

WATERTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 2, 2021

The regular meeting of the Watertown City School District's Board of Education was held virtually on February 2, 2021. 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
Beth A. Linderman
Suzanne C. Renzi-Falge

Member Excused: Nancy C. Henry

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: Under VII. Items for Board Action:

Update: B. Approval of Revised Personnel Report
Item A Line 4—Anne Street is reflected as a Retirement instead of a Resignation.

Remove: O. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the Watertown Administrative Supervisory Association.

Public Comments: None

Communications: None.

Board and Staff Reports:

Watertown CSD Program Implementation Study of Options—Dr. Paul Seversky, SES Study Team.

Dr. Seversky proceeded to update the Board members on the findings that he and the Advisory Committee have been working on. He describes this study as a "road map" to be used to unfold and retrieve the information determining what is important to the Board as they look at the future. The question posed at the beginning of this study was, *Are there options that might provide effective ways or patterns to organize how the PreK-12 Program is implemented/delivered over the next three or four years?*

Through the Table of Contents Dr. Seversky spoke about 4 major sections of the Study:

- ❖ Findings of the K-12 Pupil Capacity Analysis

- ❖ Findings of the Enrollment Projection Study
- ❖ Findings, Inferences and Observations based on the Visits to each Watertown School Building and the Interviews with the Administrative Team.
- ❖ Summary of Scenario Options

Dr. Seversky complimented the Advisory Committee group, as they were a very interested and involved group of stakeholders in the committee. The committee met in small groups before COVID started and then pivoted to Zoom meetings.

A copy of this Pre-Kindergarten through Grade Twelve Program Delivery Options Study is located on the district website for the public to review.

FAF Report, Tuesday February 2—Beth Linderman, Chair.

Ms. Linderman reported on the Finance, Audit & Facilities meeting that was held earlier this evening. The meeting was spent reviewing the scope of work for the next Capital Project. King & King Architects did a virtual presentation during the meeting this evening. The committee members discussed keeping the costs for the Project within a certain range. More updates to follow in the future.

Items for Consent Agenda:

Resolution offered by Jason Harrington.

- A. Approval of the Minutes of Board of Education Meeting on January 5, 2021 and January 19, 2021.
- B. Approval of the Monthly Treasurer’s Report for December 2020.
- C. Approval of the Monthly Financial Report for December 2020.
- D. Approval of the Extra-Curricular Classroom Activity Reports for WHS, Case, and Wiley for December 2020.
- 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 Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Items for Board Action:

Resolution offered by Beth Linderman.

RESOLVED, That as part of the New York State Disaster Evacuation Plan, the Watertown City School District’s schools covenant and agree to “Secondary Temporary Holding Areas,” between the school and the following:

- Watertown High School and Samaritan Summit Village Assisted Living

BE IT RESOLVED, That the above-referenced agreement is hereby approved.

Seconded by Culley Gosier 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:

RETIREMENTS

A	Name	Title	Effective Date	Years
1	Machuga, Thomas	Teacher	June 30, 2021	33
2	VanNostrand, Judith	Teacher	July 6, 2021	30
3	Carbone, Katrina	Teacher	June 30, 2021	33
4	Street, Anne	Noon Monitor	2/12/2021	19

RESIGNATIONS

B	Name	Title	Effective Date	Years
1	Craft, Bryanne	Substitute	1/20/2021	1 ½
2	McKinney, Kathryn	Substitute	1/29/2021	3 months

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

C	Name	Title	Effective Date	Ending Date	Reason	Building
1	Ritz, Jenna	Treasurer	8/25/2021	10/20/2021	Medical	District Office
2	Dinan, Kimberly	Occupational Therapist	5/11/2021	6/30/2021	Medical	Multiple

APPOINTMENT – LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE

D	Name	Title (Tenure Area)	% FTE	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Johnson, Nicole	Family & Consumer Science	100	2/5/2021	6/30/2021

APPOINTMENTS – WINTER COACHING – GIRLS

E	Name	Sport	Salary
1	Boomhower, Robin	V Volleyball	\$3,071.40
2	Gosson, Ryan	V Basketball	\$2,118.60

APPOINTMENTS – WINTER COACHING – BOYS

F	Name	Sport	Salary
1	Adams, Edward	V Basketball	\$2,435.40
2	Adams, Paul	Basketball	Volunteer
3	Bliss, Jonathan	V Wrestling	\$3,003.60

Seconded by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

Resolution offered by Culley Gosier.

RESOLVED, that a donation from All American Publishing for the Watertown High School Physical Education Department. The donation consists of 200 t-shirts each year for the next 3 years starting in the Fall of 2021. This donation is gratefully accepted and approved and will be acknowledged in writing.

Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

RESOLVED, that a donation from Brian Lynch with Cabot Creamery Corporation through Agri-Mark Family Dairy Farms for \$100 designated to support the Watertown High School FFA. This donation is gratefully accepted and approved and will be acknowledged in writing.

Seconded by Beth Linderman and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Michael Struchen.

RESOLVED, that Change Order No. 3-07 for Dow Electric Inc., a credit of \$73.55 for not installing door access control wiring adjacent to room 131 at North Elementary is hereby approved.

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

Resolution offered by Culley Gosier.

RESOLVED, that Joel Carbone is hereby approved to fulfill an internship with the Watertown City School District in the area of Cybersecurity through SUNY Canton College and is hereby approved.

Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Beth Linderman.

RESOLVED, That the approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Watertown City School District and the CSEA Local 1000, Watertown Schools-Cafeteria Employees dated July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021, to address the Shared Work Program, as per the attached, is hereby approved.

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

Resolution offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

RESOLVED, That the approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Watertown City School District and the CSEA Local 1000, Watertown Schools-Cafeteria Employees dated July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021, to address Furloughs, as per the attached, is hereby approved.

Seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Jason Harrington.

RESOLVED, That the approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Watertown City School District and the 12-Month Clerical and Support Association dated July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025, regarding Quarantine and Available Leave Benefits to Care for a Child who is Subject to an Order of Quarantine or Isolation, as per the attached, is hereby approved.

Seconded by Beth Linderman and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Culley Gosier to table the Memorandum of Agreement resolution until the February 23 meeting. Seconded by Michael Struchen and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Beth Linderman to table the Memorandum of Agreement resolution until the February 23 meeting. Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Michael Struchen.

RESOLVED, That the approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Watertown City School District and the Management and Management/Confidential Employees through June 30, 2021, regarding Quarantine and Available Leave Benefits to Care for a Child who is Subject to an Order of Quarantine or Isolation, as per the attached, is hereby approved.

Seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

RESOLVED, That the approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Watertown City School District and the Watertown Teaching Assistants Association July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020, regarding Quarantine and Available Leave Benefits to Care for a Child who is Subject to an Order of Quarantine or Isolation, as per the attached, is hereby approved.

Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.

Resolution offered by Michael Struchen.

RESOLVED, That the approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Watertown City School District and the Watertown Education Association July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023, regarding Quarantine and Available Leave Benefits to Care for a Child who is Subject to an Order of Quarantine or Isolation, as per the attached, is hereby approved.

Seconded by Beth Linderman and carried; all voting aye.

END OF RESOLUTIONS

Items for Discussion/Information:

Superintendent of Schools Report: Patricia B. LaBarr

- Superintendent thanked Dr. Paul Seversky for his presentation this evening along with the community advisory group that has worked on the findings of the study.
- She reports that the administration continues to work out the final details for the Remote students that wish to return to the hybrid model after February break on February 22. Details will be worked out over the next few weeks and information will go out to those particular families.
- Superintendent LaBarr continues to work on fine tuning communication through ParentSquare. She reminded parents that in the event of a snow day or a 2-hour delay it still does get posted to media and the district website as it has been in the past.
- The Superintendent made special mention to, and thank, Kevin Shaughnessy. Kevin has been a key person in the Food 4 Families team. He is moving out of the area in the next few weeks and she wishes him well.
- There continues to be ongoing discussions with bargaining units in regards to shared work and furloughs, as there is always a change that the district would have to pivot back into remote learning for students. Having plans in place is very helpful to the employees.

- She thanked the Board for approving the Paid Leave Agreements this evening. This provision in place helps the employee to not have to take unpaid leave during quarantine with a child.
- The new, state of the art phone system change will take place this week. Further details will come at the next meeting on the progression. She thanked Jeff Wood, Dave Campbell and the entire technology team for their work on this.
- March 2 will be a public hearing on the District Wide Safety Plan to go over a few changes. The State Ed Department set new requirements applicable to adding a communicable disease pandemic plan. Fred Hauck, through BOCES was able to give some guidance and set some framework for this Plan. The Plan has been posted to the website for public review.
- Mrs. LaBarr thanked the Watertown Fire Department for donating 144 winter coats through Operation Warm Coat.
- She's participated in several meetings over the past several weeks in regards to sports. Jefferson County Public Health, the district Medical Directors, and the Jefferson County Superintendents continue to collaborate on guidelines for high risk sports.
- Rande Richardson from Northern New York Community Foundation will attend the February 23 to announce the finalists for the Hall of Achievement.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Report: Stacey Eger-Converse

- She reports the submission of the Impact Aide application which will be applied toward the fiscal year 2022. Congratulations to Ohio Elementary for having a 98% return rate on the Impact Aide forms.
- The revised CARES Act application was submitted today.
- A Department of Defense Educational Activity Application was submitted last week with the help of Lisa Blank. This application will focus on physical fitness and health. It will impact some supports and technology for physical education classes in the district.
- Yesterday she submitted an application to the New York State Education Departments My Brother's Keeper and Community Engagement Program. If the district is successful it would allow the district to secure a position similar to the Community Schools liaison that would focus on family engagement and community engagement. She is hopeful that the district will qualify for it and receive it. More details will come over the summer on it.
- She and Superintendent LaBarr attended Syracuse University study counsel on remote learning last week. This enabled them to connect with other educators throughout the state with ideas on remote learning.
- Ms. Eger- Converse is in the process of planning for summer workshops and programming.
- The first book study meeting is coming up tomorrow, *Blind Spot: Hidden Biases of Good People*. Ten participants in the district have signed up to join in the book study.
- Thank you to all the staff members who volunteered to distribute Food 4 Families bags.
- She, too, thanked and expressed gratitude to Kevin Shaughnessy for all of the time and effort he's contributed to the Food 4 Families Program.

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services Report: Tina Lane

- Ms. Lane thanked Lisa Worden and Michelle Gravelle for assisting in the voluminous amount of paperwork that comes with quarantining faculty and staff. She reports that things seem to be plateauing with the positive cases in the district. There are currently 14 staff members quarantined. There have been 92 cases in the district since the start of the school year, this amount includes staff and students.

- She's recently sent out the NYS guidelines for travel as a reminder to families who may choose to travel during the February break from school.
- She took the opportunity to, again, thank the nurses in the district for their hard work.
- This week is National School Counseling week. She gives them a special thank you for doing special things for families and students to help get through this tough time both socially and emotionally.

School Business Manager Report: Joshua Hartshorne

- Mr. Hartshorne reported that the Medicaid desk review from fiscal year 2019 is now complete. Along with that the E-Rate paperwork from Converge One has been submitted.
- He thanked Ms. Eger-Converse with her help on the CARES Act submission. He notes that the district hasn't seen any of the 2.36 Million dollars that the State deducted from the district state aid last year through the pandemic adjustment. He's hopeful for the approval of the CARES Act the district would see at least 50% of it.
- Additionally, he reports that the State announced that 20% of the aid would not be withheld, although the timing on when we'll be made whole is still to be determined.
- He also mentioned that the budget meetings with the building administrators went well. They did a nice job of cutting down on some of their supplies cost.
- During a recent NYS School Boards Association webinar, that he and the Superintendent participated in, he did learn that the state is trying to remove the expense based aids and lump them in together. During that webinar it was also brought to attention that the State is adding STAR as a revenue source. Overall state aid increase for the school district is just under \$200,000.00, or .39%. Once the COVID Supplemental Stimulus is incorporated overall of an increase up to 4.89 Million.

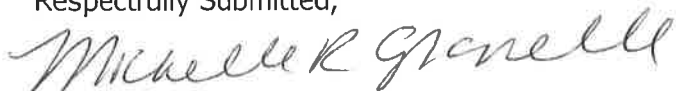
Upcoming Dates

President Mesires reviewed a few upcoming dates and meetings.

Adjournment:

At 7:16pm, with no new business, President Mesires asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Beth Linderman and a second by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle R. Gravelle

District Clerk