proposed action constitutes a type II action as such quoted term is defined in SEQRA and, therefore, is not subject to any further review by the School District under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the proposed capital outlay project includes general reconstruction and renovation at the Jamesville-DeWitt High School, in DeWitt, (“the Renovation Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Renovation Project has been classified Type II action for the State Environmental Quality review Act (SEQRA), which action will not have any significant impact on the environment and are not subject to review under SEQRA; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board hereby determines that the Renovation Project will not have a significant environmental impact; that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement is not required for such action and will not be prepared; and that this Negative Declaration shall be filed with the EAF in the District Office where they will be available for public inspection.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Voting: Yes - Sharon Archer
Voting: Yes - Dana Corcoran
Voting: Yes - Lori DeForest
Voting: Yes - Joe Gross
Voting: Yes - David Leach
Voting: Yes - Renee James Murad
Voting: Yes - Wendy Rhodes
Voting: Yes - Juanita Rivera-Ortiz
Voting: Yes - Christine Woodcock Dettor

This resolution was declared adopted.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Policy Review – First Reading

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

- 7120 – [Age of Entrance](#)
- 7121 – [Diagnostic Screening of Students](#)
- 7130 – [Entitlement to Attend – Age and Residency](#)
- 7131 – [Education of Students in Temporary Housing](#)
- 7132 – [Non-Resident Students](#)
- 7133 – [Education of Students in Foster Care](#)
- 7140 – [School Census](#)

Dr. Smith shared information on the first reads. He said there were no changes to 7120, 7130, and 7131. He said that in 7121 there was removal of language that relates to testing as it will be addressed in a subsequent policy. He said that 7132, non-resident students, was significantly changed as the draft policy was different than our current policy. Dr. Smith said 7133 was a new and required policy and that 7140 had a small change in wording to reflect that school census is allowed and not mandated.

The Policies will come to the next meeting for a second reading.

**Report, Town of DeWitt
Chief Bilodeau**

Chief Bilodeau thanked the Board for allowing him to speak and reaffirmed his Department's commitment to working with the School Board and the School District. He said he has heard the wide spectrum of opinions with regard to the SRO position. He said he would like to continue the relationship with the School District and the Police Department as they had a good working relationship for a very long time. He requested to be an active member on the task force or to allow the Department to take part of this process as stakeholder.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith provided an update on the opening of schools, which he said was relatively smooth. He said that there are some issues with parent drop off and pick up that are being worked on. He shared his experience walking through the halls and feeling the reinvigoration with the people and the students. He said the Food Service is working with the limited menus to start the year and Transportation has been hectic as the start of school normally would be. He shared how the closing of Jamesville Elementary School on the first day of school was an incredible learning experience, how the Onondaga County Department of Health contacted and worked with Mrs. Baker and himself as well as how the process funneled down. He said that he was extremely proud of Mrs. Baker and how she managed the situation contacting families and staff. He said the determination to close the school is made by the Superintendent and he felt closing the school an additional day was an opportunity to make sure every space was thoroughly cleaned and sanitized. He praised the Health Department and said Dr. Gupta and said their team were very helpful.

Dr. Corcoran asked if staff was involved and do they need to be quarantined? Dr. Smith responded that

we identify all the people that would have come in contact with the person and then it is the Health Department's determination who goes into quarantine or isolation.

Dr. Smith shared enrollment information with the Board. (See Supplemental Minutes).

Dr. Corcoran asked if there is a cap for the number of kids that can safely distance and if there is a plan as things open up, to bring kids back?

Dr. Smith responded that it goes back to the size of the room and the social distancing requirements. He said most classrooms will allow 16 to 19 students and still be socially distant.

Mr. Gross asked if students that aren't identified are in the grand total and Dr. Smith responded yes.

Mrs. Rhodes asked if the number of sections could be added before the document is loaded into the Board Documents.

Dr. Smith updated the Board on the Safety Plan timeline. He said that now that the Plan will include an SRO, the Team will convene to do a review of the new District Safety Plan. He said once the review is complete, the Plan will be posted on the website, the 30 day public comment period will restart and there will be a public hearing on the District Safety Plan on October 5th. Dr. Smith said the goal is to have the Board of Education approve the Plan at the October 19th meeting or possibly having to add a special meeting to approve it. He said the Task Force to review the SRO will meet throughout the fall with the recommendation to the Superintendent and then the District Safety Team will need to meet again to realign the roles and responsibilities as recommended with a revised Safety Plan. He said if there is no SRO going forward, the Plan would need to be revised to reflect that as well.

**Asst. Superintendent's Report,
Mr. Franz**

Mr. Franz shared the progress that has been made on the District Strategic Plan. (See Supplemental Minutes). Mr. Franz reviewed the four focus areas; Culture of Wellness, Curriculum and Programs, Family and Community and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He shared the goals of the focus areas, the tasks, and the status of each task and the next steps.

Mr. Gross asked if any of the tasks that are being undertaken this school year will need to be repeated in a more normal school environment of a school year. Mr. Franz stated that they have not identified anything as of yet that would disrupt the plans that have been created over the course of the summer.

Board President's Report

Mrs. Rhodes began her report by thanking everyone, Board members, students, faculty members, parents, and staff members for all they have done and continue to do to nurture our students during this time. Mrs. Rhodes said an item the Board needs to accomplish is to help the Superintendent with goals for the year, which Dr. Smith will bring to the Board as a draft at the October 5th meeting. She reminded the public of the Public Hearing on October 5th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the details of which will be on the Board page of the website. Lastly, Mrs. Rhodes stated that there is a variety of opinions amongst the community on the concept of the MOU for the SRO, as well as a variety of opinions within the Board. She said we are all united with wanting our children to be safe and wants to encourage everyone to listen to different opinions. Mrs. Rhodes stated, as a reminder, the Board has the opportunity to amend the Safety Plan before adopting it so she is encouraging the Board to closely read the safety plan.

She said she was happy with the work that Mr. Franz has presented and happy that we will start getting updates. Mrs. Rhodes said she has asked Dr. Smith to start aligning his reports with the Strategic Plan to see how the plan is unfolding in the work we do in the district.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Mrs. DeForest proposed we look at the priorities list again and start moving forward with some Board priorities. Mrs. Rhodes said is on the next Agenda.

At 9:37 p.m., Dr. Corcoran moved and Dr. Archer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOARD APPROVED: