

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, held on December 15, 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
Dr. Matthew Lee, High School Principal
Dr. Shaun Carney, Middle School Principal

Ms. Julia A Scranton, District Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Lauchert called the meeting to order at 5:35pm

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Lauchert read the mission statement.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No one wished to speak.

5. INFORMATION-REPORTS-PROPOSAL/SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

A. Bright Spots – Dr. Stephen Grimm

Dr. Grimm, Superintendent, reported that the Girls Varsity Hockey Team, had assembled and delivered holiday gift baskets to essential workers at St. Luke’s hospital to thank them for their heroic efforts and to keep them energized during their busy work days. The team received their 2020 championship rings last week.

Recognition was given to school social worker Mary Hosey-Pardi who will be leaving CCS after 20 years of service, having positively impacted the lives of countless students and families. She will be missed!

Dr. Grimm displayed photos showing what the school experience looked like last year at this time, with students unmasked, engaged, and in close contact -the piece that we have all been missing since March.

The accomplishments of fall sports teams were summarized, each enjoying successful seasons. To offset restricted attendance, athletic contests were broadcast CCS TV via YouTube. Thank you to theater manager Keith DeStefanis for making this possible.

NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Varsity Team Awards for fall 2020 were announced. The award requires that 75% of the team roster has a cumulative GPA of 90 or better. Teams awarded are:
Boys' Cross Country: 92.78 avg.
Girls' Cross Country: 96.22 avg.
Field Hockey: 93.69 avg.
Boys' Soccer: 91.27 avg.
Girls' Soccer: 95.72 avg.
Girls' Tennis: 95.77 avg.

Girls' soccer, tennis and cross country enjoyed undefeated seasons. Field hockey finished with a 10-1-1 record, and senior Gianni Trunfio, Clinton all time high scorer, will continue to play at Vassar. In all sports, several team members achieved all-star status.

In Ms. Leuthauser's absence, Dr. Grimm reported that elementary school social worker Mrs. Moshier, along with TA Mrs. McNichol, addressed socio-emotional needs of students using puppets, completing follow-up assignments at home. Grade 3 ELA classes partnered with the art department to create visual representations of the literary device onomatopoeia in the style of pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. Grade 5 students will be participating in an Hour of Code and a Choice Board project to learn more about digital citizenship and safe computer practices, coming together with classmates in breakout rooms. Teachers Paige Culver and Heather Cirelli presented, "Google Classroom for the Elementary School" at the NYSCATE conference, and participated in 30 workshops over the four day event. Both teachers were instrumental in facilitating remote learning in their location.

Middle school principal Dr. Shaun Carney reported that the 4th annual "Stuff the Bus" challenge was the most successful yet. Organized by middle school guidance counselor Danielle Tesak, students in all three buildings, thanks to the generosity of community members and businesses, were able to collect and donate over 300 toys. In addition, middle school student council held a hat day, raising \$117 for the Veterans Outreach Center in Utica. CCS families will benefit from the 354 items collected in the food drive which will be combined with funds raised by the middle school coin drive and donations from high school student council and businesses, to help families in need during the holidays. Some funds will be held in reserve for families who continue to suffer due to COVID related issues.

Middle school 8th grade student council officers were fortunate to have attended a virtual leadership conference led by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. They will share what they learned with other members. Art club members enjoyed creating and sharing gratitude wreaths. To celebrate World Kindness Day on November 13th, Rachel's Warriors, assisted by ELA teachers, wrote letters to nursing home residents who have been isolated. Thank you elementary teacher Tracy Abrams for facilitating their delivery. Nineteen students participated in the middle school virtual science fair which was adjudicated by Hamilton College science majors. The top 10 winners will go on to compete at the Regional Utica College Virtual Science Fair in March. Dr. Carney displayed a photo of teacher Beth Baker's simultaneous streaming "Command Center", which allows her to teach both online and in-person.

Dr. Matt Lee, high school principal, reported that the weekly Warrior News video is available on the high school webpage. Students are extending their coverage into the community. Attendees

had the opportunity to view the latest edition. The newscast is part of Mrs. Pavone's high school multi-media class.

Social studies teacher Brian McIntosh led a holiday food drive for the Feed Our Vets program. High school student council collected 120 coats, under the supervision of students Bart Hearn and Katie Dewhurst, to be donated to the Refugee Center. Student council is advised by Math teacher Michele Dunn. A gift-giving drive led by outgoing social worker Mary Hosey-Pardi raised \$1,960 used to purchase gift cards that were distributed to 28 families. Thank you to all who contributed including Altieri's Restaurant who donated food baskets, delivered by PE teacher Mike Tesak, and Clinton Tractor who donated turkeys for needy families.

A successful blood drive was held on November 25 where 27 pints of blood were collected from 25 donors which will positively impact 81 lives. Fifty-one students were inducted into Clinton's Chapter of the National Honor Society on November 18 in a virtual ceremony that is available to view on CCS TV. Special thanks to Mrs. Dunn, advisor, Mrs. Pavone and Mr. Gaetano, art teachers, and Mr. DeStefanis, theater manager for making this possible.

B. Superintendent's Report

Targeted School for Improvement Process

Dr. Grimm reported that the required District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP) had been submitted to the State Education Department in August and that a School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) is due at the end of December. A team whose members represent a spectrum of constituencies have been meeting throughout the month of November and December to develop the SCEP, identifying five overarching themes based on information collected from surveys, classroom visits, and interviews. The finalized plan will be presented to the Board for approval on January 12. Implementation will continue through this year, the 2021-2022 school year, and beyond. Ms. Shaw stated serving on the development team was both pleasant and enlightening.

COVID Update

Dr. Grimm explained the process used to make the decision to go to remote learning, and the multiple factors considered. He displayed statistical graphs indicating the progress of the virus in each school building. Since data alone is not entirely reliable, physical and emotional well-being, and educational equity and fidelity are key considerations. It has been observed by Board members that the quality of remote instruction is inconsistent. Sixteen hundred COVID rapid tests have been earmarked for the District in the event that CCS is designated as a yellow zone, which would then require testing 20% of the school population over a two week period until the designation is lifted.

Instructional Model Update

Analysis of physical space in the elementary school continues in order to decide whether or not every day in-person instruction for grades K-2 is possible. The surge in COVID cases will likely cause delays. The high school and middle school continue to live-stream to the opposing cohort, and Wednesday remains an asynchronous learning day. The CCS Foundation has offered to help with the purchase of equipment/supplies needed to facilitate virtual learning.

Budget Communication Cycle

Dr. Grimm reviewed the process by which decisions are made regarding reductions/ additions, or readjustments to the expenditure budget involving meetings with the leadership and extended

leadership team, budget workshops, focus forums, PTA town hall meetings, and input from student council.

Budget Presentation: Debt Service and Tax Cap Calculation

Mr. Joseph Barretta, Assistant Superintendent for Business, explained that debt service numbers are made up of principal and interest payments for building projects, an energy performance contract and bus purchases. Due to lower than anticipated interest rates, and the falling off of BAN borrowing, a savings of \$317,000, or 13.48%, is expected.

At 7:30pm, Ms. Lauchert excused herself from the meeting.

The tax levy limit, as explained by Mr. Barretta, is a multi-step calculation based on the local Consumer Price Index (1.23%), the Tax Base Growth Factor (.79%), PILOT Programs, and Local Capital Levy. The current calculation of 0.06% allows taxes totaling \$16,146,277 to be collected, remaining nearly flat from last year. Forthcoming information may alter this number including the Governor’s Budget due to be announced in January.

Communication Survey

Dr. Grimm informed the Board that a communications survey will be going out in early January, to determine community contact preferences, especially for those not directly affiliated with the school.

6. STANDING RESOLUTIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

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

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Perry and carried (6, 0) to approve items 6A through 6I.

- A. Agenda and Any Additions to the Agenda for December 15, 2020
- B. Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on November 17, 2020
- C. Summary Treasurer’s Report for November 2020
- D. Treasurer’s Report for November 2020
- E. Executive Summary for November 2020
- F. Revenues/expenditures by Month
- G. Extra-classroom Treasurer’s Report for November 2020
- H. Committee on Preschool Special Education and Committee on Special Education (CSE) Report:

Initial Review	3
Program Review	7
Annual Review	1
Reevaluation (Triennial)	0

Administrative Transfer	0
Preschool	5
504 Review	6
504 Initial	0
Amendment w/o Meeting Held	1

I. Updated List of Substitute and Supervisory Personnel

7. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Committees

1. Finance Committee – Ms. Mary Lou Lauchert

In Ms. Lauchert’s absence, Mr. Catterson reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the budget presentation regarding debt service and the tax cap calculation.

Liaisons

2. School Board Institute – Ms. Megan Burdick

Ms. Burdick reported that the SBI Executive Committee met on December 7. The SBI Legislative Position was finalized, and Distinguished Service Award recipients, Mr. Batson, Poland CSD Board Member, and Mr. Chuck Chafee, Former Waterville CSD Superintendent, were honored. The next meeting will take place on January 21 and will address fiscal planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

8. NEW BUSINESS

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

A. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the sale of two portable generators through Auction International:

Tag #	Item	Description
Unit #MS	John Deere 6 Cylinder Diesel Engine	2000 Spectrum 100KW Tow Behind Generator
Unit #HS	John Deere 6 Cylinder Diesel Engine	2000 Spectrum 50KW Tow Behind Generator

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

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

Bus Number	Year	Make	Capacity
10	2013	Ford	20
11	2013	Ford	20

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

- C. 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.

9. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No one wished to speak.

10. PERSONNEL

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

- A. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the extension of the unpaid family care leave for Richard Ferrone, elementary school teacher, beginning on December 22, 2020 through March 21, 2021, in accordance with the current CTA agreement, be approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Catterson, 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 extension of the appointment of Katrina Mercer to the position of long-term substitute teacher in the elementary tenure area, at Step 1MA, beginning December 22, 2020 through March 21, 2021, be approved.

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

- C. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following co-curricular appointments for the 2020-2021 school year, to be compensated in accordance with Article 15 of the CTA contract, be approved:

Samantha DiPietro High School Musical Choreographer

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

- D. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following placements be approved:

- 1. Stacy Del Mastro (SUNY Oneonta), student teaching under the supervision of elementary teacher Laura Pominville.

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

- E. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Laura Fuller to the position of long-term substitute guidance counselor to be

compensated at step 4MA, in accordance with the current CTA agreement, beginning on October 7, 2020 through November 6, 2020, be approved.

NOTE: This action formalizes Ms. Fuller's emergency appointment on October 7, 2020.

12. QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Grimm reminded Board members that there is a need for a special meeting on January 12, 2021 for the approval of the SCEP Plan. The meeting will most likely include only a presentation followed by the vote.

13. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Burdick, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (6, 0) to adjourn the meeting. The time was 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia A. Scranton
District Clerk