

**Board of Education Meeting and Public Hearings, Tuesday, May 26, 2020**

Generated by Rhonda Schaefer, District Clerk

**Members present**

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

**Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM**

## 1. Meeting Called to Order

Procedural: A. Account for Absences

Action, Procedural: B. Call to Order  
Motion to Call the Meeting to Order.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

Action: A. Motion to approve the agenda

## 3. 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 David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action (Consent): B. Board Meeting Minutes  
Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda.

Motion by Joe Alati, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action (Consent): C. Committee on Special Education Placement & Pre-School Education Placement  
Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda.

Motion by Joe Alati, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

## 4. Meet the 2020 Board of Education Candidates

Discussion, Information: A. Meet the 2020 Board of Education Candidates

## 5. Public Budget Hearing for 2020-2021 School District Budget

Action: A. Motion to Open Public Budget Hearing for 2020-2021 School Budget  
Motion to Open Public Budget Hearing for 2020-2021 School Budget

Motion by David Francis, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Information: B. Presentation for 2020-2021 School Budget  
Supt. Mancuso introduced Dr. Bruce Capron and his presentation.

Dr. Bruce Capron provided his presentation duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet.

C - If voters do not approve budget, with state budget cuts anticipated, that \$842,000 for a contingent budget that could mean 15-20 school personnel. In trying to deliver the programs that are expected at HF-L. This would equate to 10% of teaching staff.  
C - Energy Performance Contract - the wording on the ballot is the legal language and does not define the project well. The District will gain \$90,000. with no tax impact. The board can approve the energy contract without seeking community approval, but by seeking vote from the community, the District gains even an additional 10% in aid from the state.  
C - The board and administration make every effort to maximize funding for capital projects.

Dr. Capron highlighted the value of capital project funds as the rate on return is so great at 79%, this help to fill the budget gaps and keep our buildings and programs in top shape.

Dr. Capron discussed the challenges that are currently presented during this time of closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He spoke about the knowns as well as the unknowns and clarified that this is a multi-year event. There are core advantages to proceeding with the budget as presented, and the district is positioned well for anticipated cuts to the budget. The District can continue with a non-deficit spending budget.

Discussion, Information, Procedural: C. Questions - (Community Members Viewing Live - Click for Contact Information to ask a Question)

Action: D. Motion to Close Public Budget Hearing  
Motion to Close Public Budget Hearing

Motion by David Francis, second by Joe Alati.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

6. Public Hearing and First Review Code of Conduct for 2020-21 School Year

Action: A. Motion to Open Public Hearing and First Review Code of Conduct for 2020-21 School Year  
Motion to open Public Hearing for First Review of Draft 2019-20 Code of Conduct.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Information, Reports: B. Presentation and First Review Code of Conduct for 2020-21 School Year  
Middle School Principal, Shawn Williams presented the Code of Conduct process review which is duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet.

Mr. Williams clarified that the school attorney has reviewed, followed by a full committee review.

Mr. Williams introduced some of the committee participants, Anna Carter, Ryan Teeter, and Nicholas DiMartino.

Mr. Teeter highlighted a change to include At Home Learning; additions to address use of illegal substances; and clarification to what Under the Influence means. Mr. Williams added that the student does not have to take any substance on school grounds, but if they are under the influence.

Student, Anna Carter clarified a section on the Dress Code and attire being building level decisions about what is appropriate based on maturity of students at that level. Also updates with the disorderly or violent conduct and the consequences that can be used.

Nick DiMartino addressed the section on personal devices and misuse of electronic devices while on school property, including consequences. Language will be changed for usage of device versus phone. Also, the broadening term of "fighting", to identify more specifically. Also some clarification to OSS suspension and readmission conference. Superintendent's hearing process for disciplinary events. All areas in yellow are specific recommendations from the school attorney and defining the terms of appeal.  
Q - This doesn't allow for any new information to come forward following a hearing and appeal? A - School attorneys have indicated that information requires

C - Board member commented a non-support. A - During the hearing which is governed by Education Law and follow due process, they may delay seeking more time, they are allowed to be represented by an attorney, and therefore the decision is to be made on the hearing. C - The superintendent clarified that he was referring to the hearing, versus the appeal. C - It will be important for the school community understand that. The downside is once the hearing has occurred, the information is used to base the decision. An appeal means that the decision is disagreed with by the parties. Board members and the superintendent

discussed and debated the process for understanding. The Code of Conduct defines the law as the rights and opportunities of parties involved. Making the process clear, was recommended. Nick DiMartino provided the link to the policy and defined again the Education Law. The entire Code of Conduct is in the BoardDocs packet for the public. Supt. Mancuso reminded the board that this is a first review and these considerations will be taken.

Mr. Williams continued with the first review, moving to the section on Suspension from Athletic/Exacurricular Participation, which now more clearly defines that process.

Q - Sections that are determined by school building - wearing a hood or any garment which covers the face - if masks are required, will this section requiree amendments. A - NYS Law trumps all other decisions and local laws. C - Sometimes NYS is not entirely clear at times. C - The superintendent suggested that perhaps a section be added to include mask-wearing due to health reasons. Mr. Williams clarified that this is written in as a principals decision, but would be happy to look at this further. Mr. Williams indicated that the committee would further review and request further recommendations from the school attorney. Q - An additional clarifying question was asked regarding the whereabouts of adjustments to the Dress Code. Mr. Williams added this further review to the others.

Q - Endangering the safety, welfare and morals... the word morals may be misleading. A - The wording was specifically recommended by the attorney. Examples were provided by the attorney, but can also be revisited. Members appreciated the reply and would appreciate some specific examples to mimize challenge.

Q - Elicit substances - impaired or altered state and being under the influence. Should they be merged? Combining page 11 and 12 language? It was agreed that this change would be made.

Mr. Williams thanked the committee and board member Templeton and the student who participated as well as the interns. The committee will reconvene prior to the second review.

Discussion, Information, Procedural: C. Questions - (Community Members Viewing Live - Click for Contact Information to ask a Question)

Action: D. Motion to Close Public Hearing of Code of Conduct Review  
Motion to close Public Hearing on First Review of Draft 2019-20 Code of Conduct.

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

7. Public Hearing District Emergency Response Plan

Action: A. Motion to Open Public Hearing District Emergency Response Plan  
Motion to open Public Hearing on District Emergency Response Plan.

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Information, Reports: B. Public Presentation District Emergency Response Plan  
Superintendent Mancuso introduced Mr. Bill Harvey and Lynn Parrish for their time and commitment to reviewing the process based on reflections from real world incidents within the District and the nation.

This plan is posted on the District's website as required by law.

Lynn Parrish conducted a great deal of time. He is a resident and parent, fire chief in the community of Ionia. In charge of emergency and response plans as a former Director of Facilities and another school district.

The duo presented a ppt presentation on the Draft review of the plan. The presentation is duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet in its entirety.

Mr. Parrish expressed his appreciation for working on this document and for the District. He reviewed the guidelines and practices and procedures. Due to the COVID-19 situation, there will likely be other areas that may be enhanced but will likely be enhanced as schools reopen under new guidelines. Presently there is general language regarding pandemic events. The document was updated for current members, and current outside agency contacts. Counties, utilities, etc. The Rapid Responder and Easy Alert system are also defined more clearly to increase usage and understanding of use during an event or emergency. The vulnerability and Hazard Assessment is required each year and should be reviewed annually. The focus is on the greater rounds surrounding the District, such as streets, intersections, businesses, etc. This is an area that will continue to be improved with a checklist for buildings to use. This will be reviewed annually to update.

Threat and Hazard Specific Annexes were also reviewed with a keen eye on the details. The areas required more specifics to address specific potential incidences to provide clarification to students, staff, and the community.

Consideration of Emergency Response Teams and District Safety Teams to serve as building level response and post response teams. The TIG teams are very well defined by the Director of Pupil Personnel Services and up to date.

Mr. Parrish advised the teams within the teams have been reduced to the Building Level Safety Teams to minimize confusion or overlap of responsibilities.

Questions from the Safety Team were heard and adjustments made accordingly.

C - G. Donohue expressed his appreciation as well as J. Alati shared his appreciation of the District's response and efforts to these.

Q - Do students have a clear understanding on how to act appropriately should an incident leave a student to act on their own?

A - Drills and review by teachers and staff are a large part of this and the District has grown in leaps and bounds. Much of this

has come from real events and students are capable and willing to share their thoughts. Communication was a big factor - how would students remain in contact with key communicators, or what should their response be in the event of an emergency which left them alone. There were some learning events which precipitate a strengthening and fostering of independence by students should they be separated by an adult.

Appreciation was expressed to this living document that is utilized daily and several committed committee members.

C - Appreciation was expressed for a recent training and that HF-L is the benchmark.

C - Hearing the concerns from a teacher's perspective, it is reassuring to hear about a continued focus on student communications in emergency events.

Discussion, Information, Procedural: C. Questions - (Community Members Viewing Live - Click for Contact Information to ask a Question)

Action: D. Motion to Close Public Hearing on the District Emergency Response Plan  
Motion to close Public Hearing on District Emergency Response Plan.

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, Dave Ghidiu, Chris Neff

8. Board President's Remarks

Procedural: A. Board President's Remarks

9. Superintendent's Report

Information: A. Announcements

Superintendent Mancuso reported on several updates. To date, 34,800 number of meals have been served during the time of the school closure.

Food Services Director, Dana Boldt reported regarding the District's response to providing meals to the community, giving much of the credit to her colleagues. Thanks were expressed to the entire team.

Daily updates from the control room committee for the reopening of the state of NY. He provided updates on the rolling averages with hospitalizations, persons on the ICU and that our numbers continue to decline. There are still questions about graduation events. Phase 2 will be next.

An amendment to the calendar brings the District back in line with required days, and the food service will be provided during the month of June. The District Clerk provided an update.

The sink-hole in the high school parking lot was filled and Cindy Gorley provided the update along with Bob Fussa, Facilities Director. Campus work continues and there was no bio-hazardous substance or material found in the sample that was sent for analysis and review. The result is on the lower end of the cost estimate.

The District Safety Team was commended for responses to heat of the last few days and situations learned as a result.

Participating in a National effort to estimate costs to reopen. HF-L has been an example for their preparation with 1 to 1 devices and technology. Congrats to Cindy, Bruce and Renee for their efforts.

Many thanks from the superintendent for the thanks from the community for the District response from the closure of schools.

Brian Donohue reported that the tennis courts are reopened and new guidelines have been shared for practices and guidelines for usage in the current circumstances. Recommendations for the NYS public high school athletic association will continue to be followed. A renewed effort to keep dogs off the track will be enacted as there has been an increase resulting in reluctance by the community to use the track.

Phase 2 with reopening involves many details. The decisions equate to 1/3 portions of opinion to open fully; remained closed; proceed with a combination of both.

Graduation celebration options continue to be considered. Senator Schumer has offered to speak at our graduation, however those details remain uncertain. The class continues to be heard with their thoughts. S. Templeton spoke on behalf of the class of 2020 with their hopes to come together somehow as a class before moving on. Caps and gowns and photo opportunities will be had, with possibilities for some sort of gathering, whether electronically or otherwise. It is the hope of the superintendent and District to make this happen somehow.

Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

Discussion, Information: C. Presentations

10. Board of Education New Business - Action Items

Action: A. Treasurer's Report

Audit Committee chairperson, Gary Stottler reported that the committee reviewed the April Treasurer's report earlier this evening which does not differ much from last year at this time. Line by line questions were asked, with a focus on state aid, food service costs and it was concluded that the cash flow is higher than last year. Debt service brainstorming and positioning resources were discussed as the District considers a multi-year impact of the closure and pending cuts from the state. Another

good Moody's rating will benefit the District greatly. The District is in good shape financially. Messaging around the contingent budget piece will be important as the timeline outlined by the executive order to have a second vote is close to impossible therefore it will be important

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: B. Board Meeting Date Change

Motion to approve the Board Meeting Date Change, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: C. Amendment to the 2019-20 School Calendar

Motion to approve the Amendment to the 2019-20 School Calendar, as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: D. Second Review/Approval Textbook Request: OpenStax-AP Biology

Motion to approve the OpenStax-AP Biology Textbook Request, as presented.

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, Dave Ghidui, Chris Neff

Action: E. Second Review/Approval Textbook Request: Themes-AP French

Motion to approve the Themes-AP French Textbook Request, as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: F. Second Review/Approval Textbook Request: University Physics Volume 1 and Volume 2-AP Physics

Motion to approve the University Physics Volume 1 and Volume 2-AP Physics Textbook Request, 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, Dave Ghidui, Chris Neff

Action: G. Second Review/Approval Textbook Request: Ready Math

Motion to approve the Ready Math Textbook Request, as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: H. Additional Election Inspectors to provide District Support for June 9, 2020 Budget Vote and Board Member Elections

Motion to approve the Additional Election Inspectors to provide District Support, 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, Dave Ghidui

Abstain: Chris Neff

#### 11. Board President's Update

Information: A. Board President's Update

Board President's have been meeting frequently about issues facing the Districts around graduation. Presidents will continue every two weeks during the month of June.

#### 12. Board of Education Discussion - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information: A. Informational Item re Hourly Pay

Mr. Mancuso outlined the update briefly as this is ever evolving.

Discussion, Information: B. Board Committee Updates

Safety Committee Meeting was summarized by Mr. Harvey and Mr. Parrish regarding the review of the District Safety Plan.

13. Questions from the Audience

Discussion, Information: A. Questions from the Audience - Click for contact information

14. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:49pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting at p.m.

Motion by Joe Alati, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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