

BOARD OF EDUCATION (Tuesday, September 7, 2021)

Presiding Officer: Maria Mesires

PRESENT: Jason Harrington, Lorie Converse, Culley Gosier, Ammbrose Souza, Rande Richardson, Suzanne Renzi- Falge.

There were 6 visitors in attendance.

Meeting Opening

Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance

President Mesires called to order the Regular Meeting of the Watertown City School District Board of Education at 6:00 PM in the District Office Conference Room.

Agenda Changes

The District Clerk noted that there was an addition to the Personnel report today and that an updated copy was located on Board Docs for their review.

Public Comments

Two members of the public were present and requested to speak.

Mr. Peter Clough, 26773 Lafave Road Watertown, spoke first. Mr. Clough spoke about some concerns he has with the athletic programs at WCSD. His first recommendation to the board was a suggestion to obtain quality coaches, which sometimes may include looking outside the district employees to find the right fit in a coach. Additionally, he noted the district's subpar athletic facilities. He also spoke about the board policy in regards to students that are failing more than two subject being prohibited from participating and practicing with the team. His suggestion with this is to give the student one week grace period after the five-week point to allow them the opportunity to raise their grades in order to participate. Mr. Clough is hopeful that his suggestions would be a positive enhancement to the players athletic experience.

Mrs. Milly Smith, PA, 140 Keyes Ave. Watertown, spoke second. Mrs. Smith spoke about her thoughts about the recently canceled high school orientation. She expressed her frustration with the lack of creativity in creating an alternative plan in order to be able to accommodate for the orientation. She feels that there was adequate time before the first day of school to make the necessary provisions. Mrs. Smith brings these concerns, as she'd like to be the voice of the parents who feel the board is not listening to their concerns.

Communications

Superintendent LaBarr presented a box of refreshments that Bernier & Carr Associates dropped off last week, wishing the board and administration a great start to the new school year.

Board and Staff Reports

Special Education Report-- Shannon Whitney and Matthew Burdick

Shannon Whitney began by giving the board members some details about the Special education meeting minutes. With each board meeting the members are given two reports of Recommendations by the Committee on Special Education. Ms. Whitney pointed out the specifics on the reports and the reports' details.

She continued by reviewing the number of special education programs in the district by building and noted that there is a total of 44 special education teachers. WCSD currently has 683 students who have IEP's being served by the Committee on Special Education. She briefly reviewed the Medicaid reimbursement details.

Mr. Burdick then continued with more details about the CDOS (Career Development and Occupational Studies) credential. This is just one of the pathways to graduation. This credential is available to general education and special education students. This is not a diploma, it's a credential that students could receive that shows that they have basic employability skills to go out and get a job within the community. Mr. Burdick reviewed the basic requirements that students must meet in order to achieve this credential. This past spring he started a CDOS committee at Watertown High. The goal of the committee is to look for more opportunities for the students within the district to receive a CDOS credential. The Watertown City School District is one of the first districts in New York State to implement the CDOS Program.

Dr. Benjamin Rudd, Watertown City School District Medical Director Report

Dr. Rudd attended the meeting based on some concerns with the recent decisions to cancel the district's open houses and orientations. He presented the board members with a hand out from the CDC in regard to their guidance for schools. The table on the hand out give a basic idea what school should do if the virus is low in the community and what to do if the virus is high in the community. The data he presented focused on cases and testing in Jefferson County. He also went on to discuss moderate and high risk sports. He assured the board members that before the cancelation of the open houses and orientations many factors and limitations that played into the decision to postpone them.

Additionally, Dr. Rudd and Superintendent LaBarr spoke about the mandated screening for employees. The district is working with Jeff-Lewis Boces with screening options.

Executive Session

Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation.

Motion was made by Jason Harrington to move into Executive Session.

Seconded by Lorie Converse and carried; all voting aye.

At 7:45 p.m. President Mesires asked for a motion to close Executive Session.

Motion was made by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

Seconded by Lorie Converse and carried; all voting aye.

Open Session

At 7:47 p.m. a motion was made by Suzanne Renzi-Falge to move back into Open Session.

Seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

FAF Report, September 7-- Suzanne Renzi-Falge, Chair.

Mrs. Renzi-Falge reported on the Finance Audit and Facility meeting that was held earlier this evening. She noted that during the meeting Alexis Schaeffer, Internal Auditor from Questar III BOCES, joined virtually in to give the committee a report on the recent Title IX audit. She continued to list a few of the items in the audit that the district will need to correct or fulfill, there is already a corrective action plan in place.

Superintendent of Schools Report--Patricia B. LaBarr

Superintendent LaBarr gave the board members a hard copy of the communication chain. This was also something that was sent out to families via ParentSquare. This flow chart is the communication system so if a parent has a question or concern they know who to turn to first.

In efforts to follow through with her Superintendent goals for the year, she has taken a few topics that the board members wish to learn more about. Superintendent LaBarr has asked Mr. Hartshorne to briefly review the Transparency Report. She's asked Mrs. Eger-Converse to highlight grants and Ms. Lane will review acronyms that are commonly used in education. Ms. Whitney and Mr. Burdick did a nice job this evening of covering the topic of special education. One of the upcoming meetings in October will focus on graduation pathways.

The Superintendent reiterated that today was a successful reopening of the district's schools. She participated in a few media interviews during the day and gave praise to faculty and staff for greeting students and guiding them to where they needed to be.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Report--Stacey Eger-Converse

Ms. Eger-Converse joined in virtually this evening. She reported this evening on the grants overview hard copy that the board members received this evening. The Grants Overview document is updated yearly and helps to keep staff informed about all the different funding programs and mechanisms that the district has in place. The Overview document outlines the Agency Partners, Duration, Focuses of Work, and Buildings Impacted by the grant.

Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Student Services Report--Tina Lane

Ms. Lane reported on the hard copy of the many acronyms that are used in the educational world. She's hoping this will be a helpful reference for the board members. Ms. Lane also provided the board members with a hard copy of each bargaining unit contract for their review as well.

School Business Manager Report--Joshua Hartshorne

Mr. Hartshorne reviewed the transparency report. He provided a hard copy of the 2020-21 report for the members to see as an example. The transparency report is a requirement of school districts to annually submit to the commissioner of State Ed and Director of Budget a detailed statement of total funding allocation for each school and district for the upcoming school budget year. The 2022 transparency report is currently in review and should be returned to the district in early October.

Additionally, he reported the Office of State Comptroller has finished their review. He's waiting for their exit meeting to be scheduled.

Items for Consent Agenda

- A. The Board is asked to approve the minutes of the August 3, August 17 and August 30, 2021 meetings.
- B. The Board is asked to accept Monthly Treasurer's Report for July 2021.
- C. The board is asked to accept the Monthly Financial Report for July 2021.
- D. The board is asked to approve the Extracurricular Classroom Funds for June 2021.
- E. The board is asked to approve the Extracurricular Classroom Funds for July 2021.
- F. The board is asked to accept the Minutes of the Committee on Pre-School Education.
- G. The board is asked to accept the Minutes of the Committee on Special Education.

Motion to approve consent agenda items A--G as presented was made by Jason Harrington. Seconded by Suzanne Renzi-Falge and carried; all voting aye.

Items for Board Action

Approval to Confirm the Tax Roll, Levy the Tax, and Issue the Collection Warrant for the Watertown City School District.

The board is asked to approve the Tax Roll, Levy the Tax, and Issue the Collection Warrant for the Watertown City School District.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has been authorized by the voters at the Annual Board of Education Meeting to raise for the current budget of the 2021-2022 school year a sum not to exceed \$78,377,057.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board fix the equalized tax rates by Towns and confirm the extension of the taxes as they appear on the following described tax roll:

City/Town	Total School Taxable by Towns	Equalized Tax Rate by Towns	Total Tax Levy by Towns	Tax Rate (Per 1,000)
City/Watertown	\$ 1,112,798,835.00	92.00%	\$12,204,867.79	\$10.967722
Town/LeRay	\$ 104,735,955.00	100.00%	\$1,056,832.75	\$10.090448
Town/Pamelia	\$ 6,302,250.00	55.00%	\$115,621.12	\$18.346007
Town/Rutland	\$ 6,364,785.00	100.00%	\$64,222.61	\$10.090303
Town/Watertown	\$203,159,308.00	57.50%	\$3,565,111.56	\$17.548355
TOTALS	\$1,433,361,133.00	XXXX	\$17,006,655.83	XXXXXX

AND BE IT HEREBY DIRECTED THAT the tax warrant of this Board, duly signed shall be affixed to the above-referenced tax rolls authorizing the collection of said taxes to begin October 4th, 2021, and end December 7th, 2021, giving the tax warrant an effective period of 65 days at the expiration of which time the tax collector shall make an accounting in writing to the Board;

AND IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED THAT the delinquent tax penalties shall be fixed as follows:
 1st month free period, October 4th – November 5th, 2021
 2nd month interest of 2 percent added, November 6th - December 7th, 2021
 After December 7th, 2021, unpaid taxes will be turned over to the City for city properties and to the County for county properties. Additional interest will be added.

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

To the collector of Watertown City School District, City of Watertown, Towns of LeRay, Pamelia, Rutland, and Watertown, County of Jefferson, New York State.

You are hereby commanded:

1. To give notice and start collection on October 4th, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1322 of the Real Property Tax Law.
2. To give notice that tax collection will end on December 7th, 2021.
3. To collect taxes in the total sum of \$17,006,655.83 in the same manner that collectors are authorized to collect city, town, and county taxes in accordance with the provisions of Section 1318 of the Real Property Tax Law.
4. To make no changes or alterations in the tax warrant or the attached tax rolls but shall return the same to the Board of Education. The Board may recall its warrant and tax roll for correction of errors or omissions in accordance with the provisions of Section 1316 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Motion offered by Lorie Converse.

Seconded by Culley Gosier and carried; all voting aye.

Approval to Confirm the Tax Roll, Levy the Tax, and Issue the Collection Warrant for the Flower Memorial Library.

The board is asked to approve the Tax Roll, Levy the Tax and Issue the Collection Warrant for the Flower Memorial Library.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has been authorized by the voters at the Annual Board of Education Meeting to raise for the Flower Memorial Library in the 2021-2022 school year a sum not to exceed \$75,000.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board fix the equalized tax rates by Towns and confirm the extension of the taxes as they appear on the following described library tax roll:

City/Town	Total School Taxable by Towns	Equalized Tax Rate by Towns	Total Library Levy by Towns	Tax Rate (Per 1,000)
City/Watertown	\$1,112,798,835.00	92.00%	\$53,823.94	.048368
Town/LeRay	\$104,735,955.00	100.00%	\$4,660.67	.044499
Town/Pamelia	\$6,302,250.00	55.00%	\$509.89	.080906
Town/Rutland	\$6,634,785.00	100.00%	\$283.22	.044498
Town/Watertown	\$203,159,308.00	57.50%	\$15,722.28	.077389
TOTALS	\$1,433,361,133.00	XXXX	\$75,000.00	XXXXXX

AND BE IT HEREBY DIRECTED THAT the tax warrant of this Board, duly signed shall be affixed to the above-referenced library tax rolls authorizing the collection of said library taxes to begin October 4, 2021, and end December 7, 2021, giving the tax warrant an effective period of 65 days at the expiration of which time the tax collector shall make an accounting in writing to the Board;

AND IT IS FURTHER DIRECTED THAT the delinquent tax penalties shall be fixed as follows:

1st month free period, October 4 – November 5, 2021

2nd month interest of 2 percent added, November 6 - December 7, 2021

After December 7, 2021, unpaid taxes will be turned over to the City for city properties and to the County for county properties. Additional interest will be added.

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

To the collector of Watertown City School District, City of Watertown, Towns of LeRay, Pamelia, Rutland, and Watertown, County of Jefferson, New York State.

You are hereby commanded:

5. To give notice and start collection on October 4, 2021, in accordance with the provisions of Section 1322,1324 of the Real Property Tax Law.
6. To give notice that tax collection will end on December 7, 2021.
7. To collect taxes in the total sum of \$75,000.00 in the same manner that collectors are authorized to collect school, city, town, and county taxes in accordance with the provisions of Section 1318 of the Real Property Tax Law.
8. To make no changes or alterations in the tax warrant or the attached tax rolls but shall return the same to the Board of Education. The Board may recall its warrant and tax roll for correction of

errors or omissions in accordance with the provisions of Section 1316 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Motion offered by Jason Harrington.

Second by Ammbrose Souza. Abstain by Maria Mesires and Suzanne Renzi-Falge; motion carried.

Approval of Personnel Report

APPOINTMENT – PERMANENT – PART TIME

A	Name	Title	Effective Date	Salary
1	Chartrand, Darlene	Food Service Worker	9/7/21	\$13.20/hr

APPOINTMENTS – PERMANENT

B	Name	Title	Effective Date	Salary
1	Beaumont, Tosha	Teacher Aide	9/7/2021	\$15.15/hr
2	Gooshaw, Amber	Teacher Aide	9/7/2021	\$15.15/hr
3	Yott, Joseph	Custodian In Charge	8/31/2021	\$16.73/hr

APPOINTMENT – PART TIME

C	Name	Job Title	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Pierce, Eliza	Alternative Ed. Teacher	9/1/2021	6/30/2022

APPOINTMENTS – SUBSTITUTES – INSTRUCTIONAL

D	Name	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Hardwick, Dylan	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
2	Keggins, Julie	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
3	Pauling, Jacob	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
4	Webb, Catherine	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
5	Wilson, Jenna	9/8/2021	6/30/2022

APPOINTMENTS – SUBSTITUTES – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

E	Name	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	*Clark, Cherrie	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
2	Parker, Katie	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
3	Williams, Aja	9/8/2021	6/30/2022

- Pending fingerprint clearance

APPOINTMENTS – TUTORS

F	Name	Effective Date	Ending Date
1	Butler, Sharon	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
2	Ford-Waterman, Mary	9/8/2021	6/30/2022

3	Hardy, Marianne	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
4	Johnson, Katherine	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
5	Jones, Judith	9/8/2021	6/30/2022
6	Keggins, Julie	9/8/2021	6/30/2022

APPOINTMENT – FALL COACHING - GIRLS

G	Name	Sport	Salary
1	DeRusso, Jamie	Cheerleading	\$1,807.24

The board is asked to approve the Personnel Report.

Motion offered by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.

Seconded by Lorie Converse and carried; all voting aye.

Approval to Amend the June 1 Personnel Report

The board is asked to approve the amendment to the June 1 Personnel report.

WHEREAS, a Resolution was passed by the Board of Education on June 1, 2021 approving the Retirement of Julie Chisholm effective December 31, 2021 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Amended Resolution reflects a correction of the effective date of retirement to January 31, 2022, and is hereby approved.

Motion offered by Jason Harrington.

Seconded by Ammbrose Souza and carried; all voting aye.

Approval to Amend the August 17 Personnel Report

The board is asked to approve the amendment to the August 17 Personnel Report.

WHEREAS, a Resolution was passed by the Board of Education on August 17, 2021 approving the Resignation of Nadine Britton effective August 17, 2021 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Amended Resolution reflects a correction of the effective date of resignation to August 31, 2021, and is hereby approved.

Motion offered by Ammbrose Souza.

Seconded by Lorie Converse and carried; all voting aye.

Approval of Donation of School Supplies

The board is asked to approve the donation of school supplies.

RESOLVED, that donations of various school supplies were received from the State CS Employees Federal Credit Union and the Staples Watertown store. These donations of supplies will be divided amongst the schools in the district. This donation is gratefully accepted and approved and will be acknowledged in writing.

Motion offered by Culley Gosier.

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

The board is asked to approve the updated Code of Conduct.

WHEREAS, the Watertown City School District's Code of Conduct covers the maintenance of order on school property, including a school function, which shall govern the conduct of students, teachers, and other personnel as well as visitors and provides for the enforcement thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown City School District's Code of Conduct was reviewed and revised to only change the school year from 2020-21 to 2021-22; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Education accepts this revision to the Code of Conduct; and this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Motion offered by Rande Richardson.
Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.**

Items for Discussion/Information

Upcoming Dates

September 21--Policy Committee Meeting, 5p.m., Starbuck Elementary Library

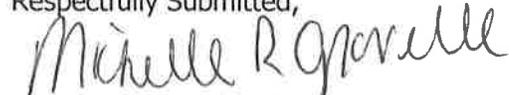
September 21--Board of Education Meeting, 6p.m., Starbuck Elementary Cafeteria

Adjournment

With no further business, President Mesires asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.

**Motion to Adjourn was made by Suzanne Renzi-Falge.
Seconded by Jason Harrington and carried; all voting aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle R. Gravelle, District Clerk