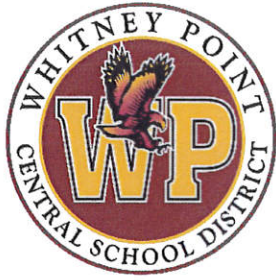


WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Board of Education Meeting

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

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 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 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Others in attendance: Linda Burghardt, Erik Sculley, Jennifer Haynes, Sheila Davies, Ken Jones, Katie Pullen, Tyler Barnay, Brodey Short, Jessica Williamson, Brett Jenny, Valerie Gana, Tyanna Moseman, Axel Peterson, Luke Czebiniak, Dan Sweeney, Molly Goosman, Lauren Macaluso, Mia

Bertoni, Jeff Isaacs, Julie Lamuraglia, Alexander Smith, Melissa Baker, Molly Willis, Aaron Kaminsky, *Zoom attendees:* Amy Kehoe, Emily Jordan, Morgan Smith, Jeff Black

A. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

No need at this time.

B. CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from the Whitney Point School District Music Department.

C. POLICIES 1ST READING

None.

D. POLICIES 2ND READING

None.

E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Linda Burghardt, lifetime resident stated that she knows we are in a reprieve where they begrudgingly unmasked the children, but that this is not the end of what could face our district. She said that Governor Hochul has used the executive branch of the State government to ensure that should she deem an emergency exists or if the Department of Health or State Education determines that kids should be re-masked, quarantined, and/or tested, they can do so. She stated that the district needs to have a plan put in place and be proactive. She questioned, “do you think at this point that we have been lied to?” She said that in a number of school districts and pediatricians’ offices, any child who has received the vaccine needs to undergo heart blood tests or an EKG before they can be cleared for a sports physical. She stated that science has always been an area that needs to be questioned and if we hadn’t questioned old science, where would we be today? She said that it is time we start to work together and that the taxpayers deserve transparency. Ms. Burghardt stated that there are still too many questions and that we need to be prepared, have a plan, and look at all of the possibilities for the future.

F. COMMENDATIONS

Ms. Sexton commends:

- Whitney Point High School Senior, Bowen Tillotson for winning the Section IV Division II Indoor Track & Field Class Championships in the Shot Put on Saturday, February 19, 2022. Bowen threw his personal best, 40 feet, 6.5 inches.
- Whitney Point High School senior, Reese Abrahamson for receiving the Akshar’s All-Star award. Senator Akshar recognized Reese for her display of exceptional character, leadership, and work ethic academically, athletically, musically, and socially.

- Whitney Point High School seniors Lane Tiderencel and Alex Smith for being selected to play in the IAC exceptional senior basketball game at Odessa Montour High School on March 8, 2022. Lane is also an Interscholastic Athletic Conference 2021-22 Second Team Division All-Star.
- Whitney Point High School sophomore, Owen Standish-Warpus who is an Interscholastic Athletic Conference 2021-22 First Team Division Boys Basketball All-Star.
- Whitney Point High School seniors, Jane Austenfeld, Reese Abrahamson, Emma Morgan, Casey St. John, and Kyleigh Livingston for competing in the IAC exceptional senior basketball game at Odessa Montour High School on March 8, 2022.
- Whitney Point High School Alumna, Christopher Hand for his induction into the Section IV Wrestling Hall of Fame.

G. OLD BUSINESS

None.

H. NEW BUSINESS (CONT.)

1. 2022-2023 Budget Presentation

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

- Looked at comparative data between Whitney Point and other area districts' tax rates.
- Reviewed budget goals
 - Maintain focus on education.
 - Build a sustainable budget.
 - Develop a reasonable tax levy within the applicable regulations.

Mr. Woodard explained the tax levy limit calculation formula, which was initiated by the Governor in 2011 and reviewed the allowable levy growth factor, which is capped at 2%. He showed the range of the tax levy limits across the Broome-Tioga BOCES region and explained possible reasons for districts who fall in the low or high end of the spectrum. He also presented historical budget information from 2015-2016 to present. He stated that the GAP for 2022-2023 is projected to be \$95,405 in comparison to last year, \$1.7m at this time.

Ms. Sexton discussed ways to approach bridging the GAP:

- Reduce expenditures
- Utilize additional fund balance
- Increase other revenue sources
- Increase tax levy
- Any combination of the above

Dr. Widdall stated that she recently read that free student lunches were a part of a government package that has been removed. She asked if meals will still be offered at no cost to students in our district.

Mr. Woodard stated that prior to covid, Whitney Point was offering free breakfast and afterschool snacks to all students. He said that BOCES Food Service recently ran a report and shared at a recent

meeting that they found Whitney Point School District may qualify for another program that will allow us to continue free breakfasts and lunches permanently.

Mrs. Griffith stated that she noticed the “other revenue” declines annually and asked if there is a reason for that.

Mr. Woodard responded that there is not a particular reason, but that in the last two years, we had a positive performance in our health insurance consortium, which we received a rebate/credit for. He said that admissions revenue goes into this category as well. He also stated that we bill other districts for students who reside outside our district and have been placed into foster care in our district.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Items under the Consent Agenda will be enacted under one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items prior to the time of the Board vote, unless a Board member requests an item to be removed from the consent Agenda for separate discussion and action.

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following Consent Agenda items:

- a. **Board of Education Meeting Minutes** – February 15, 2022
- b. **Resignation** – Teresa Graham, Full-Time Teacher’s Aide – effective March 11, 2022
- c. **Resignation** – John Whalen, Principal – effective June 30, 2022
- d. **Resignation** – Amy Manvell, Kindergarten Grade Chair – effective March 1, 2022
- e. **Unpaid Leave** – Colette Kallfelz, Full-Time Teacher’s Aide – effective June 1-8, 2022
- f. **Appointment** – Coach, Chris Ellerson, Junior Varsity Boys Baseball, 2021-2022
- g. **Treasurer’s Reports** – February 2022
- h. **Extra-classroom Treasurer’s Report** – February 2022
- i. **Committee on Special Education Recommendations**

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

3. 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 **Brittany Plain**, Full-Time Teacher’s Aide, effective March 16, 2022.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Ms. Plain will fill the position formerly held by Kelli Brown.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

4. Instructional Calendar

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve of the 2022-2023 Instructional Calendar.

Moved by Eddie Maslin

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

5. Resolution for Authorization to Join Group Bid

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District participate in Cooperative bidding for the following bids with other school districts in New York State:

Grocery – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Paper Products – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Meat/Cheese/Dairy – three times per school year (2022-2023)

July 1, 2022 – October 31, 2022

November 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023

March 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023

Processing of U.S.D.A. Commodities (Net Off Invoice) – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Milk & Milk Products – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Ice Cream Products – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Bread & Bread Products – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Smart Snack Bid – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Small Wares – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Geographical Fruit/Vegetable – July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Breakfast Bagged Meals– July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Chicken Products – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Chemical Bid - *3-year bid – July 1, 2022 – June 30-2025

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Andrea Hudock, Director of Food Services, Broome Tioga BOCES, or Designee be designated to receive and open said bids and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Moved by Brian Jeker

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

6. IPA Technology Equipment Resolution

WHEREAS the Instructional Technology Services Budget (A557) requires additional technology equipment to the currently available equipment;

WHEREAS the Whitney Point Central School District wishes to spread the cost over five (5) years with a multi-year installment purchase; the Broome-Tioga BOCES is hereby authorized to expend annually, on behalf of the Whitney Point Central School District, in conjunction with the IT service, funds to acquire IT equipment.

WHEREAS the total cost, including estimated financing costs, will not exceed \$154,416.20.

Moved by Donette Griffith

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Mr. Woodard stated that this is the district's annual equipment replacement resolution. He said that this is run through BOCES, and we get BOCES aid back for it. There are approximately 192 computer devices being replaced.

Dr. Widdall asked where the devices are going, to faculty or students?

Mr. Woodard stated that these devices will be going to both students and faculty. He said that the MITS coordinator, Jamie Pane has a very good, detailed replacement schedule and identifies things that need to be replaced and keeps track of the revolving inventory. When we went 1:1 with technology for all students, the cost increased, but otherwise, the district has been trying to keep the same cost year to year.

Dr. Widdall stated that she noticed a lot of Dell computers and did not see any Chromebook replacements and she knows that most students are using Chromebooks.

Ms. Sexton stated that the faculty use Dell computers and they are also used in some classroom settings where the more sophisticated software is needed.

Dr. Widdall asked what the damage status is of the Chromebooks.

Mr. Woodard responded that through one of the recent grant awards, the district built in a replacement of 30 damaged Chromebooks that were damaged over the past year or two.

Dr. Widdall stated that Whitney Point is far below the replacement of other districts that she has seen this data on.

Ms. Sexton stated that some districts were 1:1 before us, so that could be the reason for their higher replacement costs.

Mr. Jeker asked if this is just categorically replacement, or is there a separate category for improvements?

Mr. Woodard stated that we are upgrading and replacing the current devices with the new ones. He also said that if an IPA is brought to the Board where we are not replacing an expiring one, we would

tell the Board that it is for a brand-new initiative. However, this IPA is strictly for replacement with all new devices.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

7. 2021 Office of the State Comptroller Fiscal Stress Monitoring Report

The Board of Education acknowledges receipt of the 2021 Office of the State Comptroller Fiscal Stress Monitoring Report. The Whitney Point School District received a score of 13.34 which corresponds to the “No Designation” stress level.

8. Credit Card

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following credit card for the 2021-2022 school year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Credit Line</u>
Whitney Point CSD	Elan Financial Services (NBT Bank)	\$ 5,000.00

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Donette Griffith

Mr. Woodard stated that each year at the reorganizational meeting, the Board approves credit cards. Currently, the only credit card we have is through Chase and is in Patricia Follette’s name. He said that it has been difficult to change the name on the card, so we are opening a new card and also adding a resolution to include two authorized holders so that this situation does not arise in the future.

Dr. Widdall asked if the other card will be closed.

Mr. Woodard responded that it will be closed as soon as all auto payments are moved over to the new card.

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

9. Resolution for Authorized Cardholders

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the following individuals as authorized cardholders of the Elan Financial Services (NBT Bank) credit card for the 2021-2022 school year:

Jo-Ann Sexton, Superintendent of Schools
Zachary Woodard, School Business Executive

Moved by Eddie Maslin

Seconded by Christine Widdall

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

10. Caryl E. Adams UPK Capital Project Addition

RESOLVED, that the Whitney Point Central School District Board of Education does and hereby authorizes a capital project for the expansion of Prekindergarten education space with an estimated cost of \$1,427,979 funded by the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act and \$556,305 funded by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act for a total project of \$1,984,284.

Moved by Thomas Tasber

Seconded by Brian Jeker

Ms. Sexton stated that from the beginning planning stages of the original Pre-K addition, there was a plan to add a second addition later, so that all four-year-old classrooms would be on the Whitney Point School District campus. She said that in the initial planning stages for the current capital project, the committee looked to include the second addition, but it was not feasible. Now, with some of the recovery money able to be used for a permanent investment, the addition has been made possible. She said that this will ensure a seamless consistent program for the Pre-K4 classes.

Mr. Woodard reminded the Board that this idea was presented in the Fall and the grant application has recently been approved. He said that this part of the project will include the addition of two UPK classrooms, restroom access for the fields and a new playground.

Mr. Tasber stated that he is happy to see the District get ahead of this and that we are one of the best set up districts in the area for UPK.

Dr. Widdall stated that she often works with UPK and agreed that Whitney Point has done a great job with it.

Ms. Sexton stated that it is great to have received the grants to allow this to happen. She commended the community partners for working with the District over the past several years to provide a UPK experience with little difference from the school. She confirmed that once the project is complete, the District will continue to work with its partners for the Pre-K3 classes.

Mrs. Griffith stated that she is happy that sports using the upper fields will have a restroom.

Mr. Maslin stated that when you increase the footprint of the building, you also increase the expenses to include faculty and staff as well as building maintenance. He stated that he is in favor of the addition, but also in favor of educating people on the future overall impact.

Ms. Sexton responded

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

11. Architect and Engineering Services Agreement Amendment

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the post-referendum Agreement Amendment for Ashley McGraw Architects for the 2021 Caryl E. Adams UPK Capital Project addition.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Donette Griffith

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

I. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- **COVID Update** – Ms. Sexton stated that a lot has happened with covid since our last meeting. The number of cases in our area and elsewhere has dropped dramatically and communities are now treating it as any other infectious disease. The district has been given testing kits to provide to families for the purpose of monitoring student health as needed. There has been a move away from intensive contact tracing to providing information and letting families know that their student was exposed. Many of the rules we had previously in place were contingent on everyone being masked, so once the mask mandate lift was announced, an updated plan and guidance needed to put in place prior to the lifting date, which was two days later. She said that the schools are in a much more normalized state of affairs now.
- **Surveys** - We are looking for input on how to best meet students' academic and social emotional needs using some of the recovery funds.
- **Policy update** – Ms. Sexton stated that the District is reviewing some of its policies, one of them being the Academic Eligibility policy. Surveys have been put out to gain feedback on the policy and Ms. Sexton said that she has had some great conversations with many students about this policy.

J. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Erik Sculley, resident of Whitney Point and parent of a high school student, said that he wished there were more people present at the meeting for the budget information. He said that regarding last month's board meeting with parents concerned about the bus Wi-Fi not being used for homework, he did some research and found that the devices are funded by grants. He asked if there is a subscription for a program to get a signal to the buses.

Mr. Woodard stated that a data plan for one year was included with the grant.

Mr. Sculley asked if the additional expenses incurred to the school regarding the trash pickup was looked into.

Mr. Woodard stated that the charges were minimal and mainly included the need to throw away some recyclables.

Mr. Sculley asked if there is a reactivation plan in place or in the works in preparation for a possible next stage in covid.

Mrs. Champney stated that it is something that needs to be discussed.

Tyanna Moseman, lifetime member of Whitney Point stated that she has reviewed the meeting minutes over the past six months and has found that community members address concerns. She asked what the process is for the Board of Education in response to comments from the public.

Mrs. Champney stated that sometimes they are addressed individually with the person who posed the question or issue. She said that the Board does try to respond when they have an answer but that some things do not have definitive answers.

Ms. Moseman stated that there has been a lot of excitement in the community regarding covid and that she believes more than likely something will happen with covid again and that should be addressed fairly quickly. She said that even if the Board discusses a response with a person privately, the community should be updated on this as well. Ms. Moseman stated that there are things she has found that were brought up in meetings by the community over the past six months that she did not think were addressed, such as masking, Wi-Fi on buses, student access to websites, and the Academic Eligibility policy.

Mrs. Champney stated that the Academic Eligibility policy was just brought up under the Superintendent's updates and the review of that policy is underway. Other concerns may still be getting looked into.

Ms. Sexton stated that in reference to the Academic Eligibility policy, a group of people came together and met to discuss a plan with some members of administration, she has met with students and sent out surveys. She said that lastly, there will be a final review of the policy.

Ms. Moseman stated that the community is great and it's important for the Board of Education to be transparent. She said that a lot of meetings include people voicing their opinions and concerns and she feels that they are not getting a response.

Mrs. Champney responded that in terms of masking, one of the things that has hampered having any conversation about it is that the District is required to follow the rules set forth by the New York State Education Department. She said that following the rules had nothing to do with accepting money or the Board's or administration's personal feelings about wearing masks or not wearing them. She said that the Board did state multiple times during meetings that we have to follow the rules.

Linda Burghardt said thank you, as a former coach to the Board for their quick actions and response to the concerns about the Academic Eligibility policy. She said that she wanted to respectfully disagree with some of the things that were stated, noting that covid restrictions were rules not laws and stating that there were young students being told that it was against the law to not wear a mask in school. She stated that the Federal registry showed that the local education agencies were in charge and unless there were strings attached that said the schools had to follow the CDC or the State Department of Education, the school could have been in charge. She said if the rules are changed, we will have this debate again. She asked, regarding following the rules of the State Education Department, did anyone on the Board reach out to Nassau County schools?

Mrs. Champney stated that she did contact Nassau County schools and found out that after the court's decision was overturned in Albany, all Nassau County schools who had announced that they would make masks optional needed to return to masking. She said that she would be happy to go back and see who she spoke with, but that she did not recall the name of the person at this time.

Mrs. Burghardt stated that she called the Nassau County Executive's office the day after the board meeting, who said that half of the schools in their county were mask optional. She said that the community still does not know where the school board stands on a lot of things. Mrs. Burghardt suggested creating a committee to look at future policy that must contain both school and community members and that it should address the use of the federal money that the district has taken and will be taking to review exactly what the wording is. She stated that she thinks the district also needs to stop the highly discriminatory practice of forcing unvaccinated teachers to test weekly, stating that there is no science behind it and that it is a civil rights violation. She asked if there is a rule for that.

Ms. Sexton responded that there is.

Mrs. Burghardt asked why, stating that the district is the Local Education Agency and is in charge. She said that the following is a list of unconstitutional and illegal actions that have taken place: violation of Oath of Office, practicing medicine without a license and providing no informed consent, violation of NYS Law education 3002, violation of an oath to support Federal and State constitutions, NY Penal Law 260.10 (endangering the welfare of a child), NYS Constitution, Article 1 and 11 equal protection of laws, discrimination and civil rights prohibited (regarding testing), no informed consent for masking (Geneva Code and Nuremberg Code), Federal Law violation of children's rights, and a breach of fiduciary duty.

Ken Jones, teacher in the Music Department, stated that he was there to thank the Board and the Administration on behalf of the Music Department for the support they have given the department through all of their endeavors. He said that the guidance provided when the department has questions, the way that the Board listens to their ideas openly, and the financial support given to music activities both in school and extracurricular is noticed and appreciated by the members of the department. He said that the proposal that the Music Department has presented to the Board is something that they have been working towards advocating for, for many years and that the department appreciates the Board taking the time to read and consider their proposal.

K. BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMENTS

Thomas Tasber stated that he has been a board member for 13 years. He stated that he wanted to address the public comment section, which is intended for public comment, and it is not a discussion period. He said that this is the reason why the Board typically does not respond. He ensured the public that they are listening to all of their comments and concerns, even though they are not responding. He added that in the community, the board members are very approachable, and people are welcome to approach them outside of board meetings. He gave a brief explanation of some of the duties of the Board and stated that the district come a long way in regard to transparency, noting that many years ago, the agenda was not shared with the public.

Dr. Widdall asked to confirm for those concerned about the bus Wi-Fi that it is held by the same BOCES rules with all of the safeguards in place as while the students are in school.

Ms. Sexton responded yes and added that the District also contacted BOCES after the February board meeting to look at particularly YouTube settings. She stated that YouTube is a great teaching tool with a lot of good resources and inappropriate content has been blocked. She said that there is some gray area, and the district is trying to figure out how to shut access down enough, but also allow learning access to be available.

Dr. Widdall stated that there are a lot of parents who were never able to make it to parent meetings, and this has been made possible thanks to virtual meetings. She also stated to the public that some emails are stopped by the Whitney Point firewalls from being delivered to the board members and that could be why some people may not receive a response.

Mrs. Griffith stated that she is within her first year of being on the Board and that when the announcement about the mask mandate lifting was received, she was excited. She said that she appreciated Ms. Sexton's quick announcement on that. She said that she appreciates the public's comments and wanted to reiterate and apologize that the Board is not supposed to respond during the comments from the public section. She said thank you to the music department for being present and supporting the Board. She said that she is happy to see the music performances are back.

L. EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED upon recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education of the Whitney Point Central School District approve the motion to recess the public meeting at 7:26 p.m. and adjourn to Executive Session to hear discussion on contractual matters.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Donette Griffith

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

The Board reconvened to the regular meeting at 8:14 p.m.

M. 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 8:14 p.m.

Moved by Christine Widdall

Seconded by Donette Griffith

6 Aye 0 Nay 0 Abstained

APPROVED

O. FYI

February Enrollment in District

March 25, 2022 – Whitney Point School-Community production of Mamma Mia! – HS Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

March 26, 2022 – Whitney Point School-Community production of Mamma Mia! – HS Auditorium, 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

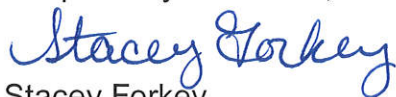
April 5 & 6, 2022 – Cabaret – HS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

April 6, 2022 – BOCES Annual Business Meeting

April 11-15, 2022 – SCHOOLS CLOSED – Spring Recess

Monday, April 18, 2022 – Board of Education Meeting, HS Library 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Stacey Forkey
District Clerk