

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, held on October 27, 2020, online via Zoom.

Present:

(Board)

(Administration)

Ms. Mary Lou Lauchert, President
Ms. Melinda Leising, Vice-president
Ms. Megan Burdick
Mr. Sam Catterson
Mr. Kevin Magdon
Dr. Luke Perry
Ms. Erica Shaw

Dr. Stephen L. Grimm, Superintendent
Mr. Joseph Barretta, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mrs. Debora Van Slyke, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Kathleen Fonda, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Ellen Leuthauser, Elementary School Principal
Dr. Shaun Carney, Middle School Principal
Dr. Matthew Lee, High School Principal

District Clerk: Julia A. Scranton

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lauchert called the meeting to order at 5:33pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Clinton Central School Proudly educates and empowers all students to realize their potential in becoming thoughtful, empathetic and contributing members of society.

4. PUBLIC HEARING: DISTRICTWIDE SAFETY PLAN

Dr. Grimm reviewed changes in the District Safety Plan as discussed and developed by the District Safety Committee. No questions arose.

5. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

CTA President John King thanked the Board and Principals for their continuous support of teachers, the custodial staff and bus drivers. He expressed concerns about the health, safety and stress levels of the teaching staff. He said that many teachers are struggling, and this has affected their personal lives as well as their profession. He suggested that, if one student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, the school be shut down for two weeks. A gift from the CTA for the Board members will be delivered through the Superintendent’s Office.

6. INFORMATION-REPORTS-PROPOSAL/SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

A. Bright Spots

Recognition of Board Members

Dr. Grimm thanked Board members for their hard work and dedication. He displayed a copy of the Governor's Proclamation stating the same, and a personalized gift that will be given to each Board member as a small token of the District's appreciation.

Alyssa Sacco, PR Assistant

Dr. Grimm introduced BOCES employee Alyssa Sacco who will be working at CCS part-time to help the District accomplish a long-standing goal regarding improved communication. She is currently auditing the website and creating a Facebook page while assisting the District with communications.

Administrators' Reports

Elementary Principal Ellen Leuthauser reported that the monthly student supply pick-up has been working well. The 100% virtual teachers have been doing an outstanding job, while laying groundwork for others in the event that the school is required to shut down. Mrs. Moshier and Mrs. McNichol are addressing the socio-emotional needs of students through "Puppet Stories". Students are making cards for nursing home residents, many of whom, due to COVID-19, have had no visitors for several months. The Mighty Milers were awarded a boxful of books for miles run, which they donated to the school library. A huge thank you to Teaching Assistant Nancy Lillibrige and her husband, who have created an efficient and safe dismissal procedure.

Middle school principal Dr. Shaun Carney shared information regarding an online program built by highly credentialed college students offering a menu of non-credit bearing courses that may be used to supplement student learning.

Dr. Matt Lee, high school principal, reported that 53 students took the PSAT tests, including a few who were quarantined. Thank you to our custodial staff, especially Jason Tague, for setting up the physical space needed.

Four students received Letters of Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program based on their 2019 PSAT results. They are Katie Dewhurst, James Bart Hearn, Olive Niccoli and Madeline Walters. Twenty-two students participated in a Fall Clean-up Day at the Kirkland Town Library, beautifying the grounds for this important community partner.

We are grateful to District resident Laura Fuller who has been filling in at the high school guidance office for the past few weeks, and will be departing early next week. Thank you, Laura!

Ms. Lauchert was called away at 6:07pm for a family emergency.

B. Superintendent's Report

Professional Development

Dr. Grimm displayed a chart listing the many professional development offerings that occurred for staff members on the October 9th Superintendent's Conference Day. Many thanks to Professional Development Coordinator Amie Johnson and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Deb Van Slyke for developing and executing this important learning opportunity.

Budget Development Calendar

The proposed 2021-2022 Budget Development Calendar created by Assistant Superintendent for Business Joseph Barretta was reviewed. The calendar includes state mandated deadlines and coordinated Board and committee meeting dates to facilitate compliance. As in past years,

Districtwide leadership will be involved in the process, and focus forums will be scheduled. This year will be a difficult considering predicted shortfalls in state aid. Forecasting begins in January with fine tuning occurring through the months of February and March, and budget adoption in April. Hopefully, the vote will occur as usual in May.

Mr. Barretta clarified that state analysis continues on a month to month basis. So far, take backs have not occurred, but there is no word yet for 2021-2022. A thorough reduction/addition analysis will occur throughout the process.

Capital Project Update

Outside of a few minor punch-out items, the Capital Project is essentially completed. Final required paperwork can now be submitted to the state. The Facilities Committee will meet in December to begin work on the next five-year plan.

ESSA Plan Updates

Dr. Grimm reviewed the federal Every Student Succeeds Act noting the impact of COVID-19 on the accountability requirements, which have been delayed or extended. He reviewed the seven measures of success utilized to determine school status. Progress toward long-term goals are measured in small yearly increments, MIPS, or measures of interim progress. These analyses resulted in the designation of the high school as a recognition school, the elementary school as a school in good standing, and the middle school as a school in need of targeted support and improvement.

A District Comprehensive Improvement Plan was submitted to the state in August and a School Improvement Plan is pending with a deadline yet to be determined. Federal funding is being provided over a two year period totaling \$150,000 to support improvement plans and actions. Several curricular improvements have been made and resources acquired toward this end.

Re-opening Plan – Phase 2

Dr. Grimm displayed results of a survey that was sent to elementary parents and teachers regarding the possibility of students attending five half-days per week which indicated a lack of support. Alternate plans are being examined, including the re-configuring of on-campus classrooms, and the use of off-campus space, in order to offer in-person instruction more frequently. Any change would not likely occur before January. Suggestions are welcome.

In response to Board member questions, Ms. Leuthauser reported that 20% of elementary students are learning 100% virtually, and that on asynchronous days, students are largely on their own. “Just in Case” scenarios are distributed every week to staff and parents. Accommodations present challenges.

Dr. Grimm shared a virtual teacher’s typical daily/weekly schedule. He explained that some middle school/high school teachers are livestreaming, which perhaps could be introduced at the 5th grade level.

Mrs. Kathy Fonda, Director of Pupil Personnel Services added that special education teachers at the elementary school are already livestreaming successfully with students, providing required services.

The middle and high school currently have no dedicated 100% virtual teachers, but rather a combination. Examination of what the next iteration would look like in those buildings is in process, and a survey will be distributed to parents and teachers. Dr. Carney mentioned that a grade 6-12 leadership team meeting will occur on Thursday.

Athletics

Dr. Grimm reminded attendees that guidelines for athletics are different from guidelines for PE classes. Winter sports pose a higher risk, and it remains to be seen whether or not that season will proceed. It was suggested that coaches may need to remind students frequently about required guidelines, and that although guidelines are provided, the District is not prevented from enforcing even tighter restrictions. Dr. Grimm agreed that reminders and reinforcements are necessary with young people, even though there have been no known cases transmitted through athletic programs.

Wastewater Surveillance

Dr. Grimm informed Board members that this surveillance of wastewater provides one more data point to consider when analyzing potential COVID-19 exposure. Two sources are measured weekly: the middle school alone, and the elementary/high school together. The last two tests taken showed no evidence of the virus, although there was a slight incidence a few weeks earlier. Still, the District must always operate as though the virus were prevalent. Mr. Steve Bellona, Mayor of Clinton, has been extremely helpful with data analysis.

Positive Cases and Quarantines

Dr. Grimm explained that the Department of Health notifies him regarding any positive lab results for our students and staff. He also receives information, unofficially, from families directly. He then informs the Department of Health who confirms results and begins detailed contact tracing. The findings in each particular instance determine what action is taken, and to what extent.

He also displayed typical data that the nursing staff receives from the required daily health screening. Any alerts are followed up through personal contact with the family, and then, if needed with the Department of Health. A daily report is filed as well with the NYS Department of Health.

Dr. Grimm indicated that he will be scheduling weekly safety focus forums to help inform staff about this detailed process.

7. STANDING RESOLUTIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (6, 0) to combine items 7A through 7J.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (6, 0) to approve items 7A through 7J.

- A. Agenda and Any Additions to the Agenda for October 27, 2020
- B. Minutes from the Special Meeting held on September 22, 2020
- C. Summary Treasurer's Report for September 2020
- D. Treasurer's Report for September 2020
- E. Executive Summary for September 2020
- F. Extra-classroom Treasurer's Report for August 2020

G. Extra-classroom Treasurer’s Report for September 2020

H. Revenues/expenditures by Month

I. Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) and Committee on Special Education (CSE) Report:

Initial Review	0
Program Review	5
Annual Review	1
Reevaluation (Triennial)	0
Administrative Transfer	6
Preschool	7
504 Review	4
504 Initial	2
Amendment w/o Meeting Held	2

J. Updated List of Substitute and Supervisory Personnel

8. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee

Dr. Perry reported that the committee had recently received a large number of updates from NYSSBA which are under review. It was suggested that mask wearing be made part of the Code of Conduct. Two policies are on tonight’s agenda for a first reading.

2. Safety Committee

In Ms. Lauchert’s absence, Dr. Grimm reported that the committee discussed the District Safety Plan which is on tonight’s agenda for approval. The committee will reconvene at a later date to include athletics in the discussion.

B. Liaisons

1. CCSD Foundation

Mr. Catterson was impressed with the hard work, and value of the donations made by the Foundation since its inception. Although there will be no fundraising this year due to COVID-19, support is still available. Teachers are encouraged to bring their ideas forward.

2. School Board Institute

Ms. Burdick reported that she and Ms. Leising attended the “Meet the Candidates” forum where they were given the opportunity to speak with political candidates and incumbents. Candidates from both parties hoped to influence the way federal funding for schools is distributed, funneling funds through the education department rather than the state comptroller’s office.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy

1. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #8210, Use of Security Cameras in the District, be adopted.

NOTE: This is a first reading. No action necessary.

2. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #5151, Homeless Children, be adopted.

NOTE: This is the first reading. No action necessary.

A motion was made by Ms. Burdick, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- B. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts a \$4,000 donation from the Clinton Sports Boosters to support the Clinton Warriors girls' ice hockey program.

\$4,000 TA085 Hockey

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- C. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts a \$4,217 donation for the Elementary Playground Project:

Hannaford Helps Schools Program \$4,217.00

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- D. BE IT RESOLVED that the contract for services between the Town of Kirkland, the Village of Clinton, Hamilton College and the Clinton Central School District and Quadrant Viro Testing LLC to conduct wastewater COVID-19 testing, be approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Catterson, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- E. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with Board Policy #6150, the attached 2020-2021 line item budget transfers, be approved.

Description	Account Code	Increase	Decrease	
Operations Contractual	A1620.400.00	\$17,000		To pay for COVID-19 sewage testing completed by Quadrant Viral Testing, LLC
School Construction Interest	A9711.700.00		\$17,000	

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Catterson, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- F. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the sale of two school buses through Auction International:

<u>Bus Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Make</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
45	2010	International	66
46	2011	International	66

A motion was made by Ms. Burdick, seconded by Dr. Perry, to approve the following resolution. No vote occurred.

A discussion took place regarding potential safety issues that might arise in high risk sports such as hockey. Dr. Grimm assured the Board that the District would adhere to Department of Health and NYS guidelines, if the winter sports season occurs at all. The benefit of offering athletic opportunities to students was evident as the fall sports season unfolded.

A motion was made by Ms. Leising, seconded by Mr. Catterson, and carried (6, 0) to withdraw the previous motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Catterson to table item 9G. No one seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Shaw and carried (5, 1), with Mr. Catterson voting no, to approve the following resolution:

G. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the memorandum of agreement and list of participating school districts in the Girls Varsity Hockey Program, pending receipt of a fully executed combining agreement and current certificate of insurance, be approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

H. BE IT RESOLVED that, in response to the examination prepared by the D’Arcangelo & Co., LLP, covering the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 of the Extra-classroom Activity Fund, the corresponding corrective action plan submitted to NYSED by the Clinton Central School District, be accepted and made part of this school district’s records.

10. OTHER

A motion was made by Ms. Burdick, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

A. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the District Safety Committee, the District-wide Safety Plan, in accordance with Section 1553.17 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, be adopted.

11. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No one wished to speak.

12. PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

A. BOARD RESOLUTION –TENURE APPOINTMENTS FOR TEACHERS OR PRINCIPALS SUBJECT TO APPR REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, Education Law section 3012 presently allows the Superintendent to recommend for appointment on tenure those persons who have been found competent, efficient and satisfactory and, in the case of a classroom teacher or building principal who received composite annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to either Sections 3012-c or 3012-d of the Education Law, who have received a composite annual professional performance review rating of either effective or highly effective in at least three of the four preceding years; and

WHEREAS, such section also presently authorizes the Board of Education to grant tenure contingent upon a teacher or principal’s receipt of a minimum rating in the final year of the probationary period, and if such contingency is not met after all appeals have been exhausted, the grant of tenure shall be void and unenforceable and the teacher's or principal's probationary period may be extended;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the appointment on tenure of the following individuals, contingent upon the receipt of a minimum rating in the final year of the probationary period as the above-referenced provision of the Education Law presently requires:

Name	Tenure Area	Effective Date
Alexandra Roy	Elementary	11/13/2020

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- B. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following musical accompanists for the 2020-2021 school year to be compensated in a total amount not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$2000, be approved.

Karen Corigliano, Jane Beck, Jessica Decker, Bob Ford, Jesse Sproll, Bonnie Hibbard, John Krause, Mark Bunce, Kathy Austin, Kathy Wyrasz, Fiona Peters and Randy Davis, Tina Toglia and Colleen Spellman.

A motion was made by Mr. Catterson, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- C. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Anthony Sirianni to the four year probationary tenure track position of school social worker at Step 1MA, in accordance with the current CTA agreement, effective December 14, 2020 through December 13, 2024, except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law § 3014, in order to be granted tenure, the appointee must receive composite of overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law § 3012-c or § 3012-d of either effective or highly effective in at least three of the four preceding years, and if the appointee receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period he shall not be eligible for tenure at that time, be approved.

13. QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Shaw asked when in-person Board meeting were expected to resume. Dr. Grimm responded that it is not yet possible. Dr. Perry added that this was discussed by the Policy Committee as well. Dr Grimm reminded Board members that the Capital Project tour took place at 4:00pm today will be available for viewing on YouTube.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to go into executive session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law, and the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. The time was 9:10pm.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Magdon, and carried (6, 0) to return to regular session. The time was 9:31pm.

15. ADDENDUM

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION RATIFYING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the Clinton Central School District (“District”) and the Clinton Administrators’ Association (“CAA”) have reached a tentative agreement concerning a successor collective bargaining agreement (“Agreement”) covering the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Education, having been advised by the CAA that it has properly approved and/or ratified said tentative agreement, hereby ratifies the terms of said successor agreement and authorizes the Superintendent to execute the Agreement on behalf of the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board hereby approves the appropriation of any additional funds necessary to implement the terms of said successor agreement.

16. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Burdick and carried (6, 0) to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia A. Scranton
District Clerk