

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

WORKSHOP MEETING

6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020

TELECONFERENCING

MINUTES

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 6:00

1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement

1.03 Roll Call

Present: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee DeJesus, Trustee Sherry

Not Present: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Salem

2. Acceptance of Minutes

2.01 Acceptance of Minutes

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby accepts minutes of August 6, 2020 and August 13, 2020 Board meetings

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee DeJesus

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee DeJesus, Trustee Sherry

Not Present: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Salem

3. Superintendent Update

3.01 The Superintendent will update the Board on District News

- Had one community meeting on Monday and another on Wednesday and last one on Thursday
 - Scheduled to accommodate various schedules– 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm
- Principals have been responding to parents
- 200 attendees at the all staff meeting today –answered a fair number of questions, copied questions to create Q & A documents
- Require coordinating with Department of Health in Ulster County
 - Got Testing and Contract Tracing Plan and it will be posted on our website
- Met with the owner of the Golden Notebook and many local librarians to plan a community book club, as Kingston did with “Kingston Reads” – spoke to them

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Jodi DeLucia updated the Board:

- Resources for staff with a remote environment – literacy videos that support unit of study, online phonics, math unit programs with virtual manipulatives
 - Everyone to have what they need to be successful
- Most importantly, staff needs professional development to make classrooms as effective as they can be

- Meeting with Morningside about what Social Emotional Learning (SEL) support work they can do
 - Open up the year with SEL plan for students and staff
 - 3 days to support development of lessons to help teachers build community in a virtual classroom
- Help teachers and families – have Technology Integration Specialist coming for 6 days between elementary and secondary
 - Build off of SEL backbone – build community while working with students teachers
 - SeeSaw is a new application - works in concert with Google Classroom
 - Will work on design of classroom (flow and structure)
- Notice to families about device and supply pickup

Discussion:

- Virtual manipulative is part of math workshop model
 - Greg Tang created curriculum and support materials that mimics the Workshop model virtually (i.e. Throw dice virtually)
- Teachers will work socially distanced in the schools
- Teachers can decide how best to use their time in the 3 Conference Days before school starts
 - Time to set up virtual classroom and watch mandatory yearly trainings, rather than sit together in the auditorium
- May have the ONTEA staff come in and access mandatory trainings in the auditorium socially distanced
- COVID has changed what needs to be covered

4. Board District News

4.01 The Board will report District News

Trustee Kurnit reported that he went to a State wide meeting with all the regions in the State about the NYSSBA Convention

- A lot of material packed in – law seminar on COVID and Communication Workshop
- Splitting it up over a period of time
- Discuss Board members attending

Now Present

Trustee Osmond arrived at 6:30

Trustee Osmond asked if we are having students sign something that says they will agree to the COVID rules - every year get students to sign handbooks – can do there

- Is in the training for students
 - Is in the draft Handbook

5. Student Representative Report

5.01 Pro Tempore Student Representative Leon Savage will report to the Board

Read a letter from the Student Government:

Dear Ms. McLaren and Board of Education,

We are writing to you on behalf of Student Government to voice our feelings about the value of

the Student Resource Officer Program at Oteora. Although we understand that there has been a nationwide push to remove Student Resource Officer Programs from schools, we do not believe that this is the right move for our school district. In light of the concerns surrounding this program though, we would like to propose a policy in which the program and the officer in the position would be evaluated annually.

Currently, however, we have been very impressed by the function of the Student Resource Officer program as a whole as well as with the current officer in this position. We see this program to be working very effectively as students feel comfortable and safe around this officer. As such, we see the current Student Resource Officer as a model officer and want to ensure future officers follow his example through our evaluative policy and others.

Thank you for your time.

- Personally love Deputy Sharon and everything he does be sure everything is followed to code
- Suggest yearly evaluation by Board of Education or Superintendent Other states, other schools SRO have abused their power. Be sure that never happens here
- Superintendent Victoria McLaren feels it is a great idea- he is employee of the county but could set up annual meeting with his supervisor

6. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

6.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last meeting Mary Sorch, Fenner Osmond Friedman, Raegan Loheide, Grace Humberger, Cally Mansfield, Sage Mannino, Matthew May

7. Public and Student Comment

7.01 Public and Students may comment on any agenda or non-agenda item (30 min)
Primo Stropoli- Resident of Olivebridge – support Indigenous People Day – since 1929 has been a day to honor Italian American contributions. Not against Columbus – wants to keep celebrate Italian Americans triumphs. Studied Italian Heritage
Rick Wolff- At the 8/6 meeting listened to the young ladies make well prepared statements. Shocking accusations. Sent email to Board, received a response from Board President. Asked why it was never made public that the Board approved the SRO contract. Response started with first amendment rights, free speech. Then said that white male power structure intimidates. People do not need to be lectured by the Board. Also, why give the holiday to the Indians? Why choose one group over another?

NOTE: Board President feels that young women do not feel empowered to speak up

8. Discussion and Possible Action

8.01 Donation of Art Supplies

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby accepts the donation of art supplies to create art kits for students in need from Diane Godfrey worth \$90

Motioned: Trustee Ratcliff

Seconded: Trustee Kurnit

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee DeJesus, Trustee Sherry, Trustee Osmond

Not Present: Trustee Salem

8.02 Donation for Belleayre Bash

Recommended Action: The Superintendent recommends acceptance of a donation totaling \$250.00 CASH, from the Health & Wellness Meet, Greet, & Eat Fundraiser to use specifically for the Onteora Senior Class Belleayre Bash from Community Bank, N.A.

Motioned: Trustee DeJesus

Seconded: Trustee Ratcliff

- No plan for the Belleayre Bash
- Had donations that we were told to keep, even though it didn't happen
 - Keep for future years

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee DeJesus, Trustee Sherry, Trustee Osmond

Not Present: Trustee Salem

8.03 Independent Contract Retainer - Collymore

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 Dr. Simone Collymore retained as a Consultant (neuropsychology) effective 8/19/2020 – 6/30/2021 at a rate of \$3,800.00 per evaluation to a maximum of \$11,400.00 with no fringe benefits or deductions and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Osmond

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee DeJesus, Trustee Sherry, Trustee Osmond

Not Present: Trustee Salem

8.04 Board of Education Goals for 2020-2021

Each Board member noted their priority goals

- Move forward with a long term plan is the most important item
- Make bulleted points instead of numbers – no priority
- Have an ongoing set of goals – have not completed these – continue with these- look at each of these goals, see if there is something more to build on it and add to it listen to stakeholders as a Board
 - Fold into Communication Committee charge
- Communication infrastructure – Board members being approached by staff because they are not comfortable going to their supervisors
- Address that students expressed feeling uncomfortable at school
 - Fold into 1st and 3rd goals an initiative promoting anti-racism and anti-hate- empower youth to feel that they are being heard
 - Administration supports adding that as a goal – will make it happen
 - Needs to be very clearly spelled out
 - Include examination of history curriculum
- Propose that the district configuration as a central component include later start time
 - Fold into goals this year, as the resolution was changed to give

administration more flexibility, but Board should not lose sight of it

- Compile and come back at the next meeting with draft language
- Put on agenda item to create a resolution rather than the goal on anti-racism

2019-2020 Goals

1. Continue proactive efforts to build a climate of mutual trust inclusive of all groups and entities within the District by:
 - Supporting initiatives to increase school spirit
 - Supporting a Culture and Climate Survey;
 - Continuing diversity education for students and staff;
 - Continuing development and training in social emotional learning, equity and inclusivity, and restorative justice practices;
 - Continuing efforts to better publicize the District's accomplishments;
 - Facilitating greater communication and advancing the vision of the District.

2. Support the development of a long-term, District-wide plan that strategically addresses educational goals, declining enrollment, facilities, community impact, budget and cost-saving measures. Accomplish this through input from Superintendent recommendations, Board Ad Hoc committee, Shared Decision-Making committee and community outreach. Specifically address the following:
 - Adopting a vision statement for the District;
 - Analyzing the Grade Level Configuration and Building Utilization Study;
 - Developing a timeline for the writing of a long-term District-wide plan.

3. Increase K-12 student knowledge and engagement in civics, social studies, and social issues by supporting:
 - Curricular innovation and inclusion of civics education across all subjects to begin by September 2020;
 - Continuing support of an independent, District-wide student government;
 - Secondary school voter education and registration;
 - The creation of a metric for a measurement of civic readiness and practical engagement.

4. Complete the process of revising the district's Homework Policy.
5. Organize our resources to improve the support we offer our students preparing for their future after graduation by:
 - Continuing to support and enhance the district's mentorship program;
 - Engaging with the business community, to better understand current opportunities for graduating students;
 - Visiting programs such as the Ulster BOCES Career Tech, P-Tech, and alternative education programs;
 - Working with district staff to enable our students to anticipate and participate in the jobs of the future.

8.05 The Board will discuss a charge for the Communications Committee

- Include meeting as a committee to consider things brought up at Public be Heard
 - Look at comments and report back to Board
- If there is an issue having a lot of interest, have more forums
- Suggested charge: Work collaboratively with the administration and the Board to proactively inform the community on district matter as well as collect and respond to input from district stakeholders
 - Only Superintendent can speak for the District by policy
- Committees report back to the Board
- Communications Committee has always met in public – notice is sent out
 - Welcome the public to the meetings

- Communications committee can be the gateway to point people in the right direction
 - Board does not want to field personnel or contract questions – just dialogue about living and paying taxes to Onteora Central School District
 - Refer non-Board related comments to District for review
- Board and Superintendent on goals for the committee

8.06 School Resource Officer Contract

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 The County of Ulster effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, for School Resource Services in the amount of \$97,018.20 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

Motioned: Trustee Kurnit

Seconded: Trustee Storey

- Trustee DeJesus works for county feels funny – recuse herself – thank Deputy Sharon for being an exemplary role model to the students at Onteora
- Lucky to have our current SRO
- No evaluation or review process in place? SRO not named in contract
 - Like our other vendors, we have a conversation if we are looking to continue the contract the next school year
 - Things are reviewed as they come up
 - Good idea to formalize that – want our current SRO to stay long term
 - If change in SRO, District is involved in the process
- Nothing to do with current person in place now or the job they have done
 - Great person doing a great job
- SRO was an integral part of the District and was an important liaison in the spring, necessary to pay an entire year
- Contract heavy on gang violence – boilerplate contract
- How has SRO found students to be peer mediators - is part of contract
 - Peer mediation might be helpful for student who were not comfortable going to adults
 - Come back with presentation on SRO and what he does
- Informally we have control over the Sheriff pulling the current SRO, but not formally – County’s intention to keep him in Onteora – recognize his value
- Peer mediation is from the Cadet program, go to Sheriff’s office for training
 - Is it at the secondary level? Is it peer mediation?
- Kept the money the same as last year but the SRO salary and benefits go up

Result: Passed

Yea: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee Sherry, Trustee Osmond

Not Present: Trustee Salem

Abstain: Trustee DeJesus

9. Consent Agenda

9.01 Approve Consent Agenda

Recommended Action: The Board hereby approves item numbers 9.02-9.03

Motioned: Trustee Kurnit

Seconded: Trustee Storey

- Thank you Paula Wade for your years of service to the District

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee Sherry, Trustee

Osmond, Trustee DeJesus

Not Present: Trustee Salem

9.02 Personnel Agenda

Be it hereby resolved that the Board appoints:

Forte, Joseph, certified as a Teaching Assistant, to a 4 year probationary period in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant at a salary of step 2 commencing on 9/1/2020 and ending on 8/31/2024.

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 and APPR rating of effective or highly effective in three of the four probationary years and must not receive an ineffective in the fourth year.

Be it hereby resolved that the Board appoints:

Klein, Brandi, certified in Special Education, to a 4 year probationary period in the tenure area of Special Education at a salary of 2MA commencing on 9/1/2020 and ending on 8/31/2024.

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 and APPR rating of effective or highly effective in three of the four probationary years and must not receive an ineffective in the fourth year.

Be it hereby resolved that the Board appoints:

McLaughlin, James, certified in Special Education, to a 4 year probationary period in the tenure area of Special Education at a salary of 4MA commencing on 9/1/2020 and ending on 8/31/2024.

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 and 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: INSTRUCTIONAL

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
Koller, Bonnie	Substitute Teacher/District	8/12/2020	Personal
Wade, Paula	Physical Therapist/District	8/31/2020	Retirement

SUBSTITUTE

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Edison, Fern	Home Tutor	\$50.00/hour
Mastandrea, Kayla *pending pre-employment processing*	Clerical	\$13.50/hour
Mastandrea, Kayla *pending pre-employment processing*	School Monitor	\$80.00/day
Mastandrea, Kayla *pending pre-employment processing*	Teaching Assistant (Uncertified)	\$80.00/day

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE FROM - TO	REMARKS
DeFini, Alyssa	1 st Grade Elementary/Woodstock	*approx. dates* 9/1/20-1/4/21	MA Step 1

EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Moorhus, Jolie	Elementary Resource-Phoenicia (Science)	\$2,138.00

9.03 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, #8/20, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Osmond

10. Old Business

10.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

11. New Business

11.01 The Board will discuss New Business

Parent forum for Special Education parents - Not enough parents for a Special Education PTA

12. Request For Information

12.01 Board members will request information of the Superintendent

Trustee Storey asked

- Wants to see actual documentation about changing special education services from attorneys
- When is cohorts and scheduling going to be sent out?
 - Hoping next week – secondary through the portal, elementary will get information from schools

Trustee DeJesus asked about Kingston CSD missing over 400 Chromebooks – Any problems with that or children that never logging into their Chromebook

- Small number of non-returned Chromebooks
- No student went unaccounted for
 - The SRO visited the home if the student had not logged on

Trustee Osmond asked:

- How much time during remote learning will children will be required to be online - by school will be helpful
 - Elementary schedule is 9:00-3:20 Secondary schedule is 7:40- 2:35
 - Students will be required to log in based on schedule –on the computer until an adult releases them to do independent work
 - Not a minute requirement online –spend time in meaningful activities offline
- How do we protect our students from inappropriate behavior from staff?
 - How effective is what is in place and what else can be done?

Trustee Kurnit asked what accommodations can we make for staff that feel they are in jeopardy or compromised

- Have a few 504 plans for staff
- Working with the attorney, have a form for staff members to request accommodations based on situation
 - Will have answers out to staff tomorrow

13. Adjournment

13.01 Adjournment

Recommended Action: The Board hereby adjourns at 8:05

Motioned: Trustee DeJesus

Seconded: Trustee Ratcliff

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee Sherry, Trustee Osmond, Trustee DeJesus

Not Present: Trustee Salem

Minutes Recorded by Fern Amster,
District Clerk



Board of Education: Laurie Osmond, Rob Kurnit, Valerie Storey, Kevin Salem, Bennet Ratcliff, Dafne DeJesus, Emily Sherry