

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018**

PHOENICIA SCHOOL

## 1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 6:00 pm

1.02 Pledge of Allegiance

1.03 Roll Call

Present: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Storey, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee Shands, Trustee Warren

Not Present: Trustee Salem

1.04 Tobacco Policy Statement

## 2. Acceptance of Minutes

2.01 Acceptance of Minutes

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the 1/23/18 Board of Education Meeting

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Shands

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Storey, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee Shands, Trustee Warren

Not Present: Trustee Salem

## 3. Legislative Update

3.01 Senator Seward on Educational Issues and the Budget (proposed 6:05 duration 20 min)

6:00

- Commend trustees for serving on the school board – volunteer position and very important – education is key to creating opportunities for upstate NY
- Deficit of almost \$4 million and population is declining
- GEA was fully funded last year, now concentrate on Foundation Aid
- Increase of \$769 million or 3% increase in Governor's Education Budget
  - Fully funds high tax aid – benefits Onteora with \$715,000
- Advancing No Student Goes Hungry Act – Breakfast After the Bell program
  - Increasing state reimbursement from \$.06 to \$.25 per meal
- Budget sub-committee on education: when aid increase for Onteora is around 1.33% in a year when many districts are getting more than that – need change in school aid formula
- Looking to enhance Governor's educational proposal as much as possible

Discussion:

Effects of Governor's Proposed Budget on Onteora

- Cap on expense based aid includes building aid
- Provision within budget for taxes paid on state lands
  - Met with Assemblyman Cahill– need to look at wealth ratio – more

- heavily on property wealth than income
  - Free and reduced lunch is over 40% - indication of taxpayer's wealth in district – Onteora is land rich
- Summer Special Education aid changing from a flat 80% reimbursement to a calculation based on wealth ratio
- Foundation Aid is paramount to Onteora – need to reassess how it is calculated so it will not have a negative effect on us
  - Will probably wait until there is enough funding to cover the needs of all districts – not politically possible to decrease some to give more to others – safe harmless provisions will be continued
- State deficit is due to projected funding for programs and personal income tax receipts not as high as predicted
  - Waiting for first receipts – after Wall Street bonuses – revenue picture may change
  - Self-imposed 2% spending cap continuing this year – will lower deficit
  - In-favor of giving school districts flexibility to allow reserve funds for TRS and other expenses that have substantial increases
- PILOTs affect municipalities and school districts – PILOTs are good for attracting new businesses to the area
  - Designed to provide some revenue to local governments and school districts for the first few years of business
  - In a high tax state like NY, they are important to attract businesses
    - Needs to know if they are being used inappropriately

#### 4. Welcome

4.01 Phoenicia Principal, Linda Sella will welcome the Board and report on the Healthy Kids After School Program (proposed 6:25 duration 20 min)

6:35

- Healthy Kids Grant is for 5 years for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- Already running program in Woodstock
- Introduced Ellen Kaufman – regional director for Health Kids Grant
- Program to increase literacy for children in need 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades
- Slide Show by Nicole Ryan – Literacy Coach for program
- Program runs 3:30 -5:30 Monday - Friday
- Split time between literacy and activities:
  - Arts & Crafts, PE- non-competitive sports, library, cooking, town library
- Receive a cold supper to take home
- Played videotape of program and testimonials from the students
- Read quotes from parents
- Children work in small groups in an individualized reading program
  - Use computer programs as well
- Data analysis – most children have increased reading level

#### Discussion

- Teachers recommend students that are below reading level by 1 or 2 levels
  - Then any other students the principal feels can be helped
- 3-5 staff members work with 20 students

**5. 2018-2019 Budget Update**

5.01 Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair will present Non-Instructional Budget Information for 2018-2019 (proposed 6:45 duration 45 min)

7:00

- Increases to Expenditure Budget
  - 40% Increase to Admin budget of BOCES for potential retirees they need to pay, whatever is not spent comes back to us next year
    - 1 year large bump – should level out after this year
  - Increase to Special Education Costs
- Decreases to Expenditure
  - Building aid allows us to increase Tax Levy Cap
  - May not fill open positions due to Retirements
  - Fund Bus purchases through Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)
    - Must go to voters - rather than a lump sum payment, 5 year loan
  - Restructure HS/MS Health Office
  - Reduce Professional Services budget lines
- Expense driven aid has gone down
- Have not used maximum levy tax formula in past years
  - This year – CPI at 2%
  - Currently have debt payments and no aid
  - Increase in TRS
  - PILOT off tax rolls – increases overall assessment so tax bills will be lower
- Employee benefits is largest increase
- Budget increase is 3.62%
- Board needs to decide what to do with levy
- Board has to vote on budget by April 18<sup>th</sup>

Discussion:

- PILOT deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup> to be included in this tax cap calculation
- Teachers retiring need to inform district by March 1<sup>st</sup>

Transportation

- Contractor does most of the bus runs – cost \$2.6 million
- Penalties built into contract for inability to do run due to lack of drivers
- Rebidding in 19-20 school year
- Onteora currently has 4.692 students/square mile and 287.483 square miles
  - New Paltz has 27.018 students/square mile and 82 square miles
  - Ellenville has 12.02 students/square mile and 134.737 square miles
  - Rondout has 12.939 students/square mile and 152.01 square miles
- 39 bus runs K-6, 27 bus runs 7-12 – trouble finding drivers
- Looking to replace 2 buses
- Ask Director of Transportation, Nicole Sommer to come to Board meeting

Building and Grounds

- Phoenicia Elementary 29,900 sq. ft.16 Classrooms
- Woodstock Elementary 43,800 sq. ft.20 Classrooms
- Bennett Intermediate 47,440 sq. ft.22 Classrooms

- Middle/High School 185,000 sq. ft.62 Classrooms
  - Number of classrooms changes as needs change
- Accomplishments
  - Heating system project at MS-HS and Phoenicia
  - Completed Energy Performance Contract District wide
  - Hybrid pellet wood fired heating system on-line at Phoenicia
  - Prepared site for PTA driven construction of labyrinth at Phoenicia
  - Installed walking path and asphalt pad for PTA labyrinth at Woodstock
  - Asphalt play area improvements at Woodstock
  - Site work and preparation of new playground at Bennett
  - Assisted in installation of new Bennett playground
- Summer 2018
  - Waiting for State Approval:
    - Radon Abatement at Phoenicia
    - Science Lab Renovation at HS
  - Future capital work planning18-19 Transfer to Capital work
    - Press Box/ Bleachers
  - Improve preventative maintenance process
  - Refine energy saving measures
- Future needs
  - New salt/sand spreader for winter maintenance
  - Lawn tractor upgrades
  - Chemical free floor maintenance tools

#### Discussion:

- Slightly more money to burn pellets than oil, but the footprint is better and using a NYS Pellet Manufacturer
- Vehicles for maintenance are maintained by transportation
  - Vehicle repair labor is in budget
- EPC numbers for savings
  - Electric consumption are down – 20-25%
    - LED lighting and turning off what is left on
    - Oil usage also down but last winter was milder than this winter so hard to compare
- How much will it save the District when the West Hurley sale goes through?

#### Technology

- Staffing is 2.6 – Director of Technology, Network Technology Specialist and a .6 BOCES
- More toward in-house virtualization (not on the cloud) – leveraging physical servers –went from 28 to 18 to and want to get to 9
  - High maintenance cost with more physical servers
  - Decrease in power consumption
- Inconsistency in vendors of wireless in district, which is different architecture throughout District: multiple systems in the district
  - Equipment is at its maximum usefulness
  - Need to go from 1 gig per building to 10 – 40 gigs
  - Looking at security systems in all buildings – will also need data usage
- Teachers in MS and HS are using Google Apps during the day which allows students to continue learning at home

- 414 Chromebooks in HS
- Planning to introduce Microsoft 365 instead of Google Apps– more of what is used in business world – will offer teachers a choice
- SmartBond School Act
  - Approved by NYS in 2014
  - \$870,577 available to Onteora
  - No time limit for use of money
  - Expenditures may include: End User Devices, Interactive Whiteboards, LED Displays, Infrastructure (Routers, Switches and Servers), Security (Door Access, Visitor Management system, Cameras)
    - Security was asked for at the Technology Committee Meeting
  - Will develop plan and hold public hearing

Discussed:

- Process for using cloud based provider of software - assessed to be sure they are protecting education laws (such as FERPA) and they will help us if there is a breach
- Smart School Bond Act are for 1 time costs
- This covers physical security not data security – 1 to 1 testing needs security
  - Want to see budget address data security
- Leasing vs. buying – depends on the device – for a Chromebook not worth it, laptops for everyone might be worth it
  - Leasing of equipment allows you to pay for it over time when the equipment is not expensive, no reason to lease
- Audit Committee is having Internal Auditor look at the security of the data

## 6. Superintendent District News

### 6.01 The Superintendent announce District news (proposed 7:30)

#### Woodstock:

- On February 2<sup>nd</sup> the PTA hosted a family fun night - performers from NYCA came to teach the families in attendance their dance routines
- This Wednesday our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers will receive professional development on the new science standards
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be focusing on motion and matter 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be focusing on solids and liquids
- The Woodstock PTA Sweetheart Breakfast is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### Bennett

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade winter recital was held on January 26<sup>th</sup>
  - The debut of the beginning band and orchestra members who only began to learn their instruments in September
  - Program featuring student artwork is available on Mrs. McKenna's web page
- Next performance on May 30<sup>th</sup> the HS auditorium

#### High School

- Science Olympiad team earned 36 medals – a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish out of 28 teams at the Mid-Hudson Regional Science Olympiad Competition on February 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Now moves on to compete at the New York State Science Olympiad Championships in Syracuse
- Currently students in AP Courses are signing up for their exams
- Sending Juniors and Seniors to the Ulster County Career Conference - a collaboration of school counselors at high schools throughout Ulster County to prepare students for college and career after graduation
- Guidance is beginning the 2018-19 scheduling process
  - Explaining various options for students and reviewing various course/elective descriptions

## 7. Board District News

7.01 The Board will announce District news

Trustee Kurnit reported:

- UCSBA meeting had Senator Amedore and Assemblyman Cahill and other legislative representatives at the last meeting
- Onteora asked to promote someone for annual Friends of Education award
- UCSBA annual dinner meeting is April 19<sup>th</sup> – BOCES culinary students prepare dinner
- March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting may have NYSBSA and an attorney to discuss PILOTS

Trustee Shands reported:

- Feb 20<sup>th</sup> – spring athletic meeting informational session and discussing Onteora Athletics as twitter
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – Onteora fundraiser for senior prom at Chipolte

Trustee Osmond reported:

- Trustee Kurnit, Assistant Superintendent for Business Monica LaClair and she went to public hearing in Woodstock about the PILOT
  - Town Board read letter opposing the PILOT
- Some DECA members made it to States

Trustee Ratcliff reported:

- Science Olympiad team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and now going on to Syracuse – came in first in herpetology
- Woodstock Healing Arts invites teachers and staff – present and past for free services on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>

## 8. Student Representative Report

8.01 Student Representative, Ben Rauschendorfer will report to the Board

- Science Olympiad very popular
- Tomorrow night is Belleayre Bash fundraiser
- February 28<sup>th</sup> is National Honor Society Blood Drive
- Student Government is going to Bennett with the HS Class Officers to talk about anti-bullying awareness

## 9. Acknowledge Public Be Heard

9.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last meeting  
No comment was made at the last meeting

**10. Public/Student Comment**

10.01 The public and students may comment on any agenda or non agenda item. Please limit comments to 3 minutes (proposed 7:40 duration 10 min or more)  
 No comment was made

**11. Consent Agenda**

11.01 Approve Consent Agenda (proposed 7:45)

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby approves consent agenda item numbers 11.02-11.10

Motioned: Trustee Shands

Seconded: Trustee Storey

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Storey, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee Shands, Trustee Warren

Not Present: Trustee Salem

11.02 Approve Schedule U - The Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) Recommendations

*Recommended Action:* The Board hereby approves the Instruction - Schedule U-The Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) Recommendations, Schedule U, #2/18, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Kurnit

11.03 Personnel Agenda

LEAVE OF ABSENCES: INSTRUCTIONAL

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM - TO	REASON
3053	2/7/2018 – 4/27/2018*	Medical – Unpaid Extension - FMLA

\*Approximate end date

SHORT-TERM SUBSTITUTE

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	PAY RATE	REMARKS
Parisi, Jackie	Social Worker/PH	11/17/2017 – 04/27/2018*	1MA	Extend leave replacement

\*Approximate end date

EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Colevas, Paul	Lyceum Club Advisor	\$1,265.00
Knoche, Stephen	6 <sup>th</sup> Teaching Assignment – AIS Social Studies ½ year	\$3953.50

COACHING STIPENDS

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Burkhardt, Patrick	Track - Spring - Head Coach (Girls)	\$4,993
Calinda, Jason	Track - Spring - Assistant Coach	\$3,379
Fein, Peter	Tennis - Varsity - Head Coach (Boys) (0.75 FTE)	\$2,067
Gale, Trevor	Track - Modified - Head Coach (Boys)	\$2,408
Harder, William	Baseball - Varsity - Head Coach	\$4,112
Occhi, Andrew	Golf - Varsity - Head Coach (Girls)	\$3,086
Pezzello, Eric	Track - Spring - Assistant Coach	\$3,379
Provenzano, Coralei	Softball - Varsity - Head Coach	\$4,112
Rushford, Michael	Track - Spring - Head Coach (Boys)	\$4,993
Warnes, Carsten	Track - Modified - Assistant Coach	\$1,503

LEAVE OF ABSENCES: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM - TO	REASON
2104	1/8/18 – 2/5/18(½ Pd)	Medical – Paid – FMLA

2104 2/5/18(½ Unpaid) – 2/15/18  
1150 2/5/18 – 2/23/18

APPOINTMENT: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL  
PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	SALARY STEP	REMARKS
Sebald, Katy	Custodial Worker	2/12/18 – 8/12/18	2	Replace B. Parker
Stanton, Stephen	Custodial Worker	3/5/18 – 9/5/18	5	Replace S. Chan

SUBSTITUTE

NAME	POSITION
Miressi, Anna	Certified TA/Non-Instructional

11.04 Surplus Books

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District declare a variety of approximately 100 fiction books from the Bennett Elementary School Library as surplus and authorizes the sale or disposal of these items.

11.05 Create Extra-Curricular Account

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the establishment of a new Extra-Curricular Activities account for Olympics of the Visual Arts beginning February 7, 2018. The beginning account balance will be \$0.00.

11.06 Financial Report

*Recommended Action:* The Board has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial Report from November 2018

11.07 Warrants

*Recommended Action:* The Board has reviewed and hereby accepts Warrant Schedule 6

11.08 Transfer of Funds for Bennett Partition

*Recommended Action:* The Superintendent recommends the transfer of funds to replace the partitions at the Bennett Elementary School.  
Transfer Amount From Budget Code Description To Budget Code Description  
\$100,000.00 A1621.466-17 Building Repair H1620.293-03PART Bennett Partition

11.09 Increase Budget for Insurance Recovery

*Recommended Action:* The Superintendent recommends approval to increase the 2017-2018 budget for insurance recoveries received from Utica National Insurance for replacement of sheds due to the fire at Bennett Elementary School.  
Utica National Insurance \$41,819.66  
H1620.293-03SHED Bennett Shed Replacement \$20,000  
A1620.466-17 Building Repair \$21,819.66

11.10 Memorandum of Agreement for a Nurse Retirement Incentive

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby approves MOA # 02062018 between the Onteora Central School District and the Onteora Teachers Association for a nurse retirement incentive



## 12. Committee Reports

12.01 Facilities Committee - Trustee Kurnit to report. Next meeting is in the Central Conference Room at 3:30 on TBD

- 2 elements of meeting – Facilities and Health & Safety
  - Health & Safety: floor tile and communications at soccer field at Emerson
- Presentation from Robert Hendricks- facilities consultant
- Jared Mance discussed SED issues – delays in approvals
  - Issues for the summer projects – costs can go up if takes too long

12.02 Health and Wellness Committee - Trustee Shands to report. Next meeting is in the MS/HS Conference Room at 2:45 on TBD

- Meet, Greet and Eat is April 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - 2 chefs on Board – 17 applications out for other chefs
  - Will have student posters and silent auction
- Backpack Buddies – program for children who don't have food over the weekend – will be piloted in Woodstock – use money from Hannaford

## 13. Old Business

13.01 The Board will discuss Old Business  
No Old Business was discussed

## 14. New Business

14.01 The Board will discuss New Business

WHEREAS, the Onteora Central School District's Board of Education ("The Board") is committed to maintaining the fiscal health of the Onteora Central School District ("The District") and recognizes excellent fiscal planning as a key factor in attaining the District's educational goals and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Board's budget development shall be carefully organized and planned to ensure thorough understanding of the District's financial needs within the context of the community's fiscal resources; and

WHEREAS, the District has seen a decline in State and Federal Aid over the last several years that has shifted the burden of education funding to the local taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, New York State has implemented an unprecedented number of unfunded mandates that have placed significant financial pressure on the District; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the New York State Legislature and the Governor enacted "Chapter 97" legislation that establishes a "property tax cap" on the amount that a local government's or school district's property tax levy can increase each year, limiting the District's ability to raise local revenue to fund school district programs; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these unfunded mandates and the property tax cap, the Onteora Central School District's Board of Education has been forced to make difficult choices to balance the budget with reduced revenue including making programmatic cuts; and

WHEREAS, while payment-in-lieu-of-tax ("PILOT") agreements may supply some revenue to the Onteora Central School District, they also have the negative effect of lowering the District's tax levy limit; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Education Department ("NYSED") provides Tax Cap Guidance on the NYSED website that states that "Districts with increasing or new PILOTs could have a tax levy limit that represents a change from the prior year that is less than zero. They would have to successfully seek an override from the voters to increase the levy above that limit."; and

WHEREAS, the Board is not opposed to the original intention of New York State legislation enabling PILOT agreements, envisioned to facilitate economic development and improve local economic conditions, which created IDAs and the Ulster County Industrial Development Agency ("UCIDA"); and

WHEREAS, the District is the only interested taxing authority that needs referendum approval to leverage taxes, and needs a 60% supermajority vote of the voting public to exceed the tax cap;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Onteora Central School District Board of Education declares its opposition to the PILOT agreement proposed by Tannery Brook Real Estate LLC (the "Woodstock Way" project) and the UCIDA, and declares its opposition to any PILOT agreements that result in a reduction of real property taxes versus full taxation based on a full market value assessment determined by the district towns' assessor's offices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that Onteora Central School District Board of Education calls on the UCIDA to recognize the District's position that PILOT agreements have an adverse impact on school districts due to the Tax Levy Limit formula.

Motioned: Trustee Osmond

Seconded: Trustee Warren

- Public comment closes tomorrow
- Against all PILOTs- it is using deferred tax dollars for development
- Don't single out one business looking for a PILOT
- Wait until there is more information – maybe at the UCSBA meeting

Motion to Withdraw Resolution

Motioned: Trustee Osmond

Seconded: Trustee Kurnit

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Storey, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee Shands, Trustee Warren

Not Present: Trustee Salem

## 15. Request For Information

### 15.01 Discuss Requests for Information

Trustee Ratcliff asked how much will it save the District when the West Hurley sale goes through? [asked during Budget presentation]

Trustee Kurnit asked when the old RFIs will be answered

## 16. Adjournment

### 16.01 Adjourn Meeting. Next meeting is Tuesday, February 20, 2018 in the Middle/High School (proposed 7:55)

*Recommended Action:* The meeting is adjourned at 8:55

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Shands

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Storey, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee Shands, Trustee Warren

Not Present: Trustee Salem

Minutes Recorded by Fern Amster,  
District Clerk

