

Northern Adirondack Central School District
November 10, 2020 – 6:00 PM Big Gym in Elementary
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Ellenburg, NY

Roll Call:

Phalon Miner-Present
Bryan Trombley-Present
Steven Bartlemus- Present
Paul Gilmore – Present
Trevor Finley- Present
Mark DeCoste- Present

Others Present:

James Knight, Jr. - Superintendent
Brian Tousignant - Business Manager
Rob Witkiewicz – MS Principal
Lisa Silver – Elementary Principal
Mike Loughman – HS Principal
Jay Bouchard – Supt. Building & Grounds
Richard Harriman Sr.

Absent Excused:

Willie Venne

Mr. Gilmore Board of Education President, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance was taken by Brittany LaBombard, District Clerk, Six Board of Education members were present for this evening's meeting. With one excused absents Mr. Venne.

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus seconded by Mr. Decose and passed unanimously to go into Executive Session, at 6:02 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. Minor seconded by Mr. Bartlemus and passed unanimously to come out of Executive Session, at 6:50 PM.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus seconded by Mr. Miner, to pass meeting minutes from previous meetings.

- September 15, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- October 20, 2020 Regular Board Meeting Minutes-Tabled

Five Board Members present voted yes – Mr. Finley abstained to October 20, 2020 regular Board Meeting Minutes, Minutes where tabled.

Superintendent Knight's Report.

We just started the 2nd marking period yesterday and maintained a consistent percentage of in-person learners and remote learners. Fewer than 20 students changed their learning style for the 2nd marking period, and the most part of the change was an even wash.

This past Wednesday, November 4th we experienced our first interaction with the Clinton County Health Department regarding a positive test result. The Clinton County Health Department called at almost 10a.m. to let us know that one of our students had tested positive for COVID-19. Fortunately that student had not been on campus for a little while. Which was enough for the Health Department to determine that no contact tracing or closure at the school / district level was necessary. The Health Department called again at 2:15p.m to let me know that an unrelated student also tested positive and fortunately for us again did not warrant contact tracing or any form of closure.

A quick winter sports update, currently low moderate and low risk sports can start November 30th. Sadly those are not sports that we have here at Northern Adirondack CSD. These sports are bowling, indoor track, swimming and skiing. Another sad moment, not that it impacts us, indoor track meets are normally housed at the Field House at Plattsburgh State. This year the Field House CVAC Section Seven has mandated that only 30 people can be in the Field House at one time. The higher risk sports which we have all four are Basketball, Wrestling, Cheerleading and Ice Hockey. We are waiting on an update from the Governor and the State Health Department but have not heard anything yet from either.

I would like to pass around a piece of information that we received last Friday from New York State Department of Education regarding Transportation Reimbursement during Periods of Program Closure. Mr. Knight then read this hand out attached. He explained that this is probably going to be a loss of over \$200k and asked Mr. Tousignant to elaborate. Mr. Tousignant said that this is basically from 3 and half months of closure starting March 2020 to the end of June 2020. Roughly 35% of our 10 month academic year we paid out the full cost during that time of the year for transportation. Our transportation ratio we would normally get reimbursed 90% of our cost in the following year. Rough numbers are the \$180k- \$200k hit. There has been some talk on School Board Association, New York State ASBO that they will continue on lobbying on our behalf. But they have been sticking to the law that we will only get reimbursed for transporting students even though the Governor mandated that we provide meals. Also mandated that we continued education, in our case delivery of meals and educational packets. I do not know with 100% certainly but it looks like we are headed in that direction.

Mr. Knight thanked Mr. Tousignant. Mr. Knight then stated as Mr. Tousignant has mentioned this is something that is not set in stone.

Moving forward with less exciting news, you probably all heard as of last night Franklin County

Schools decided to go to a remote setting till January 4th. A couple factors played into this but one of the factors are what the Health Department is calling “Community Spread”. They have a percentage of higher amount of positive cases in the community that are unrelated to one another. Clinton County numbers have gone up but in cluster areas. Everyone is being encourage not to meet with extended families for this reason. I believe that the Franklin County Health Department and Franklin County Schools felt it was best to go this route. St. Lawrence County as of today are in a State of Emergency. They in the month of October experienced 84 total cases. The month of November and we are only on day 10 already experienced 92 cases. As far as Clinton County we have weekly meeting with Superintendents every Wednesday of the week excluding tomorrow because of the Holiday which we will have that meeting Thursday morning instead.

We just had a very positive ceremony for our Senior Soccer players. This was put on by parents and High School Administration. The ceremony went over very well with 15 senior athletes all be recognized for a season they were unable to compete in. All the seniors appreciated the moment of recognition. The ceremony was this past Saturday we could not have asked for better weather. We used the tennis courts where we were able to set up chairs and tables accordingly with social distance guidelines. Suggest that other events be held on the tennis courts great flat surface with the ability to hang posters. Thank you I believe that is all I have.

Presentations:

Building Condition Survey

(Attached is PowerPoint Presentation)

A power point presentation was done by Jay Bouchard Supervisor of Building and Grounds at NACS. A quick over view of the power point. The Building Condition Survey is mandated by NYSED to be conducted once every five years. It serves as the foundation by identification of upgrade and new construction work. This work may be completed through yearly district funded \$100k annual capital mini projects as well as major capital projects, such as the 29 million dollar project completed at Northern Adirondack CSD in 2012.

The building condition survey is conducted by NAC Facilities Maintenance Staff in conjunction with a NYS licensed professional engineer. In the year 2020 NAC reengaged the services of AES Northeast of Plattsburgh NY. Jay is grateful for their assistance and input. Thought-out this process the entire campus was evaluated, the following areas that will need attention in the next capital expenditures are: Roof Replacement, Parking Lot, Sidewalks, Kitchen Equipment in Middle/ High School, Rehabilitation of the Elementary Cupola, Upgrade to doors in Elementary, Door Security hardware throughout campus and Electrical Switchgear. Priorities that have to be done on site are the pavement along with sidewalks and curbs. Resurfacing and grade on all game fields, investigate installation of multi-use turf area. We should also be thinking about regarding the south MSHS Cafeteria to correct infiltration of water into building. In the Elementary building an artesian well gravity drain to keep water that is prevented by sub pump from coming in. Our septic system is in need of filter beds as well in both buildings.

Out buildings like the bus garage, bus storage and the bus maintenance are in need of some

upgrades as well. The bus garage needs a new roof, lift replacement and to regrade area south and west of bus garage to expose buried brick. During the building survey they investigated in the bus storage and maintenance issues with the concrete floor slab. In the other buildings there are some misc. items that have been identified in the Middle High School and along with the Elementary School. In the Middle High School the master clock system needs an upgrade, building automation system upgrade, computer lab and distance learning area HVAC, security and intercom system upgrade, science wing plumbing fixture replacement. HVAC pumps, and fuel oil monitoring equipment. In the Elementary Building upgrades like, kalwall panels in the small gym, replacement of bleachers at the big gym (safely issues- closing and opening), fuel oil transfer pump system, removal of asbestos floor tiles on stairs and replace door glass- glazing not tempered. For any further questions feel free to reach out to Jay Bouchard he is more than willing to answer those questions.

Building Administration Opening School Report

Mrs. Silver Elementary Principal –

We opened our doors 45 days ago and I think if you were to ask any of us sitting in this room we didn't think that we would last a month and going strong. We have been in school for nine and a half weeks and have gotten through our first quarter which I think this is pretty exciting. In the Elementary we brought in 312 students all day long five days a week. That amounts to 87% of our students K- 5th grade's population. We have 250 students in grades K-4 in this building and 52 students in 5th grade housed in the Middle School Gym.

In order to make this happen we had to break our usual three section of any grade level down to five or six different sections. We had to make sure they were in small enough groups in order for them to fit in the classrooms. We then had to utilize all of our staff which we did. We had special educational teachers- teaching special education students along with teaching general education. Tilted teachers – teaching student that require titled services as well as teaching general education. We have utilized all of our staff and every possible space in this building. We have groups that range from about 8 students to groups as high as 16 students. Our biggest groups are our 3 Kindergarten classrooms, which happen to be our bigger classrooms that can fit more students. We empty out these rooms and put desk back in room at 6 feet apart. This was a plan that we put together and pick away at all summer long it has worked well for us.

Other things that we do to make this plain work is we have all of our teachers go out to the buses and pick up their students. As you can image in the past ordinarily the buses would drop students off on the sidewalks. After all the buses unload we would have 400 plus students crowded on the sidewalks waiting to enter the building. Now we are practicing social distancing, we have the teacher go out every morning to the buses to get their children. Of course when they get to the building the either go to the kiosk for temperature check or have their temperature taken with a hand held thermometer. Then we get our day started, students are able to still get their specials. All of the students still get art, music, library and gym. Most of the time the children can still go the each classroom to attend these specials with exception to Kindergarten because of the size of the classroom so Art will come into their classroom instead. The art room is unable to hold 16 students at six feet apart. Fortunately the weather has been absolutely stunning for this time of

the year so we have been able to go outside for gym or able to use the Big Gym, the Small Gym or the wrestling room down stairs. As you can see throughout the hallways on the floor we have markings. X marks on the floor for children to know where to stand to stay six feet apart. Which this has been working great. In a matter of fact gym teachers are wondering why we haven't thought about this before. This is a good way to spread the kids out without them having their hands on others. These are some things that are working well and we might carry on in the future.

Lunch, students eat lunch in the classroom. Lunch monitors supervise the students while they eat lunch as well as Aides. As you can image this has increased staffing to be able to maintain lunches within classroom setting. Over all everyone seems to be pleased and it seems to work very well. I have heard teachers saying that the students are not as rowdy as they would be when they have lunch in the cafeteria. Usually after students come back from the cafeteria they are very loud and rambunctious they seem to be much calmer.

Recess, we are thrilled that we can still offer recess as you can image this is the highlight of the day for students. In order to make recess happen we had to make up different stations, playground, kickball field or tarmac. The plus side of this I do see a lot of student teacher interaction. To make this all happen PTO had purchased additional playground equipment. Each classroom has their set of balls and equipment that are sanitized daily. The playground itself is sanitized between each new group of students. Jay and his staff have been a god sent for making this all work.

These smaller groups of students have helped with fewer disruption. Teachers have been able to do more hands on help and have gotten to know their students better. In addition all of our 5th graders in the Middle School Gym have also been able to do all their specials and recess as well. It is really not the ideal situation for our 5th graders but talking with the 5th grade teachers they would much rather have their kids here than not. Students want to be here as well. If you walk into the Middle School Gym the students have wrote how much they missed their friends and want to be in school, these writings are hung on the wall.

We have a unique approach to our remote learners because we have so many students in our building and we have pretty much used all of our staff to make that work. We have one remote teacher in the building that works with our 2nd and 3rd grade students. Colleen Anstett works with our 4th, 5th and 6th grade students. Additionally because of caseloads for one teacher trying to do remote teacher, Erin LaClair has about 15 students, we do have some teachers doing both remote and in person learning which seems to be working well. There is not a lot of teachers doing both.

So things have changed on how we have done in the past. This year we were still able to do the pumpkin patch for the kids. The kids couldn't go on their field trips so we brought the field trip to them. PTO had a fun competitions on pumpkin decorating. We were not able to do the Halloween parade like normal, but instead we did a fun STEM inspired trick or treat stations. The kids had fun with that. These are some of the things that we have done.

I have to say the staff has been wonderful and all working together as a team. I would like to commend all of them because without them reopening school wouldn't of been as easy. Not saying that we haven't had any challenges because believe me we have. I think our biggest

challenge is that we deal with on a daily basis is having any COVID symptoms and what needs to be done when they have these symptoms. Such as whether they have to quarantine will they have to be COVID test before return? Mr. Pageau and Mrs. Reif have went through many different beatings that are not under their control but only protocol. Most parents are very good and understanding while others are not so good nor understanding. I wanted you to be aware. I don't think we would be where we are with very few COVID cases without the precautionary messages that are being taken. Kudos to Mr. Knight and the opening committee for enforcing the mask wearing and other producers for keeping us safe. All Staff and Students wear masks all day long. But if you think about it we all have masks breaks throughout the day. For example, when we eat breakfast, lunch, snack, and water breaks. Again I think what we are doing is working well.

Another challenge is not being able to reach out and give each other a hug or a high five. So we have lots of air hugs. Is there any specific questions and portals that we do if not we will move on the next oldest Mr. Witkiewicz.

Mr. Witkiewicz Middle School Principal-

First I would like to say thank you for having faith in our plan that we put together back this past summer. We really worked hard on trying to get as many students back as we could. I know that was a leap of faith in you guys to put a lot of trust in what we are doing to get the students to school safely. I think we really did a decent job. I know you haven't heard a lot of things about our school but we have done a wonderful job and this is just a testament of the team work that we have. The team work is amazing from the bus drivers to the cafeteria workers to the secretaries and the teachers they are all here for only one reason and that reason is for the students. You can see it the moment the kids get off the buses in the morning. It is really a wonderful place to be. The kids are excited to be here as well as the staff.

I want to give you a quick rundown on how we do our day in the Middle School Building. But first I would have to agree with Mrs. Silver, if I had to bet I would have put everything that I own on October 1st we would have been remote. We have made it well past that date, which really every day is a blessing. The more that we can get in these Kids in school and in-person learning the more we can prepare them of what may happen which is remote learning. We are really looking forward to having these kids every single day that we can. Unfortunately we haven't been able to get everybody in like we have been able to do in the Elementary but our committee felt it was the right choice for them. The Elementary Students needed to be in school every day. The Middle School and the High School Kids are a little more independent and we were able to get away with one or two days of in person learning. Our 6th graders go two days, 7th – 12th we get them one day a week. So the way that we do that is if we take 7th grade for example: you would split the grade in half. 7th graders come on Thursdays and Fridays with only half of them who come in on Thursday and half who come in on Friday. Same goes for the rest of the grade levels just on different days. So we split them in half, we have 3 schedules everyday (A, B, and C Schedule) so half of the student will come. Roughly each class has about 60 students, when we split in half we are looking at about 30 students, then you split those 30 students into the A, B and C schedule then you are roughly 10 students or less in a class. Instead of having 8 periods a day we reduced those periods to 5. Each student will be able to get the four core curriculum subjects each day Math, English, Science and Social Studies. Six graders will get that twice a week and 7th graders get that once a week. The fifth period is meant for a study

hall, resource room, or a foreign language.

The student's basic day is starting off the morning getting off the bus. Which if you're here in the morning they are very few students that are getting off per bus. Some are getting off at the Elementary School, others are getting off at the Middle High School. Very few are getting off each bus. If you have notice Jay and his crew have put stencils on the sidewalks to guide our students to remain 6 six apart. We don't have to tell the Kids anymore to stay on the x marks they are doing it on their own with no problem. There is very little discipline going on thought out the school because the kids are excited to be here and want to be here. I have not personally had a student that would not put their mask on or stay 6 feet apart. So after they get off the buses we have people taking temperatures by hand at the door or the students are using the kiosk. As soon as their temperature is taken they move to the right and someone sprays their hands with hand sanitizer. Then they grab their breakfast if they want it and move to their first period class and eat in there. Students go through their schedule and eat lunch in the big gym. At the end of the day they grab their lunch from the Cafeteria workers for the rest of the week. Then we wouldn't see these students till the following week or the next day they come in.

The most frustrating part of all of this is when the students are home we don't always get the same amount of work out of them. If we saw them every day there is plenty of kids we wouldn't have any issues with. Our personal tech team (Anne and Tammy and Jamie) they have been outstanding. We have parents that can't understand something on our google classroom and these staff members are and have helped over the phone. Such as, getting in to google classroom, google meets, if assignments need to be completed, if assignments have been completed or if the assignments been graded and more. We have been able to keep and help all of the parents informed and they have been very receptive on this. All of the students are performing very well under these conditions. Some are having a little difficulty because they lost their routine. That is the big thing all of us get into a routine but kids in general when they get up most of the decisions are made for them. They do not make a lot of decisions where now they are. They used to have their whole day planned out for them, well now they could get up and start there day at any time. So without that routine it is making it very difficult for some students.

For the most part it is going very well and I appreciated you guys for letting us do this. The Staff is excited to be here as well as the students. When we heard about Franklin County closing, you don't hear any cheers from Kids or Staff. The first thing we hear is "no not us, not us" everyone wants to be here. That is an important piece of information you need to hear from your stand point to know that everyone is happy to be in school. I don't know you guys have any question on this?

Mr. Loughman High School Principal –

I don't have much different to say that hasn't already been addressed. Like Mr. Witkiewicz's said our faculty is absolutely phenomenal and work their hardest to make this all possible. I would like to reiterate when we can up with the 5 period schedule is because the Federal and the State Government are still requiring us to maintain attendance and expecting us to test that is 3 through 12 testing for regents Math, English, and Science. We did get a reprieved and probably some for

shadowing for what is going to come up in June. New York State just cancelled the regent test for January. I have a number of kids that would have tested in January, but now because NYS has cancelled that date. If the test was not cancelled it could have completed a course for some students. We have a new Student from Chateaugay, he was going to get his regent credit in January that would have made him eligible to graduate in June. So there is a couple things like that going on. We will be testing in June. But when we came up with the five period schedule we did that so we could be able to test in June. Our teachers are working with that in mind until we hear otherwise. They are doing their best to get the students ready and they are really working hard on that.

Other things that we have been doing is club and class elections. We are trying to maintain the actives that would have been done in a normal school year. We are trying to maintain what kids would be normally doing online, our two drama club advisors are doing a ZOOM play. With this play you will be able to log onto the computer and see our kids do their play online. We did have recognition for the fall sports. We did our Halloween Parade for the seniors that we would have normally done. I have to tell you everyone was excited to have a somewhat of a normal day. Even though the Halloween parade is never a normal day. To have the kids in the building and over half of the class participated which is normal in a given year. The fact that the kids are willing to do anything they can. I've had over 50 kids ask it there is going to be a Ski Club this year. The kids want to participate they want to be here and do as much stuff as possible. I have looked at the calendar and said I still want to do what on the calendar but a new way to do it. I think a lot of the faculty and the staff are living up to it with the support of the parents and you guys. With the circumstances I think our school is doing well. If you see the faculty and staff make sure you're telling them they are doing a great job. I know that I do and Rob does every day. Any questions?

Rob Woitkiewicz- Just want to add I hear from a lot of other Districts that they do not have such a positive faculty and staff as we are able to have here at NAC.

Financial:

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

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. DeCoste and seconded by Mr. Miner to accept the Budget and Treasure's Report.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

Reports to School Board:

A motion was made by Mr. Miner and seconded by Mr. DeCoste 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:

Richard Harriman Sr. gave a quick update on the BOCES project. He stated that everything is running smoothly. He doesn't have his board meeting till next week so apologized he didn't have any more of an update. Informed principals that he found that his grandson had an easier time with virtual learn by hooking tablet up to the television.

New Business:

- The next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

A motion was made by Mr. Trombley and seconded by Mr. Barlemus to approve.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. DeCoste and seconded by Mr. Barlemus to approve FY 20/21 Tax Collector's Report

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Trombley and seconded by Mr. Barlemus to approve FY 20/21 Report of Unpaid Taxes- Franklin County

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

Personnel- Appointments:

A motion was made by Mr. Miner seconded by Mr. DeCoste to approve the following Appointments

Employee	Position	Department	Effective Date	Pay Rate	Comments
A. Kim Juneau	TOC Aide/ Sub Teacher	District	November 12, 2020	\$12.50/hr \$90.00/ day	
B. Margret Tolosky	Sub Teacher/ Sub Nurse	District	November 12, 2020	ST\$90/day SN\$21.00/hr	Pending Fingerprinting
C. Tammy Manor	F/T 4hr Bus Driver	Transportation	November 12, 2020	Per CSEA Contract STEPS	
D. Francis McNeil	Automotive Mechanic Helper	Transportation	N/A	Per Contract (Remains the Same)	Title Change
E. Francis McNeil	Automotive Mechanic	Transportation	November 11,2020	Per Contract (Remains the Same)	New Title

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

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

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. DeCoste, seconded by Mr. Miner and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55PM.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

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