

The regular meeting of the Watertown City School District's Board of Education was held on April 13, 2021, in the District Office Conference Room at HT Wiley School for the board members and was streamed live for the public to view virtually via a link on the district website. 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  
Tina M. Lane, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services  
Joshua W. Hartshorne, School Business Administrator

President Mesires opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Agenda Changes:** None.

**Public Comments:** None

**Communications:** The District Clerk read a letter from Dr. Sandra Young Klindt regarding her reelection to the BOCES board and request for support from the Watertown City School District Board of Education members.

**Board and Staff Reports:**

**FAF Committee Report, April 13—Beth Linderman, Chair.**

Ms. Linderman reported on the Finance, Audit & Facilities meeting that was held earlier this evening.

- During the meeting the committee had the opportunity to meet Brian Arias, the new Director of Facilities. Brian brings experience to the position and the committee members look forward to working with him.
- The committee reviewed the audit proposal with Mr. Hartshorne and noted that the board approval of Bowers & Company CPAs, LLP is in the agenda this evening.
- The committee learned from Mr. Hartshorne that there is some encouraging news with the state budget in regards to working on restoration of foundation aid.
- Ms. Linderman also mentioned that the budget presentation will be on May 4<sup>th</sup> and the mailing regarding the budget will be going out soon.

## Executive Session

At 6:06p.m. President Mesires asked for a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the pending labor relations issue with the Watertown Education Association and the employment history of a particular person. Motion was made by Jason Harrington. Seconded by Michael Struchen and carried all voting aye.

At 7:45p.m. a motion was made by Beth Linderman to close the Executive Session; seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

## Open Session

At 7:50p.m. a motion was made by Jason Harrington to move to Open Session; seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

## Items for Consent Agenda:

Resolution offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

**RESOLVED**, that Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, D, E, and F are hereby approved.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of Board of Education Meeting on March 2 and March 23, 2021.
- B. Approval of the Monthly Treasurer's Report for February 2021.
- C. Approval of the Monthly Financial Report for February 2021.
- D. Approval of the Extra-Curricular Classroom Activity Reports for WHS, Case, and Wiley for January 2021.
- E. Approval of the Minutes of the Committee on Pre-School Education.
- F. Approval of the Minutes of the Committee on Special Education.

Seconded by Nancy Henry and carried; all voting aye.

## Items for Board Action:

Resolution Offered by Culley Gosier.

**RESOLVED** That the proposed budget, \$78,377,057 of the Watertown City School District of the City of Watertown for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021, is hereby adopted, and the same shall be submitted for approval by the qualified voters of the District at the budget vote/ school board election to be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

**RESOLVED**, that the Watertown City School District School Property Tax Report Card for the 2021-2022 proposed school budget is hereby approved.

Resolution Offered by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Jason Harrington.

**WHEREAS**, the Watertown City School District created a request for proposal for independent audit services and solicited three firms.

**WHEREAS**, the firm submitting the lowest responsible bid meeting the specifications for audit services is Bowers & Company CPAs, PLLC.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that independent audit services for Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2021 through June 30, 2024, with Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025 as an option at the Board's discretion, as noted in the attached proposal is hereby approved.

Seconded by Beth Linderman and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

**RESOLVED**, that the Watertown City School District hereby approves the 2021-2022 proposed administrative budget of the Jefferson-Lewis-Herkimer-Hamilton-Oneida Board of Cooperative Educational Services as mailed to the component districts as per the attached.

Seconded by Nancy Henry and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Culley Gosier.

**RESOLVED**, that Sarah Carpenter is hereby approved for an educational administrative internship in the district for the 2021 and 2022 summer months.

Seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Jason Harrington.

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

**RETIREMENTS**

A	Name	Title	Effective Date	Years
1	Brown, Margaret	Science Teacher	6/30/2021	34
2	Ples, Philip	Elementary Teacher	6/30/2021	34

**RESIGNATIONS**

B	Name	Title	Effective Date	Years
1	Carr, Kionna	Food Service Worker	4/16/2021	2
2	Dobransky, Linda	Clerk	3/31/2021	9
3	Hunter, Katelyn	Noon Monitor	3/24/2021	2
4	Moran, William	Teacher Aide	3/26/2021	1
5	Rivenbark, Marisa	LPN	4/21/2021	3

**APPOINTMENTS – PERMANENT – PART TIME**

C	Name	Title	Effective Date	Salary
1	Harmych, Amber	Noon Monitor	4/14/2021	\$12.50/hr.
2	Raulino, Joann	Food Service Worker	4/14/2021	\$12.70/hr.

**APPOINTMENT – TUTOR**

D	Name	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Pawlikowski, Dennis	3/29/2021	6/30/2021

**APPOINTMENT – SUBSTITUTE – INSTRUCTIONAL**

E	Name	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Monteferante, Christopher	4/14/2021	6/30/2021

**APPOINTMENT – SUBSTITUTE – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

F	Name	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Mittelstadt, Michael	4/14/2021	6/30/2021

**APPOINTMENTS – SPRING COACHING – GIRLS**

G	Name	Sport	Salary
1	Boomhower, Robin	V Track & Field	\$6,506.89
2	Borden, Mariah	Co-Coach Mod. Softball 7 <sup>th</sup> gr	\$1,132.67
3	Eveleigh, Mark	Asst. Mod. Track & Field	\$2,242.90
4	Hazard, Anthony	V Lacrosse	\$6,006.89
5	Lister, Jessica***	Asst. V Track & Field	TBD
6	Perri, Anthony	Mod. Track & Field Head	\$2,085.90
7	Peters, Eric	JV Softball	\$5,729.59
8	Roggie, Olivia	JV Lacrosse.	\$3,625.34
9	Smoot, Lucy	Co-Coach Mod. Softball 7 <sup>th</sup> gr.	\$1,132.67
10	Sudduth, Megan	Mod. Lacrosse	\$2,085.90
11	Sugrue, David	Asst. JV Lacrosse	\$2,603.80
12	Sullivan, Rebecca	Mod. Softball 8 <sup>th</sup> gr.	\$2,880.22
13	VanNostrand, Michael	Asst. V Lacrosse	\$4,812.04

\*\*\* Pending Certification

**APPOINTMENTS – SPRING COACHING – BOYS**

H	Name	Sport	Salary
1	Burr, Timothy	JV Lacrosse	\$4,368.56
2	Daly, Shawn	Mod. Baseball	\$2,730.22
3	Heckman, Todd	V Golf	\$2,864.80
4	Kilionski, Andrew	Asst. V Track & Field	\$4,025.34
5	Lachenauer, John***	Co-Coach Mod. Lacrosse	TBD
6	LaLonde, Kyle	Mod. Track & Field	\$2,603.80
7	Marston, Brandon	V Track & Field	\$5,729.59

8	Moonan, Riley	V Baseball	\$5,484.34
9	Morrison, Brian	V Tennis	\$3,003.45
10	Navarra, Brian	V Lacrosse	\$6,506.89
11	O'Donnell, Joseph	Co-Coach Mod. Lacrosse	\$1,376.90
12	Patrick, Dennis	Asst. JV Lacrosse	\$2,730.22
13	Pawlikowski, Dennis	Asst. Mod. Track & Field	\$2,039.00
14	Simser, Shane ***	Asst. V Lacrosse	TBD
15	Wright, Bruce ***	V Lacrosse	Unpaid

\*\*\* Pending Certification

Seconded by Beth Linderman and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Michael Struchen.

**RESOLVED**, that the creation of (1) FTE Senior Typist Position as recommended by Patricia B. LaBarr, Superintendent of Schools is hereby approved.

Seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

**RESOLVED**, That the following position in the district is hereby abolished: (1) Clerk position.

Seconded By Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

**RESOLVED**, that the following educational student trip is hereby approved:

- Watertown High School Seniors, Six Flags Darien Lake, Corfu, NY, June 12, 2021.
  - # students-approx. 100-150 +/-
  - #faculty/parents- 7-10 +/-
  - Time and Place of Departure— Watertown High School, 6am (tentatively).
  - Time and Place of Return—Watertown High School, Midnight (tentatively).
  - Cost to Student—\$0 –funded by Class of 2021 funds.
  - Travel Expense—\$0 –funded by Class of 2021 funds.

Seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Jason Harrington.

**RESOLVED**, that a donation of a Creality 3D Printer and accessories from Mr. Thomas Davis to the Watertown High School. This donation is gratefully accepted and approved and will be acknowledged in writing.

Seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

END OF RESOLUTIONS

**Superintendent of Schools' Report—Patricia B. LaBarr**

- ❖ Superintendent LaBarr began by mentioning that the Food Service administrators performed a Technical Review with State Ed department today. She's pleased to note that with the many schools that State Ed reviews, the Watertown City School

- District was picked to go first because of the meticulous work the food service staff does, it was already anticipated by the State that there would be no issues.
- ❖ Preparations are in motion to bring hybrid students back to school. A full report with more details will be given at that next board meeting on April 21.
  - ❖ The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee met and continue to work on strategic goals.
  - ❖ King & King public relations has finished the Capital Project brochure along with the social media posts and post cards. King & King will be at the April 21 meeting for a Community Forum presentation at 5:30p.m. to answer any questions regarding the Project.
  - ❖ Superintendent LaBarr mentioned that she and Ms. Eger-Converse are participating in a book study through Syracuse University. The book study focuses on leadership for increasingly diverse schools. The author of the book is a Syracuse professor who is also leading the sessions.
  - ❖ The Superintendent had a meeting recently with Legislator Scott Gray and Ken Mix, City Manager, along with the high school administration with the purpose to discuss graduation requirements. Mr. Fairchild, Mr. Nabinger and Ms. King will attend an upcoming board meeting to share the preparations.
  - ❖ The North County Health Clinic is going to start with a soft reopening with their dental clinic. They are working on all of their health and safety protocols.
  - ❖ Additionally, she reports that sports are going well. Coaches and players are following safety standards.

#### **Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Report—Ms. Stacey Eger-Converse**

- ❖ Ms. Eger-Converse reported that planning for summer school and staff workshops are currently underway. Some of the staff workshops for the summer sessions are already full so time and space along with facilitators to offer a second session for some of the workshops.
- ❖ She thanked Principal Lennox along with the other K-4 administrators that participated in the Ready, Set, Go experience for incoming Kindergarten students. Ready, Set, Go was configured virtually this year producing a video to introduce Kindergarten families to the many things they would need to know about entering school. That video will go out via Parent Square, the district website, etc.
- ❖ On May 4 and May 6 Cornell Cooperative Extension will sponsor a Bike to School Day for both HT Wiley and Case Middle School. Students from those two schools will have the opportunity to ride their bikes to school in order promote healthy lifestyles.

#### **Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Student Services Report—Ms. Tina Lane**

- ❖ Ms. Lane is happy to report that the district's APPR Plan was approved and posted to the district website.
- ❖ She spoke about the recent NY State lift with the travel advisory. She continues to meet with pupil personnel staff along with the nursing staff in the district in preparation for the reopening of schools.
- ❖ She has completed some interviewing for substitutes.
- ❖ Yesterday was Brian Arias', the new Director of Facilities, first day. She was able to introduce him to the maintenance and custodial staff.

### **School Business Manager's Report—Mr. Joshua Hartshorne**

- ❖ Mr. Hartshorne mentioned that his office is looking forward to continue working with Bowers & Company for the district audit services.
- ❖ He mentions that the budget from Governor Cuomo is promising with a bump in foundation aid. Service based aids were not consolidated and without funding adjustments.
- ❖ Additionally, the local district funding adjustment was also removed as well as the inclusion of STAR as aid. Between the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP) the district stands to benefit with approximately 23 million dollars, which is not included in the General Fund budget.

### **Upcoming Dates**

President Mesires reviewed the list of upcoming meetings and events.

### **Adjournment**

At 8:15p.m., with no further business, President Mesires asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Suzanne Renzi-Falge and a second by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle R. Gravelle  
District Clerk