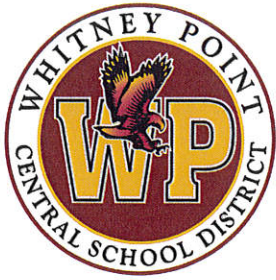


WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board of Education Meeting  
Whitney Point, NY



Video Conference Meeting via Zoom

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 25, 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 6:00 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: Margaret Bobier

**A. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**B. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**C. POLICIES 1ST READING**

None

**D. POLICIES 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

None

**E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**F. COMMENDATIONS**

Dr. Follette commended:

- Whitney Point Friendship Tree for donating school supply kits to K-6 students for in-school learning.
- Whitney Point Athletic Director Murphee Hayes for receiving recognition by the Interscholastic Athletic Conference for her dedication to our student-athletes, parents and community.

**G. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**H. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Whitney Point Central School District Draft Reopening Plan Update**

Dr. Patricia Follette, Superintendent, gave an update on the current Whitney Point Central School District Draft Reopening Plan. Dr. Follette explained at the time the district created the first draft of the Reopening Plan at the end of July, we were including all of the students that were part of the school district because we didn't have any numbers to tell us any differently. She stated since then, the district has had time to contact all families and 20-30% of them plan to homeschool or participate in remote learning. Dr. Follette stated with those numbers the district is now able to bring grades PreK-5 and special education self-contained classrooms back five days a week. She explained the remaining students will be divided into cohorts of Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday. She stated Wednesday will be remote learning for all students. Dr. Follette explained that TRA 7-8 will be using a block schedule.

Dr. Widdall stated she appreciated all the work that the District put into the Reopening Plan. She stated she liked the plan, and understands the plan may need to change moving forward as the situation evolves.

## 2. 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 Minutes** – August 4, 2020
- b. **Resignation** – Katherine Brown, School Counselor – effective August 11, 2020
- c. **Resignation** – Alyx Kirchner-Couch, Teacher’s Aide – effective August 17, 2020
- d. **Resignation** – Brandilynn Craver, Registered School Nurse – effective August 17, 2020.
- e. **Treasurer’s Report** – June 2020
- f. **Extra-Classroom Treasurer’s Report** – July 2020
- g. **Committee on Special Education Recommendations**

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Katie Perry

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## 3. Appointments

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Dylan Link**, Bus Monitor, effective August 26, 2020.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

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

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Bobier possesses a Students with Disabilities - Grades 7-12 - Generalist, Emergency COVID-19 certification;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the Superintendent’s recommendation, the Board hereby appoints Ms. Bobier in accordance with §3012 of the Education Law, to a four-year probationary in the Special Education Teacher 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. Bobier 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. Bobier for any statutorily and constitutionally permissible reason while she remains in probationary status.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Ms. Bobier thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity and stated she was looking forward to the challenges that this year may bring, as well as and learning and growing as an educator.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## **ADDENDA**

### **A. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Resignations**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the resignation of Niccole Haas, Bus Monitor, effective August 24, 2020.

Moved by Eddie Maslin

Seconded by Brian Jeker

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 resignation of Linda Lantz, Teacher's Aide, effective August 26, 2020.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Katie Perry

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

#### **2. Appointments**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of Linda Lantz, Bus Driver, effective August 26, 2020.

Moved by Katie Perry

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

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 Alexis DeRitis, 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 Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **3. Transportation Request**

*BE IT RESOLVED* upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following transportation request for the 2020-2021 school year:

Seton Catholic Central:  
Anna Cordisco

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **4. Unemployment Insurance Reserve**

*BE IT RESOLVED* that the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Whitney Point Central School District (the “District”) hereby:

- 1) Determines that the moneys in the Unemployment Insurance Payment Reserve Fund (the “Reserve Fund”) currently exceed the amounts required to be paid to the State Unemployment Insurance Fund as well as the amounts required to pay all pending unemployment claims; and
- 2) Determines that the excess amount of moneys in the Reserve Fund totals \$350,000 and
- 3) Applies all of the excess amount of \$350,000 that is currently in the Reserve Fund to the budget appropriation for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, in accordance with Section 6-m of the New York General Municipal Law.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Mr. Woodard stated this resolution is to move excess money from the Unemployment Insurance Reserve to the unappropriated fund balance for greater financial flexibility this year.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **5. Whitney Point Central School District Policy and Procedure Suspensions**

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant disruption to schools, causing changes in response to attaining educational equity and safeguarding the health, safety, and well-being of children and adults in our schools; and

**WHEREAS**, the various policies and procedures of the Whitney Point Central School District were not written in contemplation of such significant changes relating to teaching and learning, school schedules, attendance, grading, academic intervention, special education, career and technical education, bilingual education, health and safety, health screening, social emotional well-being, social distancing, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), high-risk individuals, transportation, child nutrition, budget and fiscal matters, staffing and human resources, facilities, and cleaning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Whitney Point School District, Broome County, New York, desires more flexibility to account for unique and changing guidance and circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.



**NOW BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED**, that Whitney Point School District policies and procedures related to teaching and learning, school schedules, attendance, grading, academic intervention, special education, career and technical education, bilingual education, health and safety, health screening, social emotional well-being, social distancing, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), high-risk individuals, transportation, child nutrition, budget and fiscal matters, staffing and human resources, facilities, and cleaning, to the extent that such policies and procedures are inconsistent with the directives issued by the Superintendent for COVID-19 compliance, the policies and procedures are hereby suspended until further notice; and further

**RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent is directed to promulgate emergency interim policies and procedures that account for and addresses the significant disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; 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 Katie Perry

Dr. Follette stated this resolution allows for the changes that were made and put into place based on the District's Reopening Plan and the COVID pandemic.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## **6. Purchasing Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Executive Order 202, the Governor of the State of New York issued a declaration of emergency for the entire State of New York as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, Governor Andrew Cuomo has announced that the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year will be determined by him during the first week of August, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding that announcement, the School District is required to submit a reopening plan to New York State Education Department for approval by July 31, 2020, prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year in September;

**WHEREAS**, such reopening plan must comply with guidance issued by the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health including the District-wide implementation of certain health and safety measures designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the building occupants on an expedited basis;

**WHEREAS**, the District must procure equipment, materials and supplies to meet the requirements for its reopening plan in advance of the start of school; and

**WHEREAS**, supplies of these items are extremely limited and lead times for delivery are long;

**WHEREAS**, this situation requires immediate action which cannot await competitive bidding in order to protect the health and safety of the students, staff, visitors, other building occupants, and the community at large from the spread of COVID-19 and to meet the requirements imposed by the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District hereby declares the above situation to be an emergency; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Education authorizes the School District to purchase all necessary equipment, supplies, and materials necessary to implement the District's reopening plan as it relates to COVID-19 as an ordinary contingent expense of the Board and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools or his designee to take the necessary legal steps to effectuate such purchases.

Moved by Eddie Maslin

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Mr. Tasber asked if the purchasing is done with other districts in bulk.

Mr. Woodard stated yes.

Dr. Follette stated the Broome County Health Department has been good in so many ways, and this is just one of them. She explained they have been working very hard to get the lowest prices on supplies and to make sure that the District is not experiencing any price gouging during this time.

Mrs. Champney commended the Broome County Health Department.

Dr. Follette stated the Broome County Health Department meets with the superintendents three times a week, and has assigned a liaison to each school. She stated Victoria Perkins is the liaison for Whitney Point and she is very responsive. Dr. Follette stated she sits in on internal and public meetings with the district.

Mr. Tasber asked if the district received all the computers it needed.

Ms. Sexton stated they are expecting an order this week.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## **I. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

- Dr. Follette stated the District completed the following requirements of the supplement to the interim guidance for in-person instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Including:
  - Stakeholder Communication and Outreach
  - Remote Learning
  - Testing
  - Contact Tracing
  - Public Meetings
    - August 19 at 7:00 p.m.
    - August 20 at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
  - Faculty Meeting
    - August 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
  - Faculty and Staff Meeting
    - August 17, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Sexton stated she has received a lot of questions, and thoughtful suggestions and approaches from people offering their assistance both through the portal and through committee work. She stated she just wanted to thank everybody in the community that



has been involved. She explained they look at things in different ways and it has helped the district in problem solving. She stated she appreciates it very much.

Dr. Follette stated she also appreciates the number of people who were very thoughtful and supportive with their kind words. She stated it has been a daunting task and the District continues to work with all of their associations, teachers, staff, community and board members.

**A. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Tasber stated he was pleased to see the District is working with Victoria Perkins. He stated he has worked with her professionally and she is a fantastic person to deal with and very knowledgeable.

**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 6:57 p.m.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Brian Jeker

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**L. FYI**

September 1, 2020 – Special Board of Education Zoom Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

September 14, 2020 – First Day of Classes

September 15, 2020 - Board of Education Meeting, time and location TBD

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia Burchell  
District Clerk