

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, held on April 19, 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
Dr. Shaun Carney, Middle School Principal

Ms. Julia A. Scranton, District Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Leising called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Leising read the mission statement.

4. INFORMATION-REPORTS-PROPOSAL/SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

A. Bright Spots

Dr. Grimm began by providing a list of upcoming appreciation days for administrative assistants, nurses and teachers. He also acknowledged winter Scholar Athletes that included all winter varsity teams for this season. He then summarized statistics for each team and highlighted the accomplishments of student athletes, explaining how modified sports feed and improve athletic programs. Thanks to the Waterville Times for providing this information to the community.

Administrators' Reports

Elementary principal Ellen Leuthauser reported that she is so proud of the 4th grade students who initiated a Kindness Club whose purpose is to spread positivity and uplift others. Spirit week activities that included Tea for 2 Tuesday and National Butterfly Day were enjoyed by all. Class lists are in development giving consideration to input from parents. However, a particular teacher may not be requested. Inspired by middle school projects, the elementary school is working on beautifying their building. Thank you to parents for their cooperation in accommodating the Professional Development half-day during which much was accomplished. Kudos to all-county orchestra, chorus and band participants across all three buildings.

Dr. Shaun Carney, middle school principal, reported that the artwork of two middle school and two elementary school students will be displayed at the 32nd Annual Legislative Art Virtual Exhibit. Congratulations to these talented students and to their teachers Lynn Hall and Amy Pape. He then displayed photos of projects students had created, with the assistance of Hamilton College students, to beautify the school and lift the spirits of viewers. He too congratulated the students who had participated in the all-county music festival.

Honors course teachers Ms. Ashmore, Ms. Gemelli and Ms. Boucher, along with guidance counselor Danielle Tesak presented information to parents and qualifying students to help them decide whether or not they are willing to accept the challenge of enrolling in honors courses next year. A new flag representing the Marshall Islands was added to the middle school International Hallway.

Seven students participated in the Utica University Regional Science Fair with four being declared Junior Division Winners. On the evening of April 22, the Egg-mazing Race will take place in the middle school, where students will use collaborative problem solving skills to accrue points. Thank you teachers Aften Ford and Mallory Faffley for organizing this safe social event, and Hamilton College students for their assistance.

High school principal Dr. Matt Lee reported that Leah Borton has been designated as a National Merit Finalist. She is one of 15,000 finalists out of the 1.4 million students who took the PSAT. She will soon be notified if she is one of the 7500 students selected for the award. Several students accompanied by Mrs. Pavone and Mrs. Washburn helped prepare meals at Hope House in Utica. He recognized students who had participated in the all-county music groups.

Student Rory Mummer was the recipient of the Santoli Award, turning his \$50 award into \$226 which he donated to the Ukrainian Red Cross. Thank you, Rory! Dr. Lee displayed a page from the 2021 high school yearbook that was included in Balfour Publishing's "Yearbook Yearbook", a collection of pages from that year's publications judged to be worthy of inclusion. Congratulations to Ms. Pavone, advisor, and the students responsible for its design.

Dr. Grimm congratulated administrators for creating opportunities for students and the Board for supporting them.

B. Superintendent's Report

Budget Update

Dr. Grimm reported that the end result of budget preparation and analysis resulted in a proposed expenditure budget number of \$29,800,950, a 2.24% increase over last year, and a tax levy increase of 2.08%.

He shared information regarding the Leaders for Environmental Awareness & Protection Club (LEAP) which has been in existence for several years under the advisement of high school science teacher Meredith Callaghan. Club members would like the Clinton School District to endorse co-sponsorship of the campaign to enable LEAP to officially participate in the Clinton Kirkland Climate Smart Communities Task Force, a NYSERDA-sponsored project aimed at providing information about energy-efficient heating and cooling for homes and businesses. Board approval will be required.

Current Coordinator of Athletics and Communications Michael King has accepted a position elsewhere beginning September 1. We are grateful to Mr. King for the outstanding progress made in CCS' athletic programs. Thank you, Mr. King! The District will be replacing this civil service position with an administrative title, and will be aggressively searching for a qualified candidate.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Leising reviewed policy 1400 requirements for public comment which addresses how complaints about the district are to be handled. It states that, "All matters referred to... the board shall be in writing."

The Board received a complaint via email regarding the behavior of a board member and conducted an investigation related to that complaint as indicated in Policy 1400 Public Complaints. As per the policy, "Concerns registered directly to the Board as a whole or to an individual Board member shall be referred as soon as is reasonably possible to the Superintendent for investigation, report and/or resolution." After in depth review and careful consideration, including consultation with the school attorney, the board has determined that no further action is warranted and consider this matter closed.

She also stated that the Board takes their work very seriously and although criticism is expected and welcomed, personal attacks hard to ignore. The Board is committed do their best to address complaints and to handle concerns with patience and grace. They hope for the same in return as they move forward with the important work of the District.

Student Matilda Terrell commented that the new guest speaker form makes extra work for teachers who are still dealing with the effects of the pandemic. She feels that the middle school presentation benefitted students but backlash has created an atmosphere of fear.

Resident and parent Katherine Terrell agreed that adding the form throws too many hurdles in the way for both teachers and speakers, preventing students from being exposed to a range of diverse voices. Instead, we should trust our teachers, trust our students to listen critically, and trust our parents to talk to their children.

Resident Stacey Butcher asked if there might be a medium, a simpler route of checks and balances.

Resident Jennifer Kemp, parent of three CCS graduates, commented that she is upset with the incivility displayed at Board meetings. She stressed the importance of inclusivity and recalled an incident that occurred a few years ago when a Muslim presentation drew criticism. She is concerned that the speaker form will restrict rather than encourage opening students to a broader view.

Resident Meghan Jackson commented that the guest speaker form is needed when the topic is defined as being controversial.

Resident Howard Schaffer suggested that, if it is not already part of the plan, community engagement be incorporated into the Superintendent search process.

Resident Mary Ellen McDonough thanked Mr. Barretta for providing information that she requested. She again questioned COVID funding and its use. She believes it would be helpful in making a decision regarding next year's budget.

6. STANDING RESOLUTIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

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

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (7, 0) to approve items 6A through 6K.

- A. Agenda and Any Additions to the Agenda for April 19, 2022
- B. Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on March 22, 2022
- C. Minutes form the Special Meeting held on April 5, 2022
- D. Minutes form the Special Meeting held on April 7, 2022
- E. Summary Treasurer’s Report for March 2022
- F. Treasurer’s Report for March 2022
- G. Executive Summary for March 2022
- H. Revenue/expenditures by Month
- I. Extra-classroom Treasurer’s Report
- J. Committee on Preschool Special Education and Committee on Special Education (CSE) Report:

Initial Review	0
Program Review	3
Annual Review	18
Reevaluation (Triennial)	3
Administrative Transfer	1
Preschool	0
504 Review	0
504 Initial	0
Amendment w/o Meeting Held	0

- K. Updated List of Substitute and Supervisory Personnel

7. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Liaison Reports

1. School Board Institute

Ms. Burdick reported that she, Ms. Leising, and Dr. Grimm attended the OHM OCES Annual Meeting where former CCS Board member Timothy Thomas was nominated to serve on the BOCES Board. Best of luck, Tim! She also acknowledged with gratitude the many years of service of Michel Moore, mentioning a few of his important accomplishments. The focus for upcoming offerings will be the education of new Board members.

2. Technology Committee

Ms. Burdick also reported that the technology committee met for the first time since COVID closure during which the technology team had worked tirelessly to accommodate students and faculty for remote learning. Work centered on the updating of the technology plan which is due to be submitted to the state by June 30th, pending Board approval.

8. NEW BUSINESS

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

- A. BE IT RESOLVED that the expenditure budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$29,800,950 to be voted upon as per the Governor’s directive, be adopted.

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

- B. WHERE AS, Education law section 1608(7) requires that each year the Board of Education prepare and approve a property tax report card;

BE IT RESOLVED; that the Board of Education adopts the following property tax report card.

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

- C. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the District Reserve Plan for the 2022-2023 school year be approved.

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

D. RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION: COOPERATIVE PURCHASING SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Purchasing Service is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in New York, to bid jointly equipment, supplies and contract items, and

WHEREAS, the Central School named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES in the joint bidding of the items mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS, the Central School named below wishes to appoint the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to advertise for bid, accept, tabulate bids and award bids on their behalf; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Central School listed below hereby appoints the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Evening Sun Newspaper as the legal publication for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Central School listed below authorizes the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned commodities, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Central School listed below agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts; (3) abide by the Award of the BOCES Board; (4) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

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

E. **RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION: GENERIC SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023**

WHEREAS, it is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in New York, to bid jointly equipment, supplies and contract items, and

WHEREAS, the Central School named below is desirous of participating with other districts in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES Area in the joint bidding of the items mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS, the Central School named below wishes to appoint a committee made up of participating schools to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids and providing the information to their Board of Education who will make the awards; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Central School listed below hereby appoints the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego BOCES to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Evening Sun Newspaper as the legal publication for all

Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Central School listed below authorizes the above committee to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned items, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Central School listed below agrees to (1) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that it will award contracts based on information provided from the bid; (3) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

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

F. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education accepts the donation of a memorial stone from the Clinton soccer community, with arrangements made by Gil Palladino, in honor of Dave Jones, Class of 1995, with an approximate value of \$400, to be installed at the base of the scoreboard.

9. OTHER

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

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the emergency closing “give back” day(s) listed below, be approved:

If, by May 27, 2022 we have not been forced to use the one remaining emergency days then school will be closed on Friday, May 27, 2022. Should an additional emergency day be used before May 27, 2022, then May 27, 2022 will be a day of instruction.

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

- B. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the calendar for the 2022-2023 school year be approved.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Schaffer hoped that, with the short timeline for hiring Mr. King’s replacement, the community will be involved.

11. PERSONNEL

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

- A. 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.

Jake Tyksinski	Modified Track & Field assistant Coach
Michael Hoover	Intramural Boys Lacrosse Coach (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

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

- B. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Suzette M. Santana to the position of long-term substitute teacher in the Secondary Spanish tenure area, at step 1MA in accordance with the current CTA agreement, beginning on or about May 6, 2022 through approximately June 17, 2022, be approved.

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

- C. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the four year probationary appointment of Erin Eagan as Director of Pupil Personnel services in the Director of Pupil Personnel Services tenure area, in accordance with the current agreement between the

Clinton Central School District and the Clinton Administrators Association, at an annual salary of \$100,000 effective July 1, 2022, through January 21, 2026, be approved.

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

D. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following placements be approved: (Exhibit #18)

1. Mary Sweeney (Childhood Education 1-6), student teacher under the supervision of elementary teacher Samantha DiPietro from September 1, 2022 through October 28, 2022, and elementary teacher Tammy Mickle from October 31, 2022 through December 22, 2022.
2. Katherine Migliori (PE K-12), student teacher under the supervision of elementary PE teacher Heather Hillage-Scribner from October 31, 2022 through December 22, 2022.
3. Nicholas Gentile (Math 7-12), student teacher under the supervision of high school math teacher Margaret Steele from October 31, 2022 through December 22, 2022.
4. Paige Culver, administrative internship under the supervision of Ms. Ellen Leuthauser, through the New York Institute of Technology, from May 2, 2022 through December 23, 2022..

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

E. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation of Michael King from the position of Coordinator of Athletics and Communications, effective September 1, 2022, be accepted with regret.

12. QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Leising reminded Board members to submit dates of unavailability to the District Clerk so that a Superintendent Search calendar can be developed.

It was agreed upon that the April 26, 2022 meeting will take place at 5:30pm in the Secondary Media Center.

Mr. Magdon thanked community members for their valuable comments. He wondered if any developments had occurred regarding the idea of livestreaming Board meetings. Dr. Grimm responded that he is very proud of what the Board does as a governance team, and what administrators do in their buildings for staff and students. He would not mind sharing that with the broader audience. Next steps would be to look at policy, technology, and to ascertain the reason why this subject had been raised so as to respond appropriately.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Lauchert, and carried (7, 0) to go into executive session to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation; collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor 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 7:28pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (7, 0) to return to executive session. The time was 8:59pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Lauchert, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (7, 0) to adjourn the meeting. The time was 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julia A. Scranton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julia" being the most prominent part.

Julia A. Scranton
District Clerk