

WATERTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 21, 2021

The COMMUNITY FORUM of the Watertown City School District Board of Education was held at 5:30p.m. in the District Office Conference Room on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. Superintendent LaBarr and Mr. Josh Hartshorne presented the 2021 Capital Project. Joining via Zoom were the additional team members for the Project. Jason Benedict and Mike James represented King & King Architects, Ben Maslona Fiscal Advisors, and Kyle Deeb with Construction Associates. Community members were able to watch virtually during the presentation and present questions to the team via a link on the district website. Superintendent LaBarr outlined the proposed work by building, noting that the facilities improvement will align to the district's strategic plan goal of assuring that the structures meet the physical and functional needs of the district.

The REGULAR MEETING of the Watertown City School District's Board of Education began at 6:00p.m. The meeting, conducted by the Board President, Maria Mesires, opened. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Maria T Mesires, President
Michael R. Struchen, Vice-President
Culley T. Gosier
Jason B. Harrington
Suzanne C. Renzi-Falge

Members Excused: Nancy C. Henry
Beth A. Linderman

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 Michael Young, BOCES board member for re-election.

Board and Staff Reports:

Reopening Plan-Patricia LaBarr, Stacey Eger-Converse, and Tina Lane

Superintendent LaBarr began by noting that this presentation will focus on the plan for the K-6 hybrid students to return on May 6 to a five day/week schedule.

Ms. Lane reported on the health and safety for returning students. Daily screening prior to school each day, face mask wearing, minimizing visitors to the buildings, handwashing and sanitizer, and routine cleaning and disinfecting are all going to be continued. Physical distancing will be

maintained in the classrooms. A physical footprint and utilization of space is being monitored in order to keep students distanced at least 3 feet apart.

Ms. Lane also touched base on Child Nutrition. The district will provide all students in attendance as well as those learning remotely with access to school meals. For the students not attending on a five-day cycle, meal pick-up remains on Wednesdays. Students will avoid being mixed outside of the classroom for meals. Each building will explore the use of alternative spaces for meals while still maintaining distancing and proper disinfection of each area.

Mrs. Eger-Converse continued by presenting more information on the reopening plan. She noted that the check-in process for students that are returning will no longer be needed. Attendance will now take place in the classroom. She specifically noted that there will not be any changes for the Remote K-12 students and the 7-12 Hybrid students, as those students will continue to follow the schedules that they have been using this school year. As students prepare for the return, parents are encouraged to reach out to the building principals if they are in need of a Chromebook or have any technology issues.

Superintendent LaBarr finished by mentioning that the district website, Facebook, and ParentSquare are great resources for families. The main page of the district website provides a link to a form in which parents can submit any questions that they may have.

Michael Lennox, Principal, Starbuck Elementary School

Mr. Lennox presented virtually with a Power Point presentation noting:

Five Awesome Happenings at Starbuck Elementary

- Mr. Lennox began by mentioning the Remote teachers at Starbuck elementary. Heather Cean, Krista Sloan and Rachel Garnsey service the second, third, and fourth grade students not only from Starbuck but also students in those grades from Sherman Elementary. Lower numbers of remote students have allowed the two schools to share services for Kindergarten and grade one as well.
- Mr. Lennox noted the several new staff members to Starbuck Elementary, each being a team player.
- The students at Starbuck are definitely noted as being an awesome happening. Each day "Starbuck Stars" are given out to students who portray kindness, respectfulness, and caring.
- Mr. Lennox also reported that Starbuck has an Attendance Team that meets weekly to discuss attendance issues, academic struggles, and basic needs of the students.
- Mr. Lennox displayed some photos of how Starbuck provides a pick-up system for items that need to go to the remote students.

Areas for Growth

- Continued support and communication in providing social, emotional, physical and intellectual safety for all students, staff and families.
- To provide ongoing support for teachers as it relates to gaining knowledge and overall understanding of the American Reading Company utilized by the district.
- Continue to encourage, promote and monitor attendance for the hybrid and virtual students as well as staff. Celebrate perfect attendance, classroom and grade level attendance.

Areas of Support

- Mr. Lennox asks for the Board members support with ongoing technology for students, families, and staff. With the fact that technology is always changing, providing the most up to date technology resources to students is very crucial.

Policy Committee Report, Jason Harrington, Chair—Mr. Harrington reviewed the list of policies that were addressed at the recent meeting. **2201**, Annual District Meeting and Election; **2309**, Board of Education Committees; **2310**, Citizens Advisory Committees; **2400**, Formulation Adoption and Amendment of Policies. Very few changes were made to the list. Mr. Harrington did mention that it was decided to consolidate the committees in 2309 policy. Finance, Audit, and Facility Committee will absorb the Personnel Committee and the Policy Committee will absorb Curriculum and Educational Technology along with Public Relations and Transportation.

Items for Consent Agenda:

Resolution Offered by Michael Struchen.

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 Suzanne Renzi-Falge and carried; all voting aye.

Items for Board Action:

Resolution Offered by Jason Harrington.

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 Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Culley Gosier.

RESOLVED, that the Watertown City School District Board of Education hereby casts one ballot for three (3) vacancies on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, a quorum being needed to elect each candidate. The vacancies have a three-year term of office (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024).

One vote is cast for each of the following candidates:

Michael F. Young	Lynn A. Murray	Dr. Sandra Young Klindt
X	X	X

Seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Jason Harrington.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Watertown City School District (the "Board") has considered the effect upon the environment of proposed work consisting of the following:

Replacement of damaged water heater, as well as possible other mechanical repairs, at Case Middle School.

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the scope of the project and has further received and considered the advice of its architects with respect to the potential for environmental impacts resulting from the proposed action; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the Proposed Action with respect to the Type II criteria set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c), now therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education as follows:

1. The Proposed Action does not exceed thresholds established under 6 NYCRR Part 617, State Environmental Quality Review Act, (SEQRA).
2. The Board hereby determines the Proposed Action as a Type II action in accordance with the SEQRA regulations.
3. No further review of the Proposed Action is required under SEQRA.
4. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

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

Resolution Offered by Michael Struchen.

RESOLVED, that the approval of the Contract for Health and Welfare Services for WCSD Students attending a non-public school in Carthage Central School District for school year 2020-2021 as per the attached is hereby approved.

Seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution Offered by Jason Harrington.

- 2201**, Annual District Meeting and Election;
- 2309**, Board of Education Committees;
- 2310**, Citizens Advisory Committees;
- 2400**, Formulation Adoption and Amendment of Policies

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

Resolution offered by Michael Struchen.

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

APPOINTMENT – PROBATIONARY (INSTRUCTIONAL)

A	Name	Title (Tenure Area)	Effective Date	Ending Date	Certification Status	Salary
1	Dewey, Jordan	Music	3/24/2021	3/23/2025	Music, Initial	\$48,798 (C-4)

APPOINTMENT – PERMANENT- PART TIME

B	Name	Title	Effective Date	Salary
1	Parson, Kaytlyn	Food Service Worker	4/22/21	\$12.70/hr.

APPOINTMENTS – SUBSTITUTE – INSTRUCTIONAL

C	Name	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Corbett, Marissa	4/22/21	6/30/2021
2	Hardwick, Dylan	4/22/21	6/30/2021
3	Lohrmann, Lynda	4/22/21	6/30/2021

APPOINTMENTS – SUBSTITUTE – NON INSTRUCTIONAL

D	Name	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Carrow, Penny	4/22/2021	6/30/2021
2	Metcalf, Nicole	4/22/2021	6/30/2021

APPOINTMENT – SPRING COACHING – BOYS

E	Name	Sport	Salary
1	Draper, Toby	V Golf Asst.	unpaid

Seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

Items for Discussion/Information:**Superintendent of Schools Report: Patricia B. LaBarr**

- ❖ Superintendent began by congratulating Michael Struchen on receiving the New York State School Boards Association Board Excellence Award. She thanked Mr. Lennox for his presentation this evening about Starbuck Elementary.
- ❖ She continues to work with the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. In addition to her work with Gwen Inc., she continues with the book study on leadership for increasingly diverse leaders.
- ❖ She continues to meet with Superintendents across Jefferson and Lewis County. The last topic of discussion was in regards to wearing masks during sports. Both counties have agreed to be consistent with mask wearing for both the players and the spectators. She also noted that the capacity at a sporting event has now upgraded to 200.
- ❖ Superintendent LaBarr has invited Mr. Chad Fairchild, Principal of Watertown High School, to attend and speak at the May 4 meeting in order to give a report on plans for graduation this year. With the guidance on gatherings, prom is not an option this year. The Superintendent has already fielded some emails inquiring about a prom and has made some suggestions to those families.
- ❖ She has recently met with Pivot and is starting to look at some programming for next year.
- ❖ The Wellness committee launched a kindness activity that started today. At this time, it's important for coworkers to remember to be kind to one another.
- ❖ Superintendent LaBarr continued meeting and observing this week with teachers who are up for tenure appointments at the end of the school year.

- ❖ Recently there was a district wide safety meeting via Zoom. Suzanne Renzi-Falge sits on the committee and reported that most of the meeting focused on the recent legalization of a specific drug, she found the meeting very informative. The meeting was a good review of all of the safety measures that should be taken.
- ❖ She reported that at the next board meeting she will be asking for approval to give back the Friday before Memorial Day due to the fact that the district has unused snow days.
- ❖ At this time the North County Dental school based clinics will not be able to transition back in, as they did not meet all of the infection control requirements that they would need according to the NY State Department of Health.
- ❖ Today she received a letter from State Ed stating that the district had 100 percent compliance with the timeline for initial evaluations for preschool and or school age students to determine eligibility for special education.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Report: Stacey Eger-Converse

- ❖ Mrs. Eger-Converse began by thanking the grade three through eight teachers, the instructional coaches, her assistant, Kira Elliott, the Special education staff and the building principals for smooth testing days this week.
- ❖ Last evening, she presented to one of the administrative cohorts from SUNY Oswego about equity in instruction.
- ❖ She reports that there is preparation underway for the 2021-22 School Comprehensive Education Plan (SCEP) for Case Middle School.
- ❖ There are several RFPs in process for the Pre-K program. An external party is reviewing those RFP's.
- ❖ She recently was notified of an opportunity to partner with another area district to apply for the learning technology grant.

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel & Student Services Report: Tina Lane

- ❖ Ms. Lane reported that she recently attended, virtually, the teacher education advisory council meeting for SUNY Potsdam.
- ❖ She continues meetings with the 7-12 pupil personnel services group. They discussed the return in the fall for those grade levels and the importance of connecting with those students.
- ❖ There has been a down turn of COVID cases in the district. The staff continues to follow protocols to ensure safety.

School Business Manager Report: Joshua Hartshorne

- ❖ Mr. Hartshorne reports that he's currently working on the budget book and all of the pieces that go with the budget book.
- ❖ The budget newsletter is being finalized and there are plans on mailing that out to residence of the city next week.
- ❖ Additionally, he notes that this is the last week of shared work with the food service unit.
- ❖ He mentions that at the next meeting he will ask the board members for their approval of a multi-year financing agreement for color printers with Madison-Oneida BOCES. This service will give each building one centralized color printer, eliminating the amount of color printers in the classrooms. This is being done in efforts to cut down the costs from printing.

Upcoming Dates

President Mesires reviewed a few upcoming dates and meetings.

Adjournment

At 7:17p.m., with no further business, President Mesires asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Jason Harrington and seconded by Suzanne Renzi-Falge and carried; all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle R. Gravelle
District Clerk