

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
100 HINDS STREET, TONAWANDA, NY 14150**

**AGENDA ~ Minutes  
MARCH 8, 2022**

**REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

*THS Library Media Center  
TONAWANDA MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL  
600 FLETCHER STREET*

**6:30 PM**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER:**

President Heather Sternin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The Pledge and a Moment of Silence were observed.

Roll Call: President Heather Sternin, Vice President Danielle Opalinski, Trustee Daniel Calabrese, Trustee Elizabeth Koch, Trustee Kristin Schmutzler, Trustee Jeff Thorp, Trustee Alicia O'Donnell was excused.

There were several people in attendance, about 100.

Administrators present: Sarah Infante Director of Educational Compliance, Donna Hill Director of Business and Finance, Mary Beth Scullion Director of Curriculum, Amy Edgerton Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Ron Wasik Director of Facilities, Jessi Donner Director of Technology, Renee Smith Director of Athletics, Dr. Timothy Oldenburg Superintendent

Approximately 90 visitors in attendance.

**2.0 MINUTES/TRANSCRIPTION OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**2.1 MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022 ENC.**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of **February 8, 2022** of the Board of Education be approved and that they are hereby adopted in their entirety.

**2.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: MINUTES/TRANSCRIPT OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Trustee Jeff Thorp, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above Item 2.1 as presented. Motion carried.

**3.0 NEW/OLD BUSINESS ENC.**

President Sternin wanted to bring up an idea, that she would like to plant the seed tonight and ask people to think about it, research it and come ready to discuss under this section, next meeting in April. She has had the thought to consider reducing the number of Board of Education members to 5 members instead of 7. Doesn't want to give rationale now, will save that for the next meeting. The Board can have 9, 7 or 5 members. Some districts only have 5 members. Something to think about. Be prepared to talk about it at the next meeting.

#### 4.0 SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

NONE

#### 5.0 VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS/RESOLUTIONS

##### 5.1 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

##### 5.2 PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION #1

The Tonawanda Board of Education, in an effort to conduct district business in a timely fashion, and as part of its long-standing goal to maintain an open line of communication with the public, welcomes comments on topics relevant to the meeting and public education.

- Persons wishing to speak and be recognized by the **Board President** are to be courteous, respectful, well-prepared, non-repetitive and brief.
- All questions or comments should be addressed only to the **Board President** or to the **Superintendent**. No discussion of individual personnel matters will be discussed by the Board.
- Please state your name and address clearly for inclusion in the meeting Minutes. In the event any person wishes a response outside of the confines of a regular Board meeting, please leave all necessary contact information with the Clerk at the end of the meeting.
- Persons may address the Board of Education during two (2) separate sessions of the meeting for a total of twenty (20) minutes per session.
- Individuals may speak a total of three (3) minutes per speaker per session. The Board will adhere to this three (3) minute guideline in an effort to allow everyone an opportunity to speak who wishes to do so.
- The Board reserves its right to limit or expand upon these time limits as the Board may deem necessary and prudent.

#### 6.0 SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

##### 6.1 SCHOLAR ATHLETES

*Renee Smith, Athletic Director*

##### 6.2 2022-2023 BUDGET UPDATE

*Donna Hill, Director of Business & Finance*

Look at Tax Levy, BOCES Budget, Budget Gap, Revenues and Expenditures

##### 6.3 ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Amy Edgerton had nothing to report

Mary Beth Scullion had nothing to report

Jessi Donner announce that the district was awarded \$5000 from a grant from the Technology Coalition and it is being used for chargers. The idea is to put a charger in every classroom and use it for students who dont have funds to replace chargers

Sarah Infante had nothing to report

Donna Hill reported that through the pandemic there were opportunities from FEMA to apply for reimbursements. You couldn't double dip, but you could apply for a small chunk and can do multiple submissions. We were awarded \$4500 which is better than nothing. Happy to be receiving that.

Ron Wasik reported that utilities as costly and it's based on the fact that usage is up because the building is being used more than the past two years. The pricing has upped and it is outrageous. As Donna said the cost has doubled. We are considered demand pricing, which is a difficult concept. We get an allotment and when you exceed it, it goes to market pricing and for that day can

vary, can sky rocket on a single day. Everyone else in the market is using, as each person uses more, they have to buy and bring in from somewhere else. Difficult concept, being a school district and electrical powered in a different areas, can see high unexpected usage and pricing in a single day, can alter the monthly budget, difficult to plan on an annualized budget. Can do an educated guess, but certain days, it's really difficult.

Dr. Oldenburg wanted to recognize Ron, the unexpected bills have been budget busters. Ron has been evaluating and making suggestions. Some things always have been done, maybe more difficult now a days. Some equipment is so old it uses so much energy that aren't as efficient to get to scheduled temp. Other operations such as windows, how they are sealed. As tough and challenging as things are, no way to prevent it, and sadly with equipment, there isn't, but investigating and trying to prevent to the furthest extent, recognize efforts of Ron.

Ron Wasik continued that everyone is at the whims of gas and power companies. Other districts are experiencing the same thing. 100 customers use 100 units, makes the basis. If a day comes and the 100 use 120, then the power source has to get 20 more units from somewhere else.

Trustee Daniel Calabrese asked if the utility companies determine the price, and Ron confirmed that they do.

Dr. Oldenburg reported that the capital project is moving forward, team has been on top of that. Really looking forward to weather breaking. A lot of areas will really be moving faster when the weather breaks. Working on areas that aren't weather reliant. Still on pace and on budget. Construction team has mentioned they will have the Board on a tour when there's better weather and easier to walk through a construction site.

Moved by Vice President Danielle Opalinski and seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Koch that, the Board of Education moves into Executive Session at 7:22pm for the purpose of collective negotiation discussion regarding the TASG Negotiations. Motion carried.

Moved by Vice President Danielle Opalinski and seconded by Trustee Jeff Thorp, that the Board of Education exits Executive Session at 7:38pm. Motion carried.

## **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

### **7.0 MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

#### **7.1 FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**ENC.**

- 7.1.1 Treasurer's Report – December/January 2022
- 7.1.2 Payment of Bills as Certified by Auditor –December 2021/January 2022
- 7.1.3 Revenues – December 2021/January 2022 – \$2,065,349/\$2,070,076  
(Year-to-date \$18,574,999)
- 7.1.4 Expenditures – December 2021/January 2022 – \$4,445,474/\$2,922,320  
(Year-to-date \$15,764,031)
- 7.1.5 Fund Balance Projection Report – December 2021/January 2022
- 7.1.6 Delinquent Tax Report – December 2021/January 2022
- 7.1.7 School Lunch Program – December 2021/January 2022
- 7.1.8 Capital Fund – None
- 7.1.9 Trust and Agency – December 2021/January 2022
- 7.1.10 Budget Transfers – December 2021/January 2022 – \$0  
(Year-to-date \$0)
- 7.1.11 Central Treasurers Report – None
- 7.1.12 Wire Transfers and ACH Payments – December 2021/January 2022
- 7.1.13 Claims Audit Report – December 2021/January 2022

#### **7.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: FINANCIAL REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS**

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Trustee Kristin Schmutzler, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above Management Services Items 7.1 as presented. Motion carried.

## 8.0 INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

### RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/UNPAID LEAVES/TENURE/ETC.

ENC.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following Board Actions, **pending official clearance by the New York State Commission of Education of fingerprint/background check WHERE APPLICABLE** and upon successful completion of probationary period, where applicable. For new teacher hires, it is hereby further resolved that such probationary expiration date shall depend upon their individual APPR ratings and in order to receive tenure they must receive overall APPR ratings of effective or highly effective in at least three of composite or overall APPR rating in their final year of probation, they shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

Item No.	Name	Position/Tenure Area/ Certification	BOE ACTION REQUESTED	Step Level/Degree/Effective Date(s) Italics/Highlighted - Correction
8.1	Elizabeth Randall	Art Teacher Secondary	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective July 1, 2022
8.2	Anne Haentges	Science Teacher Secondary	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective July 1, 2022
8.3	Deborah Ciancio	Elementary Teacher – Mullen	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective July 1, 2022
8.4	Maryanna Fezer-Stout	School Counselor	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective July 1, 2022
8.5	Cynthia Gorko	Teacher Assistant Secondary	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective July 1, 2022
8.6	Lynn Flint	Teacher Assistant – Mullen	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective July 1, 2022
8.7	Karen Love-Eckrote	Teacher Assistant - Mullen	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective July 1, 2022
8.8	Kylie Amidon	BOCES CTE Internship at Riverview and Mullen	Approve Appointment	At No Stipend and Without Pay Effective April 4, 2022 through May 13, 2022

### COACHING APPOINTMENTS/ RESIGNATIONS –

ENC.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the following resolutions and approves the Athletic Coach appointments , per the attached, **pending official clearance by the New York State Commissioner of Education of fingerprint/background check of all those applicable**

Item No.	Name	Sport	BOE ACTION REQUESTED	Step Level/Rate/Effective Date(s)
8.9	Wanda Chase	Junior Varsity Girls Soccer	Accept Resignation	Effective March 8, 2022
8.10	Joseph McDonald	Baseball Assistant Varsity Coach	Approve Appointment	Effective March 14, 2022 Stipend Step 1
8.11	Glen Gast	Intramural 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Swim	Approve Appointment	Effective April 1, 2022
8.12	Katherine Oravek	Intramural Swim Lifeguard	Approve Appointment	Effective April 1, 2022
8.13	Glen Gast	Unified Basketball	Approve Amendment	Effective March 14, 2022 Stipend Step 1 - \$2932

8.14	Alex Demmin	Tennis	Non Paid Volunteer	March 14, 2022
8.15	Gage Holler	Lacrosse	Non Paid Volunteer	March 14, 2022
8.16	Marcell Wittman	Lacrosse	Non Paid Volunteer	March 14, 2022
8.17	Mark Lopez	Lacrosse	Non Paid Volunteer	March 14, 2022
8.18	Nikolas Balling	Lacrosse	Non Paid Volunteer	March 14, 2022
8.19	Jesse Zellner	Baseball	Non Paid Volunteer	March 14, 2022
8.20	Charles Moore	Softball	Non Paid Volunteer	March 14, 2022
8.21	John Moore	Softball	Non Paid Volunteer	March 14, 2022

### 8.0.1. CONSENT AGENDA: INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL ITEMS

Moved by Trustee Kristine Schmutzler and seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Koch that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Instruction Personnel Action Items 8.1 through 8.21 as presented. Motion carried.

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### 9.0 NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

#### RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/UNPAID LEAVES/ETC.

ENC.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following Board Actions, **pending official clearance by the New York State Commission of Education of fingerprint/background check as applicable** and upon successful completion of probationary period where applicable.

Item No.	Name	Position	BOE Action Requested	Step Level/Effective Date(s) <i>Italics/Highlighted = Correction</i>
9.1	Michael Gregory	Custodian	Approve Unpaid Leave	Effective March 2, 2022
9.2	Todd Folmsbee	Stationary Engineer	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective July 1, 2022
9.3	Alan Galton	Cleaner	Accept Resignation	Effective February 10, 2022
9.4	Crystal Kipa	Clerk Typist	Accept Resignation	Effective February 25, 2022
9.5	Kristen Schloss	Teacher Aide	Accept Resignation	Effective February 23, 2022
9.6	Rachel Berent	Clerk Typist	Provisional Appointment	Effective March 9, 2022
9.7	Kathleen Johnson	Clerk Typist	Provisional Appointment	Effective March 9, 2022
9.8	Cassandra Miranda	Clerk Typist	Provisional Appointment	Effective March 28, 2022
9.9	Katherine Snyder	Teacher Aide	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	Effective March 21, 2022

9.10	Lynne Pietrowski	Teacher Aide	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	Effective March 15, 2022
9.11	Rebecca Miles	Custodian	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	Effective April 1, 2022
9.12	Jacob Anderson	Laborer	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	Effective February 22, 2022
9.13	William Sweeney	Cleaner	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	Effective March 3, 2022
9.14	Rhiannon Bell	Cleaner	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	Effective March 9, 2022
9.15	Richard Wesolowski	Cleaner	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	Effective March 11, 2022

#### **ADDITIONS TO THE NON- INSTRUCTIONAL SUBSTITUTE LIST(S)**

**ENC.**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the **Additions to the Non-Instructional Substitute List(s)**, as listed on the attachments(s), **pending official clearance by the New York State Commission of Education of fingerprint/background check.** The Board of Education also approves the **EMERGENCY CONDITIONAL APPOINTMENT** of all substitute additions as listed on the attachment(s) for a period not to exceed twenty (20) calendar days.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>BOE ACTION REQUESTED</b>	<b>Step Level/Rate/Effective Date(s)</b> Italics/Highlighted = Correction
9.16	Kim Verrall	Teacher Aide	Approve Addition to the Teacher Aide List	Effective March 4, 2022

#### **9.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Trustee Jeff Thorp, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Non-Instructional Personnel Action Item 9.1 through 9.16 as presented. Motion carried.

#### **10.0 CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION**

##### **10.1 COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (CSE)**

**ENC.**

<b>COMMITTEE TYPE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MEETING DATES</b>
<i>District Committee on Special Education</i>	Annual Review	<i>02.02, 02.07, 02.10, 02.16, 02.18, 03.01, 03.02, 03.03, 03.04</i>
<i>District Committee on Special Education</i>	Re-evaluation/Annual Review	<i>02.08, 02.11, 02.15, 03.03</i>
<i>District Committee on Special Education</i>	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting	<i>02.14.22, 03.01.22</i>

<i>District Committee on Special Education</i>	Transfer Student – Agreement No Meeting	<i>01.18, 02.01, 02.11, 03.01</i>
<i>District Committee on Pre-School Special Education</i>	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting	<i>01.11, 02.08, 02.17</i>
<i>District Committee on Pre-School Special Education</i>	Annual Review	<i>02.03.22</i>

#### **10.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: CSE**

Moved by Trustee Daniel Calabrese and seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Koch, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above Item 10.1 as presented. Motion carried.

#### **11.0 POLICY ITEMS:**

**NONE**

#### **12.0 OTHER**

##### **12.1 SMART START AGREEMENT WITH KEN TON SCHOOLS**

RESOLVED: That Tonawanda City School District is collaborating with Ken-Ton School District in the NYSED Smart Start grant program. The Tonawanda City School District will invoice Ken-Ton (the consortium lead) for professional development and program management participants, paid for through the Smart Start grant

##### **12.2 APPROVE TCSD 2022-2023 INSTRUCTIONAL CALENDAR                      ENC.**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves the Tonawanda City School District Instructional Calendar for the 2022-2023 school year as presented.

##### **12.3 ADOPTION OF RETENTION AND DISPOSITION SCHEDULE FOR NEW YORK LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers in legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

- (a) only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1), after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;
- (b) only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal, or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

### **12.0.3 CONSENT AGENDA: OTHER**

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Vice President Danielle Opalinski, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above Item 12.1 through 12.3 as presented. Motion carried.

Trustee Kristin Schmutzler wanted to know about starting before Labor Day. She wanted to know if there is a heads up to families and staff.

Dr. Oldenburg said the calendar is shared publicly, it can be mentioned in some way.

Trustee Kristin Schmutzler said parents are still caught off guard with vacations planned

### **13.0 ATTENDANCE REPORT – FEBRUARY 2022**

**ENC.**

### **14.0 BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**ENC.**

14.1 Mullen Calendar – March 2022

14.2 Riverview Calendar – March 2022

### **15.0 PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION #2 FOLLOWING BOARD RESOLUTIONS**

(Same guidelines as those found in Item 5.1. Three (3) minutes per speaker for a 20 Minute Session.)

Jackie Stoj, MS 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and social teacher has been teaching for 23 years. She spoke about the importance of listening and was asking for people to really listen to what teachers are saying at every board meeting. She discussed that they are front liners and they should be heard.

Marybeth Morgan, MS Math and Science teacher has been at Tonawanda for 24 years continued what Jackie Stoj had wrote discussing how difficult it is to be a teacher and the burn out is upon them all.

Maureen Zarcone, spoke as TEA President. She wanted to congratulate scholar athletes, very proud of them, proud of the TEA members for having their names on the board agenda for retirement. 175 years given to Tonawanda between them all, should be congratulated on their efforts. She continued that if you are not investing in your teachers, you are not investing in your students, or your city. The past few years have been the hardest years teaching, backing up lessons, exhausted, and trying to keep heads up. It is a great and noble profession. Invite everyone to visit classrooms, talk to the teachers, listen to them, talk to the kids, and listen.

Amanda Urbaniak, choral director in her 22<sup>nd</sup> year at Tonawanda loves sharing music and time spent in Tonawanda. She discussed value. When people feel under-valued, morale decreases. Words don't match actions. Last two years and continue to be the most challenging in career. Can't even put into words, to make matters more stressful, 25 weeks they have been without a contract. Feeling defeated stressed and overwhelmed.

### **16.0 BOARD OF EDUCATION ROUND-UP**

Trustee Kristin Schmutzler wanted to Thank Donna, Jessi, Ron and Renee for their additions to the meeting tonight. Congrats to retirees, congrats to scholar athletes. She attended NYSBAA'S lobby day, met with 8 legislators. Facetimed with Assemblyman Conrad and for the first time in a while Senator Ryan. Talked about teacher shortages, mental health and nutrition and other topics. Listened to the school board's role on curriculum, will add slides to google drive, valuable information on that. Nice to see large amount of students at honor roll breakfast, looking forward to the last one. Virtually attending Harris Beach conference, three topics were trends and they were bargaining, code of conduct, and student discipline. No info to share as of yet.



Trustee Jeff Thorp reported that he would like to echo congrats to athletes and the budget presentation was really well done. Congratulation to the Retirees, wish he could retire, tough couple of years. Went to wellness video meeting. Pretty informative, farm to table grant through Cornell for the 23.24 school year. Planning a wellness day and how to utilize that grant in a sustainable way. There's a meeting tomorrow, looking forward to it. Went to a video forum through UB for CRT and what school districts do with the cultural wars. Our district doesn't really have that, we have our own things, not seeing a lot of that, doesn't want to get into that, but will talk about it. Has a lot of passion for that in education, working in a city school, see the front lines of a lot of things, if anyone wants to talk, open book. Appreciate conversations in that regard.

Trustee Daniel Calabrese reported he would like to ditto what's been said, all the thank yous, nothing else to report

Trustee Elizabeth Koch wanted to echo all the sentiments, congratulations to everyone. Also on the UB zoom call, did exceptional job

Trustee Danielle Opalinski congratulated the scholar athletes, nice to see faces. She attended the SIMSI meeting. Got to meet the mayor and learn of opportunities that can service the schools and the city.

Trustee Heather Sternin wanted to echo congrats to scholar athletes and the retirees, it's a good thing, hope they enjoy retirement as much as she is. Mrs. Smith is gone but she really likes the Warrior Spotlights, never got anything before, comes monthly, really appreciate the effort gone into doing that. Attended SIMSI, and curriculum zoom, was unable to go to CRT, had a diversity committee, lots going on since last meeting. Thank you all for coming tonight.

## **17.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Trustee Jeff Thorp, that the Board of Education adjourns the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Reynolds  
District Clerk