

COPENHAGEN CENTRAL SCHOOL  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 25, 2016

PRESIDENT ROBERT F. STACKEL, PRESIDING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:  
KEITH LEE  
KOREEN G. FREEMAN  
LYNN A. MURRAY  
GABRIELLE M. THOMPSON  
ALFRED E. TOMASELLI

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:  
TROY W. BUCKLEY

OTHERS PRESENT:  
SCOTT N. CONNELL, Superintendent  
NADINE O'SHAUGHNESSY, K-12 Principal  
PAMELA L. RATLIFF, Assistant K-12 Principal  
DALE R. MUNN, JR., Director of Student Services and District Treasurer  
RUSSELL GROFF, Director of Transportation  
PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT STUDENTS – Mackenzie Wheeler,  
Connor Eddy, Jordan Young, Nicole Tanner and Brandon Buckley

This regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by President Robert F. Stackel at 6:30 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said.

*Meeting called to order*

TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY FOR 2016 – 2017 SCHOOL YEAR  
BY RUSSELL GROFF

Mr. Groff presented to the Board a Transportation Department Summary together with his anticipated purchases for 2016 – 2017, which includes the purchase of two 66 passenger buses, trading in two older buses, for a total of \$231,247.24. Following a brief discussion period, Mr. Groff left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board voted to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 16, 2015 and the Special Official Meeting held on January 13, 2016.

*Approved previous minutes*

VOTE: YES – 6; NO – 0

On motion of Koreen Freeman, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the Treasurer's Report, Warrants and the School Lunch Report, submitting all for audit.

*Approved Treasurer's Report, Warrants and School Lunch Report*

VOTE: YES – 6; NO – 0

On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to accept the revised agenda.

*Accepted the Revised Agenda*

VOTE: YES – 6; NO –

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:**

**K-12 Principal Mrs. O'Shaughnessy offered the following:**

**Student Highlights:**

- Senior leaders gave their annual presentations to the underclassmen summarizing what they learned at the JCC leadership day this year.

- The Winter Chorus Concert was a great first major event for our newest music teacher. The students sang loud and proud. Additionally, she incorporated high school student help for the lights and sound.
- Following CCS tradition, our music students performed at the Salmon Run Mall. In listening to conversations throughout their audience, their performance was appreciated.
- Fifth graders went to Fort Drum again this year to perform their WWII Christmas drama.
- First graders took a virtual field trip to the Alaska Zoo to see and learn about caribou. They even had a surprise visitor!
- And our annual elementary sing-a-long was absolutely wonderful.
- Middle school students completed their random acts of kindness as planned during the anti-bullying road show.

**Administrative Highlights:**

- All first round observations and data chats are completely done. Second round data chats have begun.
- DSS was called to request an update on mandatory reporting requirements. They no longer provide such presentations, but sent a booklet outlining legal expectations. A short presentation has been created and will be shared at the March staff development day.
- A new ELL student has enrolled. A new arrangement has been made with Sackets Harbor regarding sharing our ESOL teacher. The new schedule is actually far less complicated than the old one. Additionally, the RBERN was called to be sure we are meeting the new regulations.
- Second semester master schedule only needed a couple of adjustments which will be completed by the end of the week. The annual survey for next year's master schedule has been sent and responses are being collected.
- January regents administration and scoring is planned and ready to go.
- NY Statewide School Health Services Center "School Health Profile" survey was received by principal and lead health teacher, completed and returned.

**Upcoming events:**

- Jan 27 - Family Math Night
- Jan 30 - Bi-County Concert
- Feb 5 - Report Cards Go Home
- Feb 11 - NHS Inductions
- Feb 12 - Grades 6-12 Valentine's Dance
- Feb 15-19 - Winter Vacation

**Assistant Principal Pamela Ratliff offered the following:**

- ✓ Grant proposals have been prepared and submitted; Stewarts will notify winners.
- ✓ Child Study Team meetings are being held on a regular basis to discuss student needs prior to CSE referral.
- ✓ The Safety Committee met on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The safety plan that was updated to follow the suggested format put forth by the state was reviewed and all committee members were satisfied with it without making any changes. Changes to the next evacuation drill were proposed and the need for new playground equipment to replace the old wooden playground was discussed.
- ✓ The Holiday Reading Challenge was quite a success. We had 62 students complete the challenge, with 21 students completing all 20 of the challenges. Students were rewarded to a special lunch with Mrs. Ratliff and those who finished all 20 challenges enjoyed a winter craft activity as well.
- ✓ The second meeting of the Title I (AIS) committee was held on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Participants agreed that salaries are the best way to spend these funds. Now, the task at hand is to determine how to allocate those salaries to best fit the needs of our students. Teachers have voiced their desires to have additional TA support during CSE meetings and in post observation conferences.
- ✓ A hot topic at the elementary level revolves around trauma-induced learning disabilities. In October, a California court set precedence by recognizing trauma (Domestic violence, substance abuse in the home, etc are examples of what is being considered trauma.) as a disability. As a way to prepare for what

may be coming and to better work with students who are affected by outside trauma, training has been provided at PK-5 team meetings and interested elementary teachers have signed up for a book study revolving around the publication *Helping Traumatized Students Learn*.

- January 27<sup>th</sup> – The Amazing Math Race
- January 28<sup>th</sup> – Elementary Fun Day @ Maple Ridge
- February 4<sup>th</sup> – PTO Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- February 11<sup>th</sup> – National Honor Society Inductions
- February 12<sup>th</sup> – Valentine’s Day Dance, Grades 6-12
- February 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> – Winter Recess

**Director of Student Services, District Treasurer’s Report, Mr. Munn offered the following:**

- As part of Mr. Munn’s leadership project with LeMoyne, he has been working on an insurance buyout plan for retirees over 65 years old. Presently, Medicare covers approximately 80% of healthcare costs for individuals over 65. Our insurance plan covers an additional 13% of healthcare costs for these individuals. I would like to offer buyouts in the amount of \$20,000 for family and \$10,000 for individuals to selected enrollees over 65 years old that an actuarial study suggests would be beneficial to the district. Currently we project to have \$80,000 in unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year in the health insurance line item of the budget and no investment opportunities that would near the potential benefit of said buyout to the district. Our school attorney states that said plan would be legal and we could pick and choose which enrollees to offer buyout to. Breakeven point on a two person plan would be 26 months.
- We have begun Comptroller’s audit. The focus of the audit is Fund Balance. We expect that the outcome will be, consistent with external audit report, in that we have a Fund Balance higher than 4%.

Date	CSE	CPSE	504
12/17/14	67	7	17
9/28/15	74	5	18
10/26/15	76	5	18
11/23/15	78	8	17
12/16/15	77	11	18
1/25/16	81	11	18
1/25/16	2 new classified 2 transfer in 3 pending referrals	3 pending referrals	

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

- Mr. Connell advised the Auditor from the State Comptroller’s Office is here.
- The work at the bus garage (fuel line) conducted by Bach & Company is complete and pictures of the work have been forwarded to DEC.
- State aid runs are out; our state aid increase for 2016 - 2017 is 1.1% in foundation aid. Mr. Connell has scheduled appointments with Senator Joe Griffo and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush to plead the District’s case.
- James Damon from OwnEnergy is frustrated as town of Champion Supervisor, Bruce Ferguson, will not speak to him. James asked Mr. Connell to be the intermediary; Mr. Connell spoke with Mr. Ferguson and

who said Mr. Damon has changed the rules. The wheels of progress are turning slowly for the OwnEnergy project.

- Nicole Grandjean, Cafeteria Manager, applied for and has received a grant enabling her to purchase a new double over and a mobile refrigerator. Our Free and Reduced Lunch count is now at 49%.
- Currently, there are three applicants for the Head Custodial position. The Civil Service test is scheduled for the February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Mr. Connell and Mrs. Rowsam attended a super WiFi Meeting at BOCES. The organization providing the WiFi will test 30 homes within our district, targeting the underserved and unserved homes to test for coverage. They plan to use the PBS tower and the 911 tower in Lowville.
- The APPR waiver has been extended to the end of June; the District's new APPR Plan must be submitted by the end of June.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

On motion of Koreen Freeman, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve recommendations received from the Committee on Special Education.

VOTE: YES – 6; NO – 0;

On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Alfred Tomaselli, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Sara Purdy, substitute teacher.

VOTE: YES – 6; NO – 0;

On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Keith Lee, the Board voted to approve resolution approving the District's Safety Plan, revised January 2016, and as presented.

VOTE: YES – 6; NO – 0;

On motion of Koreen Freeman, seconded by Lynn Murray, the Board voted to approve the appointment of the spring coaching staff, as follows:

- Varsity Softball – John Cain
- Varsity Baseball – Jim Spaulding
- Modified Softball – Molly Curtis
- Modified Baseball – Chris Day

VOTE: YES 6; NO – 0;

On motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Lynn Murray, the Board approved the appointment of Andrea Faris, substitute teacher.

VOTE: YES 6; NO – 0;

The aforementioned Participation on Government students left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**DISCUSSION:**

- Superintendent Connell noted the cost of the Driver Education classes is \$20,000 for the teacher, \$3,000 for the car. Last fall five students took the course and 13 will take it in the spring. A new elective usually generates 8 to 10 students signing up. Mr. Connell requested the Board's feelings with

*Approved recommendations received for the Committee on Special Education*

*Approved the appointment of Sara Purdy, substitute teacher*

*Approved the District's Revised Safety Plan*

*Approved the appointment of the spring coaching staff*

*Approved the appointment of Andrea Faris, substitute teacher*

regard to dropping the driver education course. It was the overall consensus of the Board that driver education classes continue to be offered to our students. Their comments included “let’s keep it”, “it is practicable and tangible”, “it is a supervised driving opportunity”, “and we want them to survive”. Mr. Tomaselli will check with a friend from Fuccillo who may provide a car.

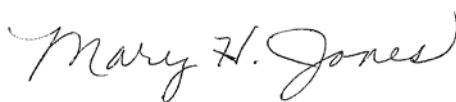
- Annual Budget Vote and Board of Education Election Vote – Due to the State’s outlawing the use of old lever voting machines, Mr. Connell noted that Lewis County Board of Elections has consented to provide the District with an Optical Scanner, ballots, transportation of the machine and four trained election inspectors.
- For the 2016 – 2017 school year, Mr. Connell asked the Board if they were willing to consider reducing the number of school newsletter editions to one at the beginning of the school year, a budget document, and bi-monthly editions. Much of the news contained in the newsletters is on the web site and facebook page. It was the consensus of the Board that this would be a good time and cost saving measure.
- Mr. Connell inquired as to whether the Board wanted the senior advisors, Cathy Snyder and Ginnie Hovendon, and students to present with regard to the planned senior trip to Florida which will occur April 26 through April 30. The Board is very much interested in having them present; Mr. Connell will schedule them to come to a Board Meeting.
- Although we have been following CDC protocol, Head Lice protocol will change within the District. The nurse will perform head checks in the classroom when warranted.
- 2016 – 2017 School calendar. Superintendent Connell distributed a draft of the proposed school calendar which includes Superintendent’s Conference days on August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, with classes beginning on August 31 and continuing on September 1; Labor Day Holiday is September 2 – 5. He said the Faculty must agree, but having the extra days will take away the risk of closing school when inclement weather arrives.
- We received the Comptroller’s Stress Report of the financial status of the District. There is no stress whatsoever due to the District’s fund balance.
- The wrestling coaches have requesting combining the Beaver River – Copenhagen teams again next year. It was a positive experience for both teams this year.

On motion of Alfred Tomaselli, seconded by Lynn Murray, the Board voted to allow an insurance buyout plan for selected retirees over 65 years old.

VOTE: YES 6; NO – 0;

At 7:59 p.m. and on motion of Keith Lee, seconded by Koreen Freeman, the Board voted to adjourn.

VOTE: YES 6; NO – 0;



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School District Clerk

*Approved  
insurance  
buyout plan for  
selected  
retirees over  
65*