

Official minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, held on February 15, 2022.

Present:

(Board)

(Administration)

Ms. Melinda Leising, President
Ms. Mary Lou Lauchert, Vice-president
Dr. Lyndsey Bauer
Ms. Megan Burdick
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. Matthew Lee, High School Principal
Ms. Ellen Leuthauser, Elementary Principal
Ms. Erin Eagan, Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Ms. Julia A. Scranton, District Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Leising called the meeting to order at 4:37pm.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Lauchert, and carried (7, 0) to go into executive session to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation, 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 5:39pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (7, 0) to return to regular session. The time was 5:28pm.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Leising read the mission statement.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

District parent Mary Kay Vatalaro-Tyksinski recounted the effects that the February 3rd hold-in-place caused by the vaping incident had on her child. She was disappointed in the lack of communication from the District as the incident was occurring, indicating a lack of leadership. Policies are not being followed.

District parent Marie Constantino requested transparency regarding the mishandling of the Middle School Career Day presentation. Parents have been asking for exact content so that they can address questions and concerns from their children, and should have been given prior knowledge. She stated that she was speaking for community members who would not come forward for fear of retaliation.

District parent Michele Thompson spoke about the negative effects of mask wearing. Children are being deprived of their right to fresh air, and she is bothered by the behavior of staff members pressuring children to comply with rules. She is upset that her children are excluded from activities because they are not vaccinated and encourages the administration to do what is best for children.

Resident Mary Ellen McDonough asked how COVID relief funds were spent by the District. Assistant Superintendent for Joseph Barretta offered to send her a breakdown. A report is also posted on the website.

District parent Sam Constantino echoed his wife Marie's sentiments about how people do not come forward for fear of retaliation. He questioned what he saw as the Superintendent's interference in sports team selection at the modified level this past fall. Dr. Grimm stated that athletic policy does not allow cuts at the modified level. A heated exchange occurred, and a five minute recess was called by the Board President.

6. INFORMATION-REPORTS-PROPOSAL/SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

A Bright Spots

Administrators Reports

Elementary principal Ellen Leuthauser reported that, despite many challenges, good things are still happening. Teachers found the professional development half-day in January to be productive, analyzing data and planning subsequent interventions. Building meetings have been occurring giving staff a platform to voice and discuss concerns. Staff members were given the opportunity to meet with architects to input ideas for the upcoming project.

The elementary science fair will occur on March 4. A wonderful band concert involving 79 students was held in-person under the expert baton of teacher Hilary Lopata. Second grade activities included an hour of coding with teacher Amie Johnson, a "Twosday" Celebration on 2/22/22, Valentine's Day, and the recognition of the 100th day of school. The socio-emotional needs of students have been addressed utilizing the K-2 Color Monsters program and the 3-5 Spot Program, giving students the tools and the vocabulary to identify and express their emotions. In heART class, students created drawings employing symmetry and positive/negative space, tying into ideas on the impact of positive and negative word and actions. Teacher Amy Randall is in the process of organizing an intramural field hockey program for girls in grades 3 – 6.

In middle school principal Dr. Carney's absence, Ms. Leuthauser reported that the artwork of two middle school students, 6th graders Karnelia Samoshuk and Delilah Forbes, have been chosen for display at the 32nd Annual Virtual Legislative Student Art Exhibit. Congratulations to our students and to art teacher Amy Pape for this achievement. The Middle School Leo's Club hosted a Valentine's Day activity night offering a safe space for supervised student social interaction. P2 Warriors collected cash, gift cards and supplies to be donated to the Clinton Cat Rescue. The club is also participating in the Great Kindness Challenge, encouraging Random Acts of Kindness to be performed on February 17. We could all learn from their example.

High school principal Dr. Matthew Lee announced that a blood drive will take place on February 25 from 11am to 4pm in the high school gym. Congratulations to high school science teacher Frank Aurigema who has been chosen to participate in the New York State Master Teacher's Program after completing a vigorous application process.

The Science Olympiad team is headed to a state level competition after placing third in a regional contest. Best of luck! The team is advised by high school science teacher Kathleen Washburn. On

March 10th through 12th, high school students will present the musical *The Addams Family* in the theater starting at 7:30pm.

Dr. Grimm thanked staff members for warmly welcoming Mrs. Erin Eagan to her new role as Interim Director of Pupil Personnel Services. She has already displayed great aptitude, competence, caring and character.

B. Superintendent's Report

COVID Update

Dr. Grimm reported that District continues to see low numbers of cases and quarantines due to COVID. Masks are still mandatory unless the Governor and State Education Department decide otherwise. He will be seeking input from the community through Parent Square if the decision to unmask becomes a local one. Distribution of home test kits will take place before vacation.

He also reported that work has progressed on the improvement of the guest speaker application process including a regulation detailing how decisions are to be made. He displayed a Plus/Delta document analyzing the response to the February 3rd vaping incident indicating what elements were strong and what needed to be strengthened. He explained the type of situation that typically warrants a hold-in-place, but in the case of this particular incident, turned into something more as multiple cases revealed themselves. Improvements listed include better communication, socio-emotional after-care for staff, and educational opportunities for parents and students.

Budget Presentation

Assistant Superintendent for Business Joseph Barretta presented projected budget numbers in the categories of General Support, Transportation, Athletics, and Co-curricular expenses. He highlighted changes under General Support that are not typical or contractually driven including newly required insurance expenses and savings in maintenance/operations. An overall increase of 2.14% is anticipated.

Transportation expenses are expected to increase by 3.8%, largely due to an overall salary increase. Three buses be replaced next year, in accordance with the Transportation Study's recommended cycle. The District will receive 67.7% state aid on the \$321,624 purchase, the balance of which comes out of the general budget. This schedule ties in nicely with the potential requirement to use electric vehicles by 2035.

Co-curricular expenses are expected to increase by 3.2% mostly due to stipends. Athletic expenses are expected to increase by 1% largely due to pay for officials set by Section III.

Dr. Grimm added that the District is looking at the possibility of adding staff to help address behavior management and anxiety. Space and class size is a consideration.

He and Mr. Barretta made attendees aware of grant money available for the creation of a universal pre-K. An RFP will be sent to qualifying local entities. This is the first year that CCS has qualified for this grant.

7. STANDING RESOLUTIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

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

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Mr. Magdon, and carried (7, 0) to approve items 7A through 7E.

- A. Agenda and Any Additions to the Agenda for February 15, 2022
- B. Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on January 25, 2022
- C. Extra-classroom Treasurer’s Report for January 2022
- D. Committee on Preschool Special Education and Committee on Special Education (CSE) Report:

Initial Review	1
Program Review	3
Annual Review	2
Reevaluation (Triennial)	2
Administrative Transfer	0
Preschool	0
504 Review	1
504 Referral	0
Amendment w/o Meeting Held	3
504 Amendment w/o meeting Held	1

- E. Updated List of Substitute and Supervisory Personnel

8. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Liaisons

- 1. School Board Institute

Ms. Burdick reported that meetings with legislators occurred on January 26 & 27, giving school board members the opportunity to voice concerns to be addressed in Albany. An important virtual Fiscal Workshop with advisor Dr. Rick Timbs addressing the use of federal funds will take place tomorrow, and a zoom link has been distributed to Board members.

Ms. Leising asked if the subject of redistricting was discussed at the legislative gathering. Ms. Burdick responded that if discussion took place, she had not been part of it.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Curriculum

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the proposed High School Course Selection Guide for the 2022-2023 school year be approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Burdick, seconded by Ms. Lauchert, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

B. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts two donations for the Elementary School's Playground Project:

Hannaford Helps Schools \$411

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

C. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education approves the disposal of the attached list of obsolete property.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

District parent Sam Catterson said that he was upset due to the lack of leadership. He hopes that the Board is representing the community and is engaging in dialogue. He is supportive of Universal Pre-K but fears that the offering will be inequitable if a private entity is chosen. He expressed concern about potential space issues.

Parent Lauren Brodock sees similar issues occurring in multiple districts. Although adding more support to address student behavior issues is a good idea, much of the student anxiety may be coming from home. Building trusting relationships with parents will result in happier, better behaved children. Problems are solvable. She said that District is lucky to have such wonderful parents.

Dr. Grimm added that meetings have been organized between principals, union representatives and Board Members.

11. PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

A. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following co-curricular appointment for the 2021-2022 school year, to be compensated in accordance with Article 15 of the CTA contract, be approved:

Bonnie Hibbard High School Musical Rehearsal/ Pit Pianist

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

B. TITLE VI AND IX COMPLIANCE OFFICER(S)

BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Ms. Erin Eagan be appointed as Interim Title VI and Title IX Compliance Officer for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Mr. Magdon, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Glenn Kulinski provide temporary services effective Feb 16, 2022 through December 31, 2022 as the Clerk of Works to oversee the Reconstruction – Phase 2 Project on an “as needed” basis. The annual stipend for such appointment shall be \$10,000 (prorated based upon the normal payroll calendar for twelve-month employees).

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- D. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation of Jennifer Ryan from the full time civil service position of cleaner, in accordance with the current CSEA agreement, effective February 4, 2022, be accepted.

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

E. APPROVING REALLOCATION OF BUS DRIVER SALARIES AND MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CLINTON CSD CSEA UNIT

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is cognizant of the difficulties experienced by the District in recruiting and retaining employees in the position of school bus driver; and

WHEREAS, in order to improve the District’s efforts to recruit and retain bus drivers, the Board of Education approves the recommended reallocation of the pay grade of bus drivers to a higher rate for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, effective retroactively to January 1, 2022.; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton Central School District (“District”) and the CSEA Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Clinton CSD Unit 7758 of Oneida County Local 869 (“CSEA”) have reached a separate Memorandum of Agreement (“Agreement”) to modify the parties’ 2019-23 collective bargaining agreement to reflect the reallocated salary schedules for bus drivers for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, effective retroactively to January 1, 2022;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board hereby ratifies and approves the aforesaid reallocation of bus driver salary schedules to a higher pay grade and Agreement with the CSEA and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute said 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 Agreement.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- F. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following coaching appointments for the 2021-2022 school year, to be compensated in accordance with Article 14 of the CTA contract or other agreements/understandings between the District and CTA, pending team formation and fingerprint clearance, be approved.

John	Majka	Boys Varsity Baseball Head Coach
Alex	Dobrzanski	Boys Varsity Baseball Volunteer
Jonathan	Schneider	Boys Varsity Baseball Volunteer
Joseph	Cascella	Boys JV Baseball Head Coach
Kole	Davignon	Boys JV Baseball Volunteer

Juan	Reyes	Boys Modified Baseball Head Coach
Michelle	Van Slyke	Girls Modified Softball Head Coach
William	Owens	Co-ed Varsity Golf Head Coach
Hilary	Lopata	Co-ed Varsity Golf Assistant Coach
Francis	Altieri	Girls Modified Lacrosse Head Coach
Elaine	Hogan	Girls Varsity Softball Head Coach
Bridget	Ashmore	Girls JV Softball Head Coach
Peter	Smith	Boys Varsity Tennis Head Coach
Norm	Deep	Co-ed Varsity Track & Field Head Coach
Rylee	Meelan	Co-ed Varsity Track & Field Assistant Coach
Kevin	Jones	Co-ed Varsity Track & Field Assistant Coach
Stacy	Davignon	Co-ed Modified Track & Field Head Coach
Jon	Davignon	Co-ed Modified Track & Field Assistant Coach
Austen	Johnson	Co-ed Varsity Track & Field Volunteer
Thomas	Willis	Co-ed Varsity Track & Field Volunteer
Norm	Deep	Intramural Fitness Center Coach
Amy	Randall	Intramural Field Hockey Coach
Mackenzie	Roy	Girls Varsity Lacrosse Volunteer

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- G. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Zackary Hubalek to the full time civil service position of cleaner, to be compensated at step 5 in accordance with the current CSEA agreement, pending fingerprint clearance, with a probationary period of 8 to 26 weeks, beginning on February 16, 2022, be approved.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Lauchert, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- H. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation of Thomas Meeker from the full time civil service position of cleaner, in accordance with the current CSEA agreement, effective February 18, 2022, be accepted with regret

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- I. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following placement be approved:
1. Laura Broccoli: Administrative Internship under the supervision of elementary principal Ellen Leuthauser.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- J. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Gloria Piazza to the position of long-term substitute teacher in the special education

tenure area, to be compensated at step 2MA in accordance with the current CTA agreement, beginning March 1, 2022 through June 24, 2022, be approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Ms. Burdick, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- K. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Kathleen Fonda, certified administrator, as a consultant for Pupil Personnel Services from February 7, 2022 through June 30, 2022, on an as needed basis, at a daily rate of \$466, be approved.

12. QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Leising reported that she had viewed a NYSSBA webinar on curriculum during which the Superintendent of VVS and the Superintendent of the Albany City Schools spoke. She will share distributed materials with other Board members.

Ms. Burdick said that she appreciated the feedback received from community members.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (7, 0) to go into executive session to discuss 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 7:58pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Burdick, seconded Ms. Magdon, and carried (7, 0) to return to regular session. The time was 9:31pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (7, 0) to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia A. Scranton
District Clerk