



**Thursday, March 19, 2020
Board of Education Agenda - Regular Meeting**

Final Minutes approved at April 23, 2020 meeting.

Meeting Location:

Video Conference for Board and Administrators, Phone conference call in for members of public.

Meeting Time:

6:00 p.m.

Present: Michael Tuttle, Daniel Grandinetti, (present in room) and Christian Olsen, Michael Charsky, Michael Hiser, Charles Peter, Shelley Palmer, Sherri Gibson (present via video conference)

Also Present in room: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey and Michele Reickert

1. MEETING OPENING

Before calling the meeting to order, I would like to welcome the members of the public joining by telephone and let them know that they will be muted to lessen distractions and background noise during the meeting and that directions will be given at the start of each public comment as to how they can participate.

A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. **Michael Charsky moved** for approval of the Present Agenda, **Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.**

D. **Christian Olsen moved** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting – February 13, 2020, **Michael Charsky seconded, all present in favor.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sarah Lant stated she is proud of the teachers, they are doing a great job and she is proud to work with them.

3. REPORTS

A. Capital Project Update

Project summaries were shared as well as a proposed schedule for the completion with bond payments beginning in 2024-2025 when debt stops from a retiring bond.

Item 1 Jason Chevrier was authorized to move forward to look at priorities on how the district could spend a 6 million dollar capital project, as debt falls off in 2024-2025. No action is being taken, only to gather information to discuss at a later date.

Item 2 the Board acknowledged that a proposition would be added to the May 2020 budget vote asking the public to approve the use of \$100,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund to fix the hot water reserve tank at the district office building.

Item 3 the board was given information and acknowledged that a transfer to capital would be included in the budget for May 2020 to make improvements in the Elementary School Library (72 % is reimbursed by SED in the following year).

Item 4 the board acknowledged that the district will move forward with the work at Jr/Sr High School costs will be funded from money remaining from the current capital project. Approximate cost \$200,000, work has already been approved by State Ed and was part of the proposed work in the capital project.

B. Coronavirus Update - Jason Chevrier and/or Health & Safety Team

Mr. Chevrier talked about the work that has taken place around the Coronavirus in the last week. He recognized the teachers, teaching assistants, Jim Yox and the IT department, Tom McNay and the Chartwells' employees, Jason McCord and the communications, Rhonda Greenway and the drivers who continue to help delivering meals to students, there has been talk with the County about utilizing our transportation department and drivers to help with meals on wheels, clerical staff in our buildings and the administration team for their time, late nights and meetings over the weekends planning for the school closure. He shared a timeline of the events of the last week leading up to the decision to close school.

Mr. Tuttle thanked Mr. Chevrier and the staff for their hard work.

C. 2020-21 Budget Draft 2 - Jason Chevrier & Brian Carey

Jason Chevrier talked about the meetings that are taking place at Questar III with Superintendents from the Questar III BOCES, discussions taking place with State Ed. asking for changes in mandates and requirements.

The budget presented in Draft 1 did not have the unknowns that the current situation has presented. There is concern with what will happen with final aid payments and what next year will look like for state aid.

Changes from Draft 1 to Draft 2 were shared, the tax levy cap is 2.625%, there is an additional FTE at CES added since the last board meeting, last year at this time there were 78 students in the current 4th grade, as it stands now we have 84, James Derby approached Mr. Chevrier to talk about class size. There is no set number to class sizes, but based on this year a conscious decision was made to add an FTE at CES into the budget for consideration. There was discussion about the addition of a School Resource Officer (SRO). A question was asked about other options such as a mental health officer or social worker. Further discussion made it clear the majority of the board was in favor of the SRO model because of the benefits of the law enforcement component. The board authorized Mr. Chevrier to include the estimated expense for an SRO in the next draft budget proposal.

Brian Carey shared the status of the current budget and the fund balances as of March 9, 2020 and the fund balance projection for the 2020-2021 school year.

Next steps were shared, 3 seats for board members elections for the upcoming budget vote.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Gretchen Cantwell thanked the district for the remote opportunity for the public and is pleased as a 4th grade parent with the new draft. Two working parents in the home, there is concern that her son will fall behind, parents cannot home school. Seniors are losing a lot this year and need some time to process what is going on.

Nicole Henderson thanked the board for springing into action with the coronavirus situation, and the availability and support of teachers and staff for families and students. She appreciates that the draft 2 reflects a shift in the strategy for next year.

Tim Ryan commended the administrators on everything that has been done. It has been different and he shared disappointments he has endured with his family events.

5. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP

A. Board Discussion

- Sherri Gibson expressed thanks to the administration for everything, her kids have been kept busy and they feel connected to their teachers. The folder location for all teachers being in one place has been helpful.
- Vacant Board Seat - the board can leave the seat open until the election in May or go out and fill with a candidate. Mr. Tuttle expressed it was his opinion that it was best to leave the seat open. Mr. Olsen recounted a previous scenario when there was a vacancy at this time of year and reminded the board that it was recommended to wait as filling the seat prior to the election could be perceived as an advantage to that candidate. No other board members commented, the seat will remain vacant until the budget vote and election in May.
- BOE Audio Recordings – a member of the public had asked for the recording to be put on the website, research is being done into that, there was discussion on how we currently handle the recording and looking at other options. There was board member comment that the audio file should not be posted if it was a burdensome process.

B. Action Item Follow-up

- Schodack Wildcat Foundation - information out to the community – there has been some conversation but there will need to be some hard conversations soon. The current set up has school employees on the board, which should not be. It should be run like the Music Parents or Athletic Booster Club separate from the district. The district is looking for members of the public to take this on. We will put information in our newsletter hoping that someone will step up. We should revisit at the end of the school year and make some decisions.
- AIS information – to be presented at a later date.
- Science materials (do we have the information) – to be presented at a later date.

6. DISTRICT / BUILDING / COMMITTEE UPDATES

A. District Updates

- Enrollment Report for March 2020 attached
- Hoops Against Hunger event – Hoops Event was a great fundraising event . There was an incident at the event, a student from a private school, who is a district resident and a friend brought an airsoft pellet gun into the event and displayed it in the bathroom to some of our students. There had been an ongoing disagreement between the two private school students and one of our students through gaming platforms, which prompted the incident. The pellet gun was not loaded, and did not have a co2 cartridge in it. Police were called and they took over the investigation.
- Ed Finney - 2020 New York State Council for the Social Studies Award Lunch – He sets the bar high and is actively involved in Tech integration and active statewide in professional organizations. He was nominated by a colleague outside of our district and was awarded the 2020 teacher of the year award from the NYS Council for the Social Studies. The district is proud of him and his accomplishments.
- Resident request to remain in district for the remainder of the school year after selling house in April. The board authorized Mr. Chevrier to approve the extension of time for the family for this school year only.

B. Building Updates

- Castleton Elementary School – will do at a later date
- Maple Hill Jr./Sr. High School – will do at a later date

C. Committee Updates: None at this time

7. FINANCE

Michael Hiser moved to approve Items A. through D. Christian Olsen seconded, all present in favor.

A. Treasurer's Report

B. Claims Auditor's Report

- C. Approval to declare Surplus
- D. Acknowledgement of Donation(s)

8. OTHER ACTION

Michael Charsky moved to approve item 8. Other Action Item A. and 9. Resignations/Appointments Item A., Charles Peter seconded, all present in favor.

- A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Preschool Special Education

9. RESIGNATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

- A. Approval of Staffing Actions

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Ryan was inquiring about senior citizens in the district and their wellbeing, is there something the district can do, possibly meals? Mr. Peter expressed that Meals on Wheels is running. Jason Chevrier can be contacted to inquire about helping.

11. ACTION ITEM: Draft 3 of the budget

12. ADJOURNMENT

A. **Michael Hiser moved** to table (motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss the evaluation of the Superintendent) to another meeting and to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm, **Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Reickert
District Clerk