ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

MINUTES

WORKSHOP MEETING
6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015
Middle School/High School

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 6:05 pm
1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
1.04 Roll Call
Present: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Davis, Trustee Schnell
Not Present: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Moor

2. Acceptance of Minutes

2.01 Acceptance of Minutes
Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of
Motioned: Trustee Kurnit
Seconded: Trustee Schnell
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Davis, Trustee Schnell
Not Present: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Moor

3. Welcome

3.01 HS Principal, Lance Edelman will welcome the Board (proposed 6:05)

- End of the 4th quarter is an exciting time with many events happening
- Introduced the 3 leading roles in the HS musical Ghost: Daniel Foster, Shannon Sperl, and Iwan Traeger-Payne, who performed for the Board
    - Performances are 4/17/15, 4/18/15 and 4/19/15

4. Board District News

4.01 The Board will announce District news (proposed 6:10)
6:15
Trustee Fletcher reported:

- Met in Special Meeting on 3/27/15 to complete the Testing Policy
- 4/11/15 will be a Special Meeting for Executive Session to discuss contract of Superintendent
    - Following will be a retreat to discuss the Superintendent search process
- Hoping to have Board team for Quiz Bowl

Trustee McGillicuddy reported:

- Followed up with the petition delivered to Gov. Cuomo and found that he will be sending a written response
- Task Force for Testing Reduction
    - Thanked all members for giving their time to create the policy

- Members felt that the way to change what is happening in NYS is to refuse the test
- Expressed her opinion that she supports students' and parents' right to refuse the tests as it is in the children's best interest
  - Legislators are not making good decisions
    - Held State Aid run hostage
    - Wants testing to be 50% of Annual Professional Performance Review of teachers
- NYC Education recognizes right to refuse
- Dr. Kathleen Cashin put out a statement saying that as a regent of the State of NY she cannot endorse the use of the current State test as teacher evaluation as it was not purpose of the State tests
  - These tests cannot be used to evaluate staff since they are not validated

Trustee Schnell reported:

- Agrees with Trustee McGillicuddy on the students' right to refuse the tests
  - Refusing the test will help pass the message along to the State
  - On scan answer sheets is a place to put a code to refuse the test
- Bennett intermediate School Drama Club performance "Night of the Gnomes" directed by Wendy Lockwood called was very enjoyable
  - Culmination of after school program

5. Superintendent District News

5.01 The Superintendent announce District news (proposed 6:15)

Acting Superintendent Victoria McLaren reported:

- MS/HS Art Dept. is pleased to announce that three students have been selected for the New York State Summer School of the Arts at SUNY Fredonia
  - Ana [Aiyana] Alexander- 9th grade, Joli Perfit - 8th grade and Grace Himberger 9th grade
  - Students organized and submitted portfolios of their artwork for application to this statewide visual arts program which selects 95 NYS students to participate
  - They will receive one high school credit for this intensive four week art program
- Bennett has added another popular offering to its already numerous and varied after-school activities: Posie Strenz and the Bennett PTA have joined forces to have David Laks lead a filmmaking class
  - Students will have the chance to be part of a movie making team which will create a script and direct a short film
  - Will culminate with an evening screening of their films
  - Class had to be opened to a 2nd day due to the overwhelming response.
- On 4/8/15 Phoenicia is having a, "parents complimentary luncheon with kids"
  - Parents have been invited to eat lunch with their child
  - Sponsored by the Phoenicia Health and Wellness sub in collaboration with our Food Services Department
  - Intent is to encourage parents to become more familiar with our school lunches

- School Lunch Manager Chris Downs and her staff have made so many improvements to our school lunch program that the sub-committee thought inviting parents to lunch might encourage greater participation
  - New and exciting menu selections are delicious, healthy and affordable
  - BOE members are welcome.
- Woodstock held a very successful Science Fair on 3/24/15
  - All K-3 students were encouraged to participate
  - Participating students not only learned scientific facts—they also honed their observational, critical thinking, research, and communication skills
  - Projects also showed off their creative flair and their ability to collaborate with others
- Testing is scheduled to begin next week on Tuesday through Thursday for grades 3-8 for ELA and the following week Wednesday through Friday for Math
  - Encouraging students who are planning on taking the test to have a good breakfast, get plenty of rest and approach the tests as calmly as possible

5.02 Acting Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent for Business Victoria McLaren will present the 2015-2016 Recommended Budget to the Board of Education for Review and Comment (proposed 6:20 duration 30 min)

6:30

Will be voting on Superintendent Recommended budget at the next Board meeting

- Timing for budget process is different this year, just received the State Aid amount last week
- HS/MS staffing still being finalized
  - Small reduction of Science teacher – no increases in staffing to effect the budget
- Elementary staffing reduced by 1
  - 2 vacancies due to retirements
  - Will continue to monitor kindergarten students
    - 1 class of 21 or 2 classes of 11 are both outside of the optimal range on the Class Size Regulation
  - Will need 2.5 FTE for English as a Second Language (ESL)
    - Hiring 2 FTE
    - Keeping the BOCES Co-ser at .5 FTE
  - Summer Academic Program for K-8 students will continue
- Slight reduction in budget
- Administrative budget is Central Administrator salaries without the Director of PPS, which is in the Instructional portion with other instructional administration and staff
- Using $2.5 million to offset levy for a .87% levy increase
  - Previous projection was 1.9% but due to an increase in state aid the levy was reduced and are able to carry some levy from this year to next year
  - Given back $473,000 from restoration of the Gap Elimination Adjustment

- A little over $7 million in reserve accounts

Discussion:

- HS Principal Lance Edelman explained the minimum number of students for a class to be created at the MS/HS
    - Depends on type of class
        - Allowing some classes are 15
        - Some classes need smaller than 15 due to the nature of the work (working with metals)
- From the numbers collected, Kindergarten enrollment last year and year before was an increase of 20-40% from February/March to September
    - Will create class at either/both schools if needed
        - Fund balance can be used to hire another teacher
- Historical budget and levy – budget has gone up almost $1 million in 4 years (2%) and levy has held at 0% increase over the last 3 years
- ESL postings will begin right after this meeting where the positions are being created
    - Won't be affected if budget fails due to new regulations
    - Many Districts will not be in compliance of the new regulations due to a lack of funds
- In next budget presentation show how the 3 components of budget has increased yearly
- Editorial in Woodstock Times reports that Onteora received some GEA restoration but still owed money
    - Do not know how the State calculated the amount of money given to Districts for restoration of GEA, no accounting for why each District's amounts were so different
- Employee benefits are over 30% of budget, even though increase is lower than expected
    - Nature of times, cannot control except through negotiations
- Onteora has no change to staffing or programs due to budgetary restraints as compared to other districts who can't make ends meet
- Happy to fund new ESL regulations and keep the BOCES Co-ser since it seems the District will continue to see increasing numbers of English Language Learner students

Now Present

Trustee Osmond arrived at 6:45

6. Student Representative Report

6.01 Student Representative Mary Sorich will report to the Board (proposed 6:50)

Student Representative was not present

7. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

7.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last meeting

No comments were made last meeting

8. Public/Student Comment

8.01 The public and students may comment on any agenda or non agenda item. Please limit comments to 3 minutes (proposed 6:55 duration 10 min or more)
No comments were made

9. Presentation

9.01 Richard Cardillo of the National School Climate Center will present the findings of the Bennett School Survey (proposed 7:05 duration 1 hour - 30 min present, 30 min ques) 6:55
Director of Education at National School Climate Center

- Improve school climate DNA of this school community
- Academic improvement cannot happen without a positive school climate
    - Climate is how we hold our norms and values
    - Change the paradigm from “I” to “we”
        - i.e “That’s the way we roll around here” as opposed to “That cannot happen in my school”
- Measured 12 dimensions: Safety, Rules & Norms, Physical Plant , Social-Emotional of everybody, Teaching & Learning, Support for Learning, Social & Civic Learning, Professional Relationships (school personnel only), Leadership (school personnel only), Relationships, Respect for Diversity, Social Support – Adults & Students, Connectedness/ Engagement, Environment, Physical Surroundings (adequate materials and supplies)
- Survey questions look repetitive, but are designed to elicit different responses
    - Shows strengths and weaknesses
- Found that people feel safe, belonged to, listen to, - across the board with parents, students and staff
    - Social Emotional security of everyone involved was very positive
- Looked for differences between students and adults responses
- Use charts, graphs and pages using a rating on scale of 1-5 with strongly agree 5
- Color coded by 50% of people rated above and below median
- Only 2 areas showed negative results, but are statically insignificant
    - The parents sense of social emotional security and their sense of support for learning
        - 2% lower than school personnel and students
- Data has been broken down into many categories –gender, number of years teaching, number of parents that answered in each grade for the school district to study
- Board question: Reporting that the social -emotional security scores were very high but it is the lowest score of all groups and 13% of students said it is an issue
    - Mr. Cardillo reported that statistically it is not an issue
    - Parents speak to Board members about staff attitude and the non-nurturing environment at Bennett
        - Felt survey was overly lengthy, questions redundant and did not cover their concerns
        - 37-39 parents in each grade responded
    - Mr. Cardillo responded that their voice is heard loud and clear in the survey – use data as a guide to help improve climate

        - Promote all voice, “We” not “I”
        - 5th grade did not feel connected as compared to 4th and 6th
        - Look at systems in place and improve lines of communication
- Started process by meeting with 5th grade teachers and leadership team
- Infuse social emotional (SEL) into already existing programs
- Started with what is going right, looked for needs
    - Looking at systems and programs for students, adults, student to teacher, teacher to teacher, etc.
    - Prioritized needs
    - How to measure going forward
    - Make people aware of what is done now to get more formal feedback
- Bennett Guidance Counselor Candice Wiltsie identified ratings with graphs and charts
- 3 steps forward
    - “We” not “I”
    - Use data as “flashlight” not “hammer”
    - Include student voice in everything not just student government
- Look at indicators of what teachers are saying about students
    - Number of students kept in from recess and other internal data with the climate reports put together
- 75-25 rule - 75% of next steps will be infused into already existing programs and system, 25% will be new – i.e. initiative, newsletter, etc.
- What can be changed in next 3 weeks with very little effort?
    - Not taking on huge new initiatives that will not lead to results – looking at things that can be implemented with little effort
- Resources of all information needed to improve culture is gathered as Google Docs for teachers, parents, etc.
    - Use as reference to change a facet of what they are doing
- Available by email: rcardillo@schoolclimate.org

Discussion:

- Time of year and parents answering questions on hearsay can be significant
- Sense of social-emotional security is low amongst all the groups but higher than all surveys in other schools
- At initial meeting for NSCC service, discussed that the program was supposed to be tailored to what Onteora needed
    - Not sure survey answered questions needed; transition to Bennett needed to be addressed
- Teaching and learning has lower scores, was not covered in this presentation
- NSCC has to make the results of this survey integrated into Bennett
    - Student voice to be elevated to challenge that adults run everything
- Adult treatment of students needs to be addressed as a community
- Mission/Vision “buy-in” discussed at Bennett
    - No teacher or student voice used to create it, but they believe in them
- Agreements are going to be in place teacher to teacher, teacher to parent
    - Expectations of each other
- Physical Surroundings, connective-ness low numbers was acknowledged as part of next steps

- All next steps will be shared
- Number of students that don't feel there is a sense of social-emotional security
- Area raised by parents is social-emotional security
  - Less nurturing in comparison to primary school
  - Felt that their concerns were not addressed by survey
- Survey found that 5th graders are not feeling connected – will be addressed
- Approach perceptions to change ideas
- Board is very proud of the District and how hard everyone works, after reconfiguration set up Primary School Committee to address concerns with K-3, this year began to hear concerns about Bennett
  - Concerns heard were much more adult to student than student to student
  - The perception of the climate at Bennett is that it is focused on discipline and rules and regulations more than the primary schools- this survey did not address these concerns
  - Data is very important, but anecdotal data is important as well
  - Comments had revealed a lot in the student survey about a later starting time for MS/HS – no comments in this survey
    - Survey is a standardized tool to keep it valid and reliable – puts responsibility on Mr. Cardillo to do research to discover what the survey does not cover

Break

The Board took a 5 Minutes Break at 8:05

Public Be Heard was held earlier than planned, another was held to accommodate people that arrived at the scheduled time

19. Public Comment

19.01 The public will comment on any agenda or non-agenda item. Please limit comments to 3 minutes (proposed 9:55 duration 10 min or more)

Stephanie Gindele - Concern of wireless devices due to overwhelming research showing that EMF/RFR (non-ionizing radiation) has negative biological effects, especially to children – affects their ability to learn. Keep the technology, get rid of wireless

Steve Romine - Wireless came from the military for warfare – tests for safety was done with military men's height and weight in mind- children absorb radiation quicker adults. Maximum safe exposure to full grown adult males are 10x more than other countries. Other countries have outlawed Wifi around children. World Health Organization has labeled Wifi as a [possible] class 2b carcinogen same as DDT, lead, and asbestos which have been taken out of the school. Information in the bio-initiative report by 21 PHDs based on 2,000 studies

10. Discussion

10.01 The Board will complete the review the progress of their goals (proposed 8:05 duration 15 min)

8:30

~~Educational Vision, Values and Ethics Leadership~~

~~1. After careful study, develop and adopt an actionable policy and/or plan regarding testing, reflecting the~~

~~Board's desire to avoid over-testing, 'teaching to the test,' the infringement upon instructional time, and the perception thereof. Work in collaboration with PTAs, Administrators, Teachers and other staff members to develop a policy and/or plan that can be supported by all stake-holders.~~
~~2. Address the needs of English Language Learners across the District and at all grades, from pre-K through High School. Work collaboratively with the Superintendent to recommend improvements to ESL programming and offerings, including considering bringing the ESL program in-house. Improve communication with ESL families of English Language Learners.~~
~~3. Analyze School and Student Safety and Well-Being from a whole child/whole building perspective, including but not limited to the use of social workers, psychologists, guidance counselors, school resource/safety officers, external emergency forces, and study of District Safety Plan and reports on Building Safety Plans, and any and all other necessary data. Recommend improvements accordingly.~~
~~4. Promote a stimulating, healthy and safe environment conducive to learning and that improves the educational experience for all students. Support professional development opportunities, especially those that: (1) help educators incorporate experiential and project-based learning in classrooms, (2) connects students' classroom experiences with the outside world, and (3) trains faculty to offer new computer and other "hard" science courses such that students acquire skills to become producers of technology. Continue to study feasibility of integrating programs like Project Lead the Way, International Baccalaureate, Blended Learning, Steam, and E-Learning into the educational program.~~

Budget and Finance

5. Maintain a long term fiscal plan that protects and maximizes the district assets through the use of collective bargaining, school tax reform, and energy conservation to create a positive campus that attracts both families and successful teachers to our district.

- Acting Superintendent Victoria McLaren explained that the Board has been working actively for collective bargaining, working with tax reform and energy conservation -Biomass boiler project will be underway in Phoenicia and attempting to get funding for biomass at MS/HS campus
- Ongoing goal – needs to always be focused on this
- Proud that we have begun to be more energy efficient as a District – great way to lead by example and show positive impact our choices can have
    - Continue to think to become more energy efficient – 1 thing school districts can do to control budget and see decrease in spending

Board Development

6. Attract, develop and retain Board of Education Trustees, with a focus on Student Achievement and Educational Excellence along with responsible management of District finances. Supply new Trustees with a mentor. Work with the Superintendent to constantly improve Board-Superintendent relations and communications, including but not limited to an annual retreat with approved facilitator. Each board member commits, individually, to the very best of their abilities, to attend every regularly scheduled Board meeting, to sit on at least one Board/District committee, and to attend at least one NYSSBA/RSA conference or seminar annually.

- In filling vacancy by Tom Hickey, received 5 applicants, which shows that the Board was able to reach out and get responses when a vacancy occurred
- Promoted Ulster County New School Board Workshop
- Reminded people that it's Budget Vote and Trustee Election time again
    - All information out there to apply
- Supplied new trustees with mentors
    - To answer questions and discuss how the new member is working on the board
- Started school year with retreat with facilitator and this week will have retreat that will cover Board communications
- All sit on one committee and attend Board meetings as much as possible
- All try to attend workshops
    - District Clerk to compile what workshops have been attended since July and ask if there are any others want to attend

Community & Culture

7. Foster an open, positive, collaborative relationship with the Community that is responsive to stakeholder

concerns. Improve the district-wide school culture through clear communication of Board priorities, and appreciation for staff initiatives and student achievement. Encourage collaborative work that integrates and aligns curriculum and improves students' educational experience district-wide. Continue to grow and enlist community help in legislatively advocating for our students.

- Communications Committee is better organized and more focused by making make sure to get word out to public proactively
- Maintain concept of "We" as a whole district even though it is a large District
- Good to get input of how to do better
- Work to open the communications between Board and Administrators – perhaps with a retreat
    - Have discussed issue earlier this year
- Disappointed that meeting with students did not occur – try to make it happen next year
- Glad to hear about student achievement and staff initiatives
- Certainly lobbied for students

Facilities

8. Study and develop ways that District property could be used to support agricultural and botanical science programs, including the production of organic fruits and vegetables that could be used in District food services. This also includes the incorporation of sustainability practices into the educational program

- Health and Wellness Committee discussed this initiative - spoke to other schools and found that programs were not sustained
    - It is believed that Rondout has a greenhouse
- Trustee McGillicuddy to ask the Food-to-Table movement in Rondout
- Health & Wellness Committee or subcommittee to tackle creating a sustainable program
- Ask Trustee Moor to attend Health & Wellness Committee meeting to re-address since he brought this goal to the Board and all agreed

10.02 Discussion on Possible District Recess Policy (proposed 8:20 duration 20 min) 8:45

- Great deal of data on Board Docs from a wide number of groups (i.e. American Academy of Pediatrics, Center of Disease Control), model policy form the State Health Department
- All recommend that recess and Physical Education should not withheld for any reason
- Data from 3 elementary schools of where students are losing elements of recess and for what reasons
- 1410 & 1411 – rarely crafted new policies, usually update existing policies
    - State assessment policy is the first new student-based policy in last 7 years
    - Policy is a collective Board responsibility
- Testing policy started at the Board table as a goal, task force created policy
- Code of Conduct references recess detention for more serious items and need to know if recess is withheld for less serious items
- Sample policy from NYSSBA – recess falls under their wellness Policy 5405
  1. Maintain daily allotment of recess time for elementary school.
  2. Recess shall not be used for punishment or reward.
  3. Consider scheduling recess before lunch.

  If the district is under severe time or space constraints, consider combining recess

and Physical Education, though such activity must comply with the requirements for Physical Education under Commissioner's Regulations section 135.4.

- Important to have a recess policy so it becomes a practice
- Recess is an important part of the day and is the last resource for teachers to use recess as any consequence
- In primary schools, there is no option for after school detention which leaves very little flexibility for teachers – no leverage
    - Some children respond to 5 minutes off of recess as a consequence
- Find out what other options there are from teachers
    - Reluctant to put in a policy because what would be used as consequence
    - Sherry Runk from State Health Dept. Representative at Ulster BOCES worked with Health & Wellness Committee to craft regulations
        - Committee comprised of parents, nurses, teachers, students approved regulations with information about alternatives for recess
- In proceeding, need to include principals and guidance counselors/social workers/psychologists, teachers and students
- The Board used a Policy Drafting Worksheet to create initial policy

(Philosophy)

The Board of Education understands the importance of recess

As referenced by CDC [NOTE: District Clerk check the wording of the CDC - the CDC does not reference using recess for consequence, but says there should be recess for 20 min everyday], AAP, and sample policy from NYSSBA, and model policy from the Alliance for Healthier Generation (as suggested by the NY Dept. of Health), recess should not be used as a punishment or reward

Board understands that staff need opportunities to correct student behavior and that recess has often been used as such

Students sometimes ask to stay in to finish assignments or optional programs

Recognize that there is one sentence in Code of Conduct that references recess detention

Recognize that staff is using loss of recess as a tool, but is not first tool they use

Recognized that regulations for this policy will come up with tools/guidelines for staff to have options when a consequence

- All of this may not be written into policy, but are the Board's beliefs
    - Need to look at what is current status and is this realistic
- Get stakeholders input after first draft by Policy Committee
    - Keep policy simple
    - Forum with stakeholders
- Thanks to elementary principals for compiling the recess data
    - They will continue to be part of conversation to do the best for our students

11. Break

11.01 The Board will take a 5 minute break (proposed 8:40)

Break was taken earlier

12. Discussion CONT'D

12.01 Discussion on the Draft 2015-2016 District Calendar (proposed 8:45 duration 10 min)

9:20

- Bring for adoption at next meeting

- Calendar starts with a conference day 9/2/15, students begin 9/3/15 before Labor Day
    - Need to schedule new teacher orientation – have not done that in last few years, will bring it back in 15-16
- Changed Parent-Teacher Conference Day to allow evening hours then a full day at both Secondary and Elementary to allow for all parents' schedules
    - Administration to look at parent-teacher conference scheduling
        - Last year was only available online and some people do not have internet access
- Discussion about school being closed the day before Thanksgiving
    - Students are off, staff is not
- Observations:
    - This year the calendar had 2 days around President's Day
    - Spring vacation does not coincide with Passover in 15-16
        - Staff will be taking days off
    - 2 Jewish holidays on the calendar – very unusual for both to be during the week
- Confirm that our calendar is aligned with BOCES calendar and other Districts
- Leave only spring break as the only give-back days for snow days
- Our teacher contract require a certain number of days which prevents a week break in February
    - Conversation for Ulster County School Boards Association to get county-wide viewpoint

12.02 Discussion on revising the Shared Decision Making document (proposed 8:55 duration 10 min)

9:35
Motion to postpone item to the next meeting
Motioned: Trustee Osmond
Seconded: Trustee Schnell
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Davis, Trustee Schnell, Trustee Osmond
Not Present: Trustee Moor

13. Discussion & Possible Action

13.01 Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 7260 Testing: State Assessments Grade 3 Through 8 (proposed 9:05 duration 10 min)

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby adopts Policy 7260 as written
Motioned: Trustee Davis
Seconded: Trustee McGillicuddy

- First reading at the last meeting, met as a Board at Special Meeting to finish policy
- Thanks to Task Force on Testing Reduction for drafting policy

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

2015 7260 By-Laws **SUBJECT: TESTING: STATE ASSESSMENTS GRADES 3 THROUGH 8**

The Board of Education is committed to providing a quality educational program for the students of the District.

Purposes of Assessment

The Board of Education believes that the primary purpose of evaluating student and school performance should be to provide information which helps to improve student learning. Assessment helps the school to improve learning by prompting changes in, for example, curriculum or teaching methods. It also allows families, teachers and schools to understand, and therefore to address, students' academic strengths and weaknesses.

While the Board is opposed to the over-testing of students, particularly using proprietary instruments that serve limited educational purpose and are intended primarily for evaluation of teachers and principals, the Board recognizes its responsibility to comply with the laws and regulations governing public school districts. Therefore, it is the policy of the District that students must complete the requirements of the public school program, which includes taking quizzes, tests, as well as other state and local assessments, to help accomplish the following objectives:

- To provide one means of evaluating student growth through individual, inter-district, and intra-district comparison;
- To provide teachers with diagnostic information which will enable them to better address the instructional needs of their students and to differentiate instruction, and
- To evaluate strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum, as well as methods of instruction.

The Board recognizes that tests provide only a limited source of information regarding a student, and should be used in conjunction with all other information known about a student and to assist the student in improving his/her learning.

State Assessments in Grades 3 through 8

All public schools are required by Commissioner's Regulations to participate in state assessments that reflect the knowledge, skills and understandings expected of all students and indicating they are able to perform at certain grade levels. If a student is in attendance at school on mandated test days, tests will be administered to him/her. If a student is absent on these days in accordance with the District's Comprehensive Student Attendance Policy (Board Policy 7110), he/she will be marked "absent" and the test will be administered on the make-up day. All students will be accounted for and reported to the State Education Department (SED) in accordance with SED's Validity Rules.

Neither the Education Law nor the Commissioner's Regulations provide a mechanism for parents to opt their child out of required state assessments in grades 3 through 8; similarly, neither the Education Law nor the Commissioner's Regulations expressly prohibit parents and students from refusing these assessments.

Should any student refuse to take the state assessment in Grades 3through 8, he or she will be provided with a designated location and be allowed to read silently or engage in other activity in compliance with current State regulations.

REF: No Child Left Behind Act
8 NYCRR SS100.3, 100.4, 100.5
SED Memo to Superintendents of Public Schools, "Information on Student Participation in State Assessments" dated January 2013

13.02 ICR – Federici

Recommended Action: BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approves the Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Care for Children International, Inc. (dba Dr. Ronald Federici) as a Clinical Neuropsychologist effective April 7, 2015 to June 30, 2015 at a rate of $400.00 per hour to a maximum of $4,000.00 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

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

13.03 MOU- for Summer Principals (proposed 9:15)

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby approves MOU #04072015 to change the name of the OAA stipend for Summer Principals.

Motioned: Trustee Davis
Seconded: Trustee Schnell

- One stipend for planning and one stipend for running it - 2 people shared it last year, this year will be 1 person

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

13.04 Creation of 2 ESL Positions (proposed 9:20)

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby creates the following positions: 2.0 FTE English as a Second Language Teachers
9:40
Motioned: Trustee Osmond
Seconded: Trustee Schnell
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Davis, Trustee Schnell, Trustee Osmond
Not Present: Trustee Moor

14. Consent Agenda

14.01 Approve Consent Agenda (proposed 9:25)

Recommended Action: Approve consent agenda item numbers 14.02-14.05
Motioned: Trustee Davis
Seconded: Trustee Schnell

- Note: Very nice donation by world famous drummer, Jack DeJohnette

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

SALARY CHANGES: INSTRUCTIONAL The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following SALARY CHANGE (INSTRUCTIONAL), as the result of EDUCATIONAL INCREMENT, effective February 1, 2015.

Name	Position	School	Current Step1	Credits1	Salary1	Additional Credits2	Salary2	Received Step	Credits	Salary
Corey Cavallaro	Social Studies	MS	20M	12	$98,970.00	6	$798.00	20M	18	$99,768.00
Krista Cayea	Music	MS/HS	22M+30L*	12	$114,372.00	6	$798.00	22M+30L*	18	$115,170.00
James Grady	Social Studies	MS	22M	6	$106,264.00	6	$798.00	22M	12	$107,062.00
Elizabeth Lefferts	Elementary	BN	6M	12	$71,799.00	6	$798.00	6M	18	$72,597.00
Andrew Occhi	Phys. Ed.	HS	12M	6	$81,439.00	6	$798.00	12M	12	$82,237.00
Jennifer Simco	Psychologist	BN	11M+Psych**	30	$85,335.00	6	$798.00	11M+Psych**	36	$86,133.00
Paula Wade	Physical Therapist	All	22B+35L***	12	$107,921.00	6	$414.00	22B+35L***	18	$108,335.00
Kristen Warren	Elementary	BN	7M	30	$75,954.00	6	$798.00	7M	36	$76,752.00

*includes Step 30 Longevity $7,310
**includes Psych Stipend $2,355
***includes BA cdts & Step 35 Longevity $7,310

APPOINTMENTS: INSTRUCTIONAL
SHORT TERM SUBSTITUTE EFFECTIVE DATES

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	FROM-TO	PAY RATE	REMARKS
Maisenhelder, Ariel	Speech Language Pathologist - WD	4/6/15-5/15/15*	1MA	LOA Replacement

*revised dates

EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS 2014-15

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Helm, Wendy	Musical Play Production - Elementary - Bennett	$792.00
Yamawaki, Tami	Marching Band Color Guard Instructor (Pro-rated 3/11/15-6/30/15)	$683.61

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM - TO	REASON
2180	4/06/15-4/21/15	Medical Paid
2180	4/22/15-5/17/15	Medical Unpaid
3209	4/6/15-5/15/15*	Medical - Paid

*revised dates

APPOINTMENTS: NON INSTRUCTIONAL
LEAVE OF ABSENCE

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM - TO	REASON
3653	3/10/15-3/24/15	Administrative – Paid
1629	2/3/15-2/11/15(1/2day)	Medical – Paid
1629	2/11/15(1/2 day)-4/26/15*	Medical - Unpaid

*extension of leave

14.03 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, #4/15, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Schnell

14.04 Fund Surplus Resolution

Recommended Action: This Fund Surplus Resolution Agreement And Release ("Agreement") is by and between the Onteora CSD ("District"), PO Box 300, Boiceville, NY 12412, and the Board of Cooperative Educational Services Rensselaer- Columbia- Greene Counties ("Questar III", which shall be defined to include Questar III's Board members, administrators, officers, employees, attorneys, agents, representatives, successors and assigns), 10 Empire State Boulevard, Castleton, NY 12033. The District and Questar III may be referred to collectively herein as the "Parties."

WHEREAS, Questar III retained D'Arcangelo & Co, LLP ("D'Arcangelo") to conduct an independent audit of the funds that Questar III has accrued for purposes of satisfying future liabilities for post-retirement and other post-employment benefits ("OPEB"); and

WHEREAS, D'Arcangelo issued an Agreed-Upon Procedures Report on July 21, 2014 (the "Report") which, among other things, confirmed the total balance of funds accrued by Questar III for OPEB purposes as of June 30, 2013 and, of that balance, amounts that could be returned to the component and non-component school districts who participated in the relevant programs conducted by Questar III ("Accrual Amount"); and

WHEREAS, the Questar III Board has adopted a plan by which the OPEB Accrual Amount will be returned to such component and non-component school districts (the "Plan"), utilizing the basis for return set forth in the Report, and

WHEREAS, the Plan has received approval from the State Education Department; and

WHEREAS, the Parties hereto wish to memorialize the terms by which the District will participate in the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Questar III will return to the District a total of$1,026.43 (the "Payment Amount"), which by this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute the District's full and complete entitlement to its share of the OPEB Accrual Amount. The Payment Amount shall be returned over a period not to exceed five years as follows:

Year ending June 30,	OPEB Actruals Return to be Credited to Administrative Levy	% of' Total Return to District

2016	$1,026.43	100%
Total Return of OPEB Accruals to District	$1,026.43	100%

The Payment Amount as set forth above shall be returned in the form of a credit against the amount that the District otherwise is required to contribute to Questar III for non-component district CoSer charges in each of the school years set forth in the Payment Schedule above. If the portion of the Payment Amount to be returned in any school year exceeds the amount that the District must otherwise remit to Questar III, the excess balance shall be added to the portion of the Payment Amount to be returned in the next subsequent school year pursuant to the above Payment Schedule. If any such excess balance remains after the final year of the Payment Schedule, the excess balance shall be credited against the District's required contribution to Questar III in the next subsequent school year, and any additional school years as may be necessary to fully return the Payment Amount to the District. In no case shall Questar III be required to return any portion of the Payment Amount in the form of a cash payment to the District, or in any other manner except as set forth herein.

2. The District hereby accepts the return of the Payment Amount, as set forth herein, as full and complete satisfaction of any claim or entitlement the District would otherwise have, by law, contract, equity or otherwise, to return of any portion of the Accrual Amount.

3. In consideration for the return of the Payment Amount as set forth herein, the District hereby releases and discharges Questar III from any and all obligations, claims or liabilities, of any nature, that relate to the Accrual Amount and/or Questar III's OPEB accruals up to the date of execution of this Agreement, and the District hereby agrees that it will not commence, maintain or cooperate with any action, proceeding or claim in law or equity, of any nature or in any forum, against Questar III in relation to the Accrual Amount and/or Questar III's OPEB accruals up to the date of execution of this Agreement, which shall include but not be limited to any action, proceeding or claim in law or equity, seeking to recover (a) any portion of the Accrual Amount beyond that which is set forth in this Agreement, or (b) any other payment or relief that relates in any way to the Accrual Amount and/or Questar III's OPEB accruals up to the date of execution of this Agreement.

4. The District agrees that presentation of this Agreement shall serve as the District's unqualified and irrevocable consent to discontinue with prejudice any action, proceeding or claim in law or equity, commenced or maintained by or on behalf of the District and/or its officers in violation of the terms of this Agreement.

5. The Parties affirm that this Agreement fully and completely sets forth the agreed upon resolution of any rights, entitlements or claims that the District may have in relation to the Accrual Amount, and that no other promises or agreements have been made or would be effective in relation to the Accrual Amount.

6. . The District and Questar III hereby each respectively affirm that the execution of this Agreement has been authorized by action of its Board of Education.

14.05 Accept Donation of Musical Instruments and Parts from Jack DeJohnette

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby accepts the donations from Jack DeJohnette for items totaling in estimated value of $4,970.

15. Board Committees Report - 5 min each

15.01 Audit Committee Trustee Davis to report. Next Meeting is at Central Administration 4:30 on 4/13/15 (proposed 9:30)

Committee has not met since last Board meeting

15.02 Facilities Committee - Trustee Kurnit to report. Next meeting is at Central Administration 3:30 on 5/4/15

- Finalizing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Building Condition Survey that must be done every 5 years
- WIll be meeting twice a month to fulfill the responsibility of touring the of school buildings
- Director of Facilities Jared Mance has form to send to principals with data complete to get most benefit from the tour
- Looking into a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grant for biomass boiler at Phoenicia
    - Data logging to provide information to the State to get grant for $100,000

- Reviewed Clerk of the Works RFP to oversee the capital project
- Continue to investigate solar - State has a K-Solar program
  - Reached out through New York Power Authority and NYSERDA
- Have not heard from Ameresco about the Energy Performance Contract
  - Projects are to begin this summer
  - Issues with State Education Department moving projects along quickly – same with capital project
  - They are approving projects in 35 weeks instead of 20 weeks
- Architects concerned about Capital Project because bids are higher than have been in last few years
  - Some of project could be stalled
  - Board had to take funds out of reserve to complete brick façade work
- Briefly discussed playground vendor coming to meet with playground committees at Woodstock and Phoenicia
  - Bringing initial workup based on design committees gave him

15.03 Policy Committee - Trustee Moor to report. Next meeting is at Central Administration
Committee has not met since last Board meeting

15.04 Health and Wellness Committee Trustee Davis to report. Next meeting is 2:45 in the MS/HS Room 207 on 4/16/15
Committee has not met since last Board meeting

15.05 Ad Hoc Committee: Communications Trustee Osmond to Report. Next meeting is 8:45 am 4/16/15
Committee has not met since last Board meeting

15.06 Ad Hoc Committee: Primary School. Next meeting is at Woodstock at 5 pm on 4/23/15
Committee has not met since last Board meeting

16. Old Business

16.01 The Board will discuss Old Business (proposed 9:35)
9:50
Can we still have a student meeting this year?

17. New Business

17.01 The Board will discuss New Business (proposed 9:40)
No new business was discussed

17.02 Discussion of Next Steps with WIFI information (proposed 9:45)
Trustee McGillicuddy explained that this is on the agenda because of growing concern with health risks

- Need to decide if the investigation should happen at Board table or through a committee
- In primary, computers on wheels are only computers that use Wifi
- Adminsitration/Cabinet would like to let the Board know what would be educational programs would be effected if wireless was eliminated

- Educational process for the Board - not the time to make any decision tonight on next steps
- Board to read research and look at various tools we have: Board table discussion, another task force of stakeholders or Shared Decision Making Committee
- Put on next agenda
- If Wifi is not the way to go, what will it cost? What will it look like?
- Elementary classrooms were originally hard wired and still are 2 drops in every classroom but they are old connections and may not be sufficient for needs
- Need to revise Shared Decision Making document
    - If a Shared Decision Making Committee Board and students are not invited so it should be a Task force or adhoc Board committee so more groups can participate
        - Consensus at the Board table

18. Request For Information

18.01 The Board will request information (proposed 9:50)
(from Old Business) Can there be a student meting this year?

Trustee Fletcher asked for an up-do date splatter map to see where students are residing- especially in the younger grades

20. Adjournment

20.01 Adjourn Meeting (proposed 10:05). Next meeting is Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 6pm in the Middle/High School
Recommended Action: The meeting is adjourned at 10:00
Motioned: Trustee Davis
Seconded: Trustee Osmond
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Yea: Trustee Fletcher, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee McGillicuddy, Trustee Davis, Trustee Schnell, Trustee Osmond
Not Present: Trustee Moor

Minutes Recorded By:
Fern Amster

Board of Education: Tony Fletcher, Rob Kurnit, Laurie Osmond, Ann McGillicuddy, Gideon Moor, Tanya Davis, Barbara Schnell