

**Northern Adirondack Central School District**  
**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Tuesday, February 9, 2021 – 6:00 PM**  
**Distance Learning Center at the MS/ HS and Via WebEx for Public in Ellenburg, NY**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Roll Call:**

Paul Gilmore- Present  
Phalon Miner-Present  
Bryan Trombley-Present  
Steven Bartlemus- Present  
Willie Venne- Present  
Trevor Finley- Present  
Mark Decose- Present

**Others Present:**

James Knight, Jr. - Superintendent  
Brian Tousignant - Business Manager  
Pam Pitts, Troy LaPoint, Richard Pitts, Mark Reif, Aaron Spooner, DeAnn Gregory, Brett Smith, Matthew Boulrice, Richard Harriman Sr.

Mr. Gilmore Board of Education’s President, called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Attendance was taken by Brittany LaBombard, District Clerk, Seven Board of Education members were present for this evening’s meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus seconded by Mr. Trombley and passed unanimously to go into Executive Session, at 6:03 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. Miner seconded by Mr. Venne and passed unanimously to come out of the Executive Session, at 6:34 PM.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

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

- January 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

### Superintendent Knight's Report

Good Evening! It certainly has been quite the roller coaster since returning to our in-person and hybrid learning models last Monday, February 1st. The crazy weather that caused back to back snow days followed by our first positive COVID case that prompted extensive contact tracing was a lot to manage. I give a lot of credit to our district clerk, building principals, and department supervisors who helped me through the required process with the Clinton County Health Department. We all spent more than 10 hours verifying our contacts and marking the report and phone calls to our staff and families. Our situation resulted in 16 staff members and over 60 students placed under quarantine orders. With so many staff from different buildings and departments out the in-person option has been a daily juggling act. Especially when you add the number of staff getting their 1st and 2nd vaccination this week as well. Those getting their 2nd vaccination may also be out if they experience the common side effects, so daily check-ins and briefings have occurred to finalize plans for the following day. At this point, I am most worried about Friday because we have 12 employees scheduled to receive their 2nd vaccination on Thursday. All in all, everyone is working together to get by. For example, the middle/ high school started sending staff over to the elementary to cover special so that the regular education teachers could get their required breaks. Aside from that our negative status as being the number one worst fiscal stress situation on the comptroller's list has sparked some media attention. I have completed interviews with News Channel 5, Spectrum News out of Albany, and most recently with a writer from the On-Board Publication produced by the New York State School Boards Association. The big question has been, how would the Governor's proposal to cap and combine aids like transportation and BOCES Aid along with the current reliance on Federal dollars impact you as a district? My response has echoed the comptroller's comment about that proposal causing a fiscal cliff when the federal funding stops and goes away. Which would push our district over the cliff first because we do not have the fund balance or reserves to combat that loss. So our goal must be to grow some in order to survive when that happens. Beyond that we are happy to be back and seeing the students.

### Personnel - Appointments/ Resignations

Employee	Position	Department	Effective Date	Pay Rate	Comments
A. Lizze Brunet	Teacher –Aide/ Student Aide; Sub. Teacher	District	02/10/2021	\$12.50/ hr; \$90.00/ day	Pending Fingerprint Clearance
B. Heather Genereux	Temp. On-Call Bus Monitor	Transportation	02/01/2021	\$12.50/ hr	Fingerprint Clearance 1/29/2021
C. Carol Peets	Part Time Aide	District	1/28/2021	N/A	Resignation

Employee	Position	Department	Effective Date	Pay Rate	Comments
D. Brittney Eastman	Temp. On-Call Bus Monitor	Transportation	1/28/2021	N/A	Resignation
E. Dianne Nichols	Temp On-Call Student Aide	District	2/10/2021	\$12.50/ hr	
F. Candy Brunet	Temp On-Call Student Aide	District	2/10/2021	\$12.50/ hr	
G. Sara Knight	Competitive Cheerleading Varsity Coach	Athletics Department	2/9/2021	N/A	Resignation

A motion was made by Mr. DeCoste and seconded by Mr. Bartlemus to approve the personnel appointments and resignations.

All board members presented voted yes- motion carried

### **Financial:**

A motion was made by Mr. Miner 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. Bartlemus and seconded by Mr. DeCoste to accept the budget status report and treasurer'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. Bartlemus to approve the CSE recommendations.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried

**There were no updates to the following:**

Food Service Report  
 Custodial – Maintenance Report  
 Student Association Reports and Bank Reconciliation Reports  
 Administrators  
 NATA  
 CSEA

*Board Member Bryan Trombley-* Asked if we are still having Ski Club and if that is the reason for the \$7400 in and \$7400 out in the Ski Club as part of the Student Association Reports?

*Board Member Trevor Finley-* He spoke with Mr. Loughman on this because of his daughter showing interest in attending Ski Club. Mr. as long as a parent brings their child and goes with them they can attend.

**The Board opened the meeting for public comment:**

Richard Harriman, Sr. - Updated us on the BOCES project and everything is going well.

**Old Business:**

A motion was made by Mr. Finley and seconded Mr. Miner to approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 2021.

All board members present voted yes- motion was carried

**New Business:**

- Next board meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.
- Accept Resolution put forth by Section VII and Clinton County Health Department in the form of a preparedness plan for participation in high-risk sports.

**High Risk Sports Discussion:**

*Superintendent Knight-*

All board members received Northern Adirondack CSD Preparedness Plan for Member of Section VII, NYSPHSAA.

The Governor has the New York State Department of Health, released a memo on a Friday afternoon that the New York State Public High School Athletic Association has no idea was coming. I can say that with full knowledge because I participated in this meeting with the leader of the NYSPHSAA. Two days prior to just being released in that meeting he said to all of the Section VII Council for High school sports up here that they were not aware of any changes in regards to high risk sports at that time. They also asked someone at the state level to let them know ahead of time if any changes were going to come about. That way they could get it out to the section coordinators and start planning as to what sections could possibly do now that we are really at the tail end of a normal school years winter season. Some adjustments on date have been made and will get into that a little later on. They slip this out and Friday afternoon everybody started scrambling. The guess is that it kind of came about because the Governor's office has received a couple of lawsuits stemming from Western New York. The Governor basically said get it from the local health departments and let the health department figure that out. That's why we've had to come up with these preparedness plans. Normally, as you would know the Health Department doesn't get involved with high school sports. They don't ask for resolutions because it's not part of the process. Basically as school districts we have put the money in the budget the previous year for athletics. They're already approved at this level. So when it becomes a school decision whether you're going to participate. With that being said there were some criteria that the local health department put together and Matthew Walentuk the Section VII coordinator put a template together for all of the Section VII schools. The reality is a Section VII is comprised of five counties. So there's five different health departments that are trying to weigh in and it's different for everybody. Our current plan is the preparedness plan for the following sports, boy's and girls' basketball, ice hockey and competitive cheerleading for the winter season. With that being said this is a plan that goes through all sorts of procedural issues. There's generally requirements. Screening requirements that you know we have to do the same screening that we're doing for students and staff on a daily basis. Beyond that facilities management which involve a cleaning after contest if we ever get to that point. One of the big rule is that no spectators will be allowed at any given time. I can say that most of the emphasis here right now we'll be on producing a varsity opportunity with modified and JV having potential weekend opportunities but not being play against other school districts. Our varsity we will potentially look at having gameplay happen. You know they have to have a certain number of practices in. I don't know the end of the season as of yet. The official potential start date for Clinton County would be February 15<sup>th</sup>. The true likelihood of any of our sports actually starting on the 15th is pretty slim because of the background with the medical doctors and getting the consent forms and getting everything lined up. The only high risk sport that we are not offering right now is wrestling so far this has been put on hold. It hasn't been cancelled completely but has been postponed and pushed to a later date. As far as, you know, earlier in the year and gave my opinions in regards to fall sports, and I still support what I said back in the fall. But as the years progressed I realize that there's been a lot of work to try to prevent any of the additional craziness that goes around it.

And I believe that the criteria that's put forward here was protect our athletes and prevent the additional spread of that sort of thing.

*Board Member Phalon Miner-*

If we can't have our high school kids here all the time in school and we have a hard enough time getting what we are getting. Then I can't see no winter sports at all.

*Superintendent Knight-*

What I can tell you is these two situations even though they fall under this umbrella are two separate things. We don't have the ability to create a difference in our everyday school day that is something that has not been granted to us. However, they've allowed for the health departments in the sections and schools to develop plans for safety in regards to the sports. And that's different. I wish they would let us do that again with actual school day. Because then we're talking about does six feet matter? Do masses matter? Can we bring more kids in the classroom if we are going put more kids on a bus? That's what we really like to do. Now these are still two separate conversations.

*Board Member Trevor Finley-*

They've already in this packet nicely outlined how exactly to get signed consent. In all these signing waivers and if we can do it with sports then at some point I think we are going to be able to get a parents to sign waivers to get the kids in school full time. This is a lot of effort for something and seems like a lot of work for this late in the year to get this party started.

*Superintendent Knight-*

Remember the work is being done from different places. What's interesting? The Governor actually didn't come out with allowing winter sports what he allowed was for the Health Department to make that decision. We're hoping that we're going to get to a place that says if you want to sign off and let us put a whole bunch of kids on the road and allow us to have a full group within the classroom, hopefully something like this helps us.

*Board Member Bryan Trombley-*

So this approval is saying yes we agree to this, or yes we agree to move forward with developing a more.

*Superintendent Knight-*

Well, the plan is already been developed. In here is the criteria that has to be followed for each sport. We already have our internal building criteria in regards to how well we would end up doing is creating part of their plan like how do you set up practice. So beyond tonight. You're in

agreement, and we think our students safe enough to follow and we can add extra things too. If you think something is missing or something more than needs to be done in regards to health and safety of our athletes. It's a matter of saying we accept the plan and we want to give it a shot. Then basically that plan becomes eventual eventually a public document that people can look at, because they asked us to post it. And then all the other planning begins. You know, have you followed our practices, how

*Board Member Bryan Trombley-*

So do we even have enough staff for just the cleaning part and for the extra screening? And do we have enough coaches?

*Superintendent Knight-*

According to Jay we have enough staff. And as far as coaches we are only missing the Varsity Cheerleading Coach as you can see she had to resign due being hurt at work.

*Board Member Phalon Miner-*

Is this just for the winter sports, or is it spring sports as well.

*Superintendent Knight-*

This is just for high risk winter sports.

*Board Member Bryan Trombley-*

Is this for Modified, JV and Varsity?

*Superintendent Knight-*

We're talking about an idea and putting a plan together for a modified and JV players because they waive the seven day criteria. So you can have things on Sundays and Saturdays as much as you want. At this point, we'll be considering bringing our younger basketball teams, and students in on a weekend and having them do skill and drill sets and then have them broken up into groups to do like intramural scrimmages. There is a couple of reasons for that. After school practices will probably be a whole lot easier for older students to get to where the younger ones will definitely need more rides from the parents. Since we cannot have any spectators at contests. It's a lot to ask to a parent to stay outside in their car and wait. A lot of schools are talking about doing, Saturday, Sunday JV modified date. So we might have a team come to us. Most of us are trying to stay within the county initially, even though we've been given the ability to travel to Essex and Franklin counties.

The adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Paul Gilmore, President	Voting	<u>Yes</u>
Phalon Miner, Vice President	Voting	<u>No</u>
Steven Bartlemus	Voting	<u>Yes</u>
Willie Venne	Voting	<u>Yes</u>
Trevor Finley	Voting	<u>No</u>
Mark DeCoste	Voting	<u>Abstain</u>
Bryan Trombley	Voting	<u>Yes</u>

The resolution was declared adopted.

### **XIII. Discussion of Policy 5152 ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS**

Superintendent Knight started off with where we left off last time talking about if we wanted to still accept new nonresident students. There was some question's regarding what other districts did and or doing. The other piece of that question was what we should be charging for tuition if we do allow it. In the policy that Mr. Knight presented at the last meeting and the suggestion was made to eliminate any new non-resident students. Students on the list of nonresident students to maintain this with the inclusion of any of their future children as well. Kind of grandfathered in those families. Then we talked a little bit about the rate and how our rate hasn't changed at all since 2013. It has been \$1,500 per student and the second child is \$750 and any staff member of the district gets a 20% discount off that figure.

We have 10 or 12 students total that are tuition paid and only one family that is not an employee student and the rest are employee students. Looking at the chart that was provided with the component district in CVES / BOCES district you'll see we are actually our \$1,500 submission rate was pretty equivalent some. Mr. Knight suggested some type of increase of maybe a tiered increase over like a little bit every year but that's where we're at with the discussion from our last meeting.

Mr. Tousignant calculated the most accurate number of the tax payer rate for students but you often will see like our students how much per pupil in our district that includes state aid. But he broke it down to how much per pupil that is based on what taxpayers pay which is actually significantly higher than it was. Prior to the 2021 school year the tax levy for students because we have such the increase this past tax season is around \$7500 per student year prior it was hovering below \$5,000. I can tell you that I would feel awkward in suggesting that we jumped to that and asked our families. But the reality is that may be a more fair number to the rest of the taxpayers. So that's not including state. In addition there was a huge conversation on whether we



increase tuition and how would it be increased. As of now the board is still wanting to keep non-resident students an option for the district. The biggest reason being it would give the district when hiring new staff an incentive to come and work for the district and having the option to pay tuition for their children to come.

**The Board opened the meeting for public comment.**

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Mr. DeCoste, seconded by Mr. Venne and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

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