

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

**MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2020**

SPECIAL MEETING
*Board of Education Offices
100 Hinds Street
Howard P. Fahmer Board Room*

*Special Session of the Board of Education – Approval of Personnel Items and
Continuation of Staff Employment*

1.0 CALL TO ORDER:

President Heather Sternin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The pledge was observed.

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

Administrators present included: Superintendent Dr. Timothy Oldenburg.

There were approximately no visitors in attendance.

2.0 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) <i>Italics/Highlighted -Correction</i>
2.1	Abigail Streeter	N/A	Library Media Specialist (HS)	Accept Resignation	Effective April 17, 2020

2.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL ITEMS

Moved by Trustee Diane Misner and seconded by Trustee Renee Gilbert that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Instructional Personnel Action Item 2.1 as presented. Approved 5-0 and carried.

3.0 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
3.1	Pennie Strehlow	Clerk Typist (PPS)	Accept Resignation	Effective March 18, 2020

3.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL ITEMS

Moved by Vice President Danielle Opalinski and seconded by Trustee Renee Gilbert that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the Non-Instructional Personnel Action Item 3.1 as presented. Approved 5-0 and carried.

4.0 CONTINUATION OF STAFF EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, the CDC, local health departments, the State of New York, and the Federal Government have either issued States of Emergency or otherwise made recommendations with regard to social contact and the size of gatherings during the unprecedented COVID-19 outbreak, and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie after consultation with Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2 BOCES, and the various component districts has directed that all school districts be closed until further notice, and

WHEREAS, the safety and security of the children of the District and the employees, both instructional and support, are of utmost importance to everyone concerned, and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and Board of Education have made, in consultation with the necessary governmental agencies, the difficult decision to temporarily cease normal operations and classes at this time, and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that any closure of the schools will have a significant and profound effect on all of the stakeholders in the District, including, but not limited to, the taxpayers, children, parents, and staff, and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes the impact that its decisions has on each and every individual and family, and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak is an extraordinary event which calls for an extraordinary response, and

WHEREAS, the instructional and support staff will continue to provide services to the children of our District, and

WHEREAS, instructional and support staff have entered into separate Memoranda of Agreement with the District,

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, in addition to providing adequate educational opportunities for the students, hereby approves the continued payment of all staff within the District, less any applicable state and/or federal benefits which may be available, at their base salary, exclusive of any additional extracurricular, athletic, or other stipends.

4.0.1 CONSENT AGENDA: OTHER

Moved by Trustee Diane Misner and seconded by Vice President Danielle Opalinski that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approves the above Item 4.0 as presented. Approved 5-0 and carried.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Calabrese inquired about changes to the 180-day rule set forth by the Governor, indicating that schools closed after March 31 would not be eligible for the 180-day waiver. Mr. Calabrese inquired whether it made sense to pass this motion. Dr. Oldenburg clarified that any schools out until March 31 will receive the 180-day waiver, but if the Governor does not extend it past that date, then the district would have to reopen the schools. The district is too depending on state aid, two-thirds of its budget, to risk losing it for the year. Dr. Oldenburg stressed that many districts are looking at MOA's similar to the ones signed by the district labor unions, and many are operating in a similar fashion. So far, the response from the community has been positive regarding the steps the district has taken to continue instruction.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Diane Misner and seconded by Trustee Renee Gilbert that the Board of Education adjourns the special meeting at 6:09 PM. Approved 5-0 and carried.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING –APRIL 7, 2020 - 6:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Maxwell
District Clerk