

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

WORKSHOP MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

MINUTES

6:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021**

TELECONFERENCING

## 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 Salem, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee DeJesus

Not Present: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Sherry

## 2. Acceptance of Minutes

2.01 Acceptance of Minutes

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the April 21, 2021 Board meeting

Motioned: Trustee Salem

Seconded: Trustee Kurnit

Result: Unanimous

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

Not Present: Trustee Osmond, Trustee Sherry

## 3. Budget Hearing

3.01 The Board Vice President will open the Hearing on the Budget (in the absence of the President)

3.02 Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair will present on the Budget Hearing (proposed 6:10 duration 15 min)

Present 2021-2022 Budget to put before the voters on May 18

- 2020-2021 Budget \$57,938,542    2021-2022 Budget \$58,786,143
  - Increase of \$847,601 or 1.46%
- Additional Proposition for Capital Project
  - Establish Capital Reserve
- Appropriated Fund Balance
  - \$2,025,000 – Appropriated Fund Balance to reduce tax levy
  - \$750,000 – Fund Balance to offset additional Capital work
- Continues all pre-pandemic programs
  - Expands active learning space initiative
  - Increases summer school funding to address academic supports needed following the 2020-2021 school year
  - Increases afterschool homework & supervision
  - Allocates additional funds for mental health support
- Current Year 2020-2021 Levy \$44,721,240
  - Maximum Proposed 2021-2022 Levy \$45,486,297

- Increase of \$765,057 or 1.71%
- Budget Categories
  - Operations & Maintenance 5.14%
  - Transportation 8.35%
  - Debt Service and Interfund Transfers 3.35%
  - Employee Benefits 31.32%
  - Instruction 48.17%
  - General Support 3.67%
- 3 part budget
  - Capital 9.0%
  - Program 83.41%
  - Administrative 7.59%

Discussion:

- Built budget as if it will be a normal school year
- Taxpayer at 1.71% levy increase– gross amount in taxes can mean other things to taxpayer’s rate for assessment of their homes per \$1,000
  - Tax rate has always been lower than levy – except Woodstock where homes are valued more than assessed
- VAT is asbestos abatement in MS and Phoenicia
- Eligible students have been invited to Summer Academy, have 34 confirmed, anticipated getting more
  - Then will invite other students
  - Title III program for ELLs will also run
  - Enough staffing to run K-6 program half day
  - Cap of 15 students per classroom
- \$7 million – have 2.5 years to use money – have not gotten specific guidance on how it can be spent
- Green initiatives – everything is still there, TAS has submitted questions to the transportation director
- Mental health services for next year
  - Extended the extra psychologist for next year
  - Hired a replacement for the Parent Peer Trainer, as a Social Worker
  - Extra money aside for things we may need that are unknown
  - Continued to budget for social-emotional support with self-care techniques for students and staff with Morningside
    - Have custom designed curriculum according to contract
  - Starting to have conversations on 21-22 and what models will look like
    - Effectively collect information

Now Present:

Trustee Sherry arrived at 6:20

3.03 The Board vice president will close the hearing on the Budget

**4. Superintendent Update**

4.01 The Superintendent will update the Board (proposed 6:20)

6:35

- This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week
  - Thank all staff for what they give to our students and families everyday
- Yesterday started 4 day per week in-person session at MS and HS
  - 200 signed up/142 HS attended; 104 signed up/86 attended MS
  - Students were respectful and understood safety protocols
    - Arrival and dismissal went very well
  - Cafeteria a little difficult– have to clean tables in between sessions
  - Thank everyone who put efforts in
- End-of year celebrations - hope to have easing of restrictions
- Phoenicia and Woodstock playgrounds are open for recess
  - Both had ELA testing - very smooth
  - Third grade from both buildings celebrated Poetry Month with a Poetry Café on Friday
    - Shared virtually between both buildings
  - Phoenicia PTA working with gardens ready for planting
    - Baby chicks arriving in 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- Woodstock welcomed back another 40 students – around 90% back
  - Ended week with ice cream party- donated by Stewarts
  - Super Hero Week – Wear favorite superhero costume to school
- Bennett Poetry In Your Pocket – had a Poetry Slam
  - Original writing
  - Entire school in Friday did a virtual fieldtrip to the Poetry Barn
  - Over 3000 texts – shared ideas about different forms poetry can take

Discussion:

- Washer and Dryer for Phoenicia school
  - Have some building and grounds issues that have to be addressed for drainage and voltage, but is moving along

## 5. Board District News

5.01 The Board will report District News (proposed 6:25)

6:40

Trustee DeJesus reported:

- Asian American and Pacific Islander month – hoping this is on the radar of some of the staff – importance of some of the contributions and culture in curriculum
  - Mean the world to children
  - Especially during a time of Asian-American hate
  - Elevate and amplify the contributions and culture/history
- Earth Day- April 22 – Pat Ryan had conference at Ashokan Center discussing the Green New Deal for Ulster County
  - 2 sophomores gave wonderful speeches – Ruby Gallin and Noelle Crandell
- Ulster County has a mobile mental health line – [accessupports.org](https://www.accessupports.org) –call 24 hours, 7 days a week

Trustee Ratcliff reported that Neal Smoller from Woodstock Apothecary and Woodstock Supervisor Bill McKenna want to do vaccine clinic at school for students aged 12-15

Trustee Salem wants to give a shout-out to principals, counselors, staff, and community members who helped the seniors go through a grueling year with transition to college or work force - more difficult than usual

Trustee Kurnit echoes the sentiment – important to recognize the great job of the staff

## 6. Student Representative Report

6.01 Student Representative Leon Savage will report to the Board (proposed 6:30)

- Working with school psychologists – Mental Health Awareness month/week
  - Poster with information available to “grab on the go”
  - Talk during lunches to get support
  - Students certified through the Mia Gold foundation
    - Planning an event for Mia Gold Foundation for 10-12 grades
      - Incorporate into school
- Working on outside initiative
  - Figure out budget for outside classrooms and begin
- End of year – Principal had meeting with seniors to discuss graduation, prom, awards ceremony
  - Have survey out, when have all information
  - Have 2 graduation ceremonies or the car graduation like last year
- Prom – seems more likely than not that will have prom

Discussion:

- Go to Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair about funds, have conversation with advisor and Principal Edelman
- Bring up vaccines at next Student Government meeting

## 7. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

7.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last meeting Hilary Partridge, Rick Wolff, Scott Via

## 8. Public and Student Comment

8.01 Public and Students may comment on any agenda or non-agenda item (proposed 6:35 duration 10 min or more)  
No comment was made

## 9. Discussion & Possible Action

9.01 Donation for Scholarships

*Recommended Action:* The Superintendent recommends acceptance of donations totaling \$5,553.00 CASH, from various donors as scholarship awards for the graduating class.

The Superintendent recommends approval of the following donations:

\$30.00 Scott Richards

\$29.00 Jodi Delucia

\$29.00 John Reimer  
\$300.00 William Beesmer  
\$2,000.00 Marlene Butler  
\$300.00 Allen Family  
\$29.00 Liz Fallo  
\$36.00 Gabriel Buono  
\$500.00 Community Bank  
\$500.00 Rose & Kiernan  
\$1,000.00 Onteora Babe Ruth League  
\$400.00 MS/HS Physical Education Department  
\$100.00 Deborah Cease  
\$300.00 Maverick West LLC  
Motioned: Trustee DeJesus  
Seconded: Trustee Ratcliff

- Thank everyone for their donations
- \$29 is from each member of Administrative Cabinet to equal \$500

Result: Unanimous

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

Not Present: Trustee Osmond

#### 9.02 Discuss Communication Committees' Email Responses from Board

- Some people get form letter, some get more of a response
- Change form email to include information about the meetings and forums
  - There are 2 forums a month
- Board President has traditionally responded to emails
- Go deeper, more timely and more consistent in answers – with Board consensus on response
  - Biggest road block is getting all Board members to respond in timely manner
    - If not, is 4 members ok?
  - Appoint Board Officer as person to point public in right direction for answers
    - They will confer with Board officer
    - Have to work with administration
- Discuss again with full Board

### 10. Consent Agenda

#### 10.01 Approve Consent Agenda (proposed 6:50)

*Recommended Action:* The Board hereby approves item numbers 10.02-10.08

Motioned: Trustee DeJesus

Seconded: Trustee Salem

Result: Unanimous

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

Not Present: Trustee Osmond

#### 10.02 Personnel Agenda

Salary Advancements May 4, 2021 BOE Meeting

Name	Position	School	Current Step	Current Credits	Salary	Added Credits	Add'l Money	After Advancement Step	After Advancement Credits	After Advancement Salary
Burch, Erin*	Physical Therapist	District 4	0		\$71,666	7	\$1,008	4	7	\$72,674

\*Hired with credits

**EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS**

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT	REMARKS
Harrington, Brooke	Softball-Varsity-Head Coach (split with R. Scherer)	PRORATED	Termination effective 4/27/21
Harrington, Brooke	Softball-JV-Head Coach (split with R. Scherer)	PRORATED	Termination effective 4/27/21
Scherer, Rebecca	Softball-Varsity-Head Coach (split with B. Harrington)	PRORATED	Termination effective 4/27/21
Scherer, Rebecca	Softball-JV-Head Coach (split with B. Harrington)	PRORATED	Termination effective 4/27/21

The following named NON-INSTRUCTIONAL personnel have served a probationary status and are recommended to a PERMANENT STATUS consistent with the applicable laws and regulations of the state of New York:

NAME	POSITION	PROBATIONARY DATE	PERMANENT DATE
VanLeuvan, Maria	Custodial Worker	11/11/20	5/10/21
Scism, Brian	Bldg. Maint. Mechanic	11/30/20	5/31/21

**RESIGNATIONS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
Quednau, Karl	Auto Mechanic Helper/Transportation	4/26/21	Resignation - Personal
Smith, William	Groundskeeper II	4/23/21	Resignation - Personal
VanLeuvan, Nadine	Substitute Custodial Worker	5/4/21	Resignation to accept PT position

**APPOINTMENT:**

**NON-INSTRUCTIONAL- PART-TIME**

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
VanLeuvan, Nadine	Custodial Worker	5/5/21	\$17.03/hr.
Jansen, Tina	Groundskeeper	5/5/21	On step

**SUBSTITUTE**

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Grant, Helen	Teacher (certified)	\$125.00/day
Tucker, Chelsea	Teaching Assistant (uncertified)	\$80.00/day
Tucker, Chelsea	School Monitor	\$80.00/day
Tucker, Chelsea*	Clerical	\$13.50/hour
VanLeuvan, Nathan*	Custodial Worker/Groundskeeper	\$13.50/hour
Wiley, Jason*	Custodial Worker	\$13.50/hour

\*pending pre-employment processing\*

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE	REMARKS
Knight, Patricia	Cook Manager	6/28/21 – 9/1/21	On step	Up to 50 hours

10.03 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, #5/21, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Ratcliff

10.04 Change Order - WTI

*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 Change Order #005 increasing the contract between WTI and the Onteora Central School District for the Bennett Roof project in the amount of \$15,529.45 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such a change order.

10.05 Approve CPL Proposal

*Recommended Action:* BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District retains the firm of Clark Patterson Lee (“CPL”) to provide professional services, as set forth in CPL’s letter proposal dated April 26, 2021 in an amount not to exceed \$25,000; and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to sign the April 26, 2021 letter proposal from Clark Patterson Lee, a fully-executed copy of which shall be placed on file with the District Clerk, as well as any other documents necessary for the acceptance of the work described herein

10.06 Taconic Hills Health & Welfare

*Recommended Action:* BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Taconic Hills Central School District establishes the rate of \$695.36 per pupil for the school year 2020-2021 for Health Services provided for Onteora resident pupils attending nonpublic schools in the Taconic Hills Central School District.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President and Clerk of the Board of Education be authorized to sign contracts for health services for the 2020-2021 school year.

10.07 Financial Report

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial Report - quarterly - ending March 2021

10.08 Approve Revised Board of Registration for the Vote & Election

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby approves the revised Board of Election for the Budget Vote and Trustee Election on May 18, 2021

**11. Committee Reports**

11.01 Communications Committee - Trustee Salem to report. Next COVID Forum is 5/11/21 at 6:00

- Forums are continuing, focused on county guidance, pivot toward return in 21-22 school year as per Superintendent
  - Continue to hear from the public and give information

**12. Old Business**

12.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

- Start forums on later start times in elementary – put on radar not wait until next spring

- Doing other things, be sure talking about elementary forums getting scheduled
  - Virtual forums, administration needs to be there, elementary principals need to be involved
- Concerned that it will be “kicked down the road” and elementary parents and staff won’t be heard
- MS and HS building leadership did great job with stakeholders
  - Find kind of structure that is needed at elementary school level
  - Ask the people who did MS/HS level what they did
    - Structure, timeline
    - Not all may be viable
- Work of the changing of things was administrative- principals worked with Superintendent to change day
- Administration should discuss what would be the issues at the elementary
- Superintendent to discuss with administrators and report back
- Virtual forums seem to work very well, public does not mind typing in questions to a sidebar
  - Very successful to have a respectful dialogue
  - Hope it helps to facilitate forums

### 13. New Business

#### 13.01 The Board will discuss New Business

- Suggestion about mentoring process – will have at least one new board member in July
  - District Clerk has all information about process, etc. discuss changing mentoring process
  - Series of tutorials
  - Having a dedicated veteran Board member does work
- Have Board Handbook, waiting for one policy
- Cheat sheet to start, glossary
- Continue conversation

### 14. Request For Information

- 14.01 Board members will request information of the Superintendent  
No information was requested

### 15. Adjournment

- 15.01 Adjourn (proposed 7:00) Next meeting is May 18, 2021 Please vote!

*Recommended Action:* Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Salem

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Kurnit, Trustee Storey, Trustee Salem, Trustee Ratcliff, Trustee

DeJesus, Trustee Sherry

Not Present: Trustee Osmond



Minutes Recorded by Fern Amster,  
District Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fern Amster".

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