

# COPENHAGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Board of Education  
3020 Mechanic Street  
Copenhagen, NY 13626



**Monday, November 23, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting – via You Tube**

**APPROVED MINUTES – 12/14/20**

PRESIDENT, LYNN A. MURRAY, PRESIDING

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

KOREEN FREEMAN  
ROBERT STACKEL  
GABRIELLE THOMPSON  
ALFRED TOMASELLI

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

TROY BUCKLEY  
KEITH LEE

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

SCOTT N. CONNELL, Superintendent  
SCOT LUTHER, District Treasurer  
BRENDA SHELMDINE, District Clerk  
NADINE O'SHAUGHNESSY, Building Principal  
PAMELA RATLIFF, Elementary Principal  
ADAM ZEHR, Technology Coordinator  
ROBERT WILLIAMS, Watchdog Clerk of the Works

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

President Lynn Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

*Meeting called to Order*

On motion of Gabrielle Thompson, seconded by Koreen Freeman, the Board voted to approve the meeting agenda.

*Approved meeting Agenda*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Koreen Freeman, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the previous minutes: Regular Meeting October 26, 2020, Special Official Meeting, November 13, 2020.

*Approval of Previous minutes*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Gabrielle Thompson, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the Treasurers Report, Warrants for October 2020.

*Approval of Treasurers Report, Warrants*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Gabrielle Thompson, the Board voted to approve the 2021 – 2022 Budget Development Calendar.

*Approval of Budget Development Calendar*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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**B. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Robert Williams, Watchdog Clerk of the Works shared updated progress on the Capital Project. The project is winding down. The last of the materials are expected to be delivered by the end of December. Outdoor construction is nearly complete.

Brenda Shelmdine, District Clerk read a letter received from Mauranda Simmons in regards to concerns regarding procedures for parental notification regarding COVID19 positive cases and quarantines. Mr. Connell will respond in writing.

## C. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

### **BUILDING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

#### **Student Highlights:**

- The Halloween Parade was broadcast virtually this year, and the children were just as proud of their costumes as ever!
- January Regents Examinations have been cancelled.
- Students have been reminded to remain vigilant with their safety habits.

#### **Administrative Highlights:**

- Several students are interested in earning the Seal of Biliteracy this year. The necessary notification form has been submitted.
- Remote Learning Days have been necessary social/emotional reprieves for both students and staff.
- November fire drill(s) landed on an unseasonably warm day.
- After contract tracing was completed, it became necessary to plan, implement and subsequently adjust to remote learning and remote teaching for all middle school students and nearly all middle school teachers.

#### **Student Issues: to reduce bias (ethnicity, religion, gender, weight, socioeconomic status, etc.,)**

- Sources of Strength Club will be conducting a fall campaign "We Belong" including a big sign, announcements, and classroom activities centered around the message that students with any/all differences belong at CCS.



- Next topic for Middle School Advisory - Positivity Project: "Perspective and Empathy"
- Annual "Respect Roadshow" in the middle school has been completed.

#### **BOE Goal #2:**

##### **Technology:**

##### **Data safety and security**

##### **Cyber awareness - teaching behavior that ensures safe use**

- Purchased additional Chromebooks to replace failing devices.
- Mr. Williams secured \$18,508.50 from the Pratt Northam Foundation to purchase Chromebooks and protective sleeves to support remote instruction.
- Deploying educational wireless access devices to support remote instruction as needed.
- Please urge residents to complete the internet access survey provided by Lewis County. The link was distributed in Parent Square and on the district website. Adequate internet access continues to be one of the biggest challenges to supporting remote instruction.
- Classcraft behavior modification and student engagement platform was rolled out to the entire middle school. Almost all the middle school teachers are onboard and using the platform to engage students and promote positive interactions, in-person and remote.

#### **BOE Goal #4:**

##### **NYS Standards**

- Since January regents exams were cancelled, renewed focus has been placed on June exams and student success on their one opportunity to pass those tests this year.

#### **BOE Goal #5:**

##### **Social/Emotional**

- Counseling department continues to post monthly information and webinars for families; resources and self-care strategies for students and staff; meeting with students 1:1; and referring students and families for agency supports and services.

**Upcoming events:**

- Nov 23-24 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Dec 3 - ASVAB Career Exploration Program
- Dec 7 - Faculty Meeting - staff training to meet *Erin's Law* requirement
- Dec 9 - Remote Learning Day

**ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

- Veteran's Day did not go unnoticed here at CCS! The Veteran's Wall, including pictures of soldiers past and present, is up. Mr. Williams created and shared a video of the wall on social media. First graders also created thank you cards for soldiers and sent them to Fort Drum, where Mr. Stephens' battalion sent back photos of themselves with the cards to first graders.
- To help improve student achievement, it has been all hands on deck in the elementary. SPED teachers and therapists are quick to squeeze extra students into their schedules for short term interventions and Mrs. Greene has been providing self-directed learning opportunities for higher achieving students.
- Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) have been created by teachers. With the exception of Pre-K and special area teachers, all teachers are using the mCLASS Universal Screening as their pre-test data. This eliminates the need for any testing that wouldn't typically take place or that doesn't drive instruction.
- The North Country Family Health Center Dental Clinic still has not received approval from the state and has decided not to return to Copenhagen this year. They plan to hopefully return next year.
- The Technology Department is gearing up for the possibility of remote learning. Padded envelopes are labeled for each student's device, and the Technology Department is double and triple checking digital resources to make sure they will be accessible for our elementary students. Zearn log-in cards and Classlink credentials for each elementary teacher to send home are a work in progress as well.
- Although desperately hoping it won't be needed, elementary teachers are also gearing up for remote learning. They have created schedules, using screen time guidelines as a reference and have had students practice logging into different web based activities and Google Meet.
- The Lewis County Shop with a Cop event is coming up soon, and four of our students were nominated to spend the day "shopping with a cop".
- Perry Ground, a Haudenosaunee story teller virtually visited 4th grade to share traditional Native American culture with students.
- Small groups and individual counseling sessions have begun with Mr. Spaulding and Mr. Carden.
- Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Mattis solicited funding from *Designs by Knights* for [Reading Teachers Top Ten Tools](#) training. This online course content is based upon a firm foundation of proven knowledge and pedagogy, research and practice that truly informs the daily work teachers do to teach their students to read. Twelve teachers are completing the course and meet bi-weekly for a discussion focused on each tool, facilitated by Mrs. Mattis and Mrs. Williams.

**Grant Updates:**

- We have been awarded a Primary Project Mini Grant. This \$750 will be used to purchase new toys for the playroom and to offset the cost of the SEL screening tool. Primary Project is a national evidence-based program that helps children in Pre-K through third grade adjust to school, gain confidence, social skills, and focus on learning. Through play, Primary Project addresses children's school adjustment difficulties and increases their chances for success. We have been implementing Primary Project for over 10 years.

**Special Education Numbers**

Date	CSE	CPSE	504
11/20/2020	74	10	12 1 pending

**D. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT**

- The moral in our school seems to be much greater than it has ever been, it isn't perfect, sometimes some get down; but for the most part people come together to make this work. There is pride in the fact that being here five days is important and its happening everywhere. Teachers and staff are also experiencing life outside of school in COVID19 and are not bringing it to school. If we have to go remote, teachers want to teach here. Everyone is going above and beyond.
- Everyone is back today from the 7th grade quarantine, we still have two teacher aides and one student who are quarantined from a different incident who were quarantined before so it did not affect anyone. We continue to meet with Public Health almost every day and there were seven more cases in Lewis County today - seems to be coming on nursing homes, hunting camps and work sights. No spreads from schools. They are concerned about the numbers in Lewis County, but also understanding that schools are the best place for kids. We will do all that we can to keep our kids here. Technically, we are a red zone district but because of the low population; and the fact that the numbers are down, we are putting things in place if we are put into a zone. The hospital is preparing us to be a testing sight and that requires us to partner with public health and the hospital. If we were to go into that zone, we would have to test 10% of our enrollment within two weeks. If we get to that point, we will be sending a letter out to parents. If after the twos weeks our infection rate is lower than the county, it allows us to stay in school and not have to test anymore. The nurse will test everyone and that is only if we are put in that zone. The Governor is well aware that schools are safest place right now.
- Winter sports - still waiting for the Governor for direction, moved start date to January 4.
- Parent Conferences are going on now and will continue tomorrow afternoon.
- Will be responding to letter read at the beginning of the meeting. There are some inaccuracies in the third paragraph of the letter, which will be addressed.

**E. NEW BUSINESS**

On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Tamie Muncy as Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Coach for the winter 2020 – 2021 season.

*Approval of  
Tamie Muncy  
Girls JV Coach*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Gabrielle Thompson, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Denise Cheal as Substitute Bus Driver pending driver requirements.

*Approval of  
Denise Cheal as  
Substitute Bus  
Driver*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Gabrielle Thompson, the Board voted to approve the appointment of **Madison Shaw** as Temporary Part-Time Lunch Aide, effective November 10, 2020.

*Appointment of  
Madison Shaw as  
Temporary Part-Time  
Lunch Aide*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the appointment of **Ashley Elias** as Temporary Part-Time Lunch Aide, effective November 12, 2020.

*Appointment of  
Ashley Elias as  
Temporary Part-Time  
Lunch Aide*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Robert Stackel, the Board voted to approve the appointment of **Terri Kloster** as Full-Time, 12 month Night Cleaner, effective November 17, 2020.

*Appointment of  
Terri Kloster to  
Night Time Cleaner*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to adjust substitute pay salaries to the minimum wage rate schedule of \$12.50 per hour, as set by New York State as follows effective January 1, 2021:

*Approval to adjust  
Substitute pay salaries  
to the minimum wage  
rate schedule*

Less than a Bachelors

\$ 90.00

Bachelor's Degree	\$ 95.00
Certified Teacher	\$110.00
Long Term Sub <= 15 consecutive days	\$110.00
Long Term Sub > 15 consecutive days	\$125.00

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Robert Stackel, the Board voted to approve the first and only reading of the Revised Substitute Teacher Compensation Policy.

*Approval of Revised Substitute Teacher Compensation Policy*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board vote to approve the first and only reading of Board of Education Policy #3520 Community Relations – Extraordinary Circumstances.

*Approval of Policy #3520 Community Relations*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the first and only reading of the Interim Board of Education Policy on Salary and Benefits Expenses on Sponsored Awards during Unexpected or Extraordinary Circumstances (COVID-19 Crisis).

*Approval of Interim Board Policy on Salary and Benefits Expenses on Sponsored Awards*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the following substitutes:

*Approval of Substitutes*

Brandon Scott, Substitute Cleaner, pending fingerprinting clearance  
Nancy Snyder, Substitute Cleaner

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Robert Stackel, the Board voted to approve the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education, as presented.

*Approval of CSE and CPSE recommendations*

<b>VOTE:</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	
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**F. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Mr. Connell opened up discussion as we continue to move through these times, Public Health is expecting spikes after the holidays; and we could potentially have a situation as we had in middle school, are we all still in favor to stay in school with kids who are able to stay in with. There is talk in Jefferson and Lewis County of closing after Thanksgiving through January 19 to let travel and everything settle down. Mr. Connell believes it is in the best interest of kids to be in school as it is the safest place for them. If we have to send a group home because of contact tracing, I am in favor of doing that, but keeping our elementary here. If there is a positive case in the elementary the only people going home would the teacher and an individual class and possibility our PE teacher.

Mrs. Freeman said Science says staying in school is the best especially for elementary students.

Mr. Connell shared we found that out in the spring. Elementary kids just struggle and it is just hard. Encourages our families to do everything they can to be responsible. It would be even more difficult than it was in the spring for families. Encouraged our families to do everything they can to be responsible and they want our kids to be here so they have to make a sacrifice to not doing some of the things they were doing to make sure that happens.

Mr. Murray shared that the schools, admin, and the board is interested in doing all we can to do to keep the school open, and working with the Health Departments is what we will do and will continue to do and anything we can do to keep the kids in school daily.

At 6:36 p.m. and on motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Koreen Freeman, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

*Adjourn meeting*

VOTE:	YES	5	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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*Brenda C. Shelmidine*

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Brenda C. Shelmidine  
District Clerk