

Jason M. Chevrier
Superintendent
518-732-2297



Michael Tuttle
President
Board of Education

May 19, 2020 - Board of Education Agenda - Regular Meeting

Minutes were approved at the June 25, 2020 meeting.

Meeting Location: Video Conference via Google Meet for Board Members

Time: 6:00 p.m.

For public access, call the telephone number below and enter the pin followed by # as shown below:

Telephone phone number: 415-484-3845

Pin: 994 628 674#

Google Meet video: meet.google.com/zgo-sdwc-zbq

Present: Michael Tuttle, Christian Olsen, Sherri Gibson, Michael Hiser, Shelley Palmer, Michael Charsky, Daniel Grandinetti and Charles Peter

Also present: Jason Chevrier, Brian Carey, Michael Bennett, James Derby, Jacqueline Hill, Keri Rosher, Jodi Sullivan and Michele Reickert

1. MEETING OPENING

A. President Michael Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

B. President Michael Tuttle asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

D. **Christian Olsen moved for approval** of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 7, 2020, **Michael Hiser seconded, all present in favor.**

2. REPORTS

A. Code of Conduct and Athletic Code of Conduct

School Boards are required to approve the code of conduct, it will be presented on tonight and the board will be asked to approve it at the June meeting.

Jodi Sullivan stated that there was only one recommendation to the board in Athletics for the ineligibility section. Mr. Silver spoke to a recent situation with a student that brought the change to everyone's attention; a timeline has been added to the Athletic Code of Conduct Ineligibility section giving more guidance of the expectations. Michael Tuttle spoke to say he was at the meeting and was happy that coaches put education before sports while creating the timeline and expectations.

Mrs. Rosher expressed that K-6 code of conduct has served the purpose well and there are no recommendations for change.

B. 2020-2021 Superintendent's Recommended Budget

Jason Chevrier presented. He stated the following: there is a budget crisis in the State of New York, waves of potential reductions were given to schools and it was recommended that schools do not adopt their budgets until after the first wave. The first wave was last Friday and the Governor stated that he was confident that the Federal Government would provide a stimulus package to help local schools and governments. There is no change in the revenue for this presentation. The budget is the same that was presented a few meetings ago. There is potential for cuts to come later this month. Revenues were shared as the district currently knows, expenses changed by 3.75%, the biggest being the Capital Project debt. The three-part budget was presented which is comprised of Capital, Administrative and Program. Admin includes finance, the historical tax levy rates for the 2020-2021 budget and six years prior was discussed. The School District will be asking the public to approve a \$100,000 transfer to capital to complete small projects without having to do a large capital project. Work is being proposed at the Castleton Elementary School, in the library and tile replacement in the Kindergarten and 1st Grade classrooms. Work will not be done until after the third wave of potential reductions in State Aid.

Three propositions on the ballot for public vote the spending plan being presented tonight, school bus purchases and capital reserve use. Capital reserve funds are set up to be used for repairs or unexpected emergencies much like the hot water tank blowing in the District Office Building, former Maple Hill Middle School.

If budget is defeated, there will not be a second vote, the district must go to a contingency budget with \$359,275 from the presented budget from tonight. Specific costs cannot be expended under a contingency budget.

Brian Carey presented the fund balance projections. Specific reserves are restricted, Workers Comp, Unemployment, ERS/TRS Retirement, Employee Benefits Reserve, Insurance Reserve and Capital Reserve. Restricted reserves are restricted on how you can spend the money in those reserves. Some reserves can be used to accommodate loss of revenue, some cannot. Fund balance and reserves are tools to manage debt that the district may be coming into.

Three seats are open for election, Mr. Peter will be running for another term, Mr. Olsen will not be running for another term. Mr. Chevrier thanked Mr. Olsen for the years he has served on the board. June 2nd will be the public hearing of the budget and meet the candidates night. Each candidate will be asked to introduce themselves and share a statement about why they are running for a seat on the board of education. June 9th will be the budget vote and election, by absentee ballot only. Ballots will be stuffed and mailed hopefully by the end of the week or at the latest Monday of next week.

Community members are encouraged to vote right away to assure timely delivery by June 9, 2020, at 5:00 pm. Ballots will be hand counted with a board meeting on June 9th at 9:00 pm hoping that we will have all ballots counted by 9:00 pm for the board meeting. The opening and counting of ballots will be livestreamed so members of the public can watch if they'd like.

The plan for handling the reductions for each wave was presented. Government stimulus would help next year, but it may not be there for any additional years, the district could look to use some fund balance. The district would look to retirements and freeze any hiring, reduce spending, use fund balance and reserves, reduce services and reduce programs and staff.

The budget presented tonight has many unknowns.

School districts across NYS do not know what school will look like in the Fall. Health and Safety and PPE considerations, cleaning procedures, transportation procedures will need to be looked at. A reopening taskforce has been created at the State level to look at options, the local BOCES is working with superintendents and schools for a local taskforce, and the school district itself will be creating a taskforce of their own.

There was discussion about the aid from the State for the transfer to capital; aid would be received in the following year of the year the expense is incurred, aid for /school Buses reducing the overall cost to the taxpayers, the task force and reopening.

A plan to manage the potential wave reductions was shared and discussed. Departments looked at expenses and came up with areas that could reduce the expenses to help cover the deficit.

A cumulative list of non-mandated programs and services was shared, there could be more than what appears on the list.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Yurista asked if the district considered asking for contract concessions as a method of savings. The district has discussed it but it is not to the point of discussion or negotiations.

4. BOARD DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEM FOLLOW UP

A. Board Discussion

- Candidate expenditure statements were discussed and it if the current candidates have submitted.

B. Action Item Follow-up

- Community Advisory Committee – will refocus after the pandemic.

5. DISTRICT UPDATE

A. District Updates

- Enrollment Report Attached
- Potential revisions to 2019-2020 School Calendar
 - Removed from the agenda after discussion with our school attorney. There is belief that the Governor will give direction on the 180-day requirement and could potentially identify the last day of school. The district will take her recommendation and wait on the Governor's direction.
- Orientations for grades 6 & 8 have taken place, Jacqui Hill and Jodi Sullivan and the teachers and staff did an outstanding job on the orientations.
- Lawn signs were delivered to each senior's residence, approximately 30 cars with faculty and staff, one on a bicycle. Great way to celebrate our seniors, uplifting and fun day.
- Planning for a celebration for graduation is underway, it will be safe and in the best interest of public safety.
- Teachers have begun cleaning out classrooms following strict guidelines, limiting people from bring help with them, fewer people in the building is better.
- No news yet on summer camps, Castleton Kids, Town of Schodack Camp and Maple Hill Sports Camps are all unknown.
- Is there a number yet on incoming kindergarten? Mr. Derby reported that currently there are 46 students registered for Kindergarten.

6. FINANCE

Michael Charsky move to separate item A. and vote on it separately, Sherri Gibson seconded, Present were in favor of adopting the budget.

A. Approval of a Resolution - Adopting Budget

Christian Olsen moved to approve items B. through F., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present were in favor.

B. Approval of a Resolution - Bus Proposition

C. Approval of Real Property Tax Report Card

D. Acknowledgement of Donation on attached spreadsheet.

E. Approval of Contract for Superintendent.

F. Approval of Contract for Business Official

Christian Olsen moved to approve Items 7. A. through B. and 8. A., Daniel Grandinetti seconded, all present in favor.

7. OTHER ACTION

A. Approval of the recommendation of the District Committee on Preschool Special Education as indicated on attached reports.

B. Approval of a Resolution - Election Inspectors

8. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS

A. Acceptance of Resignation of Deborah Walling for the purpose of retirement effective June 19, 2020.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

10. ACTION ITEMS – Start working on a K-12 Task force. Jason Chevrier thanked Deborah Walling for years of service and wished her the best of luck and expressed that she is great with the kids and is a lot of fun to be around, she will be missed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business before the board, President Michael Tuttle adjourned the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Reickert
District Clerk

