

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

**MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 2019**

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

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

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

President Heather Sternin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The pledge and a Moment of Silence was observed.

Roll Call: President Heather Sternin, Trustee Diane Misner, Trustee Daniel Calabrese, Trustee Elizabeth Koch, Trustee Kristin Schmutzler, and Trustee Renee Gilbert. Vice President Danielle Opalinski excused.

Administrators present included: Superintendent Dr. Timothy Oldenburg, Assistant Superintendent Mary Beth Scullion, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Amy Edgerton, Director of Business and Finance Donna Hill, Director of School Facilities and Operations Jeffrey Hatten, Fletcher Elementary Principal Michelle Siebert, and High School Principal Michael Brown.

There were approximately 10 visitors in attendance.

2.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2019

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of **June 18, 2019** of the Board of Education be approved and that they are hereby adopted in their entirety.

2.2 REORG MEETING OF JULY 9, 2019

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Reorg Meeting of **July 9, 2019** of the Board of Education be approved and that they are hereby adopted in their entirety.

2.3 REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF JULY 9, 2019

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of **July 9, 2019** of the Board of Education be approved and that they are hereby adopted in their entirety.

2.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: MINUTES BOARD MEETINGS

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Trustee Diane Misner that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above minutes, Items 2.1 through 2.3 as presented. Approved 6-0 and carried.

3.0 NEW/OLD BUSINESS

President Sternin asked if the two items she added to the list could be removed since they were completed.

Mrs. Schmutzler inquired whether the Board should invite ECASB to the first retreat. There is no agenda for the retreat at this time. Ms. Sternin indicated that previous communication seemed to indicate that most Board members didn't feel the need to have outsiders at next retreat. Mrs. Koch remembered that previous

retreats discussed looking at measuring goals, and keeping current with committees. Mr. Calabrese had suggested people should write down ideas for goals ahead of time so people could review in preparation for the meeting. Mrs. Schmutzler indicated that ECASB is free to come in to help direct goals. Ms. Sternin asked to table the discussion until the next meeting before making a decision at the next when there is a full board.

Mrs. Schmutzler asked about discontinuing paper agendas for the public at meetings. Mrs. Koch believes it's important to provide communication with the community. Utilizing an electronic agenda on a screen will also require someone to turn pages during the meeting. The clerk will check on requirements with regard to paper agendas.

4.0 SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS NONE

5.0 VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS/RESOLUTIONS

5.1 RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS

There were no questions or comments requiring additional response from those in attendance at the last meeting.

5.2 PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION #1

Mark Dennis Zahm, resident, inquired about Item 7.2 and the tax rate decrease from previous year. He questioned the district's current fiscal status at this point and whether the district is fiscally healthy enough to handle maintaining all the buildings as well as the TONA2020 project. Dr. Oldenburg indicated the decrease was based on remaining under tax cap based on calculation of the formula. The district is working to fulfill the financial needs of the project to bring to the board, since maintenance, repair and other issues with elementary buildings are increasing.

6.0 SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

6.1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND CONSOLIDATION PROJECT PRESENTATION

Presented by Dr. Timothy Oldenburg

Dr. Oldenburg addressed the newest part of the TONA2020 project. The project has been developing for many years, including previous iterations. Dr. Oldenburg recognized the team who has been working to bring this project to fruition. Dr. Oldenburg reviewed the history of the committee, beginning in 2005. All of the previous work came to the conclusion that a school consolidation project is the way to go. The planned school consolidation will be responsible to the community and is in response to the most recent Building Conditions Survey. It will meet the needs of students, while providing needed efficiencies in a permanent tax cap era. The Building Conditions Survey in 2015 indicated over \$63 million in maintenance, and new findings will most likely occur with the next one. Dr. Oldenburg reviewed each elementary school, and the required updates that are needed in the current buildings based on the 2015 survey.

Submission was made to NYSED for project aid. The State originally indicated a lower level of aid than anticipated. The project team advocated for the community with the State, resulting in a higher amount of aid than originally expected. This aid, in the amount of \$12.19 million, is a one-time allocation for this specific project. A new timeline was completed with a targeted completion of 2023.

The design for the new complex was reviewed with new construction and areas of renovation in the current facility. During construction, fifth grade students will have classes in a wing of the Middle School, and fourth grade students will attend temporary classrooms at Mullen and Riverview. The temporary classrooms meet all the requirements of the State.

Dr. Oldenburg compared the cost of the project compared to needed improvements at all three elementary schools. The cost savings would be over \$17 million completing the new facility.

The pre-referendum phase is currently taking place through the anticipated vote in October 2019. The recommended vote will take place on October 22, 2019, and requires a 60% approval due to going over the district’s debt limit. If the project is approved, design/construction documents will be completed through April 2020. SED will do review and approval through January 2021, bids and awards through March 2021, and construction through summer 2023. Students will attend the new school in the fall of 2023.

Dr. Oldenburg reviewed the reason for moving forward with the project at this time, including school safety, student need, efficiency, addressing the permanent tax cap, consistency, instructional improvement and new facilities requiring less maintenance.

The tax impact on a \$108,000 home during the 20 year bond life will be approximately \$129.21 a year with no exemptions, \$93.83 with Basic STAR (\$86.61 with veterans exemption), and \$47.27 with Enhanced STAR (\$40.04 with veterans exemption).

If the project is approved, the district will have to decide what to do with the schools that close. The district has a good track record of successful transition with unused property, and plans to follow the same direction.

Dr. Oldenburg recognizes the tremendous amount of pride that Tonawanda has in its community. The district can choose to react to situations as they occur, or be proactive in addressing the needs of the district.

Ms. Edgerton confirmed with Dr. Oldenburg that the increase in taxes will not be cumulative. The \$129.21 is the average amount for each year.

Dr. Oldenburg will have a resolution on the August 27 agenda for the Board’s consideration.

6.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Hill discussed lunch program community eligibility for elementary schools. The district has been given approval for an additional year, covering a full three years. Opening day for non-instructional staff has been scheduled, including training and updates on policies and procedures,

Mrs. Scullion reviewed the ESSA and grant allocations updates. Allocations in Title money had to match needs assessment. Mrs. Scullion reviewed each Title area and how the funds were allocated.

Dr. Oldenburg reported that there was an administrator retreat earlier in the summer. Next week the district will be conducting an emergency response drill, with various City agencies. This drill has taken six months to plan. Communication with the community will begin later this week using all available resources to ensure that as many people are notified as possible.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

7.0 MANAGEMENT SERVICES

7.1 FINANCIAL REPORTS: NONE

7.2 ADOPT SCHOOL TAX BUDGET AND TAX RATE FOR 2019-2020

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent adopts the certification of the school budget, school tax budget and tax rate of \$15.766429 for the 2019-2020 school year (decrease from previous year).

7.3 APPROVE DESIGNATION OF OBSOLETE PROPERTY – MULLEN

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools designates instructional materials from Mullen Elementary as excess and obsolete for disposal/recycling.

7.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: FINANCIAL REPORTS/RESOLUTIONS

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Trustee Renee Gilbert that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above Management Services Items 7.2 and 7.3 as presented. Approved 6-0 and carried.

8.0 INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/UNPAID LEAVES/TENURE/ETC.

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

Item No.	Name	New or Replacing	Position/Tenure Area/ Certification	BOE ACTION REQUESTED	Step Level/Degree/Effective Date(s) Italics/Highlighted -Correction
8.1	Joe Fisher	Corigliano	Social Studies 7-12 (MS/HS)	Approve Four-Year Probationary Appointment	Bachelor’s \$33,861 Effective August 28, 2019 through August 28, 2023
8.2	Alexandra Seibert	Witherell	Elementary Teacher Childhood Education 1-6 (Fletcher)	Approve Four-Year Probationary Appointment	Master’s \$36,743 Effective August 28, 2019 through August 28, 2023
8.3	Krista Berg	Frank	Teacher Assistant (Fletcher)	Approve Three-Year Probationary Appointment	\$13.90 per hour Effective August 28, 2019 through August 28, 2022

COACHING APPOINTMENTS/ RESIGNATIONS –

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

Item No.	Name	Sport	BOE ACTION REQUESTED	Step Level/Rate/ Effective Date(s)
8.4	Jacob Dubin	Boys’ Modified Soccer Coach	Approve Appointment Fall 2019-2020	Effective August 19, 2019 Stipend Step 1 - \$2,847

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELEMENTARY ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS 2018-19

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, accepts the following resolutions and approves the Class Advisor appointment for the 2018-19 school year and the corresponding stipend as per Article 19.05 of the TEA Contract.

Item No.	Name	Extra-Curricular Club/Program	Stipend	BOE Action Requested
8.5	Pauline Kuun	Announcers Club (Mullen)	\$802	Approve Appointment
8.6	Jessica Warthling	Announcers Club Co-Advisor (Riverview)	\$401	Approve Appointment
8.7	Denise Kaufman	Announcers Club Co-Advisor (Riverview)	\$401	Approve Appointment

8.0.1. CONSENT AGENDA: INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL ITEMS

Moved by Trustee Kristin Schmutzler and seconded by Trustee Renee Gilbert that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Instruction Personnel Action Items 8.1 through 8.7 as presented. Approved 6-0 and carried.

Following the vote, candidates in attendance were introduced. Mrs. Siebert introduced Mrs. Seibert who will be teaching at Fletcher in 4th grade. Mrs. Seibert has multiple certifications and experience in 4th and 5th grade. She has a lot of experience, and most importantly, the committee felt she was a candidate who would fit in and help the district be even better.

Mr. Brown introduced Mr. Fisher who will be teaching Social Studies at the MS/HS. He came from a charter school and taught other states. The committee was impressed with his commitment and drive to excel students in Tonawanda. He also has additional certification in Special Education.

9.0 NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/UNPAID LEAVES/ETC.**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the following Board Actions, **pending official clearance by the New York State Commission of Education of fingerprint/background check as applicable** and upon successful completion of probationary period where applicable. The Board of Education also approves the **EMERGENCY CONDITIONAL APPOINTMENT** of all substitute additions as listed on the attachment(s) for a period not to exceed twenty (20) calendar days.

Item No.	Name	Position	BOE Action Requested	Step Level/Rate/Effective Date(s) Italics/Highlighted = Correction
9.1	Mary Rose Wittman	School Social Worker	Approve Four-Year Probationary Appointment	Master's \$36,743 Effective August 28, 2019 through August 28, 2023
9.2	Liana McKinney	Stationary Engineer (MS/HS)	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	\$30,251 per year Effective August 14, 2019
9.3	Rebecca Harmon	Clerk Typist (MS/HS)	Approve Six-Month Probationary Appointment	\$27,340.76 per year Effective August 27, 2019
9.4	Maria Hastings	Evening fitness center coverage	Approve Appointment	\$13.49 per hour Effective August 14, 2019
9.5	Phyllis Gregoric	Cleaner	Accept Resignation for Retirement	Effective August 13, 2019

9.6 FALL SEASON PAID SUPPORT STAFF FOR ATHLETICS – 2019-2020

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approves **Maria Hastings** who is eligible to perform paid support staff duties for athletics for the Fall 2019-2020 Athletic Season at the rates per event of \$30 for Scoreboard Operator, \$35 for Clock Operators and Scorekeepers, \$25 for Announcers, and \$71 for Event Security.

9.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Trustee Kristin Schmutzler that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Non-Instructional Personnel Action Items 9.1 through 9.6 as presented. Approved 6-0 and carried.

Following the vote, Ms. Edgerton introduced Mrs. Wittman, who will serve as a social worker in the district. The committee was very impressed with her 24 years of experience as a social worker. She has experience with and wants to introduce a backpack program to the district. She will be working at Fletcher and Riverview during the upcoming school year.

10.0 CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION

10.1 COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (CSE)

COMMITTEE TYPE	DESCRIPTION	MEETING DATES
<i>District Committee on Special Education</i>	Annual Review	7/23/19
<i>District Committee on Special Education</i>	Transfer Student – Agreement No Meeting	7/16/19, 8/5/19
<i>District Committee on Special Education</i>	Amendment – Agreement No Meeting	5/2/19, 7/23/19
<i>District Committee on Special Education</i>	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting	7/29/19
<i>District Sub-Committee on Special Education</i>	Transfer Student – Agreement No Meeting	7/25/19
<i>District Committee on Pre-School Special Education</i>	Transfer Student – Agreement No Meeting	8/5/19
<i>District Committee on Pre-School Special Education</i>	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting	7/17/19, 7/30/19

10.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION

Moved by Trustee Daniel Calabrese and seconded by Trustee Diane Misner that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above Item 10.1 as presented. Approved 6-0 and carried.

11.0 POLICY ITEMS: NONE

12.0 OTHER

12.1 ADOPTION OF DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent adopts the Tonawanda City School District **Code of Conduct** for the 2019-2020 school year.

12.2 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE 2019-2020 YEAR: (Said representatives will report back to the full Board in a timely fashion).

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVE (2019-2020)	COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT
Renee Gilbert, Kristin Schmutzler	<i>APPR</i>
Dan Calabrese, Renee Gilbert, Heather Sternin	<i>Audit Committee</i>
Danielle Opalinski, Heather Sternin	<i>Booster Club Committee</i>
Renee Gilbert, Kristin Schmutzler, Heather Sternin	<i>Code of Conduct/Discipline Committee/Dignity Act</i>
Elizabeth Koch, Heather Sternin	<i>Counseling Advisory Council</i>
Elizabeth Koch Alternate Kristin Schmutzler	<i>Delegate to Erie County Association of School Boards</i>
Elizabeth Koch Alternate Kristin Schmutzler	<i>Delegate to NYS School Board Association Business Meeting</i>
Renee Gilbert, Elizabeth Koch,	<i>Distinguished Alumni Committee</i>
Elizabeth Koch, Danielle Opalinski, Heather Sternin	<i>District Planning Team</i>
Diane Misner Alternate Renee Gilbert	<i>Erie County Association of School Boards Budget & Finance Team</i>
Kristin Schmutzler Alternate Elizabeth Koch	<i>Erie County Association of School Boards Legislative Team</i>
Diane Misner, Danielle Opalinski, Heather Sternin	<i>MS/HS Behavior Management</i>
Elizabeth Koch, Danielle Opalinski, Heather Sternin	<i>MS/HS School Climate Committee</i>
Kristin Schmutzler, Heather Sternin (MS) Elizabeth Koch, Danielle Opalinski (HS)	<i>MS/HS School Planning Team</i>
Daniel Calabrese, Renee Gilbert, Heather Sternin	<i>Policy Committee</i>
Daniel Calabrese, Renee Gilbert, Danielle Opalinski	<i>Professional Development Committee</i>
Renee Gilbert, Elizabeth Koch	<i>PTSA Council Representative</i>
Daniel Calabrese, Danielle Opalinski, Heather Sternin	<i>S.A.V.E./Safety Committee Representative</i>
Diane Misner, Kristin Schmutzler	<i>Smart Schools Committee</i>
Danielle Opalinski, Heather Sternin	<i>SMSI</i>
Elizabeth Koch, Danielle Opalinski, Heather Sternin	<i>Strategic Planning Committee</i>
Daniel Calabrese, Diane Misner	<i>Technology Committee</i>
Daniel Calabrese, Diane Misner, Heather Sternin	<i>TONA2020 Committee</i>
Elizabeth Koch, Diane Misner	<i>Wellness/Nutrition Committee(s)</i>
Board President	<i>Ex Officio Member of all Committees</i>

12.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: OTHER

Moved by Trustee Elizabeth Koch and seconded by Trustee Renee Gilbert that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above Items 12.1 and 12.2 as presented. Approved 6-0 and carried.

13.0 ATTENDANCE REPORT

NONE

14.0 BOARD INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

14.1 Facility Usage Report

15.0 PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION #2 FOLLOWING BOARD RESOLUTIONS

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

Mark Dennis Zahm, resident, made two observations with regard to TONA2020. Assessments are not static, and feels numbers have the potential to go up, and feels the provided numbers are disingenuous. Also, abandoned buildings will require maintenance until they are sold or decisions are made for the buildings, and leasing should be considered for the space.

Dr. Oldenburg responded saying he disagrees that numbers are not accurate and using the assessment value is common when budgeting for any project of this sort. He believes this is a fair way of determining the tax burden to residents when evaluating the impact on taxpayers. The amount of tax collected will not change, even if reassessments occur. The share per household may alter depending on their percentage of the full tax roll due to any reassessment, but doesn't believe there will be another full reassessment during construction. With regard to upkeep of old buildings, the district is committed to maintaining them during the interim. Leasing space does not always create a positive financial solution, but all ideas will be evaluated.

16.0 BOARD OF EDUCATION ROUND-UP

The Tonawanda Board of Education members would like to take an opportunity to share news regarding the school district since the prior Board of Education Meeting, (e.g., *Board of Education school visits or school events*)

Mrs. Schmutzler Thank you to the admin team for their presentations tonight. Welcome to new employees. Attended Erie County shared services meeting, where they discussed providing a committee member from each board. Attended code of conduct meeting.

Mrs. Koch Also attended the shared services meeting, which focused largely on health care and shared services with regard to utilities. Being set up by county executive who is looking at school districts as potential savings. Attended the WNY Law Conference. One topic discussed was required sexual harassment training, which should be part of best practices. They recommended the Board should go through the same training that employees go through. There also did a presentation on telemedicine in the schools, which may help with mental health evaluations. This is being piloted in the Southtowns. On August 22, the district will be conducting a back-to-school supply drive. It will take place from 5-8 in the parking lot. Welcome to Tonawanda new hires

Mrs. Misner With regard to the supply drive on August 22, how can she get supplies there if she cannot attend. Mrs. Koch will pick up supplies or Ms. Edgerton said they can be dropped off at her office. She confirmed that the district is getting an additional year for free lunches for elementary schools. Mrs. Hill confirmed, and also reported that PTSA was very involved in getting parents to fill out the forms. The district is trying to get all elementary families fill out the form, which directly

affects the Title grants, which resulted in nearly 100% return in elementary schools last year.

Mrs. Gilbert Welcome new staff. Thank you to Dr. Oldenburg for the presentation. Attended the shared services meeting, which had lots of great information. Attended Code of Conduct meeting, and is happy with changes.

Mrs. Calabrese Echoed everyone's comments, congratulations to the new employees

President Sternin Attended the WNY Law Conference and Code of Conduct meeting. With regard to the school supply drive, the Board is listed as a sponsor, so member involvement would be great. Welcome to the new staff.

Dr. Oldenburg added one more statement with regard to consolidation project. The district cannot share information with the community until the Board approves the project. If the project is approved, they are prepared to start sharing information in the community. Once information is out, he asked Board members to encourage community members to come to public sessions to hear all the facts related to the project to be able to make an informed decision. He stressed the district will spend more to repair buildings than do the new project.

17.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Diane Misner and seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Koch that the Board of Education adjourns the meeting at 7:18 PM. Approved 6-0 and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Maxwell
District Clerk