ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015
WOODSTOCK SCHOOL

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 6:10 pm
1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
1.04 Roll Call
Present: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

2. Executive Session

2.01 Enter executive session (proposed 6:00 duration 45 min.)
Recommended Action: Motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person and pending litigation and the sale of real property
Motioned: Trustee Osmond
Seconded: Trustee McGillicuddy
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

Note: Will be going into retreat to discuss further education and Board training

2.02 Exit Executive Session and Return to Public Session (proposed 6:45)
Recommended Action: Motion to exit executive session and return to public session
Motioned: Trustee Osmond
Seconded: Trustee McGillicuddy
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

3. Welcome

3.01 Woodstock Principal Scott Richards will welcome the Board (proposed 6:50 duration 10 min)
7:10
Nice start to the school year

- 58 new Kindergarten students transitioned into school very well
  - Teachers and staff did an excellent job
- PBIS Team met this summer and changed Incentive Program
  - Planning first PBIS video
- Safety Team met to update plans and review crisis team protocols
- Playground build is Friday and Saturday
  - Still need some volunteers and tools
- Open House is 9/21/15, PTA Picnic is 9/25/15

4. Acceptance of Minutes

4.01 Acceptance of Minutes

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the 8/25/15 & 8/28/15 Board Meetings
Motioned: Trustee McGillicuddy
Seconded: Trustee Storey
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

5. Board District News

5.01 The Board will announce District news (proposed 7:00 duration 10 min)

Phoenicia playground build was amazing

- Trustee Storey and Trustee Kurnit helped at Phoenicia playground build
    - Impressed with how everything was laid out and went really well
    - Hoping to see people here on Friday for Woodstock build

6. Superintendent District News

6.01 The Superintendent announce District news (proposed 7:10)

Interim Superintendent Victoria McLaren reported:

- Thanked all volunteers and Onteora Building and Grounds Staff who worked on the Phoenicia playground build
- Teachers at Bennett opened up their classrooms to parents last Friday evening before their picnic
    - This gave parents the opportunity to meet their child teacher(s) and see the classrooms before our open house.
- The HS had a very smooth opening
- Currently have 107 9th graders, 104 10th graders, 108 11th graders and 99 12th graders
- Individual assemblies were held for each grade level to review the student-parent handbook, the code of conduct, electronic device/technology expectations, and information about the Dignity for All Students Act
- The HS/HS Open House is scheduled for 9/17/15 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm
- Petitions for Junior and Senior Class officers are due 9/16/15
- Student Government will be meeting in the near future and the elected president is the BOE Student representative
    - This may change
- Information will be available soon on the athletic department's website about Homecoming, which is 9/26/15

7. Public/Student Comment

7.01 The public and students may comment on any agenda or non agenda item. Please limit comments to 3 minutes (proposed 7:15 duration 10 min or more)

7:15

Nancy Schauffler – Read statement about recess from Karin Reininger- teacher at Peekskill – children need to play – balance work with play

Cybele Nielsen – Put yourself in the children's place- working 7 hours without a

break. Make recess a sanctified 30 minutes
Linda Sella – The playground build was a very special 2 day event – Thank you to the Board and Superintendent for helping at the Build. Read a thank you statement from the PTA
Posie Strenz – Thank you to the Board for your service. Recess should be considered an intrinsic part of day for students. Counter-productive to use recess for other things, such as orchestra, etc.
Steve Finlay – concerned parent because of Wi-Fi. Civil engineering background. Read article called "Studies suggest Wi-Fi Exposure More Dangerous to Kids Than Formerly Thought" from 1/13/15 Forbes magazine
Weston Belock – Spoke to Health & Wellness Committee and supplied information about the health impacts of Wi-Fi to children. Change to wire technology
Raji Nevin – Read letter from pediatric neurologist about the health effects of Wi-Fi
Christina Kravig – Disagree with the use of recess as disciplinary measure and the use of taking time away from core subjects for band. Support Wi-Fi being turned off
Corine Mol – Support the idea of recess being not being taken away for any reason. Adequate exercise keeps you healthier. Find other strategies besides missing recess when children misbehave
Leslie Sawhill- Having daily outdoor play nurtures the spirit. Students feel loss of recess hours later. Child lost recess, now 18, remembers losing it and how it felt
Lorelei Voelker – Recess should not be taken away for any reason. In favor of Wi-Fi being taken out
Steve Romaine – FCC only has standard for a full grown male, not cumulative exposure – only 6 minutes not tested for children. Children are being exposed in schools involuntarily
Tony Fletcher – Let kids be kids and play. Need the time in the day. Will give research information to Board. Letter from 5th grade Onteora teacher specifically says will take recess for homework. Board's homework policy is different than what is stated in Bennett's handbook. Need to find the time to address homework, band, chorus and extra help. Do not make recess expendable.

8. Presentation

8.01 Summer Academy Presentation by Cindy Bishop, Summer School Principal (proposed 7:20 duration 30 min)

Cindy Bishop was not present to give her presentation due to illness

9. Discussion & Possible Action

9.01 Report about Wi-Fi from the Administrators (proposed 7:50 duration 30 min)
8:10

Interim Superintendent Victoria McLaren reported on feedback received from the administrators regarding educational implications of immediately disabling Wi-Fi

- Wireless technology used for: Smartboards, small group instruction, service providers use laptops to travel between buildings, music teachers use on stage, PE uses for teaching content on large TV screen
- Speech, ENL, TOD use for small group instruction as they have no physical capacity for desktop computer
    - Will need to
        - Replace computers in the classrooms
        - Provide for teachers that do not have desktops now

- Review Smartboard set– many run from laptops with no hard wires

Discussion:

- Laptops can be plugged in, Smart Boards are attached to that laptop
- Adapt to technology in buildings that are safe – not wired
- Trustee McGillicuddy read a statement asking the Board to use the precautionary principle and remove Wi-Fi from the schools immediately due to the possible health risks to the children
- There will be disruption in instruction if Wi-Fi is shut off while the Task Force is working on recommendation
    - Sometimes things take time when a decision needs to be made
        - For example the playgrounds were first discussed 4 years ago
    - Some teachers have designed instruction around Wi-Fi, which was encouraged up to now, due to the way of the world
- Drill down the information as pertains to primary level
    - What specific impacts of Wi-Fi and what are the work-arounds
- The desktops in the classrooms are very old, so there are issues with pulling Wi-Fi right now
    - State run Smart Schools initiative is for technology - coordinate with Wi-Fi discussion
- How many of special needs students require Wi-Fi devices in their IEPs?
    - Where they are and what they are in the district?
- Get readings in the buildings of levels of exposure, especially in the classroom where students are sitting
    - If sitting near Wi-Fi are getting higher levels of exposure
- Put on next agenda – to discuss turning off Wi-Fi while task force works

9.02 Stipulation of Settlement (proposed 8:20)

Recommended Action: WHEREAS, the parents of Student No. 09152015 have communicated certain claims to the District with regard to Student No. 09152015 special education services; and

WHEREAS, the parents and the District are desirous of settling these claims prior to the commencement of an Impartial Due Process Hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all claims for tuition, tutoring, services, evaluations, compensatory education, attorney or expert fees, or damages for the student for the 2014-15 school year, as defined in the Stipulation of Settlement, be resolved by payment in an amount of $2,500.00 by the District in accordance with the terms and conditions of a Stipulation of Settlement to be entered into between the Board and the parents, in a form satisfactory to the District's attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to execute all documents in furtherance of this resolution.

Motioned: Trustee Osmond
Seconded: Trustee Storey
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

9.03 Extend contract of Assistant Superintendent for Business

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District hereby places Ms. McLaren on a leave of absence from the position of Assistant Superintendent for Business for the period that she serves as Interim Superintendent.
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board appoints Ms. McLaren to the position of Interim Superintendent in accordance with the terms of the Addendum to her employment contract as Assistant Superintendent for Business on file with the District Clerk.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the extension to Ms. McLaren's employment contract as Assistant Superintendent for Business, which will now end on June 30, 2018, is hereby approved.

Motioned: Trustee Kurnit
Seconded: Trustee Osmond
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

10. ** 5 Minute Break

10.01 The Board took a break at 8:45

11. Discussion

11.01 Discussion on 2015-2016 Board Goals (proposed 8:35 duration 30 min)

The Board crafted the following goals:
Educational Vision, Values and Ethics Leadership
1. Conduct a successful Superintendent Search.
2. Promote and maintain a stimulating, healthy and safe environment conducive to learning that improves the educational experience for all students.

Budget and Finance
3. Maintain a long term fiscal plan that protects and maximizes the district assets through continuous review of programs and practices in a cost effective manner, and provide the funding to support the aforementioned.

Community & Culture
4. Foster an open, collaborative and responsive relationship with the Community . Improve the district-wide school culture through clear communication of Board priorities, and appreciation for staff initiatives and student achievement.

12. Independent Contract Retainers

12.01 ICR- Savatgy- PH (proposed 9:05)

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 Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Matthew Savatgy as a Nature Trail Scientist in Residence at the Phoenicia Elementary School from September 28, 2015 to June 1, 2016 for the amount of $1,500.00 per residency to a maximum of $1,500.00, and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.
Motioned: Trustee Osmond
Seconded: Trustee Kurnit

Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

12.02 ICR- Savatgy- BN

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 Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Matthew Savatgy as an Environmental Scientist in Residence at the Bennett Elementary School from September 28, 2015 to June 1, 2016 for the amount of $3,000.00 per residency to a maximum of $3,000.00, and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.
Motioned: Trustee McGillicuddy
Seconded: Trustee Storey
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

13. Consent Agenda

13.01 Approve Consent Agenda (proposed 9:10)

Recommended Action: Approve consent agenda item numbers 13.02-13.06
Motioned: Trustee McGillicuddy
Seconded: Trustee Osmond
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

13.02 Personnel Agenda

APPOINTMENTS: INSTRUCTIONAL
FULL TIME PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT
Be it hereby resolved that the Board appoints:

- Jeanenne Bennett, certified in Special Education to a 4 year probationary period in the tenure area of Special Education at a salary of 1MA (replaces L. Speers);
- Kerri-Ann Bohringer, certified in ESL to a 4 year probationary period in the tenure area of ESL at a salary of 4MA (new position)
- Emily Katz, certified in ESL to a 4 year probationary period in the tenure area of ESL at a salary of 1BA (new position);
- Matthew Leifeld certified in Math to a 4 year probationary period in the tenure area of Math at a salary of 1MA (replaces E. Whitlow);

commencing on 09/01/2015 and ending on 08/31/2019. Be it further resolved that, to the extent applicable under Education Law Section 3012-d and the accompanying Commissioner's Regulations, in order to be considered for tenure, the above teachers must have received an APPR rating of effective or highly effective in three of the four probationary years and must not receive an ineffective in the fourth year.

RESIGNATIONS

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
Tomlinson, Christmas	Teaching Assistant	9/1/2015	Personal

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM - TO	REASON
3024	08/31/15 - 06/30/16	Unpaid leave

EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS 2015-16 RESCISSION

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Kight, Eric	Football Modified - Assistant Coach	$2,328.00
Formont, Cheryl	Elementary Resource - Bennett 2 (split w/J. Mayone-Allison)	$1,007.50
Mayone-Allison, Joan	Elementary Resource - Bennett 2 (split w/C. Formont)	$1,007.50

EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS 2015-16

NAME	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM-TO	AMOUNT
McLaren, Victoria	Interim Superintendent	08/31/15 - 06/30/16	Current salary plus $2,000/month

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Adler, Marianne	DECA Assistant Advisor	$1,172.00
Boyer, Erica	Chamber Ensemble Director	$1,744.00
Burkhardt, Patrick	Elementary Rec - Phoenicia	$3,362.00
Cayea, Krista	Liaison - Music	$1,961.00
Cayea, Krista	Sounds of Jazz - Director	$1,426.00
Cayea, Krista	Production Account Manager	$506.00
Formont, Cheryl	Elementary Resource - Bennett 2	$2,015.00
Goho, Colette	DECA Advisor	$4,258.00
Lustberg-Goldbeck, Kay	Gifted/Talented Advisor - HS - 1	$11,500.00
Lustberg-Goldbeck, Kay	Gifted/Talented Advisor - HS - 2	$13,750.00
Martin, Michelle	MS TUFS Advisor (Split w/K. Samuelsen-Grimm)	$606.00
Mayone-Allison, Joan	Elementary Resource - Additioinal 2	$2,015.00
Murphy, Steven	Theatre Technical Director (split w/D. Nelsen-Epstein)	$1,590.50
Nelsen-Epstein, Christi	French Club Advisor - HS	$1,675.00
Nelsen-Epstein, David	Theatre Technical Director (split w/S. Murphy)	$1,590.50
Persons, Jacqueline	Computer Advisor - Phoenicia	$5,000.00
Samuelsen-Grimm, Karen	MS TUFS Advisor (Split w/M. Martin)	$606.00
Wentland, Jennifer	Art Club Advisor - HS	$1,675.00
Wolfield, Dale	Liaison - Art	$1,961.00
Wolfield, Dale	Art Club Advisor - MS	$1,133.00

Anderson, Coll*	Soccer - JV - Head Coach (Boys) - PRO-RATED: 09/16/15-10/23/15	$1,909.04
Loizou, Phillip*	Football Modified - Assistant Coach - PRO-RATED 09/16/15-10/30/15	$1,969.85
VanBlarcum, Kevin	Soccer - JV - Head Coach (Boys) - PRO-RATED: 08/17/15-09/05/15	$1,022.70

*pending pre-employment processing

SUBSTITUTES

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Ghee, Carly	Certified Substitute Teacher	$110.00/day
Jankowski, Ashley	Certified Substitute Teacher	$110.00/day
Longyear, Heather	Home Tutor	$37.00/hour

APPOINTMENTS: NON INSTRUCTIONAL
PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	PROBATIONARY PERIOD	SALARY/ STEP	REMARKS
Baughman, Lisa	Custodial Worker/HS	09/03/15-03/02/16* (RETRO)	Step 1	Replace D. Piland

*revised start date

13.03 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, #9/15, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Osmond

13.04 Approve Inter-School Transfer

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby approves the following Inter-School Transfer: Grade 1- Woodstock to Phoenicia; Grade 1- Woodstock to Phoenicia

13.05 Financial Management Report

Recommended Action: The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial Management Report for July, 2015

13.06 Accept Warrants

Recommended Action: The Board has reviewed and hereby accepts Warrant Schedule 3

14. Old Business

14.01 The Board will discuss Old Business (proposed 9:15)

9:30

Recess Forum will be at the November at the MS/HS

- Recess forum to be at a meeting in the middle of the District
- Publicize well – use Communications Committee

Policy committee take up recess policy again

Trustee Osmond may not attend next board meeting

Discuss and set a timeline for review of Shared Decision Making document

15. New Business

15.01 The Board will discuss New Business (proposed 9:20)

Do mandatory visits to schools while in session twice this year

- Beginning of the year and end of the year
- Schedule with principals for end of October, beginning of November

Review of NYSSBA resolutions will be at next meeting

- Will take 2 meetings

16. Request For Information

16.01 The Board will request information (proposed 9:25)

Trustee Osmond asked possible to drill down information as pertains to primary level (from Wi-Fi discussion)

- What specific impacts of Wi-Fi and what are the work-arounds
- May be difficult to get in-depth data in 2 weeks, will start on the task
    - Concern is more for good data than speed, will give update as soon as possible

Trustee Storey asked how many of special needs students require Wi-Fi devices in their IEPs? (from Wi-Fi discussion)

- Where they are and what they are in the district?

Trustee McGillicuddy asked to get the readings in the buildings of levels of exposure, especially in the classroom where students are sitting, if sitting near Wi-Fi are getting higher levels of exposure (from Wi-Fi discussion)

Trustee Kurnit asked:

- How the ESL coordinator position is being used
- Status of the search for the Athletic Director, Asst PPS Director, Asst Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Trustee McGillicuddy asked status of Wi-Fi task force, how many members, and a meeting date

17. Public Comment

17.01 The public will comment on any agenda or non-agenda item. Please limit comments to 3 minutes (proposed 9:30)

Raji Nevin – Children spend most of their time at school and home, exposure is cumulative, it's about the children's health not the teachers' inconvenience
Steve Romine- There is nothing definitive about lead but it is a class 2b carcinogen – potential to cause cancer and was taken out of the schools, DTD to possibly cause cancer. EMF radiation is a class 2b carcinogen that can go through walls
Chris Finlay –This is a about the physical and emotional safety of students and teachers – no Wi-Fi in any elementary school in France, change topic to safety instead of inconvenience to teachers. Happy to hear conversation about how to disconnect

18. Adjournment

18.01 Adjourn Meeting (proposed 9:35). Next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 at 6pm at the Bennett School

Recommended Action: The meeting is adjourned at 9:55
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee McGillicuddy
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Schnell, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Osmond, Trustee McGillicuddy
Not Present: Trustee Davis

Minutes Recorded By:
Fern Amster

Board of Education: Bobbi Schnell, Rob Kurnit, Laurie Osmond, Ann McGillicuddy, Tanya Davis, Valerie Storey