



WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting
Whitney Point, NY

Video Conference Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Monday, April 20, 2020

6:00 p.m.

District Mission:

To provide an excellent education ensuring that all children maximize their potential, become contributing citizens, and pursue lifelong learning.

District Beliefs:

- All children possess unique qualities and come to school eager to learn and be successful.
- We respect all people within our community and treat them with dignity at all times.
- Learning is a partnership that includes school staff, parents, family and the community.
- Knowledge allows for critical thinking and effective decision-making.
- The community is well served by maximizing the use of available resources and by the responsible stewardship of assets.
- Purposeful and intentional change is a constant that leads to educational improvement and positive results.
- Compliance with state and federal regulations is critical to School District success.

District Vision:

- To be a community of excellence achieved through a commitment to HIGH performance, morale, and involvement.

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Stephanie Champney	President	X	
Kathleen Driscoll	Vice-President	X	
Brian Jeker	Member	X	
Eddie Maslin	Member	X	
Katie Perry	Member	X	
Thomas Tasber	Member	X	
Christine Widdall	Member	X	
Patricia Follette	Superintendent of Schools	X	
Jo-Ann Sexton	Assistant Superintendent	X	
Zachary Woodard	School Business Executive	X	
Cynthia Burchell	District Clerk	X	

Others in attendance: Jenny Gac, Brian James, Jo-Anne Knapp, Murphee Hayes, Jeffrey Isaacs, Talitha Johnston, Aaron Kaminsky, Kristen Keymir-Martin, Cathy Mihalko, Jamie Paine, Lori Stone, Daniel Sweeney, John Whalen,

A. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None

C. POLICIES 1ST READING

None

D. POLICIES 2ND READING

None

E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

F. COMMENDATIONS

Dr. Follette commends:

- The Whitney Point Central School District SADD Club for their monetary donation to the Australian Bushfire fund.
- Pam Powell and the Whitney Point Central School District cafeteria staff, custodians, school resource officer, transportation department and the volunteers for all of their hard work putting together the food distribution program for our district during the pandemic.
- BOCES IT Department for all of their hard work expediting the distribution of devices and instructional materials to all students in the district as needed.
- Whitney Point Central School District administrators, teachers and staff for connecting with students, organizing online instructional work and packets, and distributing devices while working with students during the pandemic.
- Whitney Point Central School District maintenance department for stepping up and working hard to clean and sterilize the district campus.
- Whitney Point Central School District administrators, teachers and staff for all of their hard work organizing the Food Bank Distribution during the pandemic.

G. OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Update

Dr. Follette, Superintendent, gave a COVID-19 Update. She stated the Governor has been closing school on a two-week basis, and we are now up through May 15, 2020. She stated the District is very fortunate to not have too many cases in our area to date. She stated most of the District's testing has been cancelled and there has been quite an impact on the way we do school in New York. She explained a lot of the districts have been focusing on designing evaluations that can measure whether students achieve the learning outcomes of the portions of the units of study that were completed. She explained the standards for receiving course credit. She reviewed the letters sent home to parents explaining the process in detail. Dr. Follette explained the scoring matrix being used to determine course credit. She stated this can be quite complicated as each student has a different set of circumstances, and a different ability to access the work.

Mr. Jeker asked how the requirements of meeting the first two categories were determined.

Dr. Follette stated each teacher sets the criteria for their courses.

Dr. Widdall asked if teachers were going to let each student in the high school know what they needed to do to meet the criteria.

Dr. Follette stated yes.

Dr. Widdall asked if this is similar to other schools in our area.

Dr. Follette stated in general, this is the basis of what most districts have done.

Ms. Sexton stated she was disappointed they did not come together as a region. She stated some people are doing things very different from what they have done in school and others are just sort of figuring it out right at this moment. She explained they were very concerned about making this an equitable experience for each student at the start of this pandemic. She explained everyone is doing something different and many schools in the region are doing what we have done.

Dr. Widdall thanked Ms. Sexton and stated she is not seeing that kind of equity across universities right now. She commended the District for doing really good job.

Dr. Follette and Ms. Sexton thanked Dr. Widdall.

2. 2020-2021 Budget Presentation

Dr. Follette, Superintendent, gave a presentation on the status of the 2020-2021 School Budget. She stated the current difference between revenue and expenditures is \$1,589,266. She explained this figure represents the gap after the initial state budget proposal, which included a \$412,012 increase in foundation aid was eliminated. She explained it is a significant impact to our budget. She stated there was \$390,000 stimulus aid that came in under the Federal Cares Act Restoration and then taken away under a pandemic adjustment. She explained it was intended to help with the flat foundation aid, but it did not work that way because we actually will not see that money. On paper, foundation is remaining flat, but in reality it is being reduced and the district will not see the benefit of the federal stimulus. She stated this pandemic adjustment appears to be another type of gap elimination adjustment that we saw years ago. She explained in addition, the budget bill gives the state budget director the ability to make midyear adjustments to the budget. She stated this would further reduce the amounts to schools if the state budget is deemed unbalanced during the year. Dr. Follette stated as of now we do not know the full amount of cuts the Governor has been speaking about. She stated after April 30 we should know whether there's additional first cuts to the budget in

addition to holding aid flat. She stated the second measuring period is May 1 to June 30, 2020, and the last is July 1 to December 31, 2020.

Mr. Woodard stated it's been a while since we talked about a gap elimination adjustment and that gap is the state's budget gap. He stated Dr. Follette was talking about the pandemic adjustment, this is really how the state is funneling that money to fill their budget gap.

Dr. Follette stated that because foundation aid makes up 50% of our budget, our district is one of the hardest hit in the area, and there is no equity in that between the districts. She explained the smaller, rural schools are it the hardest. She stated the District would continue to look for ways to eliminate the gap through use of reserves, attrition, and spending cuts.

Mr. Woodard explained the District's health insurance has gone up \$500,000 and special education costs are going up \$600,000, as well as accounting for salary increases. He stated they are paying close attention to the budgeted use of reserves. He explained when you are hit with trying to find 1.5 million from budget to budget, it becomes a mix of everything. He explained luckily they just created a new reserve that the District can use to help offset some of the deficit.

Mr. Woodard explained the current revenue projections.

Dr. Follette stated they will now wait for the announcement of the first New York State Budget measurement period after April 30 and evaluate any potential further reductions in New York State Aide.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

Items under the Consent Agenda will be enacted under one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items prior to the time of the Board vote, unless a Board member requests an item to be removed from the consent Agenda for separate discussion and action.

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. **Board of Education Work Session Minutes** – March 17, 2020
- b. **Board of Education Minutes** – March 17, 2020
- c. **Resignation** – **William Villano**, English Teacher, effective June 30, 2020
- d. **Amendment to Unpaid Leave of Absence** – **Julia Frost**, from April 8-10, 2020 to April 16-22, 2020
- e. **Meat and Cheese Bid** – Renzi, Ginsberg, SYSCO and Lupo's, BC Provisions, Slate Farms as low bidders for the May 1, 2020 to August 11, 2020 Meat and Cheese Bid as prepared by Broome Tioga BOCES Food Service Program.
- f. **USDA Government Processed Food** – Asian-Renzi, Brookwood-Renzie, Renzi, Nardones, SYSCO and Ginsberg as low bidders for the 2020 – 2021 School Year USDA Government Process Food Bid as prepared by Broome Tioga BOCES Food Service Program.
- g. **2020 Building Condition Survey & Five Year Capital Facilities Plan Agreement** as prepared by Ashley McGraw Architects
- h. **Extra-Classroom Treasurer's Reports** – March 2020
- i. **Committee on Special Education Recommendations**

Moved by Kathy Driscoll

Seconded by Brian Jeker

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

4. Retirement Resignations

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the retirement resignation of **Terry Dean**, Director of School Facilities, effective June 24, 2020.

Moved by Eddie Maslin

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

Dr. Follette stated Mr. Dean was known for his dedication and diligence to save the district money, and he will be missed.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the retirement resignation of **Russ Davis**, Technology Teacher, effective June 30, 2020.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

Dr. Follette stated Mr. Davis was known for being a team player and his ability to engage students, and he will be missed.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the retirement resignation of **Thomas Kraly**, Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2020.

Moved by Chris Widdall

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Dr. Follette stated Mr. Kraly is known for his ability to develop one to one relationships with his students, he dedicated his time to the 5th grade trip, coaching and working as a chairperson. He will be missed.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

Mr. Whalen stated it was a pleasure to work with Russ and Tom and he has learned quite a bit from both of them. He stated he has been really impressed with them and their ability to jump into this new technology world and will miss working with them.

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the retirement resignation of **Kathy Gummoe**, Typist, effective June 30, 2020.

Moved by Kathy Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Dr. Follette stated Mrs. Gummoe has assumed many roles throughout the years. She stated she was instrumental in their transition to the CBO and currently works with Ms. Sexton streamlining data and central registration. She stated Kathy is known for going above and beyond without hesitation and is a pleasure to work with. She will be missed.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the

Whitney Point Central School District approve of the retirement resignation of **Irma Mitchell**, Business Teacher, effective June 30, 2020.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Dr. Follette stated Ms. Mitchell is known for working effectively with her fellow staff members and has excellent communication with parents and students. She stated Irma served as co-advisor to student council and a contributing member of the school improvement committee. She stated Irma is was a pleasure to work with and she will be missed.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

5. Appointment

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the three (3) year probationary appointment of **Kristin Keymir-Martin**, Math Teacher, in the Math Teacher tenure area effective September 1, 2020.

The expiration date provided herein is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or overall annual performance review ratings, pursuant to Education Law Section 3012-d of either Effective or Highly-Effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years and if the teacher receives an Ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, the teacher shall not eligible for tenure at that time.

Moved by Eddie Maslin

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

Dr. Follette introduced Mrs. Martin.

Mrs. Martin stated she looked forward to meeting everyone in person.

Dr. Follette stated Mrs. Martin is a graduate of the Whitney Point School District and her children attend the district. She stated Mrs. Martin comes to the district with a lot of experience and the district is excited to have her on their team.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

6. BOCES Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services administrative budget in the amount of \$3,237,554.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

7. Board Member Vote: BOCES Board of Trustees

There are three (3) Board seats, two (2) three-year positions with terms ending June 30, 2023 and one (1) two-year position with the term ending June 30, 2022 that will be filled by a vote of the component districts. The following candidates have been nominated for the Office of Trustee on the Broome-Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services:

Nominee: Peter Nowacki
Nominee: William Powell
Nominee: Michon Stuart

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve a motion be made to cast votes for the Broome Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services as follows:

THREE YEAR POSITIONS

First Nominee:

Kathleen Driscoll moves that the following name be included on the ballot:

Peter Nowacki

Seconded by Christine Widdall

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained APPROVED

Second Nominee:

Eddie Maslin moves that the following name be included on the ballot:

William Powell

Seconded by Christine Widdall

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained APPROVED

TWO YEAR POSITION

Nominee:

Christine Widdall moves that the following name be included on the ballot:

Michon Stuart

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained APPROVED

IT IS RESOLVED:

The Whitney Point Central School District Board of Education casts a vote for the Broome Tioga Board of Cooperative Educational Services Board candidates as identified above.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll Seconded by Brian Jeker

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained APPROVED

8. Whitney Point Central School District Policy and Procedure Suspensions

WHEREAS, the closure of schools and shift to remote learning in response to COVID-19 has caused significant disruption to students and to the learning process; and

WHEREAS, the various policies and procedures of the Whitney Point Central School District relating to the grading of student were not written in contemplation of such significant disruption, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Whitney Point School District, Broome County, New York desires more flexibility in the grading of students to account for such significant disruption.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that Whitney Point School District policies and procedures, to the extent such policies and procedures relate to the grading of students, are hereby suspended until further notice; and further

RESOLVED, that the Superintendent is directed to promulgate an emergency interim grading procedure that accounts for and addresses the significant disruption to students and the learning process due to the closure of schools and shift to remote learning in response to COVID-19; and further

RESOLVED that such promulgated policies and procedures shall be subject to change based upon future Executive Orders or guidance that may be issued or any changed circumstances resulting from the same.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Dr. Widdall asked if this policy was clarifying the grading procedures.

Dr. Follette stated yes. She explained it is to put on paper that the Board of Education is in support of the work that is being done and will be done as we move through this quarter.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

9. Instructional Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

10. Application for Refund and Credit of Real Property Taxes

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the applications for refund and credit of real property taxes pursuant to Section 554 of the NYS Real Property Tax Laws.

Total Warrant Changes: \$578.00

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Katie Perry

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

11. BOCES Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve that the district will participate in all services approved by the Superintendent and/or her designee for the 2020-21 school year. The Board of Education agrees to pay Broome-Tioga BOCES the charges identified on the base contract according to the schedule as determined by Broome – Tioga BOCES. Also, be it resolved that payments on supplemental contracts will be implemented by the district in accordance with the Broome – Tioga BOCES requirements.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Mr. Woodard stated this resolution was for the BOCES administrative budget and had to be voted on today, which is why we typically have one Monday meeting each year.

Mr. Tasber asked if the budget changes and we delete some items, are these things we can cut back on if they are under contract?

Mr. Woodard stated in the past we have had leeway with it and these individual circumstances can be discussed with BOCES.

Dr. Follette stated her experience with policies over the years is we would have some flexibility based on current economic climate.

Ms. Sexton stated it is worth noting quite a bit of this has already been cut.

Dr. Widdall expressed her concern over BOCES needing money and pulling it from the districts.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

12. Extension of Benefits

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the continuation of the current benefit plan with Excellus BlueCross BlueShield for the contract period April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

13. Memorandum of Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Superintendent of the Whitney Point Central School District and the Whitney Point Teachers' Association dated April 17, 2020.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

I. BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

None

J. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Notice of Change in Board of Education Proceedings – Dr. Follette reviewed the upcoming Board of Education proceedings and dates.
- Board of Education Retreat - Dr. Follette stated they cannot schedule a date right now, but was looking for an agreement to do an evening retreat again. The Board of Education agreed.
- Superintendent's Evaluation – Dr. Follette stated the District Clerk did send out the evaluation and they will need to be sure to complete their evaluations and return them to the clerk.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Eddie Maslin stated his comments were about the budgetary adjustments. He stated our Whitney Point Central School District capital assets, the buildings, lands and fields, require a person having the delegated responsibility of physically watching over the mechanicals of operation. He stated in the past it was attempted to put two hats on the same person and it did not work. Mr. Maslin stated our Whitney Point Central School District's building appearance, sanitization and overall physical plant operations went downhill, such as air quality, sport fields, classroom cleanliness all suffered. He stated it costs a lot of money, time and people's hard work to get our district's capital assets where they are today. He stated let's not go backwards because there will be a loss of value.

Stephanie Champney thanked him for his input.

Dr. Widdall stated she would like to hear how the district is going to be proactive knowing that this could happen again in the fall. She stated she would just like to encourage the school because they are doing such an amazing job right now.

Mr. Woodard stated he is impressed that our district was ahead of the curve with this situation, and he knows that some districts are still scrambling. He thanked the district for their work with technology so the meetings can take place.

Dr. Widdall stated WP Alumni Emma Maslin is a healthcare worker in North Carolina and was on the News.

Dr. Follette pulled up the News Report on her computer so the Board of Education could watch the report.

Kathleen Driscoll commended the report.

L. ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the motion to adjourn the Public Meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

M. FYI

May 5, 2020 Budget Hearing – Postponed

May 5, 2020 Board of Education Meeting – Canceled

May 19, 2020 Budget Vote and School Board Election – Postponed

May 19, 2020 Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m., Location/Access TBD

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Burchell
District Clerk