

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, held on January 12, 2021 online via Zoom.

Present:

(Board)

(Administration)

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
Dr. Shaun Carney, Middle School Principal

Ms. Julia A Scranton, District Clerk

Absent: Ms. Mary Lou Lauchert, President

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Leising read the mission statement.

4. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No one wished to speak.

5. INFORMATION-REPORTS-PROPOSAL/SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

A. Superintendent's Report

School Comprehensive Education Plan Review

Dr. Grimm began by explaining that the School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP), in response to the middle school's Targeted School for Improvement designation and ESSA requirements, was developed and submitted to NYSED at the end of December. This was preceded by the required submission of a District Comprehensive Improvement Plan (DCIP), largely an outgrowth of the Vision 2025 Strategic Plan, at the end of August.

An eighteen-member comprehensive District Leadership Team met three times to review goals, state standards and requirements, survey results and multiple sources of data as it applied to middle school students. The resulting recommendations and on-site needs assessment contributed to the identification of five over-arching themes to be addressed.

In December, the School Leadership Team comprised of teachers, administrators, consultants

and students worked to develop the detailed five goal SCEP taking into consideration priorities identified in the DCIP, and improvements already mobilized. Dr. Grimm reviewed each of the five goals, diagnostics utilized, actions planned that include summer enrichment activities, and the timeline for implementation and assessment. Continual monitoring and reflection will help to stay the course, and lay groundwork for the next DCIP and SCEP iterations for 2021-2022. He added that success necessitates sustainable corrections, rewritten curriculum, and intervention on a daily basis.

Dr. Grimm reported how Title 1 School Improvement Grant money received by the District is funding required targeted activities, stipends for committee participants and consultants, and professional development.

Dr. Grimm clarified for Board members, as theorized in the root cause sections of Goal 1 (ELA) and 2 (Math), how gaps in learning may have occurred as students progress through grade levels. The lack of a consistent, systemic assessment system may contribute to this as well as Learning Center and Resource Room misuse.

6. NEW BUSINESS

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

A. **BOARD RESOLUTION APPROVING PAID LEAVE FOR NON-EXEMPT HOURLY EMPLOYEES DURING SCHOOL CLOSURE PERIOD**

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has resulted in the Federal, State and County governments declaring various states of emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Executive declared a state of emergency on March 13, 2020 and closed all public schools in Oneida County due to the threat from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton Central School District (“District”) desires to pay its regularly employed hourly non-exempt District employees during the closure of traditional District operations (presently, December 14, 2020 through January 29, 2021 but subject to modification in order to be consistent with applicable law and regulations) (the “closure period”) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Board of Education hereby declares the COVID-19 pandemic is an emergency for the District.
2. To the extent not already provided for in a collective bargaining agreement or board policy, regularly employed hourly non-exempt employees shall receive paid leave to the extent such employees are not assigned to work during the closure period. The paid leave is meant to make such employees whole and shall be consistent with such employees’ salaries during regular school district operations.

3. The Superintendent is further authorized to enter into and execute any necessary Memorandums of Understanding with the respective bargaining units to effectuate the terms of this resolution.
4. This resolution shall apply only for the specific and limited purpose of addressing the unique challenges presented by the outbreak of COVID-19. It shall not set any precedent or practice regarding any aspect of the Resolution.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried in a roll call vote as follows: Dr. Perry, aye; Ms. Shaw, aye; Mr. Magdon, aye; Mr. Catterson, aye; Ms. Leising, aye; and Ms. Burdick, aye to approve the following resolution:

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMENCEMENT OF VAPING LITIGATION

WHEREAS, in recent years the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices has increased dramatically among high school and middle school students, leading to significant risks of addiction and potentially life threatening respiratory ailments;

WHEREAS, makers of e-cigarettes, including the Juul Labs, Inc. have engaged in marketing practices that have targeted children, endangering the health of millions of children who have become addicted to nicotine and nicotine products;

WHEREAS, the use of e-cigarettes and vapid devices by students has caused the district to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has been invited to join a nation-wide lawsuit by school districts against Juul Labs, Inc. the largest seller of e-cigarettes in the United States and other parties responsible for the production, marketing, sale and distribution of e-cigarettes and vaping devices;

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to join this lawsuit to discourage the proliferation of e-cigarettes, end the marketing of e-cigarettes to children, and seek compensation for harm caused to the District due to e-cigarette use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby resolves:

1. To appoint the law firms of Bond Schoeneck & King, PLLC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC to provide legal services in connection with pursuing claims for damages associated with the Juul Electronic Cigarette litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and others consistent with the recitals above;
2. To approve the contract for such legal services; and
3. To authorize the Superintendent to take all steps necessary to become an active co-plaintiff to litigation filed on behalf of school districts by Bond Schoeneck & King and the Frantz Law Group.

7. OTHER

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

- A. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the School Comprehensive Education Plan required to be submitted to the NYS Department of Education, as related to the Targeted School for Improvement process for the Middle School, be approved.

Dr. Perry thanked administrators and committee members for time and effort spent toward the development of the plan.

8. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

No one wished to speak.

9. QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nothing discussed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Burdick, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to adjourn the meeting. The time was 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia A Scranton
District Clerk