

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

Present: Mrs. Cathi Root, President
Dr. Abram Nichols, Member (arrived at 6:02)
Mr. Gregory Schweiger, Member
Mr. Scot Taylor, Member
Mr. Joshua Whitmore, Member (arrived at 6:01)
Mrs. Pamela Zwierlein, Vice-President

Adm./Others: Mrs. Michelle Bombard, Principal
Mr. Willard Cook, Principal
Dr. David Hamilton, Superintendent
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

Others: 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. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Greg Schweiger, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 4-0 to approve Board Minutes dated February 18, 2020 for the Regular Meeting as presented.

5. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Whitmore arrived at 6:01; Dr. Nichols arrived at 6:02

Gene Hulbert of Hulbert Engineering and Mike James of King & King gave an overview of the Energy Performance Contract process and the pros/cons of doing our classroom lighting project and other energy saving work as part of an EPC rather than a standard capital project.

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to request proposals from Energy Service Companies to develop and manage an Energy Performance Contract not to exceed \$2.5 million dollars.

Mrs. Zwierlein reported that the Legislative meeting is tomorrow, March 6 at 9:00 am, she is unable to attend but Dr. Hamilton is planning on attending.

Mr. Taylor reported that there is a Health Consortium meeting scheduled for tomorrow, March 6, 2020.

There is a Workers' Comp meeting scheduled for March 20, 2020.

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to nominate Michon Stuart to fill the 3-year BOCES Board of Trustees seat to expire on June 30, 2023.

Mr. Cook reported that his teachers are busy test prepping for the NYS ELA tests; Engineer's Day is scheduled for April 24; Middle School Drama Club will present Sherlock Holmes to the public the end of March; there will be a 5/6 grade only "Fun Night" tomorrow from 3:00-5:00 pm; last week the MS challenge team competed and the competition will be broadcast this Sat. at 10:00 am on WATS/WAVR; also on Saturday, two former students, Julie Chambers and Jessica Robinson will be inducted into the Section IV Hall of Fame.

Mr. Roe reported that All County performances have been happening; 6 wrestlers went to the NYS tournament, 5 of which will be back next year; 5-week reports went home, 75 students failing at least one subject, 32 failing two or more subjects, Mr. Roe met with staff Wednesday to brainstorm.

Mrs. Keene reported that she has been working with new teachers and mentors and planning for next year's mentor program.

Mrs. Bombard reported that the 4th grade youth basketball team competed at Towanda recently; the after school Math and ELA program started last week, there will be 6 ELA sessions and 7 Math sessions, there are 50 students participating in this program; the 100th day of school was recently celebrated; Reading Night was last Wednesday, over 400 people attended; and there was also an Elementary Art Show the same evening; last Friday for conference day, Cindy Middendorf presented to district educators on 'Learners in Crisis' students dealing with emotional trauma, teachers thought it was very informative and asked about possibly presenting to interested parents.

Mrs. Meister reported that district wide proctor training was last Friday which targeted Regents and NYS testing; working on intake meetings; and will attend a meeting tomorrow at BOCES on ways to work with hard to reach kids.

Dr. Hamilton's Superintendent Report

CAPITAL PROJECT

The capital project continues to move forward. The plan is currently moving towards a 3rd party review to speed things along. We have a presentation tonight to discuss pros and cons of an Energy Performance Contract to handle things such as the upgrade to LED lighting in the

classrooms district-wide. We will have local roofing contractors who are part of the cooperative purchase process come to do a pre-quote walkthrough in the next two weeks.

CONFERENCE DAYS

Our February 28th Conference Day included "Learners in Crisis" presented by Cindy Middendorf in the morning session. It was very well attended and very well received by our faculty. We also had a discussion by the 5th and 6th grade teachers with our Fontas & Pinnell experts from the elementary school to see if the F&P program would be a good fit. In the afternoon our BOCES math experts, Cody and Paul, worked with teachers from all three schools to determine the priority standards for their grade level using data from NYS assessments. Meredith Meister held a training for everyone (and I mean EVERYONE!) involved in providing testing modifications. It was a very productive day!

We have another conference day coming up on March 12. In the morning we will have school meetings followed by a safety presentation by the state troopers. The afternoon will be devoted to parent meetings.

HIRING

We are continuing a heavy schedule of interviews to fill the many vacancies due to retirements. This is an especially difficult hiring season because we are looking for so many specialty areas and hard to find certifications like chemistry and special education. So far, the quality of the candidates we have brought in is encouraging and we already have our first hiring recommendation (special education) on the agenda tonight.

EVENTS

The ELEMENTARY READING NIGHT was February 26th. It was really well attended, especially the face painting station! I enjoyed seeing so many students and parents participate in this fun event. Thank you to the Elementary staff for all of the hard work to put this very special community event together!

READING DR. SEUSS - A highlight of my week was the chance to read to 1st grade students on Monday. There were many moms, dads, and grandparents who took part in the activities. It was great getting to know a few of the students a little better and sharing my love of Dr. Seuss with them!

VISITATIONS are ongoing at all three schools. My usual practice now is to take my favorite coffee cup and tour the halls and classrooms of a different school each morning to chat with folks before classes. It's a great way to start the day!

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST on Friday is a rescheduled event. We are not only hoping to hear from our local politicians, but also have an opportunity to press them for budget reforms. Our fight against the Governor's move to eliminate most expense-based aids is probably the number one issue for education advocacy groups.

QUESTAR PRESENTATION on the 2020-2021 state executive budget took place in Owego last Thursday. They presented several more alarming parts of the Governor's budget including a proposal to eliminate the state share (18.424%) of CSE placements in residential schools (does

not affect us at this time), changes to building aid ratios (less state aid), and reduction in the scope of work eligible for building aid (such as athletic fields).

Dr. Hamilton went over a line by line review of the draft budget with the Board.

Dr. Nichols left the meeting at 7:25 pm

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve June 27, 2020 as the date for Tioga Central High School Graduation to begin at 10:00 am.

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Joshua Whitmore. The vote was 0-5 against the proposal of adding a proposition regarding a School Resource Officer to the ballot at the Budget Vote in May. The motion failed. The Board requested that the superintendent conduct a survey of the district employees and district residents at a later date to determine interest in an SRO.

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Scot Taylor. The vote was 0-5 against the motion to approve the quote to join NYS School Board Association. The motion failed.

7. FINANCIAL

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the *Financial Consent Agenda* items as follows:

Approval of February 2020 Overtime Report

Approval of Food Service Bid Sheets for

- *Chicken Products for 2020-2021*
- *Commodity USDA Gov. Process Food for 2020-2021*

Approval of the donation to the Joseph Swigonski Scholarship Fund from T. Mullen for \$50

8. PERSONNEL

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve resignation of Mark Whipple, monitor, effective February 29, 2020, with Mark's last day of work being February 28, 2020.

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the following probationary appointment:

Name of Appointee: Jessie Kolakowski

Tenure Area: Special Education

Certification(s): 7-12 Special Education (pending); 7-12 Social Studies (Initial)

Commencement of Probationary Service: September 1, 2020

Expiration Date of Appointment*: August 31, 2024

*To the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law §§2509, 2573, 3212, and 3014, in order to be granted tenure, the classroom teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and/or 3012-d of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years. If the classroom teacher or building principal receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probation period, he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time. For purposes of this subdivision, classroom teacher and building principal mean a classroom teacher or building principal as such terms are defined in Sections 30-2.2 and 30-3.2 of this Part.

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the following additions to the substitute lists:

- Emme Hall – Support Staff (student lifeguard) retro 2/22/2020
- Tessa Holstein – Support Staff (student lifeguard) retro 2/22/2020
- Melissa Winans – Support Staff and Instructional Staff

9. CSE/CPSE/504 RECOMMENDATIONS

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 5-0 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 5-0 to enter into executive session at 7:55 pm, to discuss matters leading to the appointment of particular persons.

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 5-0, to return to public session at 8:34 pm.

11. ADJOURN

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

Jill Reese
Clerk