

Northern Adirondack Central School District

May 14, 2021 – 6:00 PM

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

Ellenburg, NY

Roll Call:

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

Others Present:

James Knight, Jr. - Superintendent
Brian Tousignant - Business Manager
Richard Harriman Sr.

Absent Excused:

Willie Venne

Mr. Miner Board of Education's President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Trombley seconded by Mr. Bartlemus and passed unanimously to go into Executive Session, at 6:04 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. Bartlemus seconded by Mr. Finley and passed unanimously to come out of Executive Session, at 6:45 PM.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

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

- April 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

Superintendent Knight's Report.

This past Tuesday night we had a successful budget hearing and I think we were able to provide an understanding to people in regards to why our budget is what it is and the background of how we got in there. The fact that I think what is most important is that we are now trying to get people to understand the focus on the levy amount as compared to a tax cap or a tax rate. Those numbers are based on a variety of other things where the levy is all we're asking for and all we can get from our taxpayers. I think some people went through in a much better understanding there was actually a member in the audience who gave you an explanation later on in the meeting that I think made it very clear it was kind of one of those. Checking for Understanding situations. Beyond that, because of the postponed our board meeting that night I held a non official town hall here this was kind of a meeting where I was able to address three items. One items was that last board meeting I made comments in regards to being frustrated as an educator in regards to the fact that the government, and many entities kind of refer to the educational process with having priorities of providing childcare for the community, making sure they feed the students in a community before educated, and I reiterated those comments to the people that were here, because some took them as they were written, and when we read them, they can be taken in many different ways. Obviously, it was not meant to slate parents and their efforts. I just wanted people to understand that educators are frustrated then we were not seen as educators first. We realized that at times with students being with us 180 plus days a year. It could be perceived as childcare or feeding them but know we're educating them as other pieces were just there were made maintaining them during the school days and they do get breakfast and lunches. But over the past year with the pandemic all too often it was referred to as those other things being our priority but know that educating is always been our priority. The second issue that was discussed are our current situation with how we are still going along with in person education for our K-5 students, five days a week and then the 6th-12th running a hybrid schedule. Even though the CDC has adjusted the guidelines, there's still a CDC community map that holds us in one of the four categories ranging from blue, yellow, orange and red. We are now at least fortunately in the orange zone but still a long ways away to blue zone in our community map rating and because of that, we are held to certain criteria. The three foot guidance is only good in classrooms for elementary students, they are still expected our 6 through 12 students to be cohered, which is something very abnormal for middle and high school. I gave the example of just about all of us were in school we went to math classes in one group after our math class somebody would go to English, some might go to social studies and some to science. That is the traditional method of ways schedules are set up based on the needs of individual students and all sorts of things so because of that cohering it doesn't exist. Then the biggest hurdle that we have to overcome to district is transportation. We transport 90 plus percent of our students on school buses. With that happening, our K-5 students are taking up a certain number of those seats, because we are limited to about a third of the capacity on a normal year. With that, we're only able to bring in so many of the 6th -12th grade students on any given day. And that's kind of one of the biggest hurdles, somebody had mentioned Well, parents might be more interested in bringing their kids in. When we surveyed our parents before this all started. That was not an option. I am sure that some parents would try better now than they might have back in September. The reality is that our district is one of the largest extremities and not being centralized in the middle of the district there's a lot of people that go the other direction for where it just want to be a possibility. Transportation kind of gets in the way and we are hoping that

changes are made. The last thing that was discussed is what is next and heading towards the fall. I mentioned that we as a group of superintendents in the North Country are putting a letter together that minors a letter that was collaborated on by 90 plus superintendents of more BOCES regions downstate to address two stated representatives' governmental representatives. Encouraging them to give us the guidelines now and not waiting till August like it did last year so we can actually be much better prepared to come fall than we were this past year. With that said that I think generally and the overall understanding was agreed upon with those who are here. Some I think came with the impression that those of us that work in the school didn't really want kids back in school. I think when everybody left, they had a full understanding that we just like them want our kids here every day, whole day all the time is just certain guidelines and criteria we have to abide by that prevent us from doing that right now. I can tell you we have been thinking outside of the box alternative options, but they are limited. One such option is town hall building next door. That apparently has three classroom type of spaces that might be available. The benefit of it being close by is that would not really change our bus routes. When really made for a major problem with trying to get food over there for the breakfast and lunch program. It would add to additional pieces to the puzzle such as what would have to be done to clean that location so people will make sure that you know something were to go on over there and nurses will be able to go back and forth. But the idea is that we need more classroom space, because we still have to stay socially distance, we could have more, we just really need to be able to put more kids on the bus, so that he can bring more in every day. And ultimately, our hope is, we're back to school, five days a week, everybody in person, whether we're wearing masks or not, doesn't really matter. We just want everyone here. We are hoping the restrictions lighten up and it sounds like things are getting better. We keep hearing things on the news but nothing is going to put in print to help us yet. Other than that, we have our budget goes next Tuesday is going to be here. We have new mentioned to people that will be using the high school cafeteria, which has two sets of doors so you can enter an exit without entering the school building at all. We are going to leave the loop out in front of the high school, empty all day. Normally the buses pick up the elementary students that drive over here and pick up the middle/ high school students. On that day, we are going to have our middle high school students exit the building, and walk over to the buses that are parked of the elementary that way they can leave without interfering with this parking booth. Other than, that voting will be from noon to 8pm, then after 8pm, the votes will be counted, and then we will know where we are.

Personnel –Appointments/ Resignations

Employee	Position	Department	Effective Date	Pay Rate	Comments
A. Kristen Patnode	Modified Softball Coach	Athletic	May 2021	Per NATA Contract appendix C	
B. Heather Genereux	Full Time 4hr Bus Monitor	Transportation	May 17, 2021	Per CSEA Contract Pro-rated	

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

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

Financial:

A motion was made by Mr. DeCoste and seconded by Mr. Trombley approve the expenditures and warrants.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus and seconded by Mr. Trombley approve 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. Bartlemus and seconded by Mr. Trombley 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

The Board opened the meeting for public comment:

Richard Harriman, Sr. - Gave us a quick update on the BOCES project. Project is still going within the budget.

New Business:

A motion was made by Mr. Bartlemus and seconded by Mr. DeCoste to approve first readings of the following polices.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried

A motion was made be Mr. Bartlemus and seconded by Mr. Finley to approve high risk sport wrestling.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. DeCoste seconded by Mr. Bartlemus and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:09PM.

All Board Members present voted yes – motion carried.

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