

WATERTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 19, 2021

The regular meeting of the Watertown City School District's Board of Education was held on January 19, 2021, in the District Office Conference Room at HT Wiley School. The meeting, conducted by the Board President, Maria Mesires, opened at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Maria T Mesires
Michael R. Struchen
Culley T. Gosier
Jason B. Harrington
Nancy C. Henry
Beth A. Linderman
Suzanne C. Renzi-Falge

Officers Present: Patricia B. LaBarr, Superintendent of Schools
Michelle R. Gravelle, District Clerk

Administrators: Stacey J. Eger-Converse, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction (joined virtually)
Tina M. Lane, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services
Joshua W. Hartshorne, School Business Administrator (joined virtually)

There were 2 visitors in attendance.

President Mesires opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent LaBarr asked board members to have a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Donald Whitney. Mr. Whitney was a very respected administrator in the Watertown City School District for several years.

Agenda Changes: Under VII. Items for Board Action:

Add: E. Personnel Report
Add: Item A.

❖ **Resignation**

Public Comments: None

Communications: None.

Board and Staff Reports:

Welcome—Elizabeth Maurer and Dan Mincer, Principal & Assistant Principal, HT Wiley School.

Using a slideshow presentation, Beth and Dan highlighted five awesome happenings at HT Wiley, a couple areas in which Wiley has room to grow, and one Ask that Wiley administration and staff has for the Board members.

- Tier 1 PBIS Incentives—with a significant decrease in behavioral referral this year the administration has been allowed to focus on positive behaviors in Wiley students. School

wide Bingo, Wiley Ticket Train, pizza or pie with a principal, and popsicle with a principal are all great incentives for students this school year.

- Wiley World staff thinks outside the box for kids—Wiley staff goes above and beyond with thoughtful ways of doing things for the students. Mask breaks outside, librarians putting the library on a cart to visit classrooms, and creating special message to the outgoing 6th graders last spring.
- Parent Communication eBook—this a visual way for parents to be able to read and get an idea about what students are doing while they are in school. This communication comes out monthly via ParentSquare from Principal Maurer.
- Collaboration Stations on Wednesdays—the teachers look forward to having time weekly to collaborate on a few areas of their needs:
 - ❖ Tech Talks
 - ❖ Grade Level Curriculum Talks
 - ❖ Special Area Talks
 - ❖ Social Emotional Talks
- Wonderful Wiley is Newsworthy—a few of Wiley’s Remote only teachers were recently a highlight on Channel 7 news with a story about how Educators offer tips on keeping kids focused while learning at home.

Mrs. Maurer then mentioned an area in which HT Wiley has room to grow.

- Academic Excellence
- Data Driven Instruction Utilizing i-Ready
- Parent & Student Communication—a new parent portal will be launched soon.

Their one Ask is to have continuation of collaboration time in their future schedules, as it is definitely something the faculty finds beneficial. The culture of teamwork at Wiley Intermediate has grown this year with teachers helping each other.

Policy Committee Meeting, January 15, Jason Harrington, Chair—Mr. Harrington reviewed the list of policies that were addressed at the recent meeting. Very few changes were made to the list. **1001**, School Community Relations; **1002**, Public Information Program; **1003**, Community Use of School Facilities; **1004**, Authorized Use of School Owned Materials and Equipment; **1005**, School Volunteers; **1006**, Visitors to the School; **1007**, Pet Policy on School Grounds; **1100**, Records Management; **1101**, News Media Relations; **1201**, Policy on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in the Schools; **1300**, Policy for Handling and Disseminating Information Received Regarding Sex Offenders; **1400**, Complaints; **1401**, Public Solicitations or Advertising in the Schools; **1402**, Relationship with Nonpublic Schools

Policy **1008**, Shared Decision Making was tabled until further discussion can be had by the committee members.

Items for Consent Agenda:

Resolution offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

RESOLVED, that Consent Agenda Items A and B are hereby approved.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Committee on Pre-School Education.
- B. Approval of the Minutes of the Committee on Special Education.

Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Items for Board Action:

Resolution offered by Beth Linderman.

That Award Re-RFP for Capital Project Construction Management Services

WHEREAS, the Watertown City School District Board of Education, pursuant to Education Law and General Municipal Law, and School District's bid and purchasing policies, requested on December 18, 2020, proposals for the professional service of Construction Management Services; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Request for Proposals, the submitted proposals, a total of three which were received, were reviewed in accordance with District Policy # 4505.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the contract for Capital Project Construction Management Services be awarded to Construction Associates in the total amount of \$507,000 subject to the terms and conditions of a contractual agreement pending review by Board counsel, and which the Board President is authorized to execute on behalf of the Board.

Seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Culley Gosier.

RESOLVED That the proposed new courses: *World Literature, Coming of Age, Masters of Horror,* and *Banned Books: An Exploration of Censorship* for the 2021-22 school year at Watertown High School are hereby approved.

Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Nancy Henry.

RESOLVED, That the Watertown City School District Board of Education amends the 2020-21 school calendar as follows:

January 29, 2021 will now be a full day instruction.

Seconded by Suzanne Renzi-Falge and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Culley Gosier.

RESOLVED, that the following revised Board of Education policies are hereby approved and adopted:

- 1001**, School Community Relations
- 1002**, Public Information Program
- 1003**, Community Use of School Facilities
- 1004**, Authorized Use of School Owned Materials and Equipment
- 1005**, School Volunteers
- 1006**, Visitors to the School
- 1007**, Pet Policy on School Grounds
- 1100**, Records Management
- 1101**, News Media Relations
- 1201**, Policy on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in the Schools
- 1300**, Policy for Handling and Disseminating Information Received Regarding Sex Offenders

1400, Complaints

1401, Public Solicitations or Advertising in the Schools

1402, Relationship with Nonpublic Schools

Seconded by Beth Linderman and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Nancy Henry.

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Patricia B. LaBarr, the Board of Education hereby approves the following:

RESIGNATION

A	Name	Title	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	John Wilson	Director of Facilities	11/9/2020	1/19/2021

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

B	Name	Title	Effective Date	Ending Date	Reason	Building
1	Martin, Stephanie	Noon Monitor	1/4/2021	3/15/2021	Medical	North
2	Patchen, Jan	Noon Monitor	1/4/2021	3/5/2021	Medical	Knick

APPOINTMENT – PROVISIONAL

C	Name	Title	Effective Date	Ending Date	Salary
1	Ashleigh Smith	Senior Typist	11/17/2020	Pending successful completion of Civil Service Exam	\$13.30/hr

APPOINTMENT – PERMANENT

D	Name	Title	Effective Date	Salary
1	Tracey Slate	Senior Account Clerk Typist	1/13/2021	\$17.64/hr

APPOINTMENT – COACHING - WINTER

E	Name	Title	Salary
1	Kathryn DeFoe	Lifeguarding	\$565.60

Seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

WHEREAS, a Resolution was passed by the Board of Education on January 5, 2021, approving the Resignation of Deborah Smith, Teacher Assistant, Item A, #1 on the Personnel Report and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Amended Resolution reflects a correction of the Resignation date as follows,

RESOLVED, That the amended Resignation date is January 20, 2021 hereby approved.

Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

WHEREAS, a Resolution was passed by the Board of Education on January 5, 2021, approving the Appointments- Winter Coaching Salaries for Kathryn DeFoe and Thomas Graban Item F, #1 and #2 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Amended Resolution reflects a correction of the Salaries as follows, Kathryn DeFoe, Modified Swimming, \$1,685.10 and Thomas Graban, Varsity Swimming, \$2,768.70.

RESOLVED, That the amended salaries are hereby approved.

Seconded by Nancy Henry and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

RESOLVED, that Joshua Hartshorne is hereby approved to accumulate 600 hours in the district for the purpose of an educational administrative internship.

Seconded by Jason Harrington.

END OF RESOLUTIONS

Superintendent of Schools Report: Patricia B. LaBarr

- Superintendent LaBarr thanked Principal Maurer and Assistant Principal Mincer for their presentation to display and highlight the many things happening at HT Wiley this school year. It was nice to see things through the students prospective.
- Today was an early dismissal for the parochial students today due to inclement weather and, although the WCSD students are on remote only at this time, Superintendent LaBarr learned that when the district does decide to release early, delay, or close it trickles down to many other agencies in Jefferson County that serve the younger students in the 3 and 4 year old programs.
- She spoke about the WPBS January activity: Storyboards and Snowmen. This is a creative storytelling activity and is optional for families to engage in for the month of January and February. More information can be located on ParentSquare.
- Since the last board meeting the district made the decision to pivot to remote learning for students and that is now in week three. There have been ongoing discussions with employee bargaining units regarding furloughs and shared work program with the fact that there has been a work force reduction. She's hopeful to maintain the staff force for as long as the district is able to.
- Superintendent LaBarr, along with both Assistant Superintendents, have continued meeting

virtually with building administrators or employees in leadership positions within the district. This has enabled them to have discussions on things that are going well in their buildings along with things that they're still working on. These smaller, 3:1, meetings give some more specialized attention to each of those key administrators.

- She's attended some virtual professional development sessions, *United Way: Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion* along with *Quaver SEL tool*.
- Mrs. LaBarr also reports about the pause on boys swimming and intramural sports during remote time frame. At the next meeting she'll give an update on where things stand with sports.
- The Northern New York Community Foundation, Hall of Achievement finalists will be announced at one of the February Board of Education meetings. Rande Richardson, Chair of the committee will attend that meeting for the announcement.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Report: Stacey Eger-Converse

- Mrs. Eger-Converse reported that her office is continuing to work on the Impact Aide Application with hopes that it's finalized this week.
- She reports that Lisa Blank continues to work on some data on Physical Education and Health related information to resubmit a new revised application for the DODEA grant.
- She announces a great opportunity that the district recently learned about. NYS has released 6 million dollars in funding under the My Brother's Keeper initiative. There will be regional awards to at least one district in each region. The Watertown City School District is putting forward an application for that by February 1st.
- She'll work with Mr. Hartshorne on some adjustments with the CARES Act.
- There will be a slow roll out with Class Link in the district. Class Link provides single sign-on into web and Windows applications and instant access to files at school and in the cloud. This will be available in the spring to students and staff after some important and thoughtful training.

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services Report: Tina Lane

- Ms. Lane reported the number of quarantined staff and students in the district compared to the last Board meeting. There are 44 students and 28 staff members at this time. The district medical directors were consulted prior to making the decision to pivot to remote only learning. She points out that staff members are able to apply to have their Sick time replenished follow a mandatory quarantine period. Quarantined staff that feel well enough to work remotely from home are doing so at this time in order to keep the consistency of remote learning.
- She met with the K-6 Pupil Personnel staff earlier today, as they are working with Quaver SEL curriculum. Quaver is an Elementary based program that is designed to empower classroom teachers and counselors with tools to support students' social emotional health. They are working hard to reach out to the students while they're currently remote and also to the students who haven't engaged this school year.

School Business Manager's Report: Mr. Joshua Hartshorne

- Mr. Hartshorne thanked the board members for approving his administrative internship this evening along with the Construction Manager resolution. He will now proceed to get

notices out which will allow them to start working on the capital project list to verify costs from the architect.

- He reports that there is anticipated Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) coming soon to school districts.
- He mentioned the discussions with the district's bargaining units concerning shared work and furloughs. He's currently working with the Department of Labor, which now has online application access to apply for shared work, once the Memorandum of Understanding agreements are in place.
- His office has received most of building requests for the budget and he'll be meeting with each building administrator on January 27 for further budget discussions.
- Additionally, he notes that health insurance is expected to increase 1% and Worker's compensation is going to be held flat.
- He mentions that the Tax levy growth factor was recently released at 1.23% which is the lowest it has been in 5 years.

Upcoming Dates

President Mesires reviewed a couple upcoming meetings and dates.

Executive Session

At 6:56pm President Mesires asked for a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel matter and to review the 6-month evaluation of the Superintendent. Motion was made by Suzanne Renzi-Falge and seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Open Session

At 7:36pm a motion was made by Beth Linderman to return to Open Session; seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

Adjournment

With no further business, at 7:38pm President Mesires asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Jason Harrington and seconded by Nancy Henry and carried; all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,


Michelle R. Gravelle