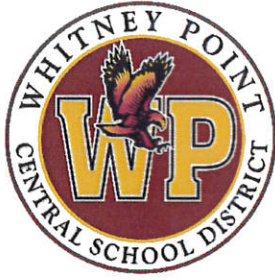


WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Board of Education Meeting

Whitney Point High School Building  
High School Library/Zoom  
PO Box 249  
Whitney Point, NY 13862

MINUTES

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

**District Mission:**

6:00 p.m.

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 6:01 p.m.

*Pledge of Allegiance was recited.*

		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Stephanie Champney	President	<u>X</u>	_____
Kathleen Driscoll	Vice-President	<u>X</u>	_____
Donette Griffith	Member	<u>X</u>	_____
Brian Jeker	Member	<u>X</u>	_____
Eddie Maslin	Member	<u>X</u>	_____
Thomas Tasber	Member	<u>X</u>	_____
Christine Widdall	Member	<u>X</u>	_____
Jo-Ann Sexton	Superintendent of Schools	<u>X</u>	_____
Shannon Gillette	Assistant Superintendent	<u>X</u>	_____
Zachary Woodard	School Business Executive	<u>X</u>	_____
Stacey Forkey	District Clerk	<u>X</u>	_____

Others in attendance: Linda Burghardt, Jason Burghardt, Dawna Stafford, Bowen Tillotson, Jennifer Lanpher, Ahnia Brigham, Danielle Coon, Daniel Bertoni, Melissa Baker, Amber Boyce, Mia Bertoni, Molly Willis, Molly Goosman, Laren Macaluso, Bethann Quail, Cliff Ceurter, Tina Craver, Brock Craver, Dan Sweeney, Michael Kirsch, John Whalen, Tom McGrath, Michelle McGrath, Aaron

## **A. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Broome-Tioga BOCES Presentation**

Mr. Allen Buyck, District Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer of Broome-Tioga BOCES presented the BOCES Administrative and Capital Budgets for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Buyck thanked the district for our continued support and use of their services.

Administrative Budget Increase = 0.00%  
RWADA –Increased Administrative Budget Apportionment by \$7,758  
Capital Budget increase 1.7%  
Capital Budget Apportionment increase \$8,029

Sandra Ruffo, Broome-Tioga BOCES Board President announced Mr. Buyck's retirement. She also presented information about the funding for CTE teachers, which has been unchanged for 30 years. She stated that anything above the cap is transferred to the local districts, totaling \$1.8 million across the 15 districts in our region. She asked the Board of Education to contact legislators to ask for the cap on BOCES CTE to be raised.

Mr. Tasber stated that he appreciates all that is offered at BOCES and the high quality of education the students receive there.

## **B. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District recess the public meeting at 6:12 p.m. and adjourn to Executive Session to hear discussion on contractual matters.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Christine Widdall

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

The Board reconvened to the regular meeting at 6:27 p.m.

## **C. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **D. POLICIES 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

None.

## **E. POLICIES 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

None.

## F. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dawna Stafford, Lisle resident and parent of 3 children, two of whom are homeschooled due to mask mandates. She began by saying that her statements are no reflection on teachers or frontline staff. She stated that she has been to several board meetings and attended the Board of Education Reorganizational meeting where each Board Member swore under oath to uphold and protect the United States and New York State (NYS) Constitutions. She said that when the school district chose to obey the NYS Governor and the NYS Department of Education's wishes rather than a court order, no matter how short it was, all members were in violation of the oath. She stated that this was the second time that the Board of Education did not allow students' parents to make a choice regarding masks, with the first being at the beginning of the school year. Ms. Stafford asked that the Board stand up for parental choice. She said that if the Board is not going to advocate, there will be more and more parents pulling their students to homeschooling.

Linda Burghardt, lifetime resident and retired teacher stated that it is time to take action as a School Board. She said that last week she drove to Albany to speak at the public hearing of the Department of Health, Public Safety and Human Services regarding the extension of the current mandates for masking, quarantining, and testing. She said that doctors, RNs, LPNs, School Board members, elected officials, parents, and other concerned citizens spoke, and many addressed a lack of scientific foundation for the mandates and others addressed the unlawful process that Hochul and other State agencies are employing in an effort to turn the mandates into law. Mrs. Burghardt stated that she learned at this meeting that 70% of the Senate and the Assembly either ran unopposed or they cannot prove that they legally won the election, she stated, "there is no record because the election results have been destroyed." She stated that the public was referred to as uneducated at the meeting in Albany and that they tried to cut the public comment period from 3 minutes to 2 after 8 speakers. She said that on February 14, 2022, Senator Mike Martucci added an amendment to legislation and forced the vote to drop the mask mandate for schools and that it was defeated 43 to 20. She said that Bruce Blakeman in Nassau County ran and won the County Executive seat promising to drop the mask mandate and kept his promise without legal ramifications and that she can only assume we have the same opportunity to have our County Executive do the same. Mrs. Burghardt stated that at some point, you must stop forcing illegal damaging policies on school personnel and students.

Melissa Baker, lifetime resident of Whitney Point with five children, two have graduated and three are currently in school, stated that students are taught to apply critical thinking, but adults are failing to use the same skills in approaching the issue of masking in schools. She said that last week, Governor Kathy Hochul stated that mask mandates will stay in place for schools because children are the most vulnerable population. Ms. Baker said that this is untrue, our kids have proven to be the most resilient and that even with increased cases, serious issues have consistently remained very low for children. She stated that a Johns Hopkins study was released recently which concluded that mandates have had two tenths of a percent covid fatality rates. She stated that the country is packing football stadiums with 80,000 plus fans, but our children are still masked in school. She stated that last year there was a 50% increase in youth suicide and depression and anxiety are also on the rise. She also said that facial cues at young ages are critical and that students are missing a key component of learning when their teachers' faces are masked.

Molly Willis, resident and parent of five children, two still in the district. She stated that she has raised her children to be respectful of authority and to their elders. She said that the mask mandate has put parents like her in a difficult predicament with expecting their children to obey the rules set in place in the school setting, but arbitrary rules have been put into place – rules that affect our children physically and psychologically. She stated that the students just want to do normal activities and breath fresh air. Ms. Willis also stated that nearly every state in the Union has sent students to school unmasked in the 2021-2022 school year. She stated that parents should not have to beg their elected officials, or any administrators paid by or with tax dollars to allow their children to breathe fresh air and have control over their own bodies and that the only reason the mask mandates are still in place in schools is so that children can be manipulated and controlled by the very authority we have always

taught them to respect. She stated that these children are growing up learning that they are not in a free country where they have a government for the people and by the people. She stated that the students are free citizens and deserve to have their voices heard, referencing the Bill of Rights, Article 11. Ms. Willis read a quote from Henry David Thoreau's *Civil Disobedience (1849)*:

The authority of government, even such as I am willing to submit to- for I will cheerfully obey those who know and can do better than I, and in many things even those who neither know nor can do so well- is still an impure one: to be strictly just, it must have the sanction and consent of the governed. It can have no pure right over my person and property but what I concede to it..... There will never be a really free and enlightened State until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats him accordingly.

She concluded with asking that the Board of Education seriously consider what the masks are doing to the kids.

Tom McGrath, lifetime Whitney Point resident. Stated that he works in IT and has seen his children grow up and get a great education from Whitney Point schools. Since the pandemic began, websites such as YouTube and other social platforms are available through the school issued Chromebooks, which do not allow parents to see or restrict what their children are accessing. He said that he needs to enable things for his senior, which allows his youngest child to access the same things and that he does not want to put his children further behind than they already are by shutting of internet and not allowing them to complete their schoolwork at home. He said that he wants things to go back to normal for education without so much technology and that he doesn't like the abuse that goes unseen.

Jason Burghardt, resident of Greene, grew up in Whitney Point, stated that he thinks one aspect that has gone unnoticed is the covid relief money that has been accepted by all school districts is unconstitutional and that the Federal government has no authorized involvement in education. He also said that any school board taking money for anything is violating their oath of office. Mr. Burghardt stated that New Jersey and Connecticut are getting rid of mask mandates in their states. He questioned if anyone ever got any proof that this is real and stated that everyone was bought off through the shut-down and this was never proven to anyone. He stated that the Board of Education works for the people in this town and in this district, not for Washington and that they have the power to stand up and push back against this.

Mike Kirch from Vestal area. Stated that he has attended many Vestal Meetings and wanted to see if there was a difference between school board meetings of other districts. He stated that the mitigation efforts have been imposed on all of the schools are ineffective. He said that he is a board-certified pediatrician and has been an advocate for children for decades many times risking his own professional standing and career to fight against certain hospital and medical policies that he felt were not helpful for children. He stated that when he spoke at the Vestal meetings, he was surprised to see the lack of advocacy from the board members and superintendent for the children, saying that their biggest concern was if they were not compliant, they wouldn't have their liability insurance. Mr. Kirch said that he doesn't know if the Vestal board members thought that there was a problem with the mask mandate and that he thinks they thought that the best thing for the children were the vaccines. He said that it is important to look at both sides and make sure you're aware of not what the official medical people are saying, but also those advocating for the other point of view. He also said that masks have been a disaster for social development, linguistic development, emotional development, suicide rates, depression and anxiety. In addition, he said that IQ scores have plummeted, and language delays are high. He concluded with saying that he wants to be sure what the Board is promoting is good for the kids and told them that they can't fight Albany alone but could combine with other school districts.

Leah Bailey, Whitney Point High School Senior stated that high school is supposed to be some of the best years of our lives and that the only normal year of high school for her has been her freshman year. She recalls all of the fun activities such as dances and pep rallies and said that she misses enjoying going to school. Leah also said that students aren't getting held to the standards they should

be held to. Leah said that she and her classmates long to have a “somewhat normal” end to their final school year and stated that many students do not wear their masks properly, so they aren’t serving their purpose, so she feels it is time to do away with them.

Amber Boyce of Nanticoke stated that she was attending the meeting with hopeful expectations of seeing some changes. She stated that she was attending on behalf of sister who has 3 students in the district who has been an ICU nurse but lost her job due to mask mandates. She stated that her sister is hopeful for the mask mandates to be dropped with the understanding that not every case of the sniffles or every cough is a covid death warrant for the school and to consider going back to the way things were prior to covid. She said that every time your child is home, you shouldn’t need to go through the covid questionnaire.

Cliff Ceurter, Lisle resident stated that he is tired of every form of government thinking they have the right to mandate anything and of the demands of the few infringing on the rights of the many. He said that we used to have a government of the people, not the government telling us what we have to do.

## **G. COMMENDATIONS**

Ms. Sexton commends:

- Mrs. Jillian Saddlemire and the many other members of the PTA for a fun kick-off on January 31, 2022, to the annual PARP program, which will conclude a spirit week February 22-25<sup>th</sup> and awards and celebrations on the February 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Local businesswoman, Tanya Spicer for her generous donation of hundreds of boxes of Valentines for students to take home and fill out for their classmates.

## **ADDENDA**

### **A. COMMENDATIONS**

Ms. Sexton commends:

- *Mr. Jones, Mrs. Jones, and the High School Drama Club for a wonderful production of You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown held at the High School Auditorium on Friday, February 11 and Saturday, February 12, 2022.*
- *The Whitney Point Girls Varsity Basketball Team for winning the IAC Large School North Division title.*
- *Whitney Point High School senior, Grayson Ayers for winning the Section IV Wrestling Championship for her weight class and Whitney Point High School Senior Shaylee VanVorce for placing third in her weight class. This was the first time that Section IV Wrestling Championships had specific weight class brackets for female athletes.*
- *Mrs. Monico for being named a New York State Master Teacher.*

## **H. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS (CONT.)**

## 2. 2022-2023 Budget Presentation

Ms. Sexton, Superintendent gave an overview presentation on the current status of the 2022-2023 School Budget.

Mrs. Griffith asked how the tax levy increase of 1.7% is chosen.

Ms. Sexton stated that 1.7% is the maximum allowable tax levy increase.

Mr. Woodard stated that there is a formula that gets reported by March 1<sup>st</sup> for all districts in the region and that is where the cap of the tax levy comes from.

Ms. Sexton stated that if a district wants to go over the tax cap, they need a super majority vote to do so.

## 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 Meeting Minutes** – January 11, 2022
- b. **Resignation** – Bruce Anstey, Bus Driver – effective January 19, 2022
- c. **Meat and Cheese Bid** – award to Renzi Brothers Food Service, Ginsberg's Food Service, Slate Foods, Cascun, Lupos, Headwater, and Brookwood, as low bidders for the March 1-April 30, 2022 Meat and Cheese Bid as prepared by Broome-Tioga BOCES Food Service Program.
- d. **Construction Manager Services Agreement** – post-referendum Agreement for Construction Manager Services with Turner Construction Company for the 2021 Capital Project Referendum
- e. **Field Trip Request** – FCCLA State Conference, March 23-25, 2022
- f. **Treasurer's Reports** – December 2021 and January 2022
- g. **Extra-classroom Treasurer's Report** – December 2021 and January 2022
- h. **Committee on Special Education Recommendations**
- i. **2021-2022 Spring Coaching Recommendations:**

**Boys Baseball**

Varsity

Stephen Samsel

**Golf**

Varsity

Matt Poyer

**Girls Softball**

Varsity

David Horton

Junior Varsity

Thomas Kraly

Modified

Ethan Leet

**Boys Lacrosse**

Varsity

Bill Davis

Modified

Trevor Erb

**Girls Lacrosse**

Varsity

Danielle Montesano

Modified  
**Track & Field**  
Varsity  
Varsity  
Modified  
Modified

Samantha Driscoll  
Murphee Hayes  
Jesse Hartley  
Valerie Priscott  
Troy Rounds

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Christine Widdall

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

#### 4. Resolution to Create Position

**BE IT RESOLVED** that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, for reasons of economy and efficiency in the operation of the District and the District's schools, the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District hereby creates one new, full-time, tenure-track Instructional Support Teacher position, effective February 15, 2022, as follows:

#	Title	Tenure Area
1	Instructional Support	Social Studies

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Donette Griffith

Ms. Sexton stated that this is considered a temporary position to provide some intensive academic support for students in the middle school. She stated that if there is a certified teacher in a position, it needs to be Board appointed.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

#### 5. Appointments

**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 **Lauren Macaluso**, Assistant Principal, in the Assistant Principal tenure area effective February 22, 2022.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

Lauren Macaluso stated that she is excited to start on Tuesday and that she is coming from Chenango Valley where she was a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and that she was previously a Special Education teacher at BOCES. She said that she has met many people already and all have been very helpful.

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 the four (4) year probationary appointment of **Yasha Parawar**, Instructional Support Teacher, in the Social Studies Teacher tenure area effective February 16, 2022.

The probationary period of February 16, 2022 through February 16, 2026 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 for the required number of years and if the teacher receives an Ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Ms. Sexton stated that this is the appointment that we just created for the Instructional Support Teacher position. She said that Ms. Parawar is certified in Social Studies but will be working in an interdisciplinary way and supporting students in all their content areas. It has been a challenge for some students to get back in the groove of academics after a year and a half of disruption. She said that even though we are in person full time, many students have needed to miss school for extended periods of time, and it is important to have someone who can work with them to help them be successful.

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 the appointment of the **Harris Beach Attorneys at Law PLLC** as School District Bond Counsel of the Whitney Point Central School District for the 2021-2022 School Year.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

Mr. Woodard stated that each year at the reorganizational meeting the district's Bond Council is appointed. The Law Offices of Jeffrey Storch who was previously appointed as a sole attorney and has now been bought out and absorbed with Harris Beach Attorneys.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## **6. Appointment Amendment**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment amendment of **Kristal Spencer**, Full-Time Teacher's Aide, from January 12, 2022, to effective January 14, 2022.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Christine Widdall

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## **ADDENDA**

### **B. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Unpaid Leave**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the unpaid leave of **Haily Valachovic**, Elementary Teacher, effective January 24 through June 30, 2022.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED



## 2. Appointment

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the appointment of **Brandon Ballard**, Groundskeeper, subject to fingerprint clearance.

Moved by Eddie Maslin

Seconded by Christine Widdall

Ms. Sexton stated that Mr. Ballard will fill the position of Dave Lindow, who recently retired.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## 7. Tenure Announcement

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that **Jennifer Dean** has been granted tenure in the area of Science Teacher effective September 1, 2021.

## 8. Tenure Recommendation

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that **Ahnia Brigham** be and is hereby granted tenure in the area of Special Education effective January 16, 2022, and that such recommendation is made without the third and fourth year APPR evaluation completed due to the pandemic and as authorized by Governor Cuomo on June 7, 2021 and revised on June 11, 2021.

Moved by Donette Griffith

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Ms. Sexton stated that she would like to note that when tenure appointments are made, we need to use that language because we could not enact our entire APPR evaluation process due to the fact that it requires that Regents exams be in place and they have not been in the last couple of years. The rest of the APPR cycle did occur and they would be getting the appropriate scores.

Ms. Brigham thanked the Board of Education for the opportunity to work for Whitney Point Central School District. She said that she has enjoyed getting to know the students and teachers.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

## 9. 2021-2022 Extra-Curricular Applications

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the following Extra-Curricular Advisor Applications for the 2021-2022 school year:

HS Musical Director

Ken Jones

HS Music Stage Director

Lyndsie Jones

TRA Drama Club (pos. 1)

Ken Jones

TRA Drama Club (pos. 2)

Lyndsie Jones

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Donette Griffith

Ms. Sexton stated that there was a gap left when the previous person who was in charge of the TRA Drama Club left the district, so Mr. Jones and Mrs. Jones will be picking up these positions and filling in the gap. She said that she looks forward to what they will do.

Mrs. Griffith stated that she is grateful to have a TRA Drama Club again and that it is something for the students to look forward to.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **10. Resolution to Establish Repair Reserve**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District wishes to establish a reserve fund of said School District pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law to be known as the "Repair Reserve Fund".

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District, pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law, as follows:

1. The Board hereby establishes a reserve fund know as the "Repair Reserve Fund".
2. Voter approval will be obtained for all funding of the Reserve Fund. The source of funds for this Reserve Fund shall be by budgetary appropriations, reserves that are not required by law to be paid into any other fund or account (e.g., transfers from unexpended balances of existing appropriations, surplus moneys).
3. By resolution, the Board of Education may authorize expenditures from this Reserve Fund.

A resolution appropriating money from the Repair Reserve Fund is subject to a public hearing and at least five days must elapse between the publication of the notice of hearing and the date specified for the hearing.

In an emergency, moneys in the Repair Reserve Fund may be expended without giving notice and without holding a public hearing. To make such an emergency expenditure, the Board of Education must pass a resolution approved by at least a two-thirds vote. In addition, at least one-half of the expenditures must be repaid in the next fiscal year and the balance repaid by the end of the fiscal year after that.

4. No member of the Board of Education or employee of the District shall:
  - a. authorize a withdrawal from this Reserve Fund for any purpose except as provided in Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law; or
  - b. expend any money withdrawn from this Reserve Fund for a purpose other than as provided in Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law.
7. The moneys in this Reserve Fund shall be deposited and secured in the manner provided by Section 10 of the General Municipal Law. The Board of Education or its authorized designee may invest the moneys in this Reserve Fund in the manner provided by Section 11 of the General Municipal Law. Any interest earned or capital gain realized on the money so deposited or invested shall accrue to and become part of this Reserve Fund.

8. The chief fiscal officer shall account for this Reserve Fund separate and apart from all other funds of the District. Such accounting shall show: the source, date and amount of each sum paid into the fund; the interest earned by such fund; capital gains or losses resulting from the sale of investments of this fund; the order, purpose thereof, date and amount of each payment from this fund; the assets of the fund, indicating cash balance and a schedule of investments. The chief fiscal officer, within sixty (60) days of the end of each fiscal year, shall furnish a detailed report of the operation and condition of this fund to the Board of Education.
9. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Mr. Woodard stated that when there is a reserve for the district, they are limited in how they can be used. Currently, the district has a Capital Reserve fund, which is money the district can use for offsetting a local share for capital projects. He said that many other districts have this reserve fund. He provided an example of how the funds can be used by referencing the last meeting, where a bid was approved for the hot water tank at the TRA. He said that this reserve helps the district to be financially prepared for emergency expenses. He stated that the first step is to legally create the reserve and then there will be a proposition at the end of the year to vote on whether or not to put the funds in the account. Mr. Woodard stated that if the reserve was needed, a public hearing would be held to explain the need, and then the fund would be used for the repair. He said that the district would like to fund the repair reserve with \$500,000.

Mr. Jeker asked what the benefit is of this reserve over the Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Woodard stated that the Capital Reserve fund is only for Capital Projects. This Repair Reserve is for unexpected expenses that would need to be fixed immediately.

Mr. Jeker asked if there were an emergency today, where would the money come from?

Mr. Woodard stated that these repairs currently come out of the district's General Fund or Maintenance Fund budget. He said that emergency funding can be applied for through the State, but that it is not guaranteed. This fund would allow the district to have the funds readily available and not need to take the time to apply for funding through the State which would not be guaranteed.

Mrs. Champney asked if the district could apply for emergency funding from the state to replace the money that is used in an emergency.

Mr. Woodard stated that the State does expect districts to be prudent and have this type of reserve fund in place, but that they may still fund the emergency repair.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **11. Resolution for Funding the Repair Reserve**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District, is hereby authorized to fund the Repair Reserve Fund established pursuant to section 6-d of the General Municipal Law in the amount of \$500,000.00 to pay for certain repairs to capital improvement or equipment that do not recur annually or at shorter intervals. The source of the funds is Unassigned Fund Balance.

Proposition

Shall the following resolution be submitted to the voters:

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District, be authorized to fund the Repair Reserve Fund established pursuant to section 6-d of the General Municipal Law in the amount of \$500,000.00 from Unassigned Fund Balance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, be approved?

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**12. Resolution for Bus Proposition**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the following bus proposition be placed before the voters for consideration at an Annual Meeting of the District to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and that the District Clerk be directed to take all necessary steps to arrange for the publishing of the notice of such meeting and all required actions associated therewith:

Proposition

Shall the following resolution be submitted to the voters:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of Whitney Point Central School District, located in the counties of Broome, Chenango, Cortland and Tioga, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase two (2) new 78 passenger diesel buses at a cost not to exceed \$286,050.00, and one (1) new 71 passenger diesel bus at a cost not to exceed \$155,097.00, and one (1) new 71 passenger diesel bus at a cost not to exceed \$140,242.00, and to expend therefore not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$581,389.00 including incidental expenses in connection therewith; and that such sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and in anticipation of such tax, the Board of Education be authorized to issue bonds or other obligations of the School District in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$581,389.00.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Mrs. Champney asked to confirm that this is our regular bus replacement cycle, which allows the district to filter out older buses that are more costly to run.

Mr. Woodard responded yes, and that the district has always been very conscious of this. He stated that one large bus is very costly and now, the district is putting more miles on buses with two trips each twice daily. He said that these purchases are necessary to keep our fleet safe for the students, drivers, and monitors.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### **13. Whitney Point Central School District Notice of School Budget Hearing and Annual Budget Vote**

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Education Law prescribes the requirements for the annual school board election and budget vote along with other propositions that may be submitted;

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Education Law prescribes certain notice requirements; therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that:

A public hearing, budget vote, election of board members, and consideration of submitted propositions shall occur as stated in the NOTICE OF SCHOOL BUDGET HEARING AND ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE, as set forth below, and it is further,

**RESOLVED** that except as hereinafter provided, the official Notice of the aforesaid Public Budget Hearing and Annual District Meeting and Election shall be in the following form:

#### **Whitney Point Central School District** **Notice of School Budget Hearing and Annual Budget Vote**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Annual Meeting of the inhabitants of the Whitney Point Central School District, at which time will occur the Budget Vote, the Annual Election of Board of Education members, a vote upon certain propositions, including a proposition for the purchase of buses and a proposition authorizing certain capital improvements to the District's property, and to authorize the levy of taxes will be held at the High School Cafeteria, 10 Keibel Road, Whitney Point, New York, on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of transacting of such business as is authorized by the Education Law.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that the proposed 2022-23 School Budget will be presented at the annual Budget Hearing to be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the High School Library, 10 Keibel Road, Whitney Point, New York.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that a copy of the statement of the amount of monies which will be required for the 2022-23 school year for school purposes may be obtained by any School District resident during the seven (7) days prior to the budget hearing, Tuesday, May 3, 2022 except Saturday or Sunday upon request, at any School District building and the School District offices between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., at any public library or free associate library within the district, and on the School District's internet website. A copy of such statement may be obtained by any resident in the district at any School District building during the fourteen (14) days immediately prior to the Annual Meeting, May 17, 2022, and on the day of the Election except Saturdays, Sundays or holidays between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that Absentee Ballots are available from the office of the District Clerk, by mail or in person. Mailed requests must be received seven (7) days before the vote at PO Box 249, Whitney Point, NY, 13862. Requests made in person, must be made at the District Office, 10 Keibel Road, Whitney Point, NY between 7:45

a.m. and 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday and must be made no later than the day before the vote. A list of persons to whom absentee ballots have been issued will be available for inspection in the District Clerk's office during each of the five (5) days preceding the vote, except Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays, during regular office hours until the day of election.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that military voters who are not currently registered may apply to register as qualified voters of the school district. Military voters may request an application to register as a qualified voter from the District Clerk. Military voter registration application forms must be received in the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 22, 2022. In order for a military voter to be issued a military ballot, the school district must have received in the office of the school district clerk a valid ballot application no later than 5:00 pm on April 22, 2022. A military voter may designate a preference to receive a military voter registration, military ballot application or military ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail in their request for such registration, ballot application, or ballot. Such designation shall remain in effect until revoked or changed by the military voter. Ballots for military voters shall be mailed, or otherwise distributed, no later than April 22, 2022.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that petitions nominating candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the School District Clerk between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. not later than April 18, 2022 at the District Office, High School Building, 10 Keibel Road, Whitney Point, NY 13862.

Candidates must be a citizen of the United States, eighteen (18) years of age, able to read and write, a legal resident of the School District one (1) year prior to the election, not an employee of the Whitney Point Central School District and remain a qualified School District voter throughout the term of office.

The following vacancies are to be filled:

- (1) A three (3) year term ending June 30, 2025, presently held by Brian Jeker
- (2) A three (3) year term ending June 30, 2025, presently held by Dr. Christine Widdall

Each petition must be directed to the School District Clerk, be signed by at least 25 qualified voters, shall state the residence of each signer, shall state the name and residence of each candidate and whether such candidates are nominated for full terms or for un-expired portions of such terms. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected in accordance with Education Law Section 2018-b. No person shall be nominated by petition for more than one specific office.

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that in addition to the proposed District budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year and school year, which will appear on the ballot as Proposition No. 1, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters, which will appear on the ballot as Proposition No. 2:

Proposition No. 2:

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District, located in the counties of Broome, Chenango, Cortland

and Tioga, New York, be authorized to purchase two (2) new 78 passenger diesel buses at a cost not to exceed \$286,050.00, and one (1) new 71 passenger diesel bus at a cost not to exceed \$155,097.00, and one (1) new 71 passenger diesel bus at a cost not to exceed \$140,242.00, and to expend therefore not to exceed the estimated total cost of \$581,389.00 including incidental expenses in connection therewith; and that such sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and in anticipation of such tax, shall the Board of Education be authorized to issue bonds or other obligations of the School District in the aggregate principal amount of up to \$581,389.00?

**NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN** that in addition to Proposition Nos. 1 and 2, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters, which will appear on the ballot as Proposition No. 3:

Proposition No. 3:

Shall the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District, be authorized to fund the Repair Reserve Fund established pursuant to section 6-d of the General Municipal Law in the amount of \$500,000.00 from Unassigned Fund Balance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 be approved?

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that any other propositions that are required to be included for vote at the Annual Meeting shall be submitted in writing by March 18, 2022, by means of petition signed by at least 25 qualified voters, and shall state the residence of each signer. Any proposition may be rejected by the Board of Education if the purpose of the proposition is not within the powers of the voters or where the expenditure of money is required by the proposition and such expenditures fail to include the necessary specific appropriation.

**RESOLVED** that the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause Notice to be given in the form hereinabove prescribed by publishing the same in the Press & Sun-Bulletin a newspaper having general circulation within the District, four (4) times during the seven (7) weeks preceding the date of the Annual District Meetings and Election; provided, however, that the District Clerk is hereby authorized, without further Board action, in her discretion, in consultation with the District's legal counsel, to amend said Notice as necessary to assure compliance with applicable law.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Donette Griffith

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**14. Notice of Public Meeting and Nomination Form for the BOCES Board of Trustees**

**BE IT RESOLVED** upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District nominate three members to the Broome-Delaware-Tioga Board of Educational Services. The Broome-Delaware-Tioga Board of Education currently has three, three-year positions vacant. The Board may nominate individuals at large, leave a nomination vacant, and/or nominate Nicholas Matyas, William Powell, or Sandra Ruffo, who are seeking re-election for the three-year positions.

**THREE-YEAR POSITIONS:**

*Nominee #1 Sandra Ruffo*

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Thomas Tasber

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

*Nominee #2 Nicholas Matyas*

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

*Nominee #3 William Powell*

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Brian Jeker

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**15. Donation**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District accept the \$500 donation in memory of Collen M. Lindow.

Moved by Donette Griffith

Seconded by Eddie Maslin

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**16. Establish Scholarship Account**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the establishment of the Colleen M. Lindow Memorial Scholarship Account.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Dr. Widdall asked how the endowments work at the district, how do we ensure that the money will grow and how much will be given out to students annually?



Mr. Woodard responded that a letter from the donor dictates the terms of how the scholarship is awarded and that they have asked for \$100 per year to be given and that it is expected that the local Boy Scouts will solicit additional funds over time to replenish the fund. He said that the district keeps all scholarship funds in a TE account. He said that interest rates aren't high, but the interest is divided between the various accounts.

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

### C. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Ms. Sexton presented the Legislative Resolution which was presented by the State of New York and sponsored by Senator Akshar and Representative Angelino in recognition of the hard work and dedication shown by the Whitney Point Field Hockey team.
- Ms. Sexton stated that at the January Board of Education meeting, we spoke about the Academic Eligibility Policy of the school district. She said that she has met with some parents as well as many students to receive feedback on the policy and are surveying families, faculty and staff on not just our policy itself but also the implementation of procedures. She said that she plans to have information on this topic in the future.
- Ms. Sexton stated that while she is very cognizant of Mr. McGrath's concerns, through some emergency connectivity funding, SmartBus Wi-Fi internet access has been installed on some of the district's buses so that students can do their homework while on the bus.
  - Mrs. Griffith asked if this will be on at all times or only for sport trips.
  - Ms. Sexton stated that it will be on all the time.
  - Mrs. Griffith expressed wishing for students to be unplugged sometimes. She said that she thinks the school bus ride would be a good time for students to talk to a friend or read a book but understands the need for this and for the purpose of sports travel.
  - Ms. Sexton stated that it is a difficult situation as we do have some students who have an hour ride each way, so this allows those students the ability to do their school work.
- Trash Removal Services
  - Mr. Woodard stated that when we initially had the gap elimination about 10-12 years ago, the district was trying to find ways to save money and moved its trash services from XYZ to TST BOCES trash services. He said that the district has begun exploring other avenues due to many issues with TST BOCES service. He said that the district does have two compactors, but they have been problematic, especially during the winter. He recommends that the district bid this to other local companies, noting that the cost savings gap has closed significantly.
  - Mrs. Champney stated that she agrees that we need to explore other options if this is no longer working for us.
  - Mr. Tasber asked if TST BOCES paid restitution for anything?
  - Mr. Woodard stated that the district was forced to throw away a lot of recyclables and that there was no coverage, only an apology.
  - Mr. Maslin agreed that it needs to be changed.
  - Mrs. Champney asked if we need to wait until June to bid this out to other companies.
  - Mr. Woodard stated that we can start the bidding process and have it effective July 1.
  - Dr. Widdall stated that she thinks now is a good time because some garbage companies will be raising their prices.
  - Mr. Tasber stated that TST BOCES was aidable according to what the district was told when they first changed over to them.
  - Mr. Woodard responded that it was never an aidable service.
- COVID Update – Ms. Sexton stated that there have been significant changes in the approach to managing COVID. She said that schools have spent the last two years being told they need to act as an arm to the NYS Department of Health with assisting in coordinating quarantines and we are now shifting from a pandemic to an endemic phase. She stated that the lobbying that occurs for chief school officers goes through NYSCOSS. The masking and other mitigation

strategies that are given to us, how we can conduct school, and our reopening plans, are all connected right now. Our understanding is that our representatives in our organizations are advocating for a thoughtful offboarding from all of this. She said that the rules will all need to be reassessed because they are all contingent on everyone being masked. There are many lawsuits currently around the state and country. At any time, things could change rapidly. Within our school community, there are many people who have vocalized their strong feelings about unmasking and there are other people who feel that everyone needs to be masked to protect their health and welfare. She stated that we are in a much better place as we are not asking students to not be in school as much anymore and are handling this similarly to an influenza outbreak and shifting responsibility to families. She said that she expects to see more changes in the near future.

#### **D. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Daniel Bertoni, resident of the town of Nanticoke, parent of a student in the district, and an Adapted Physical Education teacher at Union-Endicott with a Masters degree in Adapted Physical Education. He stated that we rely too much on State aid and that he finds 48% to be unbelievable. He said that a few years ago that was all going to go away and now it is all back with covid relief money on top of that and we are trying to find where to spend the money. Mr. Bertoni said that we need to think about recurring expenditures when spending covid relief funds. He said that he was shocked to hear students had to be kept home and that every child in America is entitled to a free and appropriate public education in their least restrictive environment. He stated that teachers demean students daily about wearing masks. He stated "we" have stood here, and "I" have personally contacted Fred Akshar, Joe Angelino, Donna Lupardo, Jason Garner, and Ms. McFadden. Fred Akshar, Joe Angelino, and Donna Lupardo responded that their hands are tied. He asked the Board of Education to stop telling teachers to tell students to put their masks on.

Thomas McGrath asked if the \$500,000 reserve fund is tied to NYS S2065 resolution from last January that authorizes school districts to establish an insurance reserve fund.

Mr. Woodard responded that it is not affiliated with that. The difference is that resolution was specific to an insurance reserve, and ours is a repair reserve.

Mr. McGrath questioned if \$500,000 is enough, especially if there will be things, we need to be cognizant of such as electric buses. He stated that it seems that we buy buses every couple of years and the prices increase, how do we manage that for instance if the State has a bad year and takes away State aid?

Mrs. Champney stated that if the district does not use State aid, we would be forced to use a tax levy. She said that the district has been told for a very long time, "do not increase our taxes." She said that we have had years where we did have to lay off people and make other changes because the State said we will give you this much aid and take this much back in a gap elimination adjustment. We need to come up with a balance of creating a budget that gives the kids what they need and what the community needs in terms of a tax levy.

Mr. McGrath stated that he has seen less community use of the building and grounds services in recent years.

Mrs. Champney responded that this has been due to covid restrictions.

Mr. McGrath stated that he has seen groups do fundraising to use buses for trips such as to Washington DC rather than using the school's buses. He recalled previously being able to come for open swim, outdoor activities, etc.

Charity Davis, lives in the village with 8 kids, 2 graduated, 2 in the district, one underage, and 3 homeschooled. She stated that masks have compounded migraine issues and asthma issues for children. She said that she previously worked in healthcare and is now a registered daycare provider. She said that she is concerned about children's immune systems. She said that her 4<sup>th</sup> grader is afraid that the school will give him a vaccination. Ms. Davis also said that it is great that we have a full sports season now, but it is sad to see kids chastised for cheering on their teammates at sporting events.

Dr. Kirch stated that last week at the Vestal School Board of Education meeting the 2037 goal of all electric buses was brought up. He said that the cost per mile vs diesel is half the cost with electricity but that it will take a long time to make up the cost. He stated that the electric buses are \$400,000 and asked if this is a mandate. He also said that he strongly recommends the superintendents get together and push back and be an advocate for the school.

Mr. Woodard replied that the change to electric busses is in the governor's initial proposal.

Dawna Stafford stated that there were a group of teachers encouraging children to get the covid vaccine. She said that a parent wrote that a teacher took a teenager to the vaccine clinic at the school against the parent's wishes. She stated that holding the vaccine clinic on site opens the district to that liability and if that does happen as it allegedly already has, it would be a big liability for the district. Ms. Stafford questioned where the parents are who want to keep masks in school and stated that those people's students would still be able to remain masked if masks are optional. She stated that she knows the school receives in total approximately \$25,000 in State aid per year per student. She said that she wants to know and feels that she has the right to hear where the Board of Education members stand on the mandate.

Mrs. Champney stated that the State Education Law states that during a meeting, they are there as a Board and not as individuals. She told Ms. Stafford that she has the right to ask each of them individually outside of a school board meeting.

Ms. Stafford stated that she would be emailing each of them to ask the question and that she will assume if they do not answer that they are for the mandates and that she would publish these responses. Ms. Stafford turned to the public and said what can we do as a citizen if we do not get a response? She continued to say that they could pull their students from school to affect State aid.

Mrs. Champney asked Ms. Stafford not to get personal against the individual board members and reiterated that they cannot speak as individuals in a board meeting, but if she wants to email them individually, she can. She added that she cannot compel them to answer.

Ms. Stafford stated that it is not a personal question, it is a political question and that she feels as voters the public deserves to know the answer. She began speaking to the public about Board elections.

Linda Burghardt stated that she was there to support choice. She said that her concerns are that our rights are being violated and that kids are being harmed and discriminated against. She added that she attended the meeting that the basketball parents spoke at regarding the Academic Eligibility policy. She said that the Department of Health had a committee meeting, which she attended and said that they are circumventing the legislature and they extended the mandates. She stated that in less than 60 days, if the Department of Health decides to do so, the mandates will be permanent. She said that she believes the vaccine will be mandated for the students and that Governor Hochul has said that taking the masks off of the kids will rely on how many kids are vaccinated. She said that she is wondering if the Board members support choice, if they are concerned about the process happening in Albany, and if they are willing to work with other districts and possibly our County Executive.

Jennifer Lanpher, resident with 2 students in the district. Was at a meeting several months ago and was able to ask questions and get answers. She asked what the repercussion would be for sending her student to school without a mask?

Mrs. Goosman stated that it is the district's goal is to maintain safety and ensure the students follow the mask mandate.

Mrs. Champney explained the public comment portion of the meeting and asked that questions of a specific nature be directed to the appropriate offices during school hours.

Ms. Lanpher asked how are you advocating? She said that Ms. Sexton stated that she is advocating.

Ms. Sexton explained that there are organizations who advocate on behalf of the superintendents or teachers' associations. These organizations which are in place so that we can be advocated for as a whole, negotiate and/or lobby with the government agencies.

Mrs. Burghardt stated that a representative from the Board of Superintendents was at the committee meeting that she had attended in Albany. She said that he advocated for choice and asked the committee to not ask the school boards to make the decision on masking.

Melissa Baker stated that she wanted to thank Mrs. Griffith for her comments on screen time. She said that our children are on screens all day in school and will now be on the buses as well and that she doesn't think that is necessary. She asked the Board of Education how many of them have a child in the district right now. She then asked how often the Board meets outside of the school board meeting?

Board members responded that they are not allowed to do that.

Ms. Baker stated that those without students in the district will not be watching their kids get on the bus with a mask every day and that she is afraid the issue will be swept under the rug over the next month. She also said that to hear that we have groups advocating for us instead of our board members themselves advocating for us takes away the personal aspect.

Mrs. Champney stated that what advocating she does is her own personal advocating and is not school board related. She also said that although some of the people in attendance are very passionate against masks, we have a lot of people in the district who are passionate about masks being required in school. She said that the Board cannot represent just one portion of the district, which has been a conundrum for all of them because they cannot represent one group and leave out another.

Ms. Baker stated that she just wants to know that the board members are trying to communicate with the State.

Mrs. Champney said that she was on a Legislative Breakfast call last week and that they did talk to our representatives for the area, and they did discuss the mask mandate.

Ms. Baker stated that the district will start to see more and more kids unmasked.

Amber Boyce stated that the peoples' understanding is that the district is refusing to give students and their parents a choice about masking and vaccinating. Can our kids come to school tomorrow unmasked?

Mrs. Champney stated that schools are bound by law to follow the rules set by the State Education Department. She said that following State Education Law has nothing to do with funding, nothing to do with aid, only that we are required by law to follow their rules.

Ms. Boyce asked what would happen to the schools who do not follow the rules.

Mrs. Champney stated that there are no public schools in New York State that are not following the mandate. She said that there were schools after the first decision in the Nassau County lawsuit that said they were going to make masking a choice, but once the decision was overturned, all schools had to return to requiring masks. She added that we are following State Education Law because we are a public school.

Ms. Boyce stated that she feels there should be a consent by the parents on what their students are able to access through their devices.

Michelle McGrath, a parent to students in the district stated that she has a serious concern with students having access to YouTube. She said that since students were sent home in 2020 and had to use different ways of learning, her family has struggled at home to keep their children off of YouTube. She stated that she is concerned about YouTube addiction, limitations and restrictions for students from the district.

## **E. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS**

- Dr. Widdall stated that as a board member she is a representative to BOCES. She said that she has let them know that we as a district would like choice as a representative of our school Board. She said that this is one way that we have groups of people who represent us that help us move forward. She also said that in the Legislative breakfast, attendees did get to speak to our legislators.
- Mrs. Griffith stated that she has children in afterschool activities and asked if there is a way to provide a safe space for our students to be in between school and after school activities. She said that knowing that we are trying to help them close learning gaps, it would be nice to have a place for the students to go. She recalled that Leah Bailey had mentioned in the public comments section that students are not being held to the same academic standards as they once were and that is a concern for her as well. She also said kudos to Mr. & Mrs. Jones for the production that they put on and thanked Ms. Sexton for everything she does.
- Mr. Tasber stated that he is proud to be a member of this Board in this community and that everyone on the Board has the best interest of the children of this district in mind. We have been up here for years, and all kinds of things have come up. He said that he used to attend board meetings where he felt he was not listened to and assured the public that they can talk to the Board. He stated that he hopes that the public sees all of the positive going on in the district. He encouraged the public to run for the Board of Education, but to understand that there are many different issues that arise over the years.
- Mr. Jeker stated that he originally ran for the Board because he wanted to have the best for his children and the students of the school. He said that the public is able to present their comments and that the Board members do listen, even though they may not react or respond. He added that a board member's duty is to uphold what the State requirements are and to do what's best for the students in the community.
- Ms. Driscoll stated that she has been in the district for 44 years and her daughter attended school here and moved on to college because of the opportunities she was given here. She said that she started attending board meetings and then ran for the Board of Education because she wanted to help and make a difference for the children. She stated that they are here to listen to everything the public has to say because they want to and that she has learned things from the public along the way. She stated that Board members get involved behind the scenes and attend meetings.

**F. 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 9:27 p.m.

Moved by Kathleen Driscoll

Seconded by Brian Jeker

7 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

**O. FYI**

January Enrollment in District

February 18, 2022 – SCHOOLS CLOSED – Mid-Term Recess

February 21, 2022 – SCHOOLS CLOSED – Presidents' Day

February 24, 2022 – Tri-M Inductions, TRA Auditorium 6:30 p.m.

February 25, 2022 – Registration Deadline for April 2<sup>nd</sup> ACT Test

March 11, 2022 – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS – Conference Day

March 12, 2022 – SAT Exam

March 15, 2022 – Board of Education Meeting, HS Library 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey Forkey  
District Clerk