

Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Generated by Rhonda Schaefer, District Clerk

Members present

Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Jeff Klein

Meeting called to order at 7:19 PM

1. Meeting Called to Order

Action, Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Account for Absences

Members absent

Dave Ghidiu

2. Approval of Agenda

Action: A. Approve Tonight's Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Jeff Klein.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Jeff Klein

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 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, Jeff Klein

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

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

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, Jeff Klein

Action (Consent): C. Personnel Appointments

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

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, Jeff Klein

Action (Consent): D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

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, Jeff Klein

4. Public Comment

Information: A. Public May Address the Board of Education as Outlined - see agenda item content

5. Board President's Remarks

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Remarks

Mrs. Bellavia spoke about the Points of Cougar Pride recognition effort being implemented by the Board of Education in January 2021. A Point of Pride shout out to District Public Relations Specialist, Leah Shepard, for her assistance with rolling this out.

"Keep reaching for the stars, doing amazing things!" Board Member, Stephanie Templeton.

6. Superintendent's Report

Discussion, Information: A. Announcements

Superintendent Mancuso provided his report

Manor School Principal, Mrs. Lupisella reported on some goal setting for the Habits of Mind efforts as the program is continuing to show growth and help students to become problem solvers with a goal to set the tempo for everyone. Authors of HOM are looking forward to joining the Manor School once COVID restrictions are removed. Manor's annual "Cengineering" efforts

included a competitive flair this year, where students could earn bonus points if a structure was built in the classroom. A large number of donations of canned goods were made after the event. Mrs. Lupisella reported that her staff and students continue to work together and work hard. Starting to reach the point where things are running normally.

High School Principal, Mr. Roth reported - due to some unfortunate technical difficulties most portions of this update were inaudible. 27-teachers were recognized.

Superintendent Mancuso reported that many micro-issues were managed during the November 30 staff development/asynchronous learning day. The department of health is defaulting to more restrictive zones. The District should be prepared to go full-remote, if needed. Mr. Mancuso proposed an additional asynchronous learning day for January 4. This would be 12-days following the school closure for holiday break.

A capital project update was provided by Brian Bellevue from Campus Construction. A breakdown of the Phase 2.5 budget and bidders summary for the project were highlighted. Mr. Bellevue also explained the state bid process.

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, Dr. Bruce Capron presented the budget calendar and answered questions. Q - Budget priorities? Will this be done again? A - In March, the District will be better positioned to review and discuss the priorities. This could occur on March 23 when the PBAC provides their recommendations. A - If needed, this could be scheduled into a special session of its own at the board's discretion.

Mr. Mancuso spoke about potential scenarios coming forward from Albany in January with anticipation of 20% cuts. There will be no trip to Albany to meet with legislators due to COVID restrictions.

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

Discussion, Information: C. Presentations - Urban Suburban Update (R. Williams/J. Lupisella/S. Williams)
Dr. Williams reported that spacing issues were barriers to taking in more students. Transportation has provided that most placements are being bussed. Students remote-in on Wednesday's as a result of pandemic restrictions.

Mrs. Lupisella has just one student at her building this year who is completely remote, so she is somewhat removed from the program this year. This student is staying connected to other students to the best of her ability. She has connected with other students and is taking part in the focus groups with Dr. Williams.

Mr. Williams at the Middle School suggested that there are some barriers with instructional technology this year, but students are doing their best to work through the challenges. There are lessons being learned to improve upon going forward.

Q - Are there plans to continue the application process? A - Possibly 4 additional students. This will depend on spacing issues and enrollment. Manor wanted to add students this year, however this was not possible.

C - Appreciate the work being done and the speed at which this has been rolling out. Learning without being overwhelmed. Now 3-4 years in, it feels normal.

Mr. Mancuso provided an update on the District's consent to testing 17% have declined; 13% have not answered 3% of staff declined. Conversations will continue.

Guidelines for testing were clarified by Mr. Mancuso (if the District enters into the Orange or Red zone). Commissioner of Public Health for Monroe County, Dr. Michael Mendoza is surprised that grades 9-12 are still open in so many districts. These grade levels would be most likely to move to remote-instruction should spikes begin to occur.

Mr. Mancuso spent some time explaining exposure risks to certain demographics, such as the market or restaurants, etc. Masks, distancing and enforcement appear to be the keys to success.

7. Board of Education - Action Items

Action: A. Treasurer's Reports

Reports were reviewed by the committee earlier in the evening. Audit Committee Chairperson, Gary Stottler reported that there are some changes in the food service financials due to free and reduced meals for all students at this time. One of the next two meetings there will be updates in this area.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports, 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, Jeff Klein

Action: B. Teacher Tenure Recommendation

Motion to approve the Teacher Tenure Recommendation, as presented.

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, Jeff Klein

Action: C. Capital Improvement Project Phase 2.5 Bids

Motion to approve the Capital Improvement Project Phase 2.5, as presented.

Motion by Jeff Klein, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Jeff Klein

Action: D. 2020-21 Budget Calendar and Budget Process Overview
Motion to approve the 2020-21 Budget Calendar, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Jeff Klein

Action, Discussion: E. OSC Audit

The board was provided with the District's Management response to the audit performed by the Office of the State Comptroller conducted a couple of months ago. Technology services is working with OSC to remedy any areas identified. The board chose this area as a focus as auditors typically do the deep digging to help zero-in on any areas to be strengthened. There were no models of best practice from the comptroller's office.

Compliments to the team for being up for the challenge and for finding the results to be beneficial.

Motion to approve the OSC Audit, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Jeff Klein

Action: F. Resolution to Adopt the LGS-1 Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York State Local Government Records

Motion to approve the Resolution to Adopt the LGS-1 Records Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York State Local Government Records, 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, Jeff Klein

8. Board President's Update

Discussion, Information: A. Board Self-Evaluation - See agenda content.

The board self-evaluation is open now through January 8 and results will be discussed at the January 19 retreat. Please make notes as the tool itself will be discussed as well.

Discussion, Information: B. Board Goal Update - Celebrations

Board President, Carol Bellavia reported that HF-L's Public Relations Specialist, Leah Shepard met with herself and board member Templeton to review some ideas for rolling out a board recognition program. A certificate, along with some surprise elements will be a part of the recognition program being rolled out in January. Nominations will be accepted and presented by board members. Recognition will then be shared during board meetings. Publicity will be rolled out by the public relations office after the break.

Recognition form questions and naming ideas were discussed by the full board.

C - The Cougar Pride Award was selected as the official name of the board's recognition program.

It was noted that recognition is all-inclusive - students, staff, community, etc. (Local pizza providers, Salvatore's or Ruck's, could be nominated for their contributions, for example).

Kudos from other board members were shared for the options and ideas presented.

9. Board of Education - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information: A. School Tax Collection Report

The board's audit committee reviewed this report during a meeting held earlier this evening. Mr. Stottler reported that there was an uptick in collections last year, and is actually pretty consistent this year. Henrietta has 100% with only 7-properties in that town.

Discussion, Information: B. Transportation Reimbursement

Discussion, Information: C. Update on Dual Enrollment Courses

Dr. Williams clarified that these courses are tied to the local community colleges. MCC (Monroe Community College) is back online and asking for kids to be ready for AP exams. GCC (Genesee Community College) also offers students the opportunity to try college classes in the summer months.

HF-L supports dual enrollment, the STEM program and AP program with thanks to the Board of Education for their guidance and expectations for long-term plans, which can be changed as time goes on. Where the District is today is as a result of conversations over many years by the board. Continual exploration of options will be continued.

Discussion, Information: D. Health Services Contract - Annmarie Urso, Ph.D.

There were no questions.

Discussion, Information: E. Governance Committee Update - First Review Board Meetings Section of BOE Practice and Procedures Manual

Amy West, committee chairperson reported that there was one item that came up and needs to be discussed. Mr. Ghidiu is unfortunately not in attendance tonight to discuss further. If there is further concern, it has not been brought to the president's or chairperson's attention and will therefore move forward for action at the next meeting. The board reaching consensus was the

area of concern. The recommendation was to discuss as a whole board.

It was clarified that general agreement to reach decisions that everyone can support, has always been and remains the goal of the board. The word consensus simply means majority opinion, which does not always mean that opinions will be the same. The board agreed that the discussion of ideas and agreements can make the board stronger. The idea of reaching consensus is the process and should not bear a connotation of positive or negative. This is at the center of parliamentary procedure to arrive at decisions as a group. Questions of what the concerns are, can be sought out at a later time.

C - There was a recommendation to delete an area as it is redundant.

C - There were varying opinions about the value of the statement regarding reaching consensus.

C - Clarification was made that there is a majority of opinion that must evolve to take any action. The complicating factor may be the word consensus with differing opinions.

C - The board acknowledged that there is value in showing 5/4 voting for the arrival of decision following debate. There are nine members for a reason.

C - The superintendent described his thoughts and suggested a larger conversation based on the conversation and examples provided.

Edits were made on a hard copy by the committee chair and submitted to the Board Clerk to be made in the actual manual.

Q - Number 5 - Regarding suggesting items on future agendas, what process assures this? A - Thoughts go on a list which is revisited annually. A - The president will ask the entire board if potential topics should be placed on a future agenda for discussion. Additional wording will be added to this statement in the manual as well.

Discussion, Information: F. Update on Committee Meetings & NYSSBA Convention

Legislative Committee - MCSBA canceled this meeting but there was a packet provided with points to share. Mr. Alati suggested that members consider what is needed for future discussions with legislative leaders to help Monroe County with items such as transportation funding, etc. With a new administration entering the White House soon, the time may be now to communicate requests and ideas. The IDEA is another example. District's can now be reimbursed for chocolate milk and other items. Super-majority basis is another important development. NYS Senate elections may benefit districts. The CARE's ACT was supposed to help reimbursement for COVID costs, which does not appear to be occurring. Also, Shelly Mayer, the State Education Chair, is proposing broadband to all students during this pandemic, but without a current means to fund it. Mrs. Ross stated that funding was supposed to come from intrastate communications, if this is feasible.

If anyone is interested in sending letters, the links are embedded in the documents in the packet.

ILC Meeting - Mrs. Templeton clarified to the public that when board members are reporting out on attendance at meetings to please remember that comments are not the overall opinion of the board or even individual opinions.

ILC documents were referenced and the meeting was about assessments and the importance of revisiting norms. The committee continues to review curriculum in a collaborative way, it is working very well. Breakout rooms held budgetary conversations for the upcoming school year.

Music Boosters meeting - Mrs. West highlighted that the new screen in the hallway outside the music rooms presents an opportunity for staff and students to make requests for music to be broadcast. The holiday plant sale was discussed at the meeting and also about potentially becoming a non-profit organization.

Labor Relations - Mr. Stottler made an effort to attend but the meeting did not allow in-person attendance, and virtual attendance was locked by the time he returned home and attempted to log-in.

District Safety Committee Meeting - Discussion took place about testing protocols.

10. Questions from the Audience

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

11. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:27pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Caralyn Ross, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Jeff Klein