

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Regular Meeting
October 4, 2023

Present: Mrs. Cathi Root, President
Mrs. Pamela Zwierlein, Vice-President
Mr. Aaron Lounsbury, Member
Mr. Scot Taylor, Member arrived at 6:33pm
Mr. Joshua Whitmore, Member
Mrs. Lee Wood, Member

Adm./Others: Mr. Joshua Roe, Superintendent
Mr. Willard Cook, MS Principal
Mrs. Mary Grace Camin, Director of Instruction/CSE Chair
Mrs. Michelle Bombard, ES Principal
Mr. James Wood, Interim HS Principal
Mrs. Kristy Robertson, Clerk

Others: Wendy DeWind, Ferrara Fiorenza, PC

Absent: Mr. Gregory Schweiger, Member

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

4. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Lee Wood, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the September 20, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

5. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

Mrs. Cathi Root, president reported that she attended the annual business meeting last night along with Mr. Joshua Roe; a new president and vice-president were elected; Sandy Ruffo, NYSSBA President-elect was the speaker of the evening.

The next Legislative meeting will be held on January 18, 2024

The first Health Trust Consortium meeting will be held on October 20th.

The first Workers' Compensation Alliance meeting will be held on November 3rd.

There was nothing to report for other board reports, events, or updates.

Mr. Cook reported that he has been subbing in classrooms as needed; this week is spirit week, daily themes include cowboy, Hawaiian, Hollywood glam, and class color; the first fun night of the school year will be tomorrow; there will be a conference day on Friday; five-week reports will go home next week.

Mrs. Camin reported that her first round of full day CSE meetings will start next week; data on how students performed on certain questions from state tests has been given to teachers; spirit week is taken very seriously by students and staff in the elementary school, it is fun to see and participate in.

Mrs. Bombard reported that student of concern meetings started this week; DJ VanDusen will be on campus Thursday doing a Fire Safety Week presentation for Kindergarten and Prekindergarten students, a big thank you for the wonderful job he does with our students; Maria Gordon is working on her social emotional class newsletter to go home with PreK-2nd grade students; 3rd and 4th grade students have started their lunch bunch gathering with Maria as well; the first top tiger assembly was held last Friday, where our PreK team was honored for the wonderful job they are doing with our littlest tigers every day.

Mr. Wood reported that high school classes are going well; both varsity soccer teams have a chance to clinch division titles; Mrs. Shay has done a great job with spirit week, tonight is hallway decorating night, the homecoming king and queen will be announced Friday at halftime of the game versus SVEC; grade level and department level meetings will be held on Friday's conference day to go over state testing data.

Mr. Roe updated the board on the current status of the projects happening throughout the district; the majority of the middle school roof is finished, flashing will be completed once the ordered materials arrive; the high school gym entrance is open with temporary handrails in place, the permanent handrails will arrive in the next week or so; NYSCOSS held a conference for superintendents in Saratoga Springs, Mr. Roe attended sessions related to school security, electric vehicles, computer based testing, and feasibility of solar panels; there is a company out of Buffalo that the district will contact to have an onsite solar feasibility study done; the State has doubled down on electric vehicles and has given a timeline for school districts to make the change, any waivers to alter this timeline will be very difficult to obtain. Mr. Roe attended the SBA dinner along with Mrs. Cathi Root where newly elected president of NYSSBA, Sandy Ruffo, gave an emotional speech on the important role school board members hold in their districts.

Mr. Aaron Lounsbury, member asked if electric buses must be purchased starting in 2027. Mr. Roe responded that 2027 will be the last year that buses powered by traditional fuel can be ordered and by 2035 all buses in the district's fleet must be replaced by electric buses.

Mr. Aaron Lounsbury, member asked what the current lead time is for purchasing electric buses. Mr. Roe responded that it is currently 18 months.

Mrs. Pamela Zwierlein, vice-president, asked if there are still grants out there geared toward purchasing electric buses. Mr. Roe responded that there are a few that the district is looking into.

Mrs. Cathi Root, president, inquired what the outlook was for the new battery technology for electric buses that could extend the time of use between charges. Mr. Roe responded that the technology for the new solid-state battery is out there, but it is not in production yet.

Mr. Roe also stated that if the district started to purchase electric buses in 2027, we would need to purchase a minimum of three per year to meet the changeover deadline of 2035.

Mr. Joshua Whitmore, member asked if our mechanics would need new training on maintenance of electric buses. Mr. Roe responded that there would need to be new training as the maintenance of electric buses is quite different from traditional buses.

Aaron Lounsbury, member inquired if other districts have started using electric buses. Mr. Roe responded that Ithaca City School District currently has three electric buses in their fleet. The Lake George Central School District also has electric buses in their fleet and had positive things to say about them.

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the Old/New Business Consent Agenda as follows:

***Approval** of the 2023 Audit Report for the school year ending June 30, 2023
Approval of the Audit Response/Corrective Action Plan for the school year ending June 30, 2023, to be implemented for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024*

7. FINANCIAL

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

***Approval** of application for corrected tax roll for R Hidden Valley Farm property
Acceptance and approval of the generous donations from Mountain Top Greenhouse as follows:*

*Spanish Club - \$56.00
Science Olympiad - \$26.00
Modified Field Hockey - \$58.00
Tioga Bowling - \$42.00
Tioga Football - \$128.00*

8. PERSONNEL

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Lee Wood, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to approve the Personnel Consent Agenda as follows:

Approval of the following probationary appointment:

Name of Appointee: Lucas Newman

Tenure Area: Elementary K-6

Date of Commencement of Probationary Appointment: Retroactive to September 6, 2023

Expiration of Appointment: September 5, 2026***

***Granted 1-year prior substitute credit*

Certification Status: Early Childhood Education (1-6), initial expires January 31, 2029

*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 probationary 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.

Approval of the following permanent appointment:

Name of Appointee: Kenneth Seaver

Civil Service Position: Grant Funded Monitor

Probationary Period: September 26, 2022 – September 25, 2023

Permanent Appointment Date: September 26, 2023

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

Alysa Williams- Support Staff (Monitor)

9. VOICE OF THE PUBLIC

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A MOTION was made by Pamela Zwierlein, seconded by Aaron Lounsbury, and carried by a vote of 5-0 to enter executive session at 6:31pm to discuss CSE/CPSE/504 matters, and the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Mr. Scot Taylor, Member arrived at 6:33pm

A MOTION was made by Joshua Whitmore, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to approve CSE/CPSE/504 Recommendations.

A MOTION was made by Aaron Lounsbury, seconded by Scot Taylor, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to return to public session at 7:45pm.

11. ADJOURN

A MOTION was made by Scot Taylor, seconded by Joshua Whitmore, and carried by a vote of 6-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm.

Kristy Robertson
Clerk