

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Regular Meeting
Board Room
January 22, 2020

Present: Mr. Aaron Lounsbury, Member (arrived at 6:42 pm)
Dr. Abram Nichols, Member (arrived at 6:04 pm)
Mrs. Cathi Root, President
Mr. Scot Taylor, Member
Mr. Joshua Whitmore, Member
Mrs. Pamela Zwierlein, Vice-President

Adm./Others: Dr. David Hamilton, 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

Absent: Mr. Gregory Schweiger, Member

Others: Ms. Kerry Tarolli & Mr. Mike James of King & King Architects
Ms. Brittney White & Mr. Gene Hulbert of Hulbert A&E
Mrs. Kendra Seaver
Mrs. Des Ford, Mr. Nick Aiello, Mr. James Houseknecht
Mr. Johnny Williams, Morning Times

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

3. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC

Various coaches and the Athletic Events Supervisor attended the meeting to discuss the recent parental and board concerns regarding sports teams practicing on Sundays.

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to approve Board Minutes dated January 8, 2020 for the Regular Meeting as presented.

5. REPORTS

Mr. Cook reported that they are back to a normal schedule after holiday break; 20 weeks are wrapping up; Drama Club begins next week; many different clubs/activities are meeting now and the Winter 2 sports have started up, wrestling and girls' basketball.

Mr. Roe reported that Drama Club will present Shrek this Friday and Saturday, Mr. MacDonald is excited for the performances; regents testing is going on this week; we have 2 seniors that need to pass in order to graduate; bowling, wrestling, boys and girls basketball seasons are half way through; there has been a change in credit prices through TC3, they have basically tripled, we are looking into some other options to help with the cost increase.

Mrs. Keene is meeting with new teachers, mentors, and principals, she checking to see if there is a need for any changes to the current mentor program.

Mrs. Bombard reported that UPK-4 got to see a sneak peak preview showing of Shrek and they loved it! An amazing job done by Mr. MacDonald and the kids; 20-week report cards will be going out; they are being very aggressive with the attendance in the elementary; shout out to Mr. Keene and his staff, they are taking extra time to wipe down and clean everything to try to lessen the spread of sickness. They are averaging about 50 absences a day in the elementary. With regard to full day UPK, it is too late to apply for a grant for next year's program, looking at the budget numbers and will discuss more in the future.

Mrs. Meister will be meeting with a trainer from the state on January 31 regarding Individual Education Plans. We need to be 100% compliant when writing IEPs so there will be monthly meetings and trainings involving special ed staff as well as BOCES staff. We have had 19 classified students move in to the district so far this school year.

Dr. Hamilton's Superintendent Report

Yesterday the Governor released his executive budget proposal for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. It includes an \$826 million, 3.0% overall increase in School Aid. They have not yet released the budget runs for individual school districts. The release of the executive budget is only the first step in the development of the state budget. The negotiation between legislature and the Governor will lead to an adopted budget which has, in recent years, been on or before April 1st.

The Governor once again is proposing a shift of funding away from categorical aid (e.g. transportation, textbooks). to put more funds into foundation aid. He is also proposing that the remaining categorical aid not integrated into foundation aid be grouped into a single "services aid" formula and capped at the higher of 2% or the rate of inflation just like the tax cap formula. The executive budget book states the rationale as an attempt to *"generate greater equity and advance the closure of this education funding gap and to more progressively distribute State funding to New York's neediest districts"*. *The rationale is that "currently, only 50 percent of these 10 expense-based aids are distributed to high needs districts, compared to more than 70 percent of Foundation Aid. To direct more expense-based aid to high-need districts, the Budget proposes legislation to consolidate these expense-based aids into Foundation Aid so that future funding increases can be more progressively targeted to the State's neediest districts."* (2020) FY2021 Budget Book, Office of the Governor

While an increase in aid is welcomed, this proposal falls below the recommendation of the New York State School Boards Association (NYSBBA) and other education advocacy groups who were collectively requesting a \$1.6 billion increase. In recent history the Governor’s budget has typically been the lower of the initial proposals and the adopted budget has generally been a bit higher. It is worth noting that this will be the first budget negotiations since the Democrats took over both houses of the state legislature.

The proposal makes several direct references to increasing funds for “high needs schools” but doesn’t state what criteria constitutes a high need school. This may or may not be beneficial to Tioga because the foundation aid formula has many intricate mechanisms that drive money towards specific districts and regions. Some parts of the formula target high poverty high cost city school districts. Other parts favor high wealth areas whom the state calculates are “underfunded” due to high local taxes. I am also concerned about the impact of collapsing and putting an artificial cap on categorical aid. These have historically been paid to compensate for actual services provided to students which allows us to be flexible from year to year based on needs. Transportation in particular is critical to rural districts with large geographic areas to service. Freezing these aid categories would limit our ability to respond to changing needs and force us to keep relatively high levels of service when we do not need them just to ensure we don’t lose future aid. We will have to wait to see the school aid runs to get a clearer picture of what this will mean for Tioga.

FISCAL STRESS

I am pleased to report that our score for fiscal stress (how we budget and manage the money) is a perfect 0!! (i.e. NO fiscal stress... zero, zip, nada). This is despite increasing environmental stress factors such as a high percentage of students in poverty and difficulty finding teachers in some certification areas. We have reduced our fiscal stress numbers 2 years in a row by being highly effective and fiscally conservative. Congratulations to the board, staff, and leadership team!

	Fiscal Stress		Environmental Stress	
FYE	Score	Designation	Score	Designation
2017	6.7	No Designation	13.3	No Designation
2018	3.3	No Designation	13.3	No Designation
2019	0	No Designation	21.7	No Designation

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

King & King Architects were in attendance and presented their updated, recommended scope items for the remaining 1.2 million dollar project. Hunt Engineers also answered questions pertaining to the scope. It was noted that there will still be time to prioritize items on the list.

A MOTION was made by Scot Taylor, seconded by Pamela Zwierlein, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to approve the project scope as presented and to submit it to NYSED for approval.

Mr. Houseknecht spoke to the Board regarding Sunday practices and let them know that none of the Sunday practices are mandatory, students are not required to be there and are not punished if they are unable to attend. Other coaches in attendance stated that they normally do not have Sunday practices during their regular sports’ season but occasionally will if a special circumstance arises. According to coaches at the meeting it has always been an “agreement”

between the coaches and the athletic director that Sunday practices/events do not get in the way of other activities the students may be involved in and Sunday is never mandatory, Sundays are for family time and extra events unrelated to school teams.

The Board proposed that organized scholastic activities (sports and other co-curricular clubs) are prohibited from practices/meetings prior to 1:05 pm on Sundays. They should practice/meet Monday through Saturday unless extenuating circumstances arise and they must get prior permission from the AD or Building Principal. The board will consider for adoption a policy to this effect at an upcoming meeting.

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Pamela Zwierlein, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to approve the *Old/New Business Consent Agenda* items as follows:

Approval of Bus Lease Request from Animal Aholics to attend the NY Farm Show in Syracuse on February 29, 2020

Approval of Bus Lease Request from Animal Aholics to attend the Vet Open House at Cornell University on April 18, 2020

Approval of the new stipended activity/club, High School Spanish Club

Approval of the 2020-2021 budget calendar

7. FINANCIAL

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to approve the *Financial Consent Agenda* items as follows:

Approval of December 2019 Extraclassroom Report

Accept and approve donation of \$500 to be directed to the Pascuzzo Fund

Accept and approve the award of \$13,000 received from Tioga Downs Regional Community Foundation/Jeff Gural to fund Tioga Central's 2020 Summer Recreation program

Approval of Application for Refund of Real Property Taxes, requested by James and Tammy Clearwater for a total refund of \$630.01 as follows:

Tax year 2017 - \$205.94; Tax year 2018 - \$207.72; Tax year 2019 - \$216.35

8. PERSONNEL

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Pamela Zwierlein, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to approve *Personnel Consent Agenda* items as follows:

Approval to appointment of Beth Klingbeil as an additional CSE/CPSE Chairperson for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year.

9. CSE/CPSE/504 RECOMMENDATIONS

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to approve recommendations as presented.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to enter into executive session at 7:47 pm, to discuss the employment history of a particular person or persons; collective negotiations; and the proposed acquisition of real property.

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 6-0, to return to public session at 9:45 pm.

11. PUBLIC SESSION

Abe Nichols requested that a presentation by KSD Consultants be added to the February 5th board meeting agenda. The board approved this agenda item.

12. ADJOURN

A MOTION was made by Abe Nichols, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 pm.

Jill Reese
Clerk