

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
Regular Meeting  
Board Room  
February 5, 2020

Present: Mrs. Cathi Root, President  
Mr. Gregory Schweiger, Member  
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  
Mrs. Kendra Seaver, Treasurer

Absent: Mr. Aaron Lounsbury, Member  
Dr. Abram Nichols, Member

Others: Mr. Barry Entwistle, NYS School Board Assoc.  
Mr. Nelson Torres & Mr. Daniel Demer, KST Security Consultants  
Mr. James Houseknecht, Athletic Events Supervisor  
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**

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Barry Entwistle, Director of Member Relations at New York State School Board Association was at the meeting to talk to the Board about what NYSSBA could do for the district and the advantages of becoming a member district.

Mr. Nelson Torres and Mr. Daniel Demer of KST Security Consultants, LLC, were at the meeting to speak to the Board about school resource officers and their duties within school districts.

Mr. James Houseknecht was at the meeting to discuss athletics at Tioga Central; the number of students who participate in athletic programs and the importance of student involvement. They also discussed some of the time management issues that arise and the need for pre-season meetings with parents and advantages of sports trainers.

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Scot Taylor, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Board Minutes dated January 22, 2020 for the Regular Meeting as presented.

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve Board Minutes dated January 29, 2020 for the Regular Meeting as presented.

## **6. REPORTS**

Mrs. Zwierlein reported that the Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, February 7, at 7:45 am. Mrs. Root, Mrs. Zwierlein, and Dr. Hamilton are all planning on attending.

Mr. Taylor reported that rates are out regarding Health Trust, he will have more to report after he receives his packet of information.

Mr. Cook reported that National Engineers Day is Thursday and that they had to cancel the Fun Night scheduled for Friday due to the lack of a DJ.

Mr. Roe reported that the Drama Club presentation of Shrek was outstanding and very well done; HS recently participated in WATS/WAVR competition but lost to Athens; wrestling, bowling, and basketball all still going on.

Mrs. Bombard reported that they have been acknowledging youth events in the Elementary on the announcements; Read Across America is upcoming; 2/19 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school; 2/26 is the Elementary Annual Reading Night; recently finished F&P mid-year benchmarks and the study shows 87% growth.

Mrs. Meister reported that Senior meetings finished up and was a nice experience; Junior Annual Reviews look good; Training with the special ed. staff on conference day went well, it was a great training and the state trainer will be coming back on 2/25.

### Dr. Hamilton's Superintendent Report

#### **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS**

Special Education teachers in grades 7-12 had been allowed to teach students with disabilities in any subject area without needing to hold a subject area certification in ELA, Math, Science and/or Social Studies. The new federal ESSA law that replaced NCLB has removed that exemption. New York State Education Department has issued the following guidance:

Effective July 1, 2020, all certified special education teachers who teach one or more subject areas in a special class in grades 7-12, with some or no students under alternate assessment, must either:

- be certified in each subject area that they teach, or
- meet the teaching experience requirement for the statement of continued eligibility

This regulatory change has two major impacts on our programs here at Tioga.

1. All of our current 7-12 staff will need to apply and be state approved as highly qualified in one or more subject areas for them to be able to teach those classes.
2. We will have to arrange the schedule so students in our 15:1 program can receive direct instruction in core subject areas from their Special Education teachers with assistance from the subject area teachers. Up until now the teacher of record for ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies was the subject area teacher.
3. We will need to increase the total number of 7-12 special education teachers to meet the new scheduling requirements and seek to hire candidates who have the subject area expertise we don't have among our current 7-12 special ed teachers.

This is a SIGNIFICANT change that will impact our budget and programs for 2020-21 but we are confident we have the resources and skills to navigate a pathway for our students that will be effective.

#### **BUDGET DEVELOPMENT**

Yesterday the admin team worked with Kendra and me to finalized our staffing numbers for next year in preparation for the February 19 Board Presentation on expenses for 2020-21. We anticipate several positions will need to be added to meet the new state requirements in special education as mentioned above. With the need to fill many positions due to retirements, it is going to be a busy recruitment season this spring! We are already starting interviews to try and get a head start on other districts in competition for the best talent.

#### **EVENTS**

In the past few weeks I've attended several events. Shrek, the Musical, was an amazing production by our HS students under the direction of Mr. MacDonald. It is impressive to see how much the choral program in general and the play production have grown in the just a few short years. Amazing job by everyone (especially with all of the belching noises!)

#### **SPORTS**

The girls JV and Varsity teams squared off against Newfield last Friday night. While the JV came very close in their earlier game, it was the Varsity team that pulled off a win after a tight back and forth all night. I also had a chance to see the Boys Basketball team take on -Odessa-Montour as well as the Bowling Team vs. Dryden as they prepare for the IAC championships.

#### **COMMUNITY**

This weekend was, of course, the Tioga Fire Department's annual Pancake Dinner here at the HS cafeteria. I brought the whole family (my younger son is a sucker for pancakes) and we had a great meal. Congratulations to the cooks, and to the many student athletes who were our waiters for the event. Now I just need to win something from the raffle!

Mr. Taylor left the meeting at 8:00 pm

## 6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

CBO discussion to review the advantages and disadvantages of purchasing various services from BOCES Central Business Office with regard to Accounting/Treasurer and Payroll.

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to amend policy 7410 and policy 7420 as discussed and place them on the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda for adoption.

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent and advice of School Counsel That the District has the authority to amend the list of Type I and Type II actions under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA),

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve the following:

*RESOLVED, that the Board finds that the acquisition of 10 acres of land or less is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on the environment, and that acquisition of land does not excuse later projects on the land which might have significant impacts from SEQRA review, and that based upon the above, the District hereby adds such to its list of Type II actions under SEQRA.*

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent,

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve the following:

*RESOLVED, that the Tioga Central School District Board of Education hereby appoints itself lead agency for the purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) regarding the proposed purchase of a parcel of approximately 4.5 acres of land known as Town of Tioga tax map No. 148.00-1-17.20*

*And it is further,*

*RESOLVED, that the Board of Education finds that the purchase of the 4.5 acre parcel qualifies as a Type II action pursuant to the District's list of SEQRA action Types, and that the acquisition will have no significant impact on the environment and that no further review under SEQRA is required.*

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to accept and approve the following:

*Accept and approve the Contract for Sale and Purchase of the property located in the Town of Tioga, County of Tioga and State of New York, known as 2947 State Route 17C, consisting of approximately 4.5 acres of land, and known as Town of Tioga Tax Map No. 148.00-1-17.20, and authorize the President of the Board of Education to endorse said contract.*

## **7. FINANCIAL**

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve the *Financial Consent Agenda* items as follows:

*Approval of Meat and Cheese Bids for period of March 1, 2020 to April 30, 2020*

*Award the fuel bid to Mirabito Holdings, Inc. D/B/A Mirabito Energy Products for the 2020-2021 school year*

*Approval of January 2020 Overtime Report*

*Accept and approve donation of \$775 to be directed to the Swigonski Scholarship Fund*

## **8. PERSONNEL**

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve *Personnel Consent Agenda* items as follows:

*Approval of permanent appointment of Justin Williams, Justin will complete his probationary period on February 18, 2020*

*Approval of the following co-curricular appointment: Meghan Goforth - Spanish Club*

*Approval of the following addition to the support staff sub list – Joshua Canzler*

## **9. CSE/CPSE/504 RECOMMENDATIONS**

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve recommendations as presented.

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to enter into executive session at 9:06 pm, to discuss potential for litigation.

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Pamela Zwierlein, and carried by a vote of 4-0, to return to public session at 9:20 pm.

## **11. ADJOURN**

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 pm.

Jill Reese  
Clerk