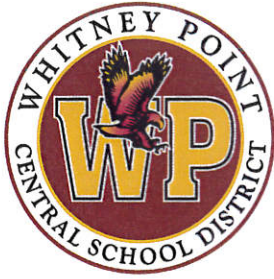


WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education Meeting
Whitney Point, NY



Video Conference Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 4, 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: Sabrina Hogan, Dawna Stafford, Ashley Black, Stephanie Rundell, Samantha Docalavich, Samantha Zaharis, Kelsey Howard, Lisa (last name unknown),

A. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

B. CORRESPONDENCE

None

C. POLICIES 1ST READING

None

D. POLICIES 2ND READING

None

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Dr. Follette presented a draft of the Whitney Point Central School District's reopening plan. She stated on Thursday, July 16, 2020 school districts were given 144 pages of guidance from New York State with instructions to submit a draft plan by the 31st with safety a priority and following the required protocols and social distancing necessary and required by State guidelines. She stated that fortunately the Whitney Point District was proactive in starting the process before we received the guidance and started to put out surveys. She explained once the district got the information and guidance it quickly formed nine committees, and once they were formed the district invited parents to serve and provide their insights as well. Dr. Follette stated within the two-week period the district also attended multiple webinars and researched guidance. She stated guidance was given by both the State and the Health Department. She explained all districts are different with their goals and limitations.

Dr. Follette stated our school district budget is comprised with over 70% of the school budget being dependent on State aid. She explained this year during the budget process, because of COVID and the economy, \$430,000 of our State aid budget was cut. She stated this required us to reduce sections which forces us to face COVID with larger classes sizes. She explained that the District had many retirements, so the district was able to reduce positions through attrition.

Dr. Follette stated another requirement the District is facing is social distancing on school buses for the safety of our children. She explained one of our District's biggest obstacles is the larger than typical geographical area. She stated many districts have two bus runs, and now the Whitney Point District will be looking at two runs as well. She explained, as it is now, grades 7-12 will start their day about 7:20 and end about 2:10, and grades Pre-K through six beginning their day at 8:20 and ending about 3:10. She explained that many families have said they will transport their children if necessary. She stated in order to provide transportation for as many people as we can, the district will look at operating at least two bus runs.

Dr. Follette stated the district is working on remote learning plans for those families who choose to educate from home. She explained that the district is looking at dividing the school district into cohorts relating to the number of students we can safely fit into a classroom along with the teachers. She explained the district was already facing larger class sizes this year due to the budget cut, so reducing them into smaller classes was even more difficult. She explained that they do not know what the numbers will be at this time and to keep in mind that this plan is a draft. She stated the district

will be offering a remote model and is asking the parents that choose the remote model to commit to at least one half of the school year, what we call a semester, because we can't just keep changing the numbers. She stated the district has put out a survey and is calling families to determine what the numbers will be.

Ms. Sexton addressed the questions in the group chat stating at this time attendance for remote students is still being discussed. She stated elementary remote learning would be different from secondary. She stated the secondary students are able to handle more screen time. She stated they are working closely with the Health Department to protect the health and well-being of the students. We are looking into guidance from the Health Department for students with a sickness such as a cold.

Ms. Sexton stated she knows there are instances where older children typically get younger siblings on the bus so they are working on same day schedules for families. She stated whatever we develop at the start of the year would have to evolve.

Dr. Follette stated the District has to do everything it can so all the kids here stay safe. She stated receiving a 144 pages of guidance from the State with instructions to come up with a plan in two weeks was a daunting task. She stated the district has the responsibility of having the children that you love and we love in our schools with us, and keeping everybody safe. She stated this also includes the safety and well-being of employees and faculty. She stated each individual district faces its own challenges and that is why local decisions are given to us individually.

F. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dawna Stafford read a letter to the Board of Education expressing her concerns about her children not attending full time.

Stephanie Champney thanked her for her comments.

Several community members discussed different concerns about the district's plan including socialization, special education needs, accelerated students and childcare issues.

Ms. Sexton stated the district is looking closely at younger students and high needs special education students. She stated accelerated students would still be able to participate in their classes. Ms. Sexton stated the district is looking into synchronous learning in the classrooms as well, which she stated would be a little more difficult at the elementary level.

Ms. Sexton stated she would post the survey again for people to express their comments and concerns.

G. COMMENDATIONS

Dr. Follette commended:

- Whitney Point School District parents, staff, administration and Board of Education Members who served on the nine Reopening Plan Committees.

H. OLD BUSINESS

None

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. 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. **Safety Hearing Minutes** – July 7, 2020
- b. **Board of Education Minutes** – July 7, 2020
- c. **Appointment** – Julie Lamuraglia, Lead Evaluator for teachers for the 2020-2021 school year
- d. **Resignation** – Kira Brewster – effective June 30, 2020
- e. **Geographical Bid** approve of the award to Headwater Food Club and The Perfect Granola low bidders for the September 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 Geographical Preference Bid as prepared by Broome-Tioga BOCES Food Service Program.
- f. **2020-2021 Tax Warrant** authorize the collection of taxes for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and the issuance of the tax warrant for the collection thereof, by authority of Article 13 of the Real Property Tax Law.
- g. **2020-2021 Library Tax Warrant** authorize the collection of taxes for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and the issuance of the Library tax warrant for the collection thereof, by authority of Article 13 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

5 Aye 0 Nay 1 Abstained (*Stephanie Champney*)

APPROVED

2. Appointments

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools (“Superintendent”) recommends that **Ashley Driscoll** (“Ms. Driscoll”) be appointed by the Board of Education (“Board”) of the Whitney Point Central School District (the “District”) to a probationary term as an Elementary Teacher;

WHEREAS, Ms. Driscoll possesses an Elementary Emergency COVID-19 certification;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the Superintendent’s recommendation, the Board hereby appoints Ms. Driscoll in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary in the Elementary tenure area, commencing on September 1, 2020 and ending on September 1, 2024; except that to the extent required by Education Law §3012, in order to be eligible for tenure at the end of the probationary term, Ms. Driscoll must have received composite or overall APPR ratings pursuant to Education Law §3012-c and/or §3012-d (as applicable) of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and must also have received an effective composite or overall APPR rating in the final year of the probationary period, or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing in this resolution shall be construed to limit the unfettered statutory right of the school district to terminate Ms. Driscoll for any statutorily and constitutionally permissible reason while she remains in probationary status.

Moved by Eddie Maslin

Seconded by Katie Perry

Dr. Follette stated the District is very pleased to have Ashley joining the staff.

6 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 the four (4) year probationary appointment of **Kelsey Howard**, Elementary Teacher, in the Elementary 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 Christine Widdall

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

Dr. Follette stated the District is very pleased to have Kelsey joining the faculty.

Ms. Howard stated regardless of what the school year brings, she is excited to get started and make relationships with all of the students this year.

6 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 the four (4) year probationary appointment of **Danell Jones**, English Teacher, in the English 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 Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Katie Perry

Dr. Follette stated they are pleased to have Danell working with the District, and stated Danell is a graduate of the Whitney Point Central School District.

Ms. Jones stated she is really excited for the opportunity and really excited to come back to the community that she graduated from.

5 Aye 0 Nay 1 Abstained (*Christine Widdall*)

APPROVED

ADDENDA

A. NEW BUSINESS

1. Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the resignation of **Alyssa Januszka**, Registered School Nurse, effective August 4, 2020.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

3. Audit Process Overview

The Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the Audit Process Overview prepared by Insero & Co. CPAs, LLP.

4. Board Workshop Dates

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following official Whitney Point Central School District Board of Education Workshop dates for the 2020-2021 school year.

Board of Education Workshops

Work Session one:	October 6, 2020
Work Session two:	January 12, 2021
Work Session three:	March 16, 2021

Moved by Katie Perry

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

5. Amendment to Instructional Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District amend the 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar as follows:

Change of Conference Days:

<u>Original Conference Days:</u>	<u>Amended Conference Days:</u>
November 3, 2020	September 10, 2020
March 12, 2021	September 11, 2020

The first day of school for students will now be Monday, September 14, 2020.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Dr. Follette stated these dates are changed so that we have some additional time to prepare for all of the trainings and make sure that we are well versed in what we need to do and that making sure that all our teachers also have the knowledge that they need to safely have our students entering school.

Dr. Widdall stated she appreciated the fact that the school has considered this and will give the teachers time to learn efficiently and also put things together correctly.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

J. BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS

Dr. Follette reviewed in detail the updated Board of Education Goals.

K. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mrs. Knapp stated the attendance at this meeting was very focused and targeted toward a specific issue, but she hopes that people will consider coming to these meetings more regularly so they are part of the process and get to hear their dialog in more real time. She stated it was great to have this many people here being so very thoughtful about our students and the future of our community.

Dr. Follette thanked everyone who took the time to attend and provide his or her feedback and input. She stated it is invaluable to the District.

Dr. Widdall stated she has heard of school districts doing very different plans, some five days on, some two weeks on and two weeks off. She stated she is happy as a Whitney Point resident that there are so many people attending the meeting tonight. She stated she appreciates the Whitney Point Staff and all the school districts that are going through this transition right now. She stated she wanted to remind everyone that this is a fluid draft and not set in stone. She stated the final plan may not be best for everyone, but the District is doing its best and she hopes and prays that everyone stays safe and healthy.

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 7:23 p.m.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

M. FYI

August 20, 2020 – August Graduation, time and location TBD
August 25, 2020 - Board of Education Meeting, time and location TBD
September 15, 2020 - Board of Education Meeting, time and location TBD

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Burchell
District Clerk