

**VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
Approved Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER President Deborah Palumbo-Sanders called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Members Present Karen Ballard, Tim DeLucia, Chris Eckhardt, Kristin Elliott, Debbie Palumbo-Sanders, Christopher Parks, Mike Vistocco

EXECUTIVE SESSION A motion was made by K. Ballard, seconded by T. DeLucia, to enter executive session at 5:34 PM to discuss the employment history of specific individuals. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no

REGULAR SESSION A motion was made by C. Parks, seconded by M. Vistocco, to return to regular session at 7:01 PM. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no

APPROVE AGENDA A motion was made by C. Eckhardt, seconded by M. Vistocco, to approve the revised agenda for the meeting. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no

RECOGNITIONS None at this time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Due to the virtual meeting there was no live participation. Community members were asked to email thoughts or comments related to the budget to VCSbudget@victorschools.org anything other than budget related items to the Superintendent at terranovat@victorschools.org.

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by K. Ballard, seconded by K. Elliott, to approve, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the following consent items:

MINUTES Minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2020 and the special meetings of March 24, 2020, April 8, 2020 and April 14, 2020;

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Treasurer's Report for the month ending February 29, 2020;

PERSONNEL The following personnel items:
All appointments on these pages are made in compliance with New York State Education Law relating to criminal history background clearances for new employees. Conditional clearances under that law have been requested for all new employees.

Instructional

Leaves of Absence: The granting of a maternity leave and subsequent childcare leave of absence for **Stacey Born**, Special Education Teacher, effective approximately May 14, 2020, and extending to June 30, 2020.

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The granting of a maternity leave and subsequent childcare leave of absence for **Jessica Sapp**, Elementary Teacher, effective approximately June 6, 2020, and extending to November 10, 2020.

Resignations: The resignation, due to retirement, of **Laura Dash**, Reading Teacher, effective June 30, 2020.

The resignation, due to retirement, of **Darlene Cowles**, English Teacher, effective June 30, 2020.

The resignation of **Scott Miller**, School Psychologist, effective August 31, 2020.

Athletics:	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Years</u>
Track	Varsity Assistant	Leigha Tilton	5	5
	Modified B	Anthony Lupia	6	1

Non-Instructional

Appointments: The appointment of **Sarah Maslyn**, from Substitute Cleaner to Full Time Cleaner, effective March 16, 2020, at an hourly rate of \$12.18.

**Per Diem and
Substitute Positions:**

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Position</u>
Sandra Allen	Food Service Helper
Kelly Gelinis	Food Service Helper
Anita Fickett	Food Service Helper
Karen Lake	Food Service Helper
Alexis Miller	Food Service Helper
Paula Hills	Food Service Helper
Deborah Whitehair	Food Service Helper
Nicole Burger	Food Service Helper
Jean Lorini-Jones	Food Service Helper

CSE RECOMMENDATIONS Recommendations of the Committee on Special Education from the meetings of February 11, 13, 14, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 2020, March 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 20, 2020, and April 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 2020;

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS Board members to attend standing committee meetings;

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DONATIONS

Approve the following donations:

- \$2,020.87 from Terra Science and Education, Inc. to the Primary School for a project titled Coding a Culture of Creativity and Innovation;
- \$1,500.00 from the TYLERSTRONG Foundation to the VCS Cafeteria Fund;

**LEGAL NOTICE FOR
THE VICTOR
FARMINGTON
LIBRARY VOTE**

Approve the Legal Notice for the Victor Farmington Library vote taking place on Monday, June 22, 2020 as submitted;

**COVID-19
EMERGENCY WORK
HOURS/PAID LEAVE
RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education empowers the Superintendent of the period of time (or any portion thereof) in which the District remains open to staff but is mandatorily closed to students in response to the COVID-19 emergency only.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to its authority under New York General Municipal Law Section 92, that the Superintendent may place any District employee on a paid leave of absence for any portion or all days in which the District is mandatorily closed to students due to the COVID-19 emergency only.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to negotiate any agreements necessary in furtherance of the above.

**WRITTEN
AGREEMENT
BETWEEN PARTIES**

Approve a written agreement executed by the parties on April 14, 2020 and April 16, 2020 respectively as submitted.

The motion to accept the foregoing consent item was carried.
7 yes 0 no *(end of consent items)*

CAMPUS NEWS

Dr. Terranova welcomed everyone to the first virtual Board of Education meeting. He said he had a couple of recognitions during this unique time. The first is for all of the seniors students. He said the District feels for you right now and he knows the Board of Education is thinking about you every day. There are no other updates other than the school will remain closed until May 15th by order of the Governor. The rite of passage experiences are so important and we are making provisions and plans in case they cannot be held as scheduled. He made a special shout out to the essential workers such as food service workers, mechanics, grounds men, cleaners, transportation department and clerical workers that are coming in. He said for all the families, students and staff this is different. We will get through this together.

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BUDGET UPDATE

Board President Debbie Palumbo-Sanders said Dr. Terranova has been leading a great team, with Mr. Schickling and Mr. Haugh, developing different approaches to the budget. Dr. Terranova said the focus of this Board meeting is to talk about where we were as a District financially before the pandemic situation. He said Mr. Schickling will be giving a review of the current state aid situation since the pandemic. Board of Education priorities will also be discussed as well as some of the efficiencies the District continues to work on. The process and budget vote has shifted and is no longer in May. The budget vote will be somewhere after June 2, 2020. The Board will not officially adopt a budget until early to mid-May. Dr. Terranova provided a summary of where the District is financially. Currently the District has a significantly low tax rate, \$8.00 less than the Monroe County average. Victor has the lowest per pupil expenditure of any school district in New York State. He said one of the other issues that makes the budget challenging is the District does not receive sales tax as part of the school district revenue. Monroe and Wayne County schools do receive sales tax. Dr. Terranova said they are talking to Ontario County leadership about this. He said the District is in a tough situation with state aid. Victor has experienced a 12% increase in enrollment in the last decade. Other schools have had a 6% - 21% decrease in enrollment. School aid formulas, that are based on enrollment, were frozen over a decade ago resulting in a substantial negative impact to Victor in particular. The percentage of foundation aid for Victor is roughly 61% less than should be received and the District does not get sales tax either. Victor cannot offer the same level of programs and services as comparable districts without additional funding. Dr. Terranova said that reserve funds have been utilized in the past to stabilize budgets because the District was not getting fully funded aid. The balances are critically low, significantly lower than average Wayne-Finger Lakes school districts. They are critically low in areas that are critically important, for example tax certiorari. The District has between \$1 million and \$2 million in potential assessment challenges with only \$300,000 - \$400,000 in reserves for this area. Dr. Terranova said Victor is currently understaffed in multiple areas. Students and staff are feeling the effects such as cleaning, computer support, counseling, network technician and security. He said the bottom line is we have a number of understaffed positions and because the District does not have any sales tax that is supporting the District and the foundation aid formula works specifically against the District we really need to look at taxes to increase revenue.

Assistant Superintendent of Business, Jay Schickling, provided a brief overview of New York State's budget as it pertains to Victor Central Schools and the state aid. Mr. Schickling said there are two different categories of state aid. One is expenditure driven state aide. This is

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BUDGET UPDATE continued

where the District is reimbursed a certain percentage of the amounts that is spent. Examples of this would be building aid for capital projects and transportation aid. The other is foundation aid, which was the formula that was frozen in 2008 based the school enrollment at that time. This year, before the COVID crisis the District stood to receive an increase in foundation aid of \$480,000. However the state budget that was passed on April 1st froze the foundation aid so there would not be an increase from the current year. At best case scenario the District will receive the same amount of state aid as they received this year. This will be a loss of \$480,000 in additional state aid. Also, for the first time the state budget gives the Executive Branch of the government the ability to make mid-year aid reductions based upon the performance of the New York State budget. There are three different time periods in which the Department of Budget will be analyzing the budgets performance and if, in their estimation, the budget is not performing as they plan, for instance if the tax revenue statewide is lower than they would have anticipated, the Executive Branch can make the determination that whatever the gap is can be withheld from state agencies including school aid. Mr. Schickling said there stands a potential for a reduction of up to \$1.6 billion, which would be equivalent to 9% of all foundation aid. He said the District could find this out at the end of any of the three measurement periods, April 1-April 30, May 1-June 30, and July 1-December 31. There is no way to determine what the districts stand to lose until the measurement periods are complete. The potential mid-year reduction could be a loss from anywhere between \$0 - \$2 million. Mr. Schickling said in the potential worst case of state aid, the District is reliant upon property taxes for 66% of its current budget. If New York State reduces the foundation aid to the extent possible, the District could be reliant upon property taxes for 70% of its total revenue.

Dr. Terranova went over the Board of Education priorities. These priorities include maintaining existing programs, services and class sizes by insulating the District's finances against the mid-year state reductions, avoid further depletion of already critically low reserves, and identify and realize operational efficiencies. Dr. Terranova said it is important to understand the needs of the community. Right now large numbers of people and families are struggling financially. Mr. Schickling said regardless of the revenue status, the administrative team is working to realize \$100,000 in efficiencies in improved practices in operations, instruction and student activities.

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, Jim Haugh talked about the tremendous amount of work the staff is doing with the student body. He said the administrators are doing a wonderful job in recognizing efficiencies. The proposed budget includes new positions for Special

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BUDGET UPDATE continued

Education, English Language Learners, and School Counseling as dictated by minimum acceptable staffing ratios. It includes additional costs shifted by the 2020-2021 state budget to school districts to support special education expenses. It includes health care premium increases and an increased contribution rate to the Teacher Retirement System. Mr. Haugh reminded everyone that those who have watched budget proposals over the last couple of months have seen multiple different formats including different positions. The Board is looking to revert back to the essential English Language Learner and School Counselor recommendation. With the proposed budget existing programs will be protected and a focus will remain on limited areas where mandates dictate. Equipment and supplies will only increase by inflation. Some of the areas where there are increases are health related services and educational services for high need students. The increase in the employee benefits was a market increase in healthcare premiums as well as an increase in the District's obligation for the Teacher Retirement System. One of the items that came through the state budget was the Committee on Special Education placement student costs being shifted. Mr. Haugh said this is overall a little over a 6% increase in the budget.

Mike Vistocco left the meeting at 7:53 PM.

Mr. Schickling said the revenue structure is based on the best projection for state aid. The projected tax rate would be \$17.14 per \$1000, which is a tax rate increase of roughly 7.8%. He said a homeowner with the star rebate would be less than an additional \$20 a month for a \$200,000 home. Superintendent Terranova reminded everyone the current tax rate is \$15.90 per \$1000, which is the lowest for school districts in our area. He said before the pandemic they talked about exceeding the tax cap higher than this. Due to the pandemic and the situation in the community, nation, and world the District has worked with the Board recommending less of a rate increase than before. He said going back to the Board parameters they wanted to focus on maintaining excellent programming and class sizes. They also wanted to make sure the District did not have to dip into the already low reserves. A tax rate of \$17.14 will still be one of the lowest of school districts our size.

Dr. Terranova said one of the the next steps is to obtain public feedback. The feedback goes to the Board of Education as well as to the Superintendent. He said the Board has the fiduciary oversight for the District. The feedback is information the Board can use to help with their decision. Dr. Terranova said on the Victor Central School District website, under budget, are a list of questions that have already been

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BUDGET UPDATE Continued

asked along with the responses. Board President Palumbo-Sanders said the Board has been increasing and decreasing the budget during discussion. Due to all of the changes in the state the Board kept changing as to where they think it is best for the District. She said this is not a final number. Mr. DeLucia said the Board wants to maintain existing programming so we can offer our students the best programs and services that are possible. He said it's not going to be easy in this environment because we know that people are losing their jobs. He said we don't know how long this pandemic environment will continue. He said the Board will do their very best to meet the priorities going forward. Dr. Parks said he would like to add a debt of gratitude to Dr. Terranova, Mr. Schickling and Mr. Haugh navigating through this every changing landscape that is coming from Albany. He said in agreeing with Mr. DeLucia the Board is committed to doing whatever they can and have to do to maintain services, programs and class sizes. Dr. Parks also said he as a parent, thank you to the educators, the teachers and staff. He said with children at home he sees what a great job the teachers and staff are doing to stay connected with students and to deliver instruction. He said we are Victor strong.

RESCIND TRIPS

A motion was made by C. Eckhardt, seconded by K. Elliott to rescind the following trips:

- Varsity Cheerleading to Orlando, FL from 3/19/2020-3/23/2020 to participate in National Competition, which was approved by the Board of Education on 6/13/19;
- Varsity Baseball to Myrtle Beach, SC from 4/3/2020-4/13/2020 to participate in the Ripkin Experience, which was approved by the Board of Education on 10/10/19;
- Grade 9-12 DECA to Nashville, TN from 4/29/2020 – 5/3/2020 to participate in the International DECA Conference, which was approved by the Board of Education on 10/10/19;
- Senior Class of 2020 to New York City from 3/26/2020 – 3/28/2020, which was approved by the Board of Education on 10/10/19;
- Varsity Softball to Herkimer, NY from 5/1/2020 – 5/3/2020 to participate in a tournament, which was approved by the Board of Education on 10/10/19;
- Victor Indoor Percussion Ensemble to Northern Kentucky University from 3/20/2020-3/22/2020 to participate in the Winter Guard International Mid-East Percussion Power Regional, which was approved by the Board of Education on 11/14/19;
- Victor Indoor Percussion Ensemble to the University of Dayton, OH from 4/15/2020-4/19/2020 to participate in the Winter Guard International Percussion World Championships, which was approved by the Board of Education on 11/14/19;

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**RESCIND TRIPS
Continued**

- Varsity Winter Guard to Bethlehem, PA from 3/20/2020-3/22/2020 to participate in the Winter Guard International Regional Competition, which was approved by the Board on 12/12/19;
 - Varsity Winter Guard to Dayton, OH from 4/1/2020-4/5/2020 to participate in the Winter Guard Regional Competition, which was approved by the Board of Education on 12/12/19;
 - Outdoor Activities Club, grades 9-12, to the Adirondack Mountains from 5/14/2020 – 5/17/2020, which was approved by the Board of Education on 1/16/2020;
 - Grade 9-12 Art Club to Pittsburgh, PA from 4/23/2020-4/23/2020, which was approved by the Board of Education on 2/13/2020;
- The motion was carried. 6 yes 0 no.

**MEETING REPORTS
Monroe County School
Boards Association**

Mike Vistocco returned 8:02 PM .

Mr. DeLucia said Monroe County School Board Association has been cancelling all meetings. They have not done any virtual meetings yet, however the request was sent out to see who was interested. Mr. Delucia said he was interested in the MCSBA virtual meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to the virtual meeting there was no live participation. Community members were asked to email thoughts or comments related to the budget to VCSbudget@victorschools.org anything other than budget related items to the Superintendent at terranovat@victorschools.org.

**UPCOMING EVENTS
BOCES Budget
Administrative Budget
Vote and Election**

A special Board of Education meeting will be held at 8:00 AM on April 22, 2020 to vote on the BOCES administrative budget, and the election of Board members The meeting will take place virtually on YouTube Live.

Regular Board Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will take place on Thursday, May 14, 2020, virtually on YouTube Live.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by T. Delucia, seconded by K. Ballard, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen A. Goodberlet
District Clerk