

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
ZOOM  
January 6, 2021

Present: Mrs. Cathi Root, President  
Mr. Aaron Lounsbury, Member  
Mr. Gregory Schweiger, Member  
Mr. Joshua Whitmore, Member  
Mrs. Pamela Zwierlein, Vice-President

Adm./Others: Mr. Scot Taylor, Interim Superintendent  
Mrs. Michelle Bombard, Principal  
Mr. Willard Cook, Principal  
Mrs. Kathleen Keene, Dir. of Instruction  
Mrs. Meredith Meister, Dir. of Pupil Services  
Mr. Joshua Roe, Principal  
Mrs. Jill Reese, Clerk  
Mrs. Kendra Seaver, Treasurer

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Root called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**3. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Board Minutes dated December 16, 2020 for the Regular Meeting as presented.

**4. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

There was nothing to report for Legislative, Health Trust, or Workers' Compensation.

Mr. Roe reported that 15-week progress reports went out and unfortunately, there are 102 students failing one or more subjects; 22 students (6 were remote students) came in today to work in person on a full remote day along with almost all of the HS teachers; the number of student failing is very discouraging.

Mr. Cook stated the same things are happening in the middle school; he sent home 9 letters to the parents of the students who are failing severely; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are doing fairly well; 7<sup>th</sup> grade has 23 students failing 2 or more subjects and 8<sup>th</sup> grade has 24 failing 2 or more; the parents and students are well aware of the situation; Great job by the music department and students on their holiday concert videos.

Mrs. Bombard said out of the 33 remote students she has, 13 of them are struggling and most are at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level. Out of her total 318 students in the elementary, 115 are reading below grade level; she is confident we'll see gains eventually; she is working with teachers to brainstorm on how to teach the students to have pride in their work ethics and so on, it doesn't help that we have no clubs or sports for the kids to be involved in; hoping that Daisy, the therapy dog, will help with classroom goals and incentivize students to do well; there has been incredible support from parents with regard to Daisy!

Mrs. Keene is working on the safety plan, she has to update the plan on how we will handle pandemics in the future.

Mrs. Meister stated that the special ed department has to report on "Indicator 14" which is a survey on students and how they transition from school to employment, she will be very anxious to see the report when it comes out next year; BEDS snapshot data is due on 2/1/21; senior exit meetings begin on 1/27/21; out of the 13 special ed students slated to graduate, 2 are in danger of failing.

Mr. Taylor said kudos to our music department and our students on their holiday presentations; and thank you to Brink and Stronghaven Farms for all of their help with snow removal during our most recent snow storm.

Bowling is the only sport that has been able to begin, however, within our high school, some intermural sports are meeting with limited activities; we are still waiting to hear on our high-risk sports with regards to a start date.

With regard to remote instruction, we will now be sending home chromebooks daily with the middle school students and elementary students will receive packets, this will enable us, as a district, to have students work remotely, in the event of another snow emergency. Plans have been communicated to parents in the district.

The administration team will be working on a plan to present to the Board at the next meeting with regard to managing our remote student population, the plan will address the gaps in education causing many of those students to fall behind, there's not much time left as we are already almost 20 weeks into the school year.

We will have more information to follow on the subject of immunizing faculty and staff with the Covid vaccine. There has been talk of using various school facilities as distribution sites for the vaccine.

## **5. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to read and adopt new policy 3221, Use of Therapy Dogs.

## **6. FINANCIAL**

A MOTION was made by Greg Schweiger, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the *Financial Consent Agenda* items as follows:

*Approval of the Geo Preference Bid Award for 2021-2022*  
*Approval of the December 2020 Overtime Report*

## **7. PERSONNEL**

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the following additions to the Substitute and Volunteer Lists:

*Ronnette Councilman – Instructional & Support Staff Sub Lists*  
*Erika Kalgren – Instructional Staff Sub List & Volunteer List*

## **8. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC**

There was one question from the public with regard to requiring in person student attendance now that positive cases are higher than ever in this area.

Mr. Taylor stated that the transmission rate has been low to none within the schools; having the students in person is much better for the kids, we will give parents the opportunity to come in and see all of the safety measures we have in place. The bulk of the cases in Tioga County are in Waverly and Owego areas, not Nichols and Tioga areas.

## **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to enter into executive session at 7:04 pm.

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Pamela Zwierlein, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to return to public session at 7:34 pm.

## **10. ADJOURN**

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm.

Jill Reese  
Clerk