ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

MINUTES

WORKSHOP MEETING
6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020
TELECONFERENCING

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 6:00
1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
1.03 Roll Call
Present: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren
Not Present: Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee DeJesus

2. Acceptance of Minutes

2.01 Acceptance of Minutes
Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the March 24, 2020 and April 22, 2020 Board Meetings
Motioned: Trustee Salem
Seconded: Trustee Storey
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren
Not Present: Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee DeJesus

3. Superintendent District News

3.01 The Superintendent will report District News

- This is Teacher Appreciation Week - a million and one reasons to express our gratitude to teachers
    - There have been dozens of posts on social media by parents sharing how incredibly powerful the role of the teacher is and how hard it is to try to replicate that at home even with the guidance of the classroom teachers
        - Teachers have gone above and beyond
        - Both individually and as a unit, Onteora Teachers Association has worked tirelessly and given of themselves to our students and our community
- School Spirit is up - Honor Society posted a tribute to our teachers
    - HS student government has secured face masks for distribution to our community to be delivered to families with our meal distribution
- The District is incredibly proud of the work that our HS Principal, Mr. Edelman has done in collaboration with his faculty and the senior class in order to create an event to honor the work of the seniors

HS Principal Mr. Edelman on the graduation ceremony this year:

- Will have a Modified ceremony then car procession that will go through major roads in District
    - Change to Thursday because of traffic on Fridays

- Prior to ceremony – each student will decorate a vehicle for the procession, - have car signs with students names in front and back
    - Students will get caps and gowns before
- 4:15 - Start to arrive in vehicles – by tennis courts on Route 28
    - 115-120 vehicles lined up on the west side of Route 28
- 5:00 – 5:30 Ceremony on WDST 100.1
    - Pre-recording ceremony, speeches, valedictorian, salutatorian, announce all the names of graduates, possibly music
    - Stay in vehicle to avoid assembly
- 5:30 - start caravan
    - All departments will have designated spots along caravan to decorate and show their support
    - 43 miles worth of roads to cover – mapped out with SRO – do in 1.5 hours
    - Hoping to get community participation - people will assemble using social distancing and make noise
- Board can participate by having a place on the road to cheer them on or ride on the bus set for students without a vehicle
- Thanks to Superintendent Victoria McLaren for helping to reach Town Supervisors
- Thank you to WDST – for the 30 minutes of air time and helping with the memory video sound

Superintendent Victoria McLaren cont'd

- Governor has set the date for our budget vote on June 9th
    - This is an incredible burden on all Districts and we will do everything to comply with the guidance
    - The governor is requiring a postcard be sent to all of our households to let them know that we will be sending a ballot to each qualified voter
    - The ballot that we send will include a self-addressed postage paid envelope for them to return their ballot in
        - The turnaround time is extremely short for this process and it is going to be incredibly challenging to get the ballots out in time and then for the voters to return them
    - We have added a discussion and possible action item to the agenda to adopt the budget and alter the budget calendar to comply with this new timeline

Now Present:

Trustee Ratcliff joined at 6:15

4. Board District News

4.01 The Board will report District News

- Discussion on Governor's Press Conference today about education today and when school resumes
    - Learn lessons from these last months when school reopens to improve learning

5. Student Representative Report

5.01 Student Representative, Leon Savage will report to the Board

Student Representative was not present to give a report

6. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

6.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last meeting
No one spoke

7. Public and Student Comment

7.01 Public and Students may comment on any agenda or non-agenda item
No comment was made

8. Discussion & Possible Action

8.01 Donations - Scholarships

Recommended Action: The Superintendent recommends acceptance of donations totaling $3,625.00 CASH, from various donors as scholarship awards for the Class of 2020.

The Superintendent recommends approval of the following donations:

Donation Amount and Donee's Name

$250.00 Wadler Bros
$300.00 Deborah Heppner & Donald Allen
$1,500.00 Quaranda Family
$1,000.00 Imagine Onteora
$200.00 Olive Senior Citizens
$31.25 Chris Downs
$50.00 Lynda Zito-Enright
$25.00 Kaye Vandagriff Norris
$150.00 Olive Fire Department
$31.25 Linda Sella
$31.25 Lance Edelman
$31.25 Jennifer O'Connor
$25.00 LuAnn Lietz

Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Salem

- Thank everyone for supporting our seniors especially during this time

Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

8.02 Donation - Box Tops

Recommended Action: The Superintendent recommends acceptance of a donation totaling $49.40 CASH, from Box Tops for Education to be used towards Middle School PBIS and approves increasing the 2019-2020 budget code A2110.431.02 (Supplemental) $49.40
Motioned: Trustee Salem
Seconded: Trustee Ratcliff
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

8.03 Discuss and Review Resolutions to send to NYSSBA

1. **Be it Resolved** that the New York State School Boards Association support the proposed New York Health Act and any legislation at the state or federal level that provides single payer health care for all New Yorkers.

Rationale

The cost of health insurance has more than doubled since 2000, resulting in disproportionate budget increases for districts that take seriously the obligation to insure the healthcare needs of their employees. Likewise, it has been demonstrated that students with poor health have a higher probability of school failure, grade retention, and dropout. As New York State Department of Education seeks resources to improve educational outcomes, the impediment caused by inadequate access to healthcare, especially for our poorest students and students with special health care needs, adds additional financial burden to the cost of public education.

2. **Be it Resolved**, that the New York State School Boards Association support legislation that requires every child in New York State, aged 0-21, be covered for free under the Child Health Plus program.

Rationale
Students with poor health have a higher probability of school failure, grade retention, and dropout. As New York State Department of Education seeks resources to improve educational outcomes, the impediment caused by inadequate access to healthcare, especially for our poorest students and students with special health care needs adds additional financial burden to the cost of public education.

3. **Be it Resolved**, that the New York State School Boards Association support legislation which requires the State of New York to hold school districts harmless for employee and retiree health care increases that exceed the Consumer Price Index.

Rationale
The cost of healthcare rose 5% in 2019, compared to a CPI of 1.44%, resulting in disproportionate budget increases for districts that take seriously the obligation to insure the health of their employees and retirees. Profit-motivated health insurance adds an undue burden on public institutions that exist for the common good.
* * *
4. **Be it Resolved**, that the New York State School Boards Association support legislation that creates a process for tenure review and renewal occurring every five years throughout the career of all tenured public school employees. This process will include student, parent and colleague feedback, will not be driven by test scores, and is intended to be instructive, not punitive.

Rationale
Supporting teachers and administrators as lifelong learners who continue to refresh and reinvigorate themselves professionally can only lead to better student outcomes. Conducting tenure reviews at scheduled intervals will encourage growth and reward excellence.

- These were late last year, send in on time this year

Motioned: Trustee Kurnit
Seconded: Trustee Salem
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

8.04 Approve School Calendar for 2020-2021

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby approves the School Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year

Motioned: Trustee Kurnit
Seconded: Trustee Storey

- Not radically different from recent years- if we go over snow days we will still be within required days
- Start with BOCES calendar and build from there

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

8.05 Adopt 2020-2021 Budget

Recommended Action: Superintendent recommends Board of Education approval of the following Proposition: Proposition # 1 – 2020-2021 Budget: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onteora Central School District Board of Education be and is hereby authorized to expend the sums set forth under the various headings which are voted upon in gross and not in detail in the total amount of $57,938,542 (which includes $20,000 to support public library) for the year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, and the Board is authorized to levy and collect the necessary tax thereof on the taxable property of the District.
Motioned: Trustee Osmond
Seconded: Trustee Storey

- If aid is cut or if we have to go on contingency budget, have identified areas to items can look to reduce: transfer to capital, bus purchase, building repair, and have option of carryover more than 4% on unappropriated fund balance
    - If aid is cut, district will be fine, if aid is cut and on contingency, will have to have a discussion
- Recommending that the Board rescind putting Capital Reserve on ballot
    - Don't want to lock funds in a Capital Reserve and it simplifies the budget

Motion to postpone this resolution
First: Trustee Osmond
Second:Trustee Salem
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

8.06 Approved Revised Budget Vote and Election Calendar

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby adopts the revised Budget Calendar for 2020-2021
Motioned: Trustee Salem
Seconded: Trustee Storey
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

8.07 Rescind Capital Reserve Proposition

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby rescinds the resolution from March 31, 2020 to submit following proposition to be included on the ballot for the creation of a capital reserve fund. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a Building Capital Reserve Fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law (to be known as the "2020 Building Capital Reserve Fund") with the purpose of such fund being to finance reconstruction, renovation and equipping of the middle/high school, elementary school, transportation building and district office buildings and facilities, including the school track and fields, pavements and

grounds, fire suppression, phone and security systems, heating, plumbing, electrical and ventilation systems, structural repair to doors, windows, floors and roofs, various improvements for energy efficiency and costs incidental thereto. The ultimate amount of such fund is to be $10,000,000.00, plus earnings thereon. The probable term of such fund is to be ten (10) years, but such fund shall continue in existence until liquidated in accordance with the Education Law or until the funds are exhausted. The sources from which the funds shall be obtained for such Reserve are (i) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (ii) unappropriated fund balance made available by the Board of Education from time to time, and (iii) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law.

Motioned: Trustee Salem
Seconded: Trustee Kurnit
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

8.08 Approve Revised Board Meeting Schedule

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby approves the revised 2019-2020 Board Meeting Schedule
Motioned: Trustee Salem
Seconded: Trustee Storey

- Move May 19th to May 26th for the budget hearing
- Discussed the logistics of mailing 11,500 absentee ballots

Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

9. Consent Agenda

9.01 Approve Consent Agenda

Recommended Action: The Board hereby approves item numbers 9.02-9.06
Motioned: Trustee Salem
Seconded: Trustee Storey

- Mike DeLima – from BBL construction manager spoke about the accepting of bids that are on the agenda
  - Hope to start before end of June with CDC guidelines
- Need to schedule students to get into the classrooms to clear them out – left buildings thinking we were returning

Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus, Trustee Ratcliff

No Longer Present:
Trustee Ratcliff left at 7:15

9.02 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, #5/20, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Ratcliff

9.03 Personnel Agenda

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby appoints John Reimer as the district Data Protection Officer with no additional compensation

9.04 Financial Statement

Recommended Action: The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial Statement for the second quarter (ending March 31, 2020)

9.05 Warrants

Recommended Action: The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts Warrant Schedule 8

9.06 Accept Bids

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby approves of the following resolutions awarding bids for the Capital Project

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the award of the bid for Site Work based on the bid documents of April 23, 2020 to the lowest responsible bidder, Casa Builders Inc. DBA Friedlander Construction, for the bid amount of $293,000 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the award of the bid for General Construction based on the bid documents of April 23, 2020 to the lowest responsible bidder, Transitional Builders Inc., for the bid amount of $2,371,735 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the award of the bid for HVAC based on the bid documents of April 23, 2020 to the lowest responsible bidder, CB Strain, a division of Dynamic Systems, for the bid amount of $263,800 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the award of the bid for Electric Work based on the bid documents of April 23, 2020 to the lowest responsible bidder, Comalli Group, for the bid amount of $236,505 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the award of the bid for Plumbing Work based on the bid documents of April 23, 2020 to the lowest responsible bidder, Tri-Valley Plumbing & Heating, for the bid amount of $556,100 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the award of the bid for Site Work based on the bid documents of May 1, 2020 to the lowest responsible bidder Barrett Inc., for the bid amount of $934,857.01 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

10. New Business

10.01 The Board will discuss New Business

- Suggest look at use of technology, curriculum and communication
    - Survey now - how parents, students and teachers coping in those 3 areas and what are the specific difficulties
- Need a technology liaison to go between the district and parents
    - To help parents set up technology in their household
    - Pre-configure Chromebooks for students with bookmarks- mostly elementary

- Give orientation on using technology to learn
- First Survey on experience with remote learning and specific difficulties
- In the past had a 7th grade class on orientation
- Write down feedback getting from teachers, principals and parents

From Administration:

- Been having conversations with teachers and principals about Board's desire for feedback
    - Overwhelming response is that principals and teachers are in constant contact with families that give day-by-day feedback and would be 1 more thing families have to deal with-can't ask them to do anything else
    - Change is done as feedback comes in
    - Can request help and have training from website
    - Purchased an App for Chromebooks to make it easier for students – in process of setting it up
    - Technology Integration Specialists have been very helpful with teachers
    - Talking to them about having evening trainings for parents
- Message to teachers is, "Do No Harm"
    - Students will not fail due to lack of technology
- Not using "pass/fail" language at elementary – using "meets expectation" or "no evidence of learning"
    - Still in conversation about grading at MS and HS

Now present:
Trustee Ratcliff arrived back at 7:25

11. Old Business

11.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

- Later Start Times - Superintendent update said that they are waiting until schools are closed for rest of year to make decision
    - Do not have time – address immediately
    - Postpone until 2021-2022
    - When back, need to maximize classroom time due to the closure
    - Put on Agenda for discussion when State gives more information

Recommended Action: Superintendent recommends Board of Education approval of the following Proposition: Proposition # 1 – 2020-2021 Budget: BE IT RESOLVED, that the Onteora Central School District Board of Education be and is hereby authorized to expend the sums set forth under the various headings which are voted upon in gross and not in detail in the total amount of $57,938,542 (which includes $20,000 to support public library) for the year commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021, and the Board is authorized to levy and collect the necessary tax thereof on the taxable property of the District.
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Osmond
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff

Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

12. Request For Information

12.01 Discuss Requests for Information

No requests were made

13. Adjournment

13.01 Adjourn Meeting. Next scheduled meeting May 19, 2020

Recommended Action: The meeting is adjourned at 8:00
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Ratcliff
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Warren, Trustee Ratcliff
Not Present: Trustee DeJesus

Minutes Recorded by Fern Amster,
District Clerk

Fern Amster

Board of Education: Laurie Osmond, Rob Kurnit, Valerie Storey, Kevin Salem, Bennet Ratcliff, Robert Burke Warren, Dafne DeJesus