

**Northern Adirondack Central School District
Ellenburg, NY
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
October 20, 2020 – 6:00 PM Distance Learning Center MS/HS and via WebEx**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Phalon Miner
 Bryan Trombley
 Steven Bartlemus
 Willie Venne
 Paul Gilmore (Via WebEx)

ABSENT EXCUSED: Mark DeCoste
 Trevor Finley

Mr. Miner, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance was taken by District Clerk, Five Board of Education members were present for this evening's meeting. Board President, Paul Gilmore was available via WebEx.

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus seconded by Mr. Trombley and passed unanimously to go into Executive Session, at 6:01 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a matter of collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of civil service law (The Taylor Law).

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus seconded by Mr. Venne and passed unanimously to come out of Executive Session, at 6:40 PM.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Trombley seconded by Mr. Bartlemus, to table and add "Athletics Discussion with Board Members"

September 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes tabled

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

Superintendent Knight's Report,

Mr. Knight's report included variety of general updates. I would first like to take a moment to remember one of our longtime employees who recently passed away, Shannon LaClair. She started working here at NAC 31 years this month. I know she helped make this district a better place for the students and staff. We are very sorry for the lost.

Next I would like to acknowledge our dedicated board of education members as this week is school board recognition week. If all goes well, I will have a gift for you at our next meeting in November. Maybe next year I will actually have your appreciation gifts during your recognition week. As they say, 3rd times a charm. I am going to blame this one on COVID because everything is on back order. But I want to say I do appreciate working with you. This past year has been challenging to say the least. We have accomplished the big task and have a lot more to accomplish. We are all dealing with stuff no one has ever dealt with before and I appreciate the support.

Moving on about an hour and half prior to the meeting I received unofficial notice of something that since then has been down sized and possibly not going to be made official. But we will find out more tomorrow. What I am referring to is we just received information that Clinton County maybe place into a yellow zone in regards to the State for COVID because of our number of cases going up. Friday we had 7 positive cases and yesterday we were at 17 and today we are at closer to 40. I do not believe they are including those cases at Clinton Correctional. Some numbers I heard today is that there is 11 more cases at Clinton Correctional but I haven't seen a break down. I do know that the college (SUNY Plattsburgh) is growing its case numbers a little bit. What they are now saying is that when they put places in these colored zones that the Governor has just decided to do a couple of weeks ago it doesn't necessarily mean the county. It could be by ZIP codes, cities or surrounding neighborhoods. I am not sure how they plan on zoning the areas. There is a speculation that because the college is becoming a "hot spot" that the area code 12901 (Plattsburgh) one being a zone. But no one knows for sure and will find out as it goes on. Good news is we are not in yellow! If we ever go to yellow it allows for school to remain open. However here is where it gets tricky, the Governor said it would be mandatory for all Students and Staff to get testing on a weekly basis for in person settings. So when we heard this afternoon that we might be in yellow, all the schools said if we do not have tests does that mean for us? Do we automaticity have to close? Last week when they had yellow zones in Brooklyn and Rocklyn County the state was rapidly sending those rapid test to those areas. Well, Clinton County doesn't have this and they haven't been sent here and I am sure they would be even available to be sent if we did go to that color. That is where we are all kind of guessing, when I say "we" I mean other Superintendents in the county. With that hopefully we don't go to yellow.

On a positive note this Friday marks our 7th week in session. This is four more weeks then what I anticipated from the start of the year. In the last couple of weeks we received a new tool kit for COVID-19 for PerK-12 from the New York State Department of Health. Along with follow up procedures from the Clinton County Health Department. Here is the issue Clinton County's interpretation is slightly different than New York State's interpretation. Which causes a slight hiccup/ problem. We were told by the State in a Webex that the Counties have some discretion.

So here is when the discretion comes into to play. If a student stays home from school we have 48 hours to get a negative COVID test result. If we don't get any test results within 48 hours we have to deem that student positive. This is where the discrepancy is between the State and the County. The State then said the student would have to be reported to the County Health Department and start quarantine as well a contact tracing protocols. Our County has said they are not accepting those students as positive cases in less we have a positive test result. The difference being, if the County accepted those students as positive cases after the 48 hours we would probably have to shut down after contact tracing started. Last week I ran a typical day in the Elementary for 8 students that would have been beyond the 48 threshold. Those 8 students then impacted 9 classrooms, 9 teachers, 83 students. I didn't even run the number of buses and how many students on those buses. At that point it wouldn't be the county shutting us down, we would have to shut down because there wouldn't be enough staff to get us opened. This just happened in Crown Point. They had a positive case with a 7th grader that impacted 7-12 teachers. They are small enough that without those 7-12 teachers they were not able to open the school. We would initially probably take 48 hours to shut down the school and then figure out if we have enough staff to open. In theory the County has done us a favor to not have to count these students as positive, but we are still documenting to the County on a daily basis with a spreadsheet via email. This is being done just in case the State asks us why we are documenting our beyond 48 hour cases. So there is a fine line we are reporting every day. So far all of our tests have been negative, it has been busy.

Good part about the update is it has allowed Doctors to give alternative conditions to return back to school. Some stuff we have talked about before like having allergies, or being tested for Strep without having to be tested for COVID. Before, no student could come back without getting a COVID negative result. So that has changed. A good amount of Doctors within the area are not seeing COVID symptoms in less they had a test done. Any questions?

Board Member: "The dashboard on that exists on the State's website for the schools is pretty useless then"

Superintendent: Many school districts have complained because the state wants us to answer many different question and all done before 3pm on a daily basis. Well most of us are busy till 3pm so they extend this cutoff to 4pm with a 3pm reminder. We are doing all sorts of recording not only for the State but for ourselves. I would say each of our nurses could use two clerical staff as well as the clerical staff that is already working this could use two more with the all of the recording that is being done daily.

Update on what is going on with State Aide and School Funding. Some are worried about the 20% decrease. We are already aware of the exits cost from 2019-2020 school year was reduced back in August. As well as the reduction of our May lunch plan just in the NYS portion. Plus, there is a reduction again in exits cost in Septembers payment. The last big one was the BOCES Aide that we already talked about. Fortunately, they didn't cut the General Purpose Aide of September. Some of the other stuff like breakfast and lunch they are not supposed to be cutting it in October. Remember it is all politics and our big number does not come in till after the New Year. So are expectation is that the 20% cut won't happen till our bigger allotment comes in. Fortunately Brian has encouraged us in last year's budget to reduce everything by an expected 10% from the state to begin with. So even if the State ever got to the full 20% we are only feeling 10% because we already planned the 10% this year.

On another note last year we talked about a lift for the bus garage. It is rare in this age that a price of something to go down. Last year the same lift quoted to us was around \$50k, this year with additional features was quoted to us at \$47,666.94. Coming in cheaper than the year prior is

very rare. This is something we are still considering and in the long run I think this is something beneficially to the bus garage. If you are interested in additional information please feel free to reach out to me. I do have video along with other information on the lift.

Jumping into the Comptrollers conversation I know there was some questions regarding the two audits done, one being paid vacation days and the calculation and our response. Mr. Knight then asked Mr. Tousignant to elaborate on the report. Mr. Touignant then started to described they conducted two different audits while they were here for three months. One was regarding Financial Position this is something that has been discussed for the last year or more. It was primarily due to having poor operating results for a couple of years. We had drawn down on our fund balance and I think our response addresses most of the corrective actions that we have taken so far. With our tax increase and other budgeting that we have done and are already made going into our 2019-2020 year. Our other audit was titled Leave Accruals which boils down to vacation paid out upon separation of service. As part of our response: I am not part of agreement with their determination. They made their determination based on the amount of vacation that a person was eligible for in one sentence in one contract that deals with vacation. There are only two contracts that deal with vacation because they are the 12 months ones vs the 10 months. Those two are the CSEA and Management Confidential. The CSEA does not limit how the vacation has to be taken. Whereas the Management Confidential does have a statement in there that says "Vacation needs to be taken in the year it is earned" or something to that affect. Old contracts says "a person may accrue up to 20 days and roll that over on the annual basis". That has always been out practice in the entirety of the time that I have been here as well as before. Once they are capped at the 20 days the new vacation earned will be used because they cannot accrue more than the 20 days. I certainly agree with the auditors in their finding because of the way the contract was wording was a little contradictory. The correction action is to clear up the wording in the contract and not throwing out the policy that consistently has been applied for many years. So bringing it to a district employee level it seems incorrect to take away days and say sorry your contract language is ambiguous. The response may sound vague but it is not a clerical error it is how the language in interrupted in the contract. Plus, this is our 4th Comptrollers audit that we had in 16 years and this is the first time this has ever been brought up. So at this point both contracts are expired and up for negotiation this would be an ideal time to get the verbiage correct. Any questions?

A motion was made by Mr. Trombley and seconded by Mr. Bartlemus to accept the Schedules of Expenditures (Warrants) September 2020.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus and seconded by Mr. Venne to accept the Treasurer's Report – September 2020.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Trombley and seconded by Mr. Bartlemus to approve the Budget Status Report.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Trombley and seconded by Mr. Bartlemus approve the CSE recommendations.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried

There were no updates to the following:

Food Service Report (thanked Lisa for keeping everything organized)
 Custodial – Maintenance Report
 Student Association Reports and Bank Reconciliation Reports
 Administrators
 NATA
 CSEA

The Board opened the meeting for public comment.

Danny Jarvis, Had questions regarding lift for the Bus Garage. Informed us that it is already to pass another inspection this year. Wanted to know if we could hold off another year and save that money towards in ground model. Brett Smith asked about winter sports. Mentioned that we are one of the only schools that didn't have a fall season.

New Business:

The next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Trombley and seconded by Mr. Barlemus to approve 4 Property Tax Correction for FY 2020-2021.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried

Old Business:

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus, seconded by Mr. Venne approve the Real Property Tax Correction for FY 2020-2021.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus seconded by Mr. Venne to approve the following Appointments

Employee	Position	Department	Effective Date	Pay Rate	Comments
A. Brittany LaBombard	Secretary to the Superintendent	District	October 13, 2020	\$45,000 (Pro-rated)	twenty-six (26) week probationary appointment

Employee	Position	Department	Effective Date	Pay Rate	Comments
B. Brittany LaBombard	District Clerk	District	October 13, 2020	\$5,000 (Pro-rated)	twenty-six (26) week probationary appointment
C. Jennifer LaBomard	Permanent /Part time Student/Teacher Aide	District	September 16, 2020		Resignation
D. Tricia Brassard	Internal Claims Auditor	District	October 8, 2020		Resignation
E. Bianca Siskvich-Poiras	TOC Student/Teacher Aide	District	October 21, 2020	\$12.50 per/hour	
F. Pamela Griffin	Internal Claims Auditor	District	October 21, 2020	\$17.50 per/hour	Replacement do to resignation
G. Jolie Sargent	F/T Bus Monitor	Transpiration	October 21, 2020	Per CSEA Contract	Increase in FTE, 40 replace S.LaClair

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

The Board opened the meeting for public comment. There were no comments.

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus, seconded by Mr.Trombley and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

Brittany LaBombard, District Clerk
N.A.C.S. Board of Education