

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION – March 21, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Archer
Mrs. Austin
Mrs. DeForest
Mr. Gross
Mrs. James Murad
Mr. Leach
Ms. McKenney
Mrs. Souser
Mr. Zoghby
Ms. Evans

MEMBERS ABSENT

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 Board Room of the District Office.

In attendance were: Twiggy Eure, Gabrielle Eure, Stan Chen.

Red Ram Recognition

Mrs. DeForest congratulated the 7th and 8th grade cast, pit and crew of *Spamalot*. She said it had great reviews and had the audience laughing. She thanked Mike Norton-SRO, the Town of DeWitt Police Department and the Jamesville-DeWitt administration, staff, students, and families for assisting in the investigation into the threat found on March 8th. Mrs. DeForest also thanked the editors of the RamPage for providing interesting and informative articles, and for visiting the Middle School and meeting with the Times Club, which is led by Mr. Starowicz, to share experiences and serve as role models. Mrs. DeForest thanked Ms. Panek, Mr. Brodsky and the JDHS art students for enhancing the library with murals and pillars of humanity. Mrs. DeForest congratulated the JDHS Drama Club for the 2022 Short Play Festival, which highlighted 12 - ten minute plays written, directed and performed by students. Lastly, Mrs. DeForest recognized and thanked Mr. Berger, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Spencer and the JDHS stage crew for their help in putting the festival together. She said all proceeds from the Festival will be going to the Model UN Club, which will support Voices of Children of Ukraine and Doctors without Borders.

Community Comment Time #1

Mrs. DeForest read the current guidelines and rules for Community Comment Time and welcomed participation.

Christiana Semabia commented on the Climate Survey and said it does not collect enough demographic data, erases the experiences of multi-racial families, and should include LGBTQ students and families. She said the survey is not scientific or anonymous.

Approve Consent Agenda

- a. Accept Internal Claims Auditor's Reports
- b. Accept the Recommendations of the CPSE and CSE
- c. [Approve Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations](#), and Substitute Appointments (See Supplemental Minutes for Substitute Appointments)

Ms. McKenney moved and Mrs. Souser seconded the approval of the Consent Agenda.
 Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Superintendent's Personnel Recommendations:

INSTRUCTIONAL

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2021-2022

Coaching – Unified Sports

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Jeffrey Ike	Head Coach Unified Basketball	\$877
Erin Nowicki	Head Coach Unified Basketball	\$877

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2021-2022

Coaching – Winter Season

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Keith Cieplicki	Varsity Girls Basketball Head Coach	\$1,836
Jeffrey Ike	Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach	\$1,490
Robert Bewley	Varsity Boys Swim and Dive Head Coach	\$1,896
Alanna Jones	Varsity Cheerleading Head Coach	\$924
Paul LeBlanc	Varsity Wrestling Head Coach	\$1,920
Patrick Gillette	Varsity Indoor Track Assistant Coach	\$1,317
Robert Dixon	Varsity Indoor Track Assistant Coach	\$1,188
Scaramuzzino Steven	Varsity Indoor Track Assistant Coach	\$1,095
Emily Rowles	Varsity Indoor Track Head Coach	\$1,881
Michele Maciejewski	Varsity Indoor Track Head Coach	\$1,563

Extra duty assignments/extended teaching 2021-2022

Intramural Coaching

Name	Assignment	Stipend
Daniel Glazier	Session 3: Substitute Coach	\$20.88
Mitzi Longway	Session 3: Pirate Booty, Indoor Soccer, Scooter Floor Hockey	\$229.68
Jessica Marko	Session 3: Pirate Booty, Indoor Soccer, Scooter Floor Hockey	\$208.80

Request for Retirement

Name and position	Location	Effective
Linda Gangemi Math Teacher	Middle School	6/30/22

Resignation

Name and position	Location	Effective
Alexander Dumas Teaching Assistant	Middle School	3/30/22

NONINSTRUCTIONAL

Appointments

Name and position	Location	Salary	Effective
Gregory Zacholl Custodial Worker I Full-Time Probationary Appt. (52 weeks)	MTCE	\$17.71/hr	4/6/22

Name and position	Location	<u>Resignation</u>	Effective
Danielle Simone Teacher Aide	Middle School		3/21/22

Approve Minutes of March 7, 2022 Meeting

Mrs. Souser moved and Mr. Gross seconded the approval of the Minutes of the March 7, 2022 Board of Education meeting.

Motion carried. (8-0-1) Mrs. Austin abstained.

Approve 2022-2023 Calendar

Mrs. Austin moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the approval of the 2022-2023 Calendar.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Approve 2021-2022 Calendar Changes

Dr. Smith explained necessary changes to the 2021-2022 calendar to correct an error.

Mrs. Souser moved and Mr. Gross seconded the approval of the changes to the 2021-2022 Calendar.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Adopt Resolution to Establish a Budget Hearing in Lieu of Annual Meeting

Mrs. James Murad moved and Mr. Zoghby seconded the adoption of the following resolution:

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 in person and via Zoom on Monday, May 9, 2022 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 in person and via Zoom, on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at which time the proposed budget for the School District for 2022-2023 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 17, 2022.

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).

Identify Propositions for Annual Vote

By show of hands, board members unanimously identified the following Propositions were for the annual vote:

Proposition #1 School Bus Replacement

Shall the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District ("District") be authorized and directed to purchase two (2) gasoline buses at an approximate cost of \$124,461 each, one (1) gasoline bus at an approximate cost of \$87,162, one (1) gasoline bus at an approximate cost of \$82,751, and one (1) microbus at an approximate cost of 60,387, 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 Purchase of a Front End Loader

Shall the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District ("District") be authorized and directed to purchase a front end loader at an approximate cost of \$200,000 not to exceed, 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 #3 Library

Shall the Board of Education of the Jamesville-DeWitt Central School District ("District") levy and collect a tax in the amount of \$1,544,958 Dollars for the support of the Community Library of Dewitt & Jamesville, pursuant to Section 259 of the Education Law?

Approve SEQRA Resolution

Ms. McKenney moved and Mrs. Souser seconded the approval of the following SEQRA Resolution:

JAMESVILLE-DEWITT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT Emergency High School Kitchen area. SEQRA Resolution.

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 emergency High School Kitchen area 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.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Approve Emergency Project Resolution for High School Kitchen Floor

Mrs. Souser moved and Mr. Gross seconded the approval of the following Resolution:

JAMESVILLE-DEWITT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION Emergency Project Resolution

Declaration of Emergency – Capital Construction Project to Remove and Repair the existing kitchen drainage system and surrounding area at the Jamesville-DeWitt High School Kitchen. Including: plumbing replacements, structural repairs, remove existing ceiling and replace with new ceiling, new lighting, new porcelain tile walls, new epoxy or porcelain flooring, new hatch and ladder to crawlspace, and new exterior door and frame.

RESOLVED, that pursuant to §103(4) of the General Municipal Law, the Board of Education (“Board”) declares that an emergency exists because the kitchen drainage system and surrounding area at the Jamesville-DeWitt High School kitchen is broken and requires reconstruction and renovation. This is a safety issue.

The Board finds that the proposed reconstruction and renovation of the kitchen area be undertaken without further delay.

The Board has reviewed preliminary estimates for the work and has earmarked such work to be performed at a cost not to exceed \$350,000.00 with a scope to include the reconstruction and renovation of the Jamesville-DeWitt High Kitchen area.

It is further, **RESOLVED**, that the Board authorizes the awarding of contracts and the purchasing of this work, after competitive bidding, such work to commence immediately. The Board further ratifies all contract and purchases made to date for all emergency work and purchases.

It is further, **RESOLVED**, that all such expenditures made by authority of this resolution are ordinary contingent expenses and the Board hereby authorizes the transfer of \$350,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Fund to cover the expense.

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 emergency capital 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:

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Potential Consideration for Future Meetings

Mrs. DeForest said she added Mandarin Chinese and Special Olympics to the list.

Budget Discussion – Instructional Budget

Dr. Smith reviewed the budgeting process to date and presented the Instructional portion of the budget. Dr. Smith said this is the largest portion of the expense side of the budget. The instructional budget includes an increase of 5.86%. He said the factors for the increase are recruitment of diverse staff, increased funds for professional learning, data collection and analysis, Pre-k staffing, supplies for elementary students, virtual learning through OCM BOCES, resources for testing of students recommended for Special Education, expansion of instructional technology support staff, technology infrastructure, and mental health services. Dr. Smith reviewed how this budget supports the 2020-2025 District Strategic Plan. Dr. Smith shared important upcoming dates for the budgeting process and thanked the Finance Committee for their work. (See Supplemental Minutes for Budget Presentation).

Board of Education Governance Handbook Community Comment Time, Second Reading

Mrs. DeForest shared a second draft of “Community Comment Time - Ground Rules at Board Meetings” and Google form for requesting to speak and reviewed the changes. (See Supplemental Minutes). With regard to the Google form for Community Comment Time, it was decided that the speaker will identify themselves as either a student, caregiver/parent, community member, employee/staff member or other. In addition, the two procedural items to be noted are that topics will be bulleted on the Agenda there can be a motion to extend the time if necessary.

Mr. Leach moved and Mr. Gross seconded the motion to approve the second draft of the Board of Education Governance Handbook Community Comment Time Ground Rules and Google Form.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Assistant Superintendent’s Report, Climate Survey

Mr. Reyes shared a presentation on the Climate Survey which included background, connections to the Strategic Plan, selection process, the pilot survey administered last year and the administration of the survey this year. The pilot survey was administered in June of 2021 with a select set of inventory questions. Mr. Reyes shared lessons learned from the pilot and how the 2021-22 survey is likely to capture more and better data. Next Mr. Reyes talked about the administration of the 2022 survey, adjustments that have been made and item selections. He said that parents will receive notification, staff will have a script for administration and the results will be presented at a future Board of Education and posted on the district website. He said that full inventory of questions as well as the full results from the pilot are available on the website. Mr. Reyes shared questions and results of the 2021 administration and said the administration will be a snapshot in time every year. Lastly, Mr. Reyes said the outcomes that we want from the survey are greater engagement in school, greater connectedness to school, improvement of feedback for our communication and the data upon which to plan professional learning and interventions. (See Supplemental Minutes for presentation).

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Smith began his report with an update on the Zoom incident of January 31st. He said that Chief of Police for the Town of DeWitt informed him that one of the search warrants issued was traced to Ontario, Canada and said they are not able to locate a specific IP address, which would lead to identification of the person(s) involved. He said the next step would be for the DA's office to issue a subpoena for more information, but the DA's office has rejected the request. Dr. Smith said that unfortunately this is probably as far as this investigation will go. He said that he is waiting for information to come back from another search warrant. Dr. Smith updated the Board on action steps taken following the zoom attack. He and Mr. Franz met with representatives from Vera House regarding upstander and bystander training and have another meeting scheduled. He said they also heard a presentation from professors at Syracuse University and will be making a decision on how to best train administration and staff. Additional action steps include adding additional staff through our partnership with Onondaga County, developing a response protocol for bias related incidents, and lastly, a meeting with representatives from NAACP Syracuse. Dr. Smith updated the Board on the High School Principal search. Screening interviews took place last week with the second round taking place this week. Dr. Smith said there will possibly be a third round as well as a round with the Board. He has a targeted appointment date of the last meeting in April or the first meeting in May. Dr. Smith updated the Board on COVID-19 numbers and said we have had two schools with increased numbers. Other districts have been contacted to see if there is consistency across the area. He is keeping an eye on the numbers and will reach out to the Onondaga County Health Department to get their advice if needed. Dr. Smith shared a construction update with pictures of the progress of the projects at the High School and Middle School. Lastly, Dr. Smith updated the Board on upcoming events.

Student Board Member Report

Ms. Evans provided the Board with her report which included a demographic breakdown of responses by grade, gender and race. Her report covered compliments, concerns and suggestions. (See Supplemental Minutes).

President's Report

Mrs. DeForest shared information regarding upcoming Budget vote and elections on May 17th where the community will be asked to vote for three Board members. She said nominating petitions can be picked up at the District Office. She also said information on requesting a Military Ballot is available on the website and absentee ballots can be requested by contacting the District Office. Mrs. DeForest reminded the Board that the retreat is on Monday and thanked Interfaith Works for planning and facilitating the retreat. Special thanks to InterFaith Works personnel Andrea Jacobs, Bishop Collette Matthews Carter, Jamie Cooke and Jeannie Versa for assisting with the retreat. Mrs. DeForest said the next Board meeting is April 4th and wished all families that celebrate Ramadan blessings.

Facilities Committee Report, Mr. Leach

Mr. Leach reported on a meeting with a group of parents that are looking for improvements to the baseball and softball facilities. He said the focus is on improvements to fencing to prevent balls from hitting cars and protecting pedestrians. He said there was a lengthy discussion regarding funds required to make improvements and possibly installing artificial turf down the road. Mr. Decker thanked the people who are looking to help donate to the school. He said there is a meeting set up with landscape architects with the hope to put thoughts to paper.

**Policy Committee Report,
Mrs. James Murad**

Mrs. James Murad reported that we are almost done with the entire process and the policy book is back with BOCES for their final review. She said once they come back to us, we will adopt the entire set of policies at once. She said that the committee discussed policies that need to be reviewed annually and will set up scheduling of those reviews once the entire policy book is adopted. Lastly, she said concerns have been raised that the shared decision making plan does not necessarily reflect current structures in place.

Community Comment Time #2

Stan Chen commented on bringing back Mandarin Chinese and suggested adding a second language to the elementary school curriculum.

Rachel Wagner commented on the racist Zoom attack and said that the safety and dignity has not been restored in a meaningful way and that the Climate Survey undermines the goals of the district.

Rev. H. Bernard Alex commented that the community's concern for what has gone on at JD has not waned. He said the County's Promise Zone was not created to address the issue of diversity.

Gretchen Bliss expressed a desire to comment but technical difficulties could not be resolved.

Christiana Semabia commented that the Climate Survey contributes to the challenges facing the district. She referenced the NYSED Pilot and said the questions are clearer and more concise, and the questions we chose intentionally avoid collecting important data.

Gretchen Bliss – Mr. Decker read the following emailed statement from Gretchen Bliss:

I do not know what the issue is. If it is possible can you please speak for me? I would like there to be a follow-up email regarding the Zoom incident for the upcoming high school students. The original email placed all the blame on the entire Jamesville-DeWitt community. Now that we know that it was not from anyone in our district, it is important to let the community be aware we have this information. The entire district needs to hear these words because there are only 20 or so people on this meeting. The entire community was held accountable for the act we are not guilty of, especially our staff.

Unfinished and Continuing Business

Mrs. DeForest stated that we will have the Google form for the next meeting, which will hopefully avoid the lag between emails. She reminded that this should be filled out prior to the Community Comment time. Mrs. DeForest thanked Mr. Reyes and Mr. Decker and staff for getting the artwork and photos of our students up in the Board room.

Ms. McKenney asked about whether the Survey this year was updated with DEI questions and Mr. Reyes responded that he would have to look at the survey for specifics.

Ms. McKenney asked about the poster that is up at the school for the Interfaith Works dialogue for students. Mrs. DeForest explained that this is the second group that is taking part in this dialogue. She said the first group presented to the Board as part of the High School's presentation. Mrs.

DeForest also said there has been a group added to the Middle School as well. Mr. Franz said the first group is helping facilitate future groups and the groups will remain small.

At 9:32 p.m., Mrs. Souser moved and Mrs. James Murad seconded the adjournment of the meeting.

Motion carried. (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Decker
Clerk of the Board

BOARD APPROVED: