

**Hicksville Exempted Village Schools
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
November 22, 2021**

The Hicksville Exempted Village Schools Board of Education met in regular meeting on Monday, November 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room. The meeting was opened by President, Jennifer Caryer, with the following Board members answering roll call: Craig Eiden, Minda Jones, Stephanie Mazur, Galen Methvin, and Jennifer Caryer.

Technology Report

Mr. Hoffman – Assistant Technology Director:

- Fall Testing has been completed
- Used digital backdrops for the second time at this past week's MS musical

Principal Reports

Mr. Altman – Middle School Principal:

- Spelling Bee
- Mrs. Diehl community class

Mrs. Coffman – Elementary School Principal:

- Jane Meyers presented a data dive on our State Assessment
- Principal Math Club celebration this past Friday

Mr. Slattery – High School Principal:

- Congratulate VB team for District Runner up
- 1st Quarter ended October 29
- Veteran's Day assembly on November 11th was a great success
- College Credit Plus meeting was last Wednesday
- Fall testing will be in December

Four County Career Center Report

- None

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Countryman:

- Congratulations to Eric Vetter, new board member effective January 2022
- Capital Conference, Napoleon schools did a presentation on Mental Health. Mr. Countryman has reached out to them to implement their program for our District
- Covid update
- Flu is starting to hit the District pretty hard

Craig Eiden moved and Minda Jones seconded the motion to approve the following as stated.

1. Minutes from the regular board meeting on October 18, 2021 and work session meeting on October 18, 2021.

2. Treasurer's Consent Agenda Items

- a. Cash Reconciliation as of October 31, 2021
- b. Financial Statements for October 2021
- c. Approve Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources for Fiscal Year 2022 as presented, total General Fund Resources of \$15,398,020.44 and total Resources for all funds of \$21,208,475.33
- d. Approve Amended Fiscal Year 2022 Permanent Appropriations as presented, total General Fund Appropriations of \$11,235,507.47 and total Appropriations for all funds of \$14,543,030.23
- e. Approve Fiscal Year 2022 Five-Year Forecast as presented; cash balance as of June 30, 2026 (line 7.020) of \$1,843,400

3. Accept the following donations:

\$ 113.04 from Betty Guilford for STEM
 \$ 500.00 from Ohio State Eagles Charity Fund for Student of the Quarter
 12 Volleyballs from Adam & Rebecca Zeedyk for Volleyball

Mr. Ruen presented the Five-Year Forecast emphasizing some of the aspects related to the FY'2022 and FY'2023 beinnium budget (HB-110) and the Fair School Funding Plan which was implemented within the State budget. Mr. Ruen went in to some depth on how the projections were arrived at.

Roll call: Ayes – Craig Eiden, Minda Jones, Stephanie Mazur, Galen Methvin and Jennifer Caryer. Motion Carried 5-0.

Galen Methvin moved and Craig Eiden seconded the motion to approve the following as stated.

- Recommend to approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Dave Blue – Head Girls Track Coach
 Andrew Lawrence – Head Softball Coach
 Paul Payne – Head Boys Track Coach
 Liz Perna – Junior Class Advisor (1/3)
 Liz Perna – Prom Advisor (1/3)
 Natalie Zachrich – Archery Advisor
 Kara Miser – Freshman Girls' Basketball Coach

Roll call: Ayes – Craig Eiden, Minda Jones, Stephanie Mazur, Galen Methvin and Jennifer Caryer. Motion Carried 5-0.

Minda Jones moved and Galen Methvin seconded the motion to approve the following as stated.

- Recommend to approve the following supplemental contract for the 2021-2022 school year.

Tim Shock – Head Baseball Coach

Roll call: Ayes – Craig Eiden, Minda Jones, Galen Methvin and Jennifer Caryer. Stephanie Mazur abstained. Motion Carried 4-0-1.

Craig Eiden and Galen Methvin seconded the motion to approve the following as stated.

- Recommend to approve the following supplemental contracts for the 2021-2022 school year.

Ein DeWitt – Assistant Wrestling Coach
Jay Sowles – Head Jr. High Wrestling Coach

- Recommend to approve the following as volunteers for the 2021-2022 school year.

Jeff Schroeder - Softball
Bailey Tear – Boys Basketball

Roll call: Ayes – Craig Eiden, Minda Jones, Stephanie Mazur, Galen Methvin and Jennifer Caryer. Motion Carried 5-0.

Minda Jones moved and Galen Methvin seconded the motion to approve the following as stated.

- Recommend to approve a \$20.00 daily maximum for professional leave meal reimbursement.
- Recommend to approve a \$400.00 stipend for Highly Quality Student Data (HQSD) members beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.
- Recommend to approve January 10, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. as the date and time for the 2022 Organizational Board Meeting and appoint Galen Methvin as President Pro-Tem.

Roll call: Ayes – Craig Eiden, Minda Jones, Stephanie Mazur, Galen Methvin and Jennifer Caryer. Motion Carried 5-0.

Mrs. Jones asked about opening the new athletic complex to the public. Mr. Countryman informed the Board that we are still waiting for the fobs to the new building to arrive. Mrs. Jones noted that she was not in favor of over-riding the fob access.

Mrs. Caryer – attended a Capital Conference session regarding student free speech.

Mrs. Jones – attended a session on poverty stating differences between urban and rural poverty districts noting that bullying is more prevalent in rural schools. Another session was about connections with one's community. A third session was about School Board goals and the health and wellness of students and staff.

Mr. Countryman would like the Board to think about creating a Special Education type of administrative position. Mr. Countryman is gathering information from other Districts including job descriptions and wages and would be approximately a 193 day contract year. It was noted that if this position supervises other special education teachers then it would require an administrative license.

Mrs. Caryer thanked those in attendance for coming tonight. She reminded that anyone who plans to speak that you are not allowed to use any student or staff members name, and that you are limited to 4 minutes according to board policy.

Michael Villena spoke mentioning that they met with the Board at the last meeting in executive session as they felt their son was berated and emotionally and verbally abused in a meeting he had with the Guidance Counselor. He stated that his son had audio recorded the meeting with the Guidance Counselor in question because of the horror stories he had heard from others. The recording was shared with the administration and the Board at the last Board meeting and would play the recording now if anyone would like to hear it, a member/s from the Board/Administration stated "no".

Mr. Villena noted that they would like this Guidance Counselor to be suspended on a leave of absence while the Board and administration look into these ethical violations further and file our complaint with the Ohio School Boards Association's attorneys. Also feel that the teacher that was present at the meeting be suspended or placed on leave due to her responsibility and involvement in the emotional abuse of his son. His son isn't the first student to be verbally and emotionally abused by this Guidance Counselor, but they want him to be the last one. Mr. Villena mentioned that what was a voice for their son has turned into a voice for many that have been mis-treated by this Guidance Counselor.

Shannon Villena thanked everyone for their support. She repeated that her son's forethought to tape the meeting which she said lasted 15 minutes was based on comments from other kids. She stated that she knows that this Guidance Counselor has a lot of complaints against him. Mrs. Villena mentioned that someone had told her that their child had this happen to them as far back as 20 years ago. She asked, when will this be enough, when will this treatment stop? She feels it's in the best interest of our students that this Guidance Counselor be asked to part ways with our school. Mrs. Villena mentioned that it's sad but true that the teacher's union will protect him. She mentioned that someone told her that their child was called a stupid idiot.

Sue Hoffman, student's grandmother mentioned how this High School Counselor has abused students calling them names and bullying them over the years with his unethical practices and that it is hard to believe that we can let this guidance counselor continue.

Shawn Falls, Northwest Allen School District, non-resident of Hicksville mentioned that people need to speak up for our students, for ethics and morals and the right thing to do. This student is not doing well, and the Board needs to do something.

Becky Gregory mentioned that she heard the audio and has known the young man since he was born, noting that she was sick and appalled by the audio recording. From the audio she heard how cutting to the core of who he was, and he might as well said you are a worthless human being.

Lina Mendoza mentioned that her son was at the same incident as the Villena boy. She stated that her big issue and problem is adults were discussing punishments with our children without calling or texting us, they are still children, and we should have had a call from the school. Ms. Mendoza also mentioned that her son also was threatened to have certain privileges taken away that he had earned.

Danelle Myers mentioned when the incident happened on September 23rd, her son was also present on the night of the incident. She compared the loss of student privileges (Student Council and National Honor Society) from this incident to some athletes suspended because of alcohol but not suspended from Student Council and National Honor Society.

Denita Meyers, Northwest Allen County, non-resident of Hicksville says we have a very big opportunity to rectify situations, stating that her school is very divided because her school didn't do the correct thing when they had the opportunity. Parents must feel that their students feel safe and secure. She mentioned that this guy needs to be on leave

until the Board gets to the bottom of this. Also saying it's not conducive (it's repulsive) for this young man to have to go to school and see this gentleman every day.

Kennedy Villena said that she is standing up for her brother and that he doesn't make a big-deal out of something little. She knows this isn't the first-time students have been treated badly and won't be the last time if the Board doesn't do something about this matter. She mentioned that she was personally scared to go to him for college advice because she had heard multiple pupils say he feared them away from certain professions because they were too dumb or wouldn't be able to do it. She was surprised when he did support her decision.

Mrs. Caryer concluded by saying we appreciate public attendance and participation. At the same time, we must follow staff discipline regulations, due process, collective bargaining agreement and Ohio State law. Discipline matters in a public school is not a simple matter. We have heard your issues and will be discussing them with our attorney to help guide our next steps. Discipline issues will only be discussed in executive session and will not be done at open and public meetings. We will not be able to update you on these matters at this time.

Minda Jones moved and Craig Eiden seconded the motion to hold an executive session at this meeting in order to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or issuing suspension, or termination of a license, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official licensee, or regulated individual unless the public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual requests a public hearing.

Roll call: Ayes – Craig Eiden, Minda Jones, Stephanie Mazur, Galen Methvin and Jennifer Caryer. Motion Carried 5-0.

Mrs. Caryer noted that the Board will return from executive session with no further business other than to adjourn.

The Board entered executive session at 6:45 p.m.

The Board exited executive session at 7:31 p.m.

Minda Jones moved and Galen Methvin seconded the motion to adjourn this meeting until the next board meeting to be held on Monday, November 22 at 5:30 p.m.

Roll call: Ayes – Craig Eiden, Minda Jones, Stephanie Mazur, Galen Methvin and Jennifer Caryer. Motion Carried 5-0. Time 7:31 p.m.

Board President

Treasurer

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