

**WESTFIELD ACADEMY AND CENTRAL SCHOOL
Board of Education**

Supplemental Business Meeting

**PROPOSED AGENDA
Monday, March 22, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Addendum

4.0 Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Communications to the Board

- f. CCSBA Virtual Legislative Dinner 2021 (Enclosure # 13)

4.2 Discussion Items

- e. Updated Letter to Chautauqua County Re: Social Distancing (Enclosure #14)

8.0 Action Items

8.2 New Business

- d. Moved by _____ seconded by _____ that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education approve the following change orders for the 2020-2021 Capital Outlay Project, totaling \$48,437.00 for the replacement of ceilings at Westfield Academy and Central School District.

- 1. Change Order 102-01: Amount \$32,839.00 - Payable to the lowest responsible bidder Chautauqua Mechanical II, LLC.
- 2. Change Order 102-02: Amount \$15,598.00 - Payable to the lowest responsible bidder Chautauqua Mechanical II, LLC. (Enclosure #15)

- e. Personnel

- 9. Moved by _____ seconded by _____ that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education approve the appointment of Jeffrey Beadle to the Supplemental Salary Schedule as Varsity Football Assistant Coach for the 2021 Season, in accordance with the WTA Agreement currently in effect, effective March 23, 2021.

10. Moved by _____ seconded by _____ that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Westfield Academy and Central School District Board of Education approve the following student teacher from SUNY Fredonia:

| Student Teacher | Building Level | Mentor | Period of Time |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| Cassidy Weaver (taking place of Sara Graff who was approved at 1/11/21 BOE Meeting) | Elementary | Kendra Bills | March 22 – May 14, 2021 |



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY SCHOOL
BOARDS ASSOCIATION

***Annual
Legislative Dinner***

***EVENT WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM
DUE TO COVID-19***

***Assemblyman Andrew Goodell
And Senator George Borrello
will be in attendance***

Thursday, April 22nd, 2021

6:30pm

All attendees must register through Jenn
by emailing her at ccsba7@gmail.com

***Deadline to Register:
Friday, April 16th, 2021***

WACS Letterhead

March **DRAFT** 2021

Christine Schuyler
Chautauqua County Health Department
7 N Erie St
Mayville NY 14757

Proposal for Reduced Spacing in Chautauqua County Schools

This is a proposal to the Chautauqua County Department of Health to reduce the Chautauqua County in-school student spacing from 6 feet to 3 feet. This follows the Onondaga County's Department of Health's recommendation for their county's schools. The key point for any change to the social separation rules must provide for a similar level of safety for the students, staff, and their families.

Many schools in Chautauqua County have been pushing for more in-school education. Westfield was learning how to do safe in-school education in a COVID world as early as last July for summer pre-school. Unfortunately most county schools have been limited by the physical space restrictions presented by the 6 ft rule. The older school buildings in the county are simply not big enough for all our students. As a result, schools have been forced into entirely virtual operation or a hybrid model that has students in class two days a week. Studies show that these models lead to poorer educational outcomes, mental health issues, impeded social development, inadequate nutrition, lack of special educational services, among other issues.

The first question is what authoritative body has the right to determine spacing rules. While the World Health Organization (WHO) has done all of its safety determinations based on the rate that droplets would fall in an one meter spacing, the WHO doesn't have authority in the US. A second organization that could have a say is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). OSHA has basically deferred to the CDC and not made any mandatory requirements in the work place other than requiring the General Duty Clause standard.

A third organization is the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which has done extensive research on safe interactions during a pandemic. It recommends social distancing in <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>. It is interesting that this guidance document's very first sentence only says, "*Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household.*". The CDC recognizes that safety is the most important aspect, and ends up recommending 6 ft as a distance to help achieve safety among other steps like hand washing and masks. Its guidelines for school opening, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>, state that most important in preventing the spread of COVID is, "*Consistent implementation of layered mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools*". The takeaway from all of this is that safety is the important factor, not a particular social spacing distance.

One of the keys to this authoritative bodies question is the emergency powers granted to the Governor. Gov Cuomo's Executive Orders (EO) have the power to supersede virtually all laws and regulations in the state. As part of this, EO 202.4 closed schools in March, 2020, while EO 202.11 required schools to continue to provide education and meals, even if closed. Subsequent EO required schools to have a reopening plan. This "*Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the Covid-19 Health Public Health Emergency*" document identified many issues that schools needed to

address to ensure they could have in-person education. See:

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf)

[K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf). As part of this guidance, a paragraph on page 2 discusses social distancing. It says, “*social distancing means six feet of space in all directions between individuals or use of appropriate physical barriers between individuals that do not adversely affect air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation, or otherwise present a health or safety risk*”. In short, six feet is NOT a pre-requisite for safety. Appropriate barriers can be used as an equivalent to the six feet spacing. Since these executive orders supersede all other state regulations, and education is under state law, not federal (ie CDC), then the meanings of the EO are the guidance that has weight.

The last piece on what entities have authority is the NYS DOH “*Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency*” that states that County Health Departments have final say in how sports and recreation activities are to reopen safely. This is not just high school sports, but it gives broad authority to weigh in on safety of sports, dining, Local health authorities are to consider:

- whether there has been a more-transmissible variant of COVID-19 identified in the area
- local rates of COVID-19 transmission or rate of positivity, and
- local ability to monitor and enforce compliance

The Onondaga County Health Department recognized this and further asked what additional factors should be considered when considering reducing the spacing from six to three feet. They asked:

1. What is the current COVID transmission and severity in children?
2. What is the local epidemiology and transmission situation of COVID in each school?
3. What are the capabilities of each school to maintain COVID prevention and control measures?

Onondaga County answered those questions for their local schools, which resulted in a safe educational setting (considering all the negatives of virtual and hybrid models) with three ft spacing with the additional requirements:

1. Students and staff continue to wear masks
2. Student/staff spacing remains at 6 ft
3. Frequent hand washing
4. Continue symptom screening and contact tracing when needed
5. Staggered schedules to ensure no congregation
6. Seat assignments, classroom units, and other measures to maintain cohorts
7. Physical and music education, lunch, and transportation to be reviewed separately
8. Remote learning remains an option for reluctant parents
9. Not specifically stated, but the assumption of additional ventilation, additional cleaning, sufficient PPE,

10. Finally, the additional requirement of physical barriers between children in the classroom

There is a new report in the Journal of Clinical Infectious Diseases, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciab230> discussing the health outcomes in Massachusetts depending on student spacing. These Harvard Medical School researchers looked at about half a million students and 100 thousand teachers in 251 MA schools with varying physical spacing requirements, and found no difference in health outcomes whether the school had a 3 or 6 ft spacing minimum. The school COVID disease level mirrored the outlying community, regardless of spacing. The proviso was only universal masking, but schools also used many of the safety steps listed above, except no sneeze guard was needed.

So let’s move to Chautauqua County, and the WACS District specifically.

1. COVID transmission in children has been minimal. Severity is low.
2. There are no more-transmissible variants of COVID that we know of in Chautauqua County

3. Local epidemiology: There have been NO WACS students that we believe have transmitted COVID to others while in the building. No positive cases have lead to hospitalization, let alone needing a ventilator.
4. The rate of COVID spread in Chautauqua County has continued to drop. In WACS, the transmission rate has been zero, to the best of our knowledge.
5. WACS continues to maintain all of the preventative measures listed above, with the only step not yet done is item 10. As stated earlier, WACS has been doing as much in-person education as possible, going back to last July. We have maintained our control over COVID prevention and control measures. We have modified and improved as best practices become more apparent.

The Westfield Academy and Central School Board of Education believes that continuing the ongoing safety steps, but reducing social spacing to 3 feet will result in student safety. We request the Chautauqua Department of Health to issue a statement allowing Chautauqua schools to have limited 3 ft spacing in the classrooms, subject to the other safety precautions listed above.

Sincerely

WACS BOE

CHAUTAUQUA MECHANICAL II, LLC.

2587 Third Avenue
Falconer, NY 14733
Phone # 716-665-5938
Fax # 716-665-2272
chautmech@windstream.net

QUOTATION

Enclosure #15

Date 3/17/21

Westfield Academy & CSD
203 East Main Street
Westfield NY 14787

SCOPE

TOTAL

Acoustic Ceiling Replacement Per Corridor:

48,437.⁰⁰

per Jeff Mann.

1. Corridor 159C - Area A - 1,040 SF = \$ 7,572.40 \$7.28/sf

\$32,839- Change order 102-01

2. Corridor 166C - Area B - 2,800 SF = \$ 16,903.70 \$6.03/sf

3. Corridor 128C - Area C - 1,265 SF = \$ 8,363.30 \$6.61/sf

4. Corridor 186C - Area D - 575 SF \$ 4,562.80 \$7.94/sf

\$15,598- Change order 102-02

5. Corridor 128C - Area E - 1,800 SF = \$ 11,035.20 \$6.13/sf

Perry Construction Quotation Attached

TOTAL \$48,437.40

Perry Construction Group, Inc.

March 16, 2021

Mr. Chris Giltinan
Chautauqua Mechanical II, LLC
2587 3rd Avenue
Falconer, NY 14733

Re: Westfield Academy –
2020 Capital Outlay Project -
Acoustic Ceiling Replacements

Dear Mr. Giltinan:

In accordance with your request and Gordon Jones Sketches SK-01 to SK-05 dated March 9, 2021 we have established the following stand-alone Lump Sum proposal amounts for acoustic ceiling replacements at various locations throughout Westfield Academy. Our proposed cost for this work amounts to the following Lump Sum proposal amounts of:

1. Acoustic Ceiling Replacement – Corridor 159C – Area A - 1,040 SF = \$6,884.00
2. Acoustic Ceiling Replacement – Corridor 166C – Area B – 2,800 SF = \$15,367.00
3. Acoustic Ceiling Replacement – Corridor 128C – Area C – 1,265 SF = \$7,603.00
4. Acoustic Ceiling Replacement – Corridor 186C – Area D – 575 SF = \$4,148.00
5. Acoustic Ceiling Replacement – Corridor 128C – Area E = 1,800 SF = \$10,032.00

We have included the following items of work in our cost above:

1. All work to be performed 1st shift.
2. All required tools, equipment, safety protection and daily cleanup of our work.
3. All required ladders, Perry scaffold and / or lifts.
4. All required removal and disposal of existing acoustic grid and tile. Including temporary support of light fixtures as required.
5. Furnish and install all required new acoustic grid and 2' x 2' fine fissured tegular ceiling tile with reveal at any cut edges of walls, soffits, etc., as required.
6. Furnish and install new gypsum bulkheads at Area A, Area C and Area D as detailed.

and other devices

We have made the following clarifications to our proposal above:

1. We have excluded costs for bonds or premium insurance.
2. We have excluded costs for a building permit, architectural or engineering fees.
3. We have excluded sprinkler, plumbing, mechanical and electrical costs.
4. Pricing is based on construction as of current market value. Pricing is good for 30 days from the date of this proposal.
5. Approximate lead time required for acoustic ceiling system is 2 weeks from date order is placed to supplier.

March 16, 2021
Page Two

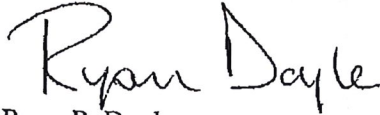
We have enclosed copies of our Quantity Surveys dated March 16, 2021 along with supporting backup for your review and consideration.

Please understand that *we are not proceeding* with this work until we are in receipt of authorization to do so from your office.

We look forward to discussing this proposal with you in further detail in the near future.

We trust this meets with your approval.

Very truly yours,
PERRY CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan Doyle".

Ryan P. Doyle
Vice President / Project Manager

RPD/tm

c: Robert Doyle, PCG
Rebecca Pollack, PCG
Jeremy Krawczyk, PCG

