

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**August 23, 2023**

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

Adm./Others: Mr. Joshua Roe, Superintendent  
Mr. Willard Cook, MS Principal  
Mrs. Michelle Bombard, ES Principal  
Mr. James Wood, Interim HS Principal  
Mrs. Kendra Seaver, Deputy Clerk

Others: Mrs. Beth Babcock

Absent: Mrs. Kristy Robertson, Clerk

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

**3. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC**

Mrs. Beth Babcock addressed the board regarding her son Nick graduating through homeschool and being able to walk for graduation. Mr. Joshua Roe responded that Mrs. Babcock sent a letter and he would be able to respond after discussion with the board. Mrs. Cathi Root indicated that the district would get back to her on the matter.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve the August 9, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

**5. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS**

There was nothing to report for Health Trust Consortium, Workers' Compensation Alliance, other board reports, events, or updates.

Mrs. Lee Wood reported that there is a Legislative meeting on September 13, 2023.

Mr. Cook reported that with the HVAC project to close to completion, more teachers are starting to come in this week; so far 5 or 6 new student registrations have been received with several more expected to come in; several staff members were in today for a computer-based testing simulation.

Mrs. Cathi Root asked about a cutoff date for nonresident student acceptance. Mr. Joshua Roe responded that based on the late August date, there is limited time to get discipline records, etc. so the district is limited in the review and response time.

Mr. Wood reported that 13 students took Regents tests last week, thank you to Jessie Kolakowski and Amy Baron for helping with the tests; Chromebooks are ready to go for the new year thanks to the hard work of Ed Zareski; as of Monday, Dave Keene's crew had all of the high school rooms ready to go for the new school year and teachers are starting to come in to set up their classrooms; fall sports started Monday, 8/21 with strong numbers for each sport; our athletic trainer, Matt Grosso has started the concussion impact testing; schedules were mailed out yesterday, Mr. Roe, Ms. Seymour, and Mrs. Foley did a great job getting schedules set for students; freshman orientation will be held next Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Mrs. Cathi Root inquired about the lifecycle of Chromebooks and where we currently stand. Mr. Roe responded that we are on a cycle to replace aging Chromebooks annually and explained the plan that is in place.

Mrs. Camin reported that she received expanded information on eDoctrina training today, the trainer specifically noted that the attitude of the staff that attended the training was solution-focused and positive, with no resistance to the upcoming changes in testing, the trainer highly commended them for their willingness to take this on with a positive attitude; a handful of new teachers have been reaching out with start-up questions for the new school year; there is an expansive checklist of items to complete with CSE before the start of the new year.

Mrs. Bombard reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teams have been working on the typing.com curriculum to help support computer based testing in later grades; thank you to Anna Hurd for all of the hard work she has put into new student allergies; thank you Amy Moesch from Cornell University and the Owego Baptist Church for the donation of backpacks and school supplies, some of our students are already benefitting from these donations; after meeting with the transportation department, parents will be notified that pick-up times should be about the same as last year, new families can reach out for details on their student; so far this summer there have been 13 new students that moved into the district and 2 that have moved out.

Mr. Roe reported that the district was invited to participate in another class action lawsuit that is suing large social media for the impact they have on students' mental health and learning; we are also included in a PFAS lawsuit; HVAC classroom and rooftop units are in, there is some testing that is being done and the results should be in tomorrow; the high school gym is complete; the turf is near completion, hash marks for all three sports are done, numbers are being finished, leaving lettering in the end zones, the center mascot, and infilling left to do; the track surfacing is scheduled to begin on the 28<sup>th</sup>; we did not receive state approval to upgrade

the lighting in the stadium as part of the turf project; the bus garage parking lot is complete; the egress for the boys locker room in the middle school is in process, masonry should be done tomorrow; Catholic Charities held a back to school event that was very well attended, the event included backpack and supplies give away, haircuts, and ID's by the sheriff's office; BusRight devices and software have been installed and the drivers will have a training tomorrow; in person Right to Know training for transportation, maintenance, and cafeteria staff is scheduled for tomorrow.

Mrs. Cathi Root inquired about heated water in the pool. Mr. Roe indicated that once everything is back up and running from the projects this summer, the pool will have heated water. The system was shut down for glycol work, leaving the water unheated for the summer. The heating system will be back up and running soon and the water will be heated.

Mr. Roe gave an update on the status of grants; the final report will be submitted soon for the CRRSA grant, the other grants have an additional year and are on track; discussion with the grant writers regarding a new grant of interest is ongoing and a significant amount of information has been submitted.

## **6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Pamela Zwierlein, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve the Old/New Business Agenda Item A:

*Final Approval of the 2023-2024 District-Wide Safety Plan*

## **7. FINANCIAL**

A MOTION was made by Lee Wood, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve the Financial Consent Agenda as follows:

*Approval of the July 2023 Treasurer's Report*

*Approval of the July 2023 Extraclassroom Report*

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve the addition to the Financial Agenda as follows:

*Approval of the following Change Orders:*

*Phase 2: GC-001 – FE Jones in the amount of \$1,636.00*

*Turf: SC-001 – Smith Site Development in the amount of \$10,062.84*

*Turf: SC-002 – Smith Site Development in the amount of \$98,159.25*

*Turf: SC-003 – Smith Site Development in the amount of \$-6,305.22*

## 8. PERSONNEL

A MOTION was made by Lee Wood, seconded by Pamela Zwierlein, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve Personnel Agenda Item A and the Personnel Consent Agenda as follows:

**Approval of the following probationary appointment(s):**

*Name of Appointee: Tyler Spires  
Civil Service Position: Occupational Therapist  
Probationary Service Begins: September 1, 2023  
Expiration of Probationary Appointment: August 31, 2024*

**Approval of the following fall coaching appointment for 2023/24:**

*Tyler Spires- JV Football Exp 0 Level 1 6%*

**Acceptance and approval of the letter received from Kathy Pond, resigning her position as Courier (2-hours), effective 8/31/2023**

**Approval of the following probationary appointment(s):**

*Name of Appointee: Merrick Mosher  
Civil Service Position: Custodial Worker (12 month)  
Probationary Service Begins: September 1, 2023  
Expiration of Probationary Appointment: August 31, 2024*

*Name of Appointee: Kathy Pond  
Civil Service Position: Bus Driver (4-hour Special Run, BOCES)  
Probationary Service Begins: September 1, 2023  
Expiration of Probationary Appointment: August 31, 2024*

**Approval of the following permanent appointment:**

*Name of Appointee: Lauren Luvison  
Civil Service Position: Office Specialist 1  
Probationary Period: June 23, 2023 – June 22, 2023  
Permanent Appointment Date: retroactive to June 23, 2023*

**Approval of the following addition(s) to the substitute list(s):**

*Connor Hutchinson- Instructional Staff (LTS MS Spanish)  
Jacob Howland- Instructional Staff (LTS Special Education- Elementary)  
Melissa Winans- Support Staff (Monitor)  
Stuart Hill- Support Staff (Custodial)  
Anthony Bruno- Support Staff (Custodial)*

## 9. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC

## 10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Gregory Schweiger, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to enter executive session at 6:44pm to discuss CSE/CPSE/504 matters, and the

employment history of a particular person or persons leading to the appointment of a particular person or persons.

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Lee Wood, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to approve CSE/CPSE/504 Recommendations.

A MOTION was made by Gregory Schweiger, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to return to public session at 7:31pm.

## **11. ADJOURN**

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:31pm.

Kendra Seaver  
Deputy Clerk