

COPENHAGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Board of Education
3020 Mechanic Street
Copenhagen, NY 13626



Monday, February 22, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Regular Meeting – via You Tube

APPROVED MINUTES – 3/22/21

PRESIDENT, LYNN A. MURRAY, PRESIDING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

KOREEN FREEMAN
KEITH LEE
ROBERT STACKEL
GABRIELLE THOMPSON
ALFRED TOMASELLI

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

TROY BUCKLEY

OTHERS PRESENT:

SCOTT N. CONNELL, Superintendent
SCOT LUTHER, District Treasurer
BRENDA SHELMIDINE, District Clerk
NADINE O'SHAUGHNESSY, Building Principal
PAMELA RATLIFF, Elementary Principal
ADAM ZEHR, Technology Coordinator
NICOLE LEE, Committee on Special Education Chairperson

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

Called to order

On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board voted to approve the revised meeting agenda.

Approval of revised agenda

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the previous minutes: Regular Meeting January 25, 2021.

Approval of previous minutes

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the Treasurers Report for January, 2021.

Approval of Treasurers Report

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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Mr. Luther discussed the tax cap and tax levy. The status of the policy manual was reviewed; and discussion on the implementation of BoardDocs, a School Board Management Software program.

On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Robert Stackel, the Board voted to approve the Warrant's for January, 2021.

Approval of Warrant

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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2021 – 2022 Instructional Budget Presentations, General Education, Special Education – Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, Mrs. Ratliff, Mrs. Lee.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

C. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

BUILDING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Student Highlights:

- "I Am Little Red" was presented to the high school.
- Among the senior privileges that have been implemented is a room change for lunch whereby all those who eat at school who are eligible for privileges are allowed to eat in the same large room.
- BOCES has posted their virtual open house videos for both the [Watertown](#) and [Glenfield](#) campuses, which Mrs. Gillette shared with all sophomores and parents in Parent Square.
- Thirteen seniors took advantage of an all day scholarship work session with Mrs. Gillette Feb 12.
- The kindergarten classes graced the school with a royalty parade dressed as kings, queens, princes and princesses.

Administrative Highlights:

- Several student teachers are completing their field experience this semester from the library to the classrooms to the gym.
- Finding subs to cover all staff who are either home sick or on quarantine has been challenging and shows no signs of getting any easier.
- The first of the year's lockdown drills has been accomplished, in its modified form, to prevent students from clustering tightly into one space in the room.

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

- The latest bias we are trying to reduce is "Covid-shaming" whereby students treat each other poorly based on the fact that they have tested for, quarantined for, or had COVID.

BOE Goal #2:

Technology:

Data safety and security

Cyber awareness - teaching behavior that ensures safe use

- Working on a potential broadband pilot project that could expand access for our district students. More to report on this soon.
- Please urge residents to complete the internet access survey provided by Jefferson County. This is the same survey that was sent out to Lewis County residents a few months ago. 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. <https://www.jeffersoncountybroadband.com/>
- We continue to do our best to fulfill the technology needs of remote staff and students. This continues to be a well coordinated team effort between the parents, teachers, offices and technology department. We are able to get items home to students very quickly.

BOE Goal #4:

NYS Standards

- No new work has been done in the area this month.

BOE Goal #5:

Social/Emotional

- Sources of Strength club issued free Valen-KIND messages and goodies for students and staff.

Upcoming events:

- Mar 3 - Remote Learning Day
- Mar 10- Mad City Money (grade 10)
- Mar 10 - Career Day presenters

Mar 17 - Potential Remote Learning Day

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

- K-2 teachers are singing the praises of small class sizes. Some benefits shared are teachers knowing exactly which skills individual students excel at or lack, more effective small group instruction and building better relationships.
- Our partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension has the potential to grow exponentially through two grant proposals. Our newest DoDEA proposal includes collaboration with CCS to provide work-life balance and health activities both during

the summer and throughout the school year. CCE, with the help of Laura Bourcy are also putting together an Extended School Day/School Violence Protection proposal that could offer summer programming as well as Positivity Project funding. This is in addition to the partnership we have with them that provides the 4-H afterschool program.

- Grant Updates
 - *Knight's Armour* -
 - This grant is in its final months, but the initiatives brought about because of it will stay with us for years to come. (SEL Screening, I am a Knight assemblies, Responsive Classroom, 2nd Step Curriculum)
 - SEL Universal Screening has been completed and data chats are in progress. A number of students have progressed from counselor facilitated interventions back into classroom managed interventions, indicating the small focus groups, Primary Project and individual counseling have been effective in helping students develop SEL skills needed to be successful in the classroom and in life.
 - I am a Knight assemblies are being held virtually each month. The assemblies address *Other People Matter* topics from Positivity Project.
 - *Knights in Training*
 - Due to COVID, all teachers have become math intervention specialists, using STAR Math data, small groups and online resources (IXL, Zearn) to address learning gaps.
 - Plans on in the works for Mr. Williams to work with higher achieving students, using the Engineering is Elementary curriculum.
 - Later next month, students will receive materials needed for our 2nd annual Veggie Races.
 - *Future Knights*
 - Mrs. Greene has begun working with 4th graders on self directed learning activities.
 - We are hopefully optimistic that students will be able to engage in online coursework. We are awaiting EdLaw 2-D compliance from *Outschool*.
 - *Healthy Knights*
 - Our newest proposal will focus on Health Sciences and Literacy. DoDEA is expected to announce successful applications before September 30th.
- Students are happy to be in school where learning is fun!
 - As an end to their King and Queen unit, Kindergarten students recently participated in a Royal Parade, bowing and curtsying to parade observers.
 - Miss Ellingsworth's third graders created [this video](#) on weather around the world.
 - Mrs. O'Mara's PE classes all participated in a snowshoeing unit, enjoying the winter weather and experiencing an activity that they can participate in throughout their lives.
 - All students enjoy outdoor recess nearly every day. This winter, students have been sledding and we are grateful that Mrs. Fuller loves to be outside - even when it's super cold.

Special Education Numbers, 2/19/21:

CSE - 71; CPSE - 10 (2 pending, 1 declassified); 504 - 14 (1 pending)

D. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

- Numbers in Lewis County are on their way down. Jefferson County is testing asymptomatic students now. Public Health is pleased where we are at and where we are headed.
- We will be interviewing for an elementary teacher for the 21-22 school year. We have received 37 applications, and are interviewing nine.
- Hoping to put into place a reserve fund with the monies from the revenue from the Wind Mills. Spoke to Senator Griffo's office and they will get back to us.
- Sports have started. The boys and girls have each played twice and had their senior nights. Wrestling and cheer senior nights are this week.
- Public Health is now allowing two spectators per play. It is so important for students to play in front of someone. Public Health realizes what we are doing is safe.

- A survey has been sent out for the March 8 to April 19 fall sports season. We have petitioned the state to complete the season if we can.
- Lewis County received another batch of vaccines so there will be vaccines for the rest of our staff who have requested it. Not sure how many staff members have received it as it is not mandatory information.
- Within the next 72 hours, there is a good chance the social distancing rule of 6 feet apart may be changed to 3 feet in order to get kids in school. It will not change anything we are doing since we are here every day. We have discussed next year of possibly keeping things the way they are now. Mrs. Ratliff shared some teachers are passionate about continuing small class sizes and looking at maybe grades K-2. Mr. Connell shared we have learned many things that with what we have been forced to do.

E. NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Gabrielle Thompson, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board voted to approve of the following resolution: The Board of Education of the Copenhagen Central School District does hereby authorize the district clerk to publish a legal notice announcing the budget proposition and Board of Education Member election as presented to the Board. The notice is announcing the Public Hearing to be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. virtually; and the District Vote to be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, between the hours of 12:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Gabrielle Thompson, the Board voted to approve the appointment of **Emily Call** as Night Cleaner, effective February 4, 2021.

Appointment of Emily Call as Night Cleaner

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Gabrielle Thompson, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board voted to appoint Scot Luther to School Business Manager position.

Appointment of Scot Luther to School Business Manager

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Gabrielle Thompson to Board voted to vacate the District Treasurer position.

Approval to vacate District Treasurer Position

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Gabrielle Thompson the Board voted to abolish the appointment of Scot Luther as District Treasurer.

Approval to abolish the appointment of Scot Luther as District Treasurer

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Robert Stackel to Board voted to vacate the position of Watchperson.

Approval to vacate the position of Watchperson

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Koreen Freeman to Board voted to reinstate Destiny Montalvo as Cleaner, effective 2/19/21.

Approval to reinstate Destiney Montalvo as Cleaner

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the 2021 – 2022 Copenhagen Central School Instructional Calendar.

Approval of the 21-22 Instructional Calendar

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Gabrielle Thompson, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board approved the request from Rachel Rarick to extend bereavement leave until April 2, 2021.

Approval of request from Rachel Rarick

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Koreen Freeman, the Board voted to approve the appointment of **Melissa Kempfer** as long-term substitute for Rachel Rarick, Elementary Teacher effective 2/23/21 – 4/1/21.

*Approval of
Melissa Kempfer
as long term
substitute*

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board voted to approve the request from Mark & Kathy Widrick to transport Curtis Martin to River Valley Mennonite School for the remainder of the 2020-2021 School Year.

*Approval of request
for transportation*

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board voted to approve Jennifer Berghorn as Substitute Aide for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

*Approval of
Jennifer Berghorn as
Substitute Aide*

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Robert Stackel, the Board voted to approve recommendations from the Committee on Preschool Special Education, as presented.

*Approval of
CPSE Recommendations*

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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F. DISCUSSION ITEMS

At 6:59 p.m. and on motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Koreen Freeman, the Board voted to enter Executive Session.

Into Executive Session

VOTE:	YES	6	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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At 7:45 p.m. and on motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board voted to come out of Executive Session.

Out of Executive Session

VOTE:	YES	5	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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At 7:46 p.m. and on motion of Robert Stackel, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

VOTE:	YES	5	NO	0	ABSTAIN:	
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Brenda C. Shelmidine
District Clerk