

Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, December 10, 2019

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Members present

Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

1. Public Hearing - Capital Project II.V

Action: A. Public Hearing Called to Order
Motion to call the Public Hearing to Order.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Joe Alati.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Procedural: B. Account for Absences

2. Capital Project II.V Informational Presentation

Discussion, Information, Procedural: A. Capital Project II.V Informational Presentation

Superintendent Mancuso presented the video for the capital project II.V, which highlighted the proposed project set for public budget vote on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, Dr. Capron explained the District's maximization of state aid for projects of this type.

3. Public Comment

Information, Procedural: A. Public May Address the Board of Education

Question from a community member - At the entrance of the middle school, the paint is chipping on the new awning. What is the plan for repair? A - Director of Facilities, Aaron Smith suggested that the apparatus is constructed of galvanized steel, which customarily is not meant to be painted. Options are being considered to address whether or not to paint again or address in another fashion.

4. Public Hearing Adjourned

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn Public Hearing
Motion to Adjourn the Public Hearing .

Motion by Amy West, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

5. Business Meeting Called to Order

Action, Procedural: A. Call to Order

Motion by Amy West, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Procedural: B. Account for Absences

6. Proposed Executive Session, subject to Board Approval

Action: A. It is anticipated that the Board will act upon a resolution to convene an executive session for discussions regarding the administrative contract.

Motion to move to Executive Session for the purposes indicated.

Motion by Larry Young, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

7. Return to Public Session

Action, Procedural: A. Return to Public Session

8. Approval of Agenda

Action: A. Approve Tonight's Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

9. Approval of Consensus Agenda Items

Action (Consent): A. MOTION for Approval of Consensus Agenda Items

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Joe Alati, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent), Minutes: B. Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Joe Alati, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent): C. Personnel Appointments

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Joe Alati, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent): D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Joe Alati, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

10. Public Comment

Information, Procedural: A. Public May Address the Board of Education

President Bellavia spoke about the student discipline matter, and shared the guidelines set forth regarding any matters heard by the board this evening.

Mrs. Bellavia outlined the process to appeal a Superintendent's decision in any student discipline matter. The Board is not permitted to consider new evidence. The Board will review the materials provided and will render a decision at a later time.

Three individuals signed up to address the board:

Marshall Patton - read aloud a prepared letter/statement.

Wendy Harrison - read aloud and spoke on behalf of her child regarding the student discipline case.

Erin Camp - community member, spoke in support of the family effected by the Superintendent's decision.

Community Member - spoke in support of the student.

Community Member - parent in attendance in support of her child who is still scared to come to school.

Community Member - unnamed inquired about the discipline process.

Lisa Pulvino - spoke about vaccines for flu, hpv, and other health bills being taken to the legislative floor in Albany. She handed out a packet of information to this regard seeking to share this information on behalf of concerned parents across the region.

11. Board President's Remarks

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Remarks

12. Student Representative's Update

Discussion, Information: A. Student Representative's Update

Student Representative, Lindsay Cody - spoke about the positive reaction and support of the capital project by students. Some students are still disappointed about not having BC Calc and AP Physics as options. Parking issues remain a concern, students would also like to see biodegradable trays versus styrofoam trays to support climate issues.

The Superintendent encouraged the student body to reach out to the Director of Facilities and others to share their concerns and suggestions.

13. Superintendent's Report

Discussion, Information: A. Announcements

Superintendent Mancuso presented his report, which is duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet.

Congratulations to Lindsay Cody for being named a semifinalist for the 2020 class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program, moving to the next round of the selection process to become a Coca-Cola Scholar and receive a \$20,000 college scholarship.

Kudos to the HS Art Club and all of the wonderful ways that students are active members of the community.

Celebration of the Concert Season, now currently getting underway!

Action items on tonight's agenda were highlighted, including a gift to the school and disposal of District property.

A Program Evaluation on the Health Education Program is also on tonight's agenda.

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

Discussion, Information: C. Presentation – Program Evaluation: Health Education

Athletics Director Brian Donohue, Health Teacher and Coach James Arrigenna, and Teachers Melinda Sawnor and Megan McGinnis, presented.

Mary McNamara, former Curriculum Coordinator and Teacher, conducted this review.

The powerpoint presentation, program evaluation and executive summary are all duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet.

Mr. Arrigenna highlighted one of the student's activities which involves visiting the grocery store, gathering nutrition information from the products, and preparing dishes.

A Mental Health and Nutrition program was highlighted in which students learn about lessening environmental impacts by visiting a local farm/retailer.

CDC literature and best practices, and state standards were shared.

Youth Risk survey results show trends toward less alcohol, less fighting, but more suicidal feelings and sadness. There is an increase in trends of computer time of 5+ hours per day. Peer pressure, drugs and alcohol and relationships. K-12 mental health staff share that mental health and relationships are the most common topics addressed.

Strengths & Needs of the program were highlighted as outlined in the BoardDocs packet; Mental Health instruction is attempting to break down the stigmas so that issues can be addressed; Goals Based on the Evaluation were outlined in the presentation. Curriculum maps are being updated as a result of the findings of the team. Collaboration time will be increased.

Resources Needed were also highlighted; An alarming spike in anxiety and stress in students is evident and the District is addressing needs at earlier ages and this has become a high priority. The Director spoke about the staff willingness for staff development regarding mental health. The work is critical to keeping students healthy.

Q - Nice to hear that social/emotional learning is being recognized, wonder if this should this be a District-wide initiative beyond health and physical education? A - Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Williams answered that classroom teachers have been talking about strategies to embed this into their curriculum and are seeking additional professional development. Beyond state education learning standards, staff are being provided multiple opportunities to further their knowledge and learn implementation skills, in small ways and larger.

C - The NYSSBA Conference included a lot of information on social/emotional and emotional intelligence. They suggested that approaches need to be systemic and impacts the pedagogical approaches. Board members echoed that this has gained traction and are encouraged with the District's response.

C - Members appreciated the ties into life skills, addressing not only skill building, but into connections of establishing good habits and relationship building. Are there other areas of focus that might be seen as future areas of focus? A - Mental health, depression, suicidal tendencies, sadness, vaping, relationship dynamics will all be expanded upon. For example, Mr. Donohue explained that the warnings regarding vaping are now being more openly disclosed and discussed.

A - Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Lindsay Ali suggested that counselors and others are working with county officials to address these issues and more, and will hopefully see more of this data on a more regular basis. As a mental health staff, awareness is at the forefront.

J. Arrigenna spoke about opioids and addiction also being an area of concern and focus.

Board members appreciated the focus of the department.

A - Embedding health curriculum into other areas. Collaboration request to be clarified. A - Relevance in all areas of curriculum are effective and problem solving can certainly be focus.

Board member Templeton shared that the District's focus on health has created a nutritionist in her family and echoed that the importance of nutritional education cannot be understated. She reflected on a NYSSBA presentation about healthy eating and the acquirement of produce from the HeadWater group in Rochester. She inquired if there has been any thought about students creating menus with the food service department? A - Home & Career wellness components are being implemented, although ideas such as this have not yet been discussed with the Food Services Department directly. Curriculum does include looking at nutritional components in developing a menu.

Board members thanked the health team members for their informational presentation.

14. Board of Education - Action Items

Action: A. Gift to the School – Retractable Fence and Circle Bikes for Lima's Outdoor Classroom

Motion to approve the Gift to the School – Retractable Fence and Circle Bikes for Lima's Outdoor Classroom, as presented.

Motion by Larry Young, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: B. Disposal of District Property

Q - What will be done with these items? A - They will be put out to auction. Members requested the outcome for efficiency reasons.

Motion to approve the Disposal of District Property, as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

15. Board President's Update

Discussion, Information: A. Board of Education Mid-Year Self-Evaluation

President Bellavia proposed that the NYSSBA tool be used for the board members self-evaluation. The focus will be to address any adjustments to the tool as the board reviews the results. The Clerk shall open the tool immediately and a review will be conducted in January.

16. Board of Education - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information: A. Community Programs Report (A. Freedman-Weiss)

Dr. Williams summarized the Community Programs Report, as provided in the BoardDocs packet. Program Director, Ari Freedman was available for questions.

Q - Are there plans to review the program to consider needs or expansion? A - The program has grown and there is potential for offering the program to the younger grades as well.

Q - As this expands, how do you feel about gaining access to staff needed to do so. A - The goal will be to over-staff, slightly. The impact on costs will include continued adjustments to the mandated minimum wage increases, which should stabilize after the scheduled adjustments. The program has never turned away any students. Dr. Williams suggested that there is still much to consider with regard to possible expansion of the program, with bussing, etc. But the research continues.

Q - Are there subsidies to help support families in need? A - Just beginning to consider implications of expanding the program. It is in its infancy stage with many moving parts to consider.

Board members expressed appreciation for the success of the program and look forward to any updates about possible expansion.

Discussion, Information: B. Urban-Suburban Report (R. Williams, J. Lupisella, S. Williams)

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Renee Williams, along with Manor School Principal, Jeanine Lupisella presented a report as highlighted in the BoardDocs packet. Enrollment numbers were highlighted, as well as the appreciation of Mr. Harvey's knowledge and relationships which make the transportation logistics work smoothly.

Q - Are there any rumors of the desirability of families and students to attend school at our District? A - At Manor School, there is not really any feedback at this point. A - From Middle School, a couple of families have opted out of HF-L due to distance.

C - Class sizes are a factor and as originally decided, the program will not expand if there becomes a need to add additional staff.

There are presently four students attending through the Urban Suburban Program, 2 in fourth, 1 in fifth and 1 in sixth grade.

Superintendent Mancuso reminded board members that city families make these decisions every year, and can select a District of choice. At this time, the only other way to increase enrollment is for the board to change its parameters for the program to add classes. However, it continues to be a slow and steady process, as the board had requested. There also remains the option for the city to discontinue the program with its current financial difficulties. From a cultural perspective, starting students at a younger age would seem to be beneficial.

C - Understanding the revenue is still important in the decision-making process. Especially with the shortages in bus-drivers. Dr. Capron indicated that First Student contracting was utilized last year, however this year, the District already has buses traveling to the transfer points as part of its route structure. This will vary year to year. Logistics are important to understand for the board.

Members thanked Dr. Williams and Mrs. Lupisella for the report.

Discussion, Information: D. Fourth Discussion on NYSSBA Convention, October 24 - 26, 2019

Making Sense, Generating Better Board Decisions - A. West attended. The workshop encouraged a different lens or approach to the process of decision-making, using a methodology of, "What is the right question versus, what is wrong". The principles are based on respectful inquiry. Governance Committees are considered a best-practice which help to guide Boards of Education in a common direction. Having this on the board agenda regularly is considered a best practice.

Communications Workshop - A. West and S. Templeton attended. It was agreed that the workshop was well done. Some examples were provided about a communication approach which aims to change the culture by identifying more directly, emotions. Among other components, it includes a ruler approach, where each letter identifies emotions. Mood biases were also highlighted. Relationships and creativity were among job skill sets highlighted that will never be computerized. A major take-away from the workshop was the focus on Emotional Intelligence, and leadership behavior which can guide the culture. Also, not being afraid to be beginners, such as the new board self-evaluation tool.

Superintendent Mancuso added that a parent-night event is being prepared for the community on health communication and drug manifestations.

Solar Technologies - B. Capron and G. Stottler attended. Energy Performance contracts, state aid and specific rules, and highest power consumption times were all discussed. It was highlighted that this opportunity might be an option for students and the community. A request has been made for workshop materials.

Late start times - D. Ghidiu inquired. Webster CSD is currently conducting a test on this change. The Superintendent is awaiting results from his hometown who is conducting the test. There are plenty of considerations, including getting on the bus in the dark. Transition thus far for his student is that they are better rested, however multiple residents are petitioning against the Webster Board or running for the Board to address the dissatisfaction in the change. From day care costs, to others. Brighton CSD also thought they had momentum, however the focus is waning.

C - Questions remain as to whether performance of teenagers should be the more fundamental focus. The logistics are imperative to be factored in. Beta test results will assist with looking at solutions to barriers.

Fab 5 - J. Alati and R. Williams attended. The session focus was on graduation rates and mental health hospitalization. The Fab 5 program incorporated 5-new programs with separate rationales 1. At Risk for grade 9 only, 9-12; At risk for graduation credits; anxiety and depression leading to school attendance problems; At risk grades 7-8. Each pocket was established to address individualized issues. It was a great example of targeting resources.

Discussion, Information: E. Updates on Committee Meetings

ILC - Dr. Williams reported that at the latest meeting, time was spent on setting standards around norms so teachers can work better together. The group continues its assessment book and the importance of common assessments, and had conversations around budget. S. Templeton attended and echoed Renee's summary, sharing that the meeting focus was about collaborative time.

Legislative Committee and Albany Trip - Dr. Capron attended and reported that there were 18-attendees who met with budget and finance staff in Albany. Some core questions were proposed. There was conversation about the number of bills. It was difficult to determine the true areas of focus. A key part was that Monroe County still shared their ideas and priorities early on for consideration. Superintendent Mancuso wanted board members to be aware that Dr. Capron established a position paper and was a leader for the conference. The paper will be shared with the board. MC School Boards remains very appreciative of Dr. Capron's knowledge base.

A Town Hall Meeting will take place in January on the 17th from 10am - 3pm at the HF Village Office, with Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes. Board members were encouraged to attend. Phyllis Wickerham, a representative from Senator Patrick Gullivan's office, has also asked to come back and speak to the board in the near future.

Safety Committee Meeting - G. Stottler attended and echoed some of what Director of Facilities, Aaron Smith reported earlier in the evening. Mrs. Cimmeric shared her thoughts and concerns about the incomplete elevator shaft. There are issues with the elevator. Q - A board member shared her concerns about the full visibility of the new design of the high school office. A - It was noted that benches and a seating area will be completed in front of the assistant principals office. There is a conference room area specific to disciplinary needs. There are films and coverings being considered to provide privacy with the large scale windows. The design goal was intended to increase visibility. There was conversation about the use of blacktop versus concrete due to the use of salt. The blacktop will be temporary during the winter months. There was discussion about emergency drills and how sophisticated they have become for practice scenarios. Completing the drills earlier in the year was agreed to be more valuable than having them later in the school year to meet the obligations. Ski storage was another area of conversation. Also, logistics for the upcoming capital project vote next week.

17. Questions from the Audience

Discussion, Information: A. Questions from the Audience
Community Member, Danny Bassette shared his thoughts on mental health.

18. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:13 pm

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Joe Alati.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

19. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics

Information: A. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics