

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

## WORKSHOP MEETING

6:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023**

MS/HS CAFETERIA

## MINUTES

### 1. Opening Items

- 1.01 Call to Order 6:00
- 1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
- 1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
- 1.04 Roll Call

Present: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

### 2. Welcome

2.01 Middle School Principal, James DiDonna will welcome the Board (duration 10 min)

- Mr. DiDonna noted that exams are going great and the High School is ready for Graduation
- The Moving up Ceremony was June 15<sup>th</sup> in the Auditorium and was very well attended
- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have a Field Trip to Six Flags tomorrow, June 21<sup>st</sup> and they are very much looking forward to it
- All of the Middle School students had their finals in preparation for the High School Regents Exam. Mr. DiDonna noted that the testing went very well
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students came to the Middle School for a visit
- Mr. DiDonna also mentioned that interviews for the Middle School Music position were held. They saw a lot of great, qualified candidates and are scheduling second interviews for next week
- As far as 6<sup>th</sup> grade moving up in 2024, the Middle School staff is working on making the Middle School stand out for when the students come
  - Scheduled a meeting next Wednesday with an artist to create a mural in the Middle School Hallway with student input.
  - Begun mapping out where teachers and classrooms will be for the 23-24 year
  - Continuing to brain storm what Middle School will look like when 6<sup>th</sup> grade move up
    - Working on limiting High School students flowing through Middle School hallways

### 3. Award Tenure

3.01 The Board of Education will Award Tenure (duration 20 min)

*Recommended Action:* The following named INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL, having served a period of probationary status consistent with the Education Law of the State of New York and provisions of the Commissioner's Regulations, and having received continuing satisfactory evaluations of performance, are hereby recommended by the Superintendent of Schools for APPROVAL for TENURE STATUS.

With a probationary period of 9/1/2019 to 8/31/2023, certified as a Speech Teacher, Alexandra Harkin hereby receives tenure on 9/1/2023

With a probationary period of 8/15/2019 to 8/14/2023 certified as a Special Education Teacher, Jolie Moorhus hereby receives tenure on 8/15/2023

With a probationary period of 8/26/2019 to 8/25/2023 certified as a Teaching Assistant, Lynn Ojarovsky hereby receives tenure on 8/26/2023

With a probationary period of 8/1/2019 to 7/31/2023 certified as an Art Teacher, Anita Sidler hereby receives tenure on 8/1/2023

With a probationary period of 9/1/2019 to 8/31/2023 certified as a Teaching Assistant, Lauren Silver hereby receives tenure on 9/1/2023

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Bishop

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

#### **4. Celebrate Retirees and Student Representative**

4.01 The Board of Education will recognize the retirees (duration 15 min)

##### Retirements for the 22-23 school year

1. Leigh Ann VanDeBogart Elementary AIS Teacher at Woodstock effective 7-2-22
2. Lois Lapinski School Bus Attendant/Monitor effective 8-15-22
3. Lolly Adler Typist/High School effective 12-5-22
4. Donna Beesmer Typist/High School effective 12-1-22
5. Michelle Darling Occupational Therapist effective 12-3-22
6. Jennifer O'Connor Middle School Principal effective 1-19-23
7. Melanie Knutson Reading Teacher effective 2-3-23
8. Judith Iapocce Special Education Teacher effective 6-30-23
9. Michelle Martin Reading Teacher High School effective 6-30-23
10. Virginia Occhi 5th grade teacher effective 6-30-23
11. Steven Murphy Music Teacher effective 6-30-23
12. Alan Berryann Custodian effective 5-1-23
13. Susanne Gunther Custodial Worker effective 5-26-23
14. Patricia Caprotti Teaching Assistant effective 6-30-23
15. Cheryl Formont teaching Assistant effective 6-30-23

4.02 The Board of Education will thank Student Representative, Noelle Crandell for her service

4.03 Break for Celebration

#### **5. Hearing on Safety Plan**

5.01 The Board of Education will open hearing on the 23-24 District Wide Safety Plan

5.02 The Board President will close the hearing on the 23-24 District Wide Safety Plan

#### **6. Acceptance of Minutes**

### 6.01 Acceptance of Minutes

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of the May 18, June 6, and June 14, 2023 board meetings

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Reimondo

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

## 7. Student Representative Report

7.01 The Student Representative on the Board, Noelle Crandell, will give a report

- Ms. Crandell stated that recently in Student Government, they held their elections. The president of Student Government is now Sophia Odat. She was sworn in at their last meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Cocoro Asado was also appointed as their new chair of the condom initiative.
- Ms. Crandell noted that she had the pleasure of also meeting with the newly elected eighth graders who will maintain office for their 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade years.
- Throughout the school, the senior scholarship award ceremony was a great success, and many seniors should be busy writing their thank you cards.
- Valedictorian, Takemi Sono Knowles, and salutatorian, Maeve Turk and Principals award recipient, Noelle Crandell attended the scholastic achievement award breakfast at BOCES. They would like to thank everyone who went into planning such a wonderful event.
- Takemi Sono Knowles and Abigail Nolan both received the MHAL Senior Scholar- Athletic Award.
- Many of the student artists are having their work presented at the “future voices” exhibition at SUNY Ulster.
- The Talon produced their last issue of the year, so keep your eyes out for those in our local business and on our website.
- And many seniors are eager to attend Graduation this Friday!
  
- A note from Ms. Crandell...
  - *“I would like to use this space now to share my personal insight on the movement and change occurring in our district. And while these discussions can get rather abstract, I would like to encourage all of you to remember the effects that your decisions will have on the future of Onteora as well as the current state. I ask you to be logical, be selfless, and above all understand that you represent the entire community, and when you make these choices I ask you to think of all of the students that your actions impact. And I urge you to ask the students of the district. I do not mean to ask them how they would feel if an asteroid destroyed their school, but rather ask them how they would feel to be in a school with more opportunities, more friends, a consistent educational and social environment for 13 years, and to be in a full, strengthened, and unified community. As I leave Onteora, and as someone who has been very active in school activities I cannot help but feel scared about the dwindling enrollment. And while these might be merely numbers on*

*spreadsheets to you, they are empty desks in classrooms and empty bleachers at games to students. Thank you.”*

## 8. Superintendent News

8.01 The Superintendent will report on District News (proposed 7:00)

- Bidding Requirements and Design Services
  - As this has come up in a couple of different venues, Ms. McLaren wants to ensure that all members of the public and all Board Trustees are aware that design services are NOT required to be publicly bid as has been stated by individuals at public be heard as well as in writing to the BOCES District Superintendent. Design services are specifically exempt from public bidding. Districts develop relationships with architectural firms. It is to the District and taxpayers' advantage to have the architectural firm that completed the five-year building condition survey do the design work for subsequent capital projects because they are already intimately familiar with the structure and infrastructure of all of the buildings. If a district is dissatisfied with its architectural firm, the optimal time to change is when the five-year building condition survey is done so that the new firm has the opportunity to review the structural and mechanical systems in all of the buildings.
  
- Class Sizes and Availability at K-3 Buildings
  - Ms. McLaren indicated that as we discussed during our conversations related to reconfiguration this year, we do not plan on creating classes that exceed our class size guidelines, and we have been consistently moving the line between Phoenicia and Woodstock to maintain class sections in both buildings. We recently received inquiries from a few families regarding enrollment for September. The children of these families are entering second grade in September. As discussed during the Community Forum in March, of the sixteen sections of classes in grades K-3 in both Woodstock and Phoenicia, only the current first-grade sections in Woodstock are in the “high” range for class size. We believe that there are students in this grade level that would have been eligible for kindergarten during the 2020-2021 school year whose parents decided to wait an additional year to enroll in kindergarten due to the pandemic. There are six sections within the “desirable” range and eight sections currently in the “low” range. As has been our practice, we will move potential students to the other building if a class is at the maximum size as per our class size regulations. Just to review, the Woodstock building has 20 classrooms. We have eight regular education classrooms and two special education classrooms, so the building itself is certainly not near maximum capacity, and in fact, once held 400 students. The current enrollment is 148 students.

- Safe Routes to School
  - Ms. McLaren discussed that they met with Kyle Buser from NYS DOT last week to review our proposal for the change in the location of the crosswalk and he was very amenable to our plans and will work to stitch the DOT project to our intentions so that we create a much safer situation for our students and school community. We will lose the several parking spaces that are in the entrance to this campus that are slanted, but it is a worthwhile sacrifice.
  
- This Week's events
  - This week we celebrate our UPK students moving up, our sixth grade moving up and the ultimate celebration - our class of 2023 commencement on Friday evening. The weather is still questionable, but our hope is always that the ceremony will be outside. If Mother Nature does not work with us, the ceremony will be in the gymnasium.
  
- Tenure
  - We have a number of individuals who have been awarded tenure this evening. Ms. McLaren happily spoke that they are all incredibly skilled and passionate educators who have shown their dedication to our students and our district. The decision to grant tenure is one of the most important decisions that a Superintendent and a Board can make. We are fortunate to have the honor of awarding tenure to these individuals and we look forward to working with them for a long time. Their administrators will speak about each of them individually, but I'd like to congratulate them on this milestone in their careers.
  
- Retirees
  - As we have been noting, many of our faculty and staff members are very experienced and are either eligible for retirement now, or will be within the next several years. When you look at the list of individuals being recognized tonight, you get a sense of how many students benefitted from their dedication to education. This group includes individuals who greeted children in the morning on the bus, welcomed them into the building, ensured that the building was clean and set up for them to learn, served as their classroom teachers, their reading teachers, their music teachers, their Teaching Assistants, their occupational therapist, and their building principal. This is a true cross-section of our district and all of the roles that support our students and their families. Congratulations to everyone - some have already begun their retirement and some will in the near future. We look forward to seeing everyone as they enjoy the next stage of their journey!

## 9. Board District News

9.01 The Board will report District News

- Trustee Bishop spoke that Trustee Reimondo, Superintendent McLaren, Assistant Superintendent Laffin, and herself attended Community Mentor awards/program last week

## 10. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

10.01 The Board will acknowledge the public be heard comments from the last meeting

Sierra Smith  
Rick Wolff  
Becky Konjas  
Esther Downton  
Laurie Osmond  
Stephanie Bryant  
Molly Holm  
Theresa Fakowski  
Rory Smith

## 11. Public and Student Comment

11.01 Public and Students may comment on any agenda or non-agenda item

## 12. Discussion and Possible Action

12.01 [Transportation Update](#)

12.02 [Non-Resident Tuition Discussion](#)

The Oteora Board of Education hereby affirms the decision from the August 2, 2016 Board of Education meeting to rescind Policy 7131 Non-Resident Students

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Reimondo

Result: 6 yea, 1 nay

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo,

Trustee Goodrich

Nay: Trustee Mitchell-Marell

## 13. Policies

13.01 First Reading of Policy 5324 Change Order

2023 5324  
Non-Instructional/Business  
Operations

Change Order

With limits as defined below, the Superintendent is authorized to approve Change Orders for capital projects subject to the following: a. Change Orders which result in a net decrease in the contract amount may be authorized by the Superintendent. b. Change Orders which result in a net increase in the contract amount of \$50,000 or less

may be authorized by the Superintendent. c. Change Orders which result in a net increase in the contract amount of greater than \$50,000 shall require prior approval by the Board of Education, unless such prior approval is not practicable. In the event prior approval is deemed impractical by the Superintendent, no approval to proceed shall be authorized until the Superintendent has conferred with the Board President and forwarded a notice to the Board that the Superintendent is issuing an authorization of the change order.

Change Orders that result in no net increase or decrease to the contract because they are included as part of the allowance may be approved and authorized by the Director of Facilities with agreement by the Assistant Superintendent for Business. Whenever Change Orders are authorized by the Superintendent; the log of such Change Orders shall be provided to the Board of Education in the next construction report.

Motion to Wave Second Reading of Policy 5324 Change Order

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Bishop

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

Motion to Adopt Policy 5324 Change Order

Motioned: Trustee Reimondo

Seconded: Trustee Bishop

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

#### 14. Consent Agenda

14.01 Approve Consent Agenda

*Recommended Action:* The Board hereby approves item numbers 14.02 - 14.14

Motioned: Trustee Reimondo

Seconded: Trustee Storey

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

14.02 Approve Contract Amendment for Superintendent of Schools

*Recommended Action:* The Ontario Board of Education hereby approves the attached contract amendment for the Superintendent of Schools.

14.03 Approve Clark Patterson Lee Proposal

*Recommended Action:* The Ontario Board of Education hereby approves the proposal for the Pre-Referendum and District Wide Planning Services from Clark Patterson Lee (CPL) in the amount of \$54,920.00 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such agreement

14.04 Personnel Agenda

Be it hereby resolved that the Board appoints:

Drop, Cassidy certified in Childhood Education (grades 1-6), to a 4-year probationary period in the tenure area of Childhood Education at a salary of Step 3BA commencing on 08/01/2023 and ending on 07/31/2027.

Gotay, Jesse certified in Health to a 4-year probationary period in the tenure area of Health at a salary of Step 5MA commencing on 08/01/2023 and ending on 07/31/2027.

Be it further resolved that, to the extent applicable under Education Law Section 3012-d and the accompanying Commissioner’s Regulations, in order to be considered for tenure, the above teachers must have received an APPR rating of effective or highly effective in three of the four probationary years and must not receive an ineffective in the fourth year.

**EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS**

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Johnson, Diana	Q- Global Coordinator	\$1,000.00 (prorated) 22-23 school year
Johnson, Diana	Q-Global Coordinator	\$1,000.00 23-24 school year
Kothe, Cassie	Elementary Resource – Woodstock	\$2,220.00
Parisian, Erika	Computer Advisor- Woodstock	\$5,512.00
Parisian, Erika	Elementary Resource- Woodstock	\$2,220.00
Polacco, Nicole	Elementary Resource- ELA	\$2,220.00 (split w/ A. Vail)
Roosa, Esther	Elementary Rec- Woodstock	\$3,707.00
Ryan, Matthew	Elementary Rec- Bennett	\$3,707.00
Vail, Andrew	Elementary Resource – ELA	\$2,220.00 (split with N.Polacco)

**APPOINTMENT: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL  
PROBATIONARY**

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
Jacob Cservak	Custodial Worker	07/03/23 – 01/02/24	Replace retirement, Step 3
Albright, Heather*	Custodial Worker	07/03/23 – 01/02/24	Replace vacancy, Step 3
Pending pre-employment processing*			

The following named NON-INSTRUCTIONAL personnel have served a probationary status and are recommended to a PERMANENT STATUS consistent with the applicable laws and regulations of the State of New York:

NAME	POSITION	PROBATIONARY DATE	PERMANENT DATE
Marsilio, Anne	Monitor (school/bus)	01/05/23	07/04/23
North, Audra	Monitor (bus)	01/17/23	07/16/23



Rhea, Dawn	Account Clerk/Typist	01/03/23	07/01/23
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**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
Craft, Danielle	1:1 Monitor	07/01/23 – 08/04/23	Summer Academy, On Step
Henderson, Rebecca	Summer Custodial	06/26/23 – 09/01/23	\$15.00/hr

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL**

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE	REMARKS
Petriski, Lauren	Summer Psychologist	07/01/23 – 08/31/23	\$45/hr	Extended School Year: Spec. Ed.

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE: NON - INSTRUCTIONAL**

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
3114	05/09/23 - 06/30/23	FMLA- unpaid
Pending medical documentation*		

**SUBSTITUTE**

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Formont, Cheryl	Teaching Assistant	\$115.00/day
Formont, Cheryl	Clerical	\$15.00/hr

14.05 Schedule U-The Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) Recommendations

*Recommended Action:* The Board hereby approves the Instruction - Schedule U-The Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-School Special Education (CPSE) Recommendations, Schedule U, #6/23, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Sherry

14.06 Budget Transfer

*Recommended Action:* The Superintendent recommends the transfer of \$95,175.90 for CPL & BBL billing to the Buildings & Grounds Professional Services budget from Transfer-Capital Fund to adjust for the Bennett HVAC project.  
Amount \$82,008.10 from budget code A 9950.900-10 to budget code A1620.449-10

14.07 Change Order #EC-001-Phoenicia Deduct

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central

School District approve Change Order #EC-001 decreasing the contract between J&J Sass Electric Inc. and the Onteora Central School District in the amount of \$185,000 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such a change order.

14.08 Change Order #MC-001-Phoenicia Deduct

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve Change Order #MC-001 decreasing the contract between C.B. Strain Inc. and the Onteora Central School District in the amount of and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such a change order.

14.09 Donation from Joseph Forte

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby approves one viola at an estimated value of \$400 as a donation to the Phoenicia Elementary School.

14.10 Scholarship Donations

*Recommended Action:* The Superintendent recommends acceptance of donations totaling \$19,475.00 CASH, from various donors as scholarship awards for the graduating class.

The Superintendent recommends approval of the following donations:

Donee's Name and Donation Amount

Richard Mugge & Rebecca Joslin \$125.00

Jessica Morra \$150.00

Bridget Allison \$200.00

Mark & Lisa Casey \$50.00

Eric Pezzello \$200.00

James DiDonna \$31.25

Jean Douglas \$100.00

Richard Mugge & Rebecca Joslin \$125.00

Jessica Morra \$150.00

Bridget Allison \$200.00

Mark & Lisa Casey \$50.00

Eric Pezzello \$200.00

James DiDonna \$31.25

Jean Douglas \$100.00

Carol Grima \$31.25

Lance Edelman \$31.25

M. Scott Via \$200.00

Tongore Garden Club \$100.00

John C. Storich & Sally Rothchild \$1,000.00

Woodstock Gen & Implant Surgery \$1,000.00

Anne Gallin \$125.00

Brad Giambroni \$5,000.00

Maegan Schenker \$375.00

Olive Fire Dept Ladies Auxillary \$150.00

Ashokan Center \$400.00

Regina Porpora \$1,000.00

Erica Boyer \$200.00

Darlene Beesmer Griffin \$150.00  
Bishop Scholarship Foundation \$8,000.00

14.11 Financial Report

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial Report from April 2023

14.12 Raise for Confidential Staff and Treasurer

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby approves 23-24 salary for each member of the Confidential Staff and the Treasurer for the 2023-2024 school year. The Board of Education hereby approves the 2023-2024 terms and conditions for the Confidential Staff and the 2023-2024 contract for the Treasurer

14.13 Warrants

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts Warrants Schedule 12

14.14 Surplus Music Equipment

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District declare the attached as surplus and authorizes the sale and/or disposal of this equipment.

**15. Contracts and Independent Contract Retainer**

15.01 Approval all Contracts and Independent Contract Retainers

*Recommended Action:* The Board of Education hereby approves item 15.02 - 15.04

Motioned: Trustee Bishop

Seconded: Trustee Storey

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

15.02 Literacy Through Multisensory Teaching Curriculum- Part I

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the contract between Onteora Central School District and Literacy through Multisensory Teaching Inc., effective August 15, 2023 through October 4, 2023 for Professional Development in the amount of \$2,0000 per participant up to 13 educators and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

15.03 Literacy Through Multisensory Teaching Curriculum- Part II

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Onteora Central School District approve the contract between Onteora Central School District and Literacy through Multisensory Teaching Inc., effective October 11, 2023 through March 14, 2024 for Professional Development in the amount of \$2,0000 per

participant up to 13 educators and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

#### 15.04 ICR- Sheth

*Recommended Action:* BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED on recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education of the Ontario Central School District approve the Independent Contractor Retainer between the Ontario Central School District and Snehal R Sheth MD retained as Child & Adolescent Psychiatry effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024 at a rate of \$375 per hour to a maximum of \$9,375.00 and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

### 16. Old Business

#### 16.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

- Ms. McLaren noted that if the Board wishes to put forward a Resolution to NYSSBA, it needs to be on the Reorganization Meeting. Resolutions are due to NYSSBA by July 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Trustee Hemingway Lynch offered to help draft a Resolution format
- Trustee Mitchell-Marell requested information from New York State Committee on Open Government and was informed that true retreats would not constitute a “meeting” under the (Open Meetings Law) OML. Retreats are generally for the purposes of team building and training members of a board. Senior Attorney, Christen L. Smith indicated that in her opinion, should a quorum (majority) of the members begin discussing matters of public business before or relevant to the public body, the gathering would no longer constitute a retreat and would meet the definition of a “meeting” governed by the requirements of the OML.

### 17. New Business

#### 17.01 The Board will discuss New Business

- Trustee Reimondo
  - *“In the spirit of collaboration and the BOE staying connected and informed, would it be possible to have guest speakers in rotation that include our PTA’s, Booster Club and report outs from other district clubs at each BOE meeting? We could come up with a schedule in advance after seeing which groups would like to be guests and then prepare a schedule so that those groups would know their sharing date in advance. Can we figure out how to prepare this ask? I am willing to help.”*
- Trustee Goodrich
  - *“As a newly elected school board trustee on May 16, 2023, I have spent many days reviewing a large volume of Long Term Plan studies and videos starting in December 2019 with the Baughman report. I think it’s time for me to talk about where I stand on the 13.08 Board Resolution - Long Term plan (presented and passed at Board Meeting – May 2, 2023).*

*A quick review of how did we get here? Declining enrollments from over 2,000 to 1,100 students resulted in configuration studies. The long term plan included the Baughman School Building Utilization, Grade Configuration Study December 2019, World Café, Dr. Bill Christensen presentation, and numerous public be-heard speakers. Onteora is the only school district in NY state with 5 school buildings for the current student enrollment size. The current grade configuration with 5 buildings requires the most bus runs, provides the least educational advantages, and generates the greatest recurring costs of all scenarios studied.*

*Since nobody likes talking about closing schools, I thought I would first talk about keeping schools and classrooms open. Obviously, we want to keep the middle school and high school buildings open. That leaves 3 elementary buildings Bennett 22 classrooms, Phoenicia 14 classrooms, and Woodstock 20 classrooms. The largest elementary building, Bennett, is centrally located to a majority of the students and has some of the newest classrooms. Bennett's size and location provide the option for a single centralized district-wide elementary building, which may be needed if enrollment continues to decline and voters approve such a plan. This is not about one community versus another community. This is about providing classrooms and teachers closest to where the majority of the students live. After a tour of Onteora's buildings, I realize Bennett is every bit as beautiful as Phoenicia and Woodstock. Given Bennett is the largest elementary building and its centralized location, it makes the most sense that Bennetts's 22 classrooms remain open. It is my personal belief that, "it would be difficult for any school board to justify closing Onteora's largest elementary building (Bennett), with 22 classrooms, only to bus a majority of the students further away past Bennett to the smallest elementary building (Phoenicia) with only 14 classrooms. "*

*After looking at all the numbers, researching the large volume of prior work done over three years, touring the inside of the buildings, and I realize that keeping centralized Bennett open provides the most educational advantages for Onteora's students. I now support the Long Term Plan resolution passed on May 2, 2023. I want to compliment the school board trustees for making this difficult decision. I look forward to working on the implementation of the already approved Long Term plan with all the school board trustees, Superintendent Victoria McLaren, and the Onteora community. It is time for all of us to work together as one team, with one common goal to make Onteora School District the best it can be."*

- Trustee Sherry acknowledged her time on the Board of Education and is proud of the work that the Board accomplished. She wishes the best for the upcoming Board Trustees

## 18. Request For Information

18.01 Board members will request information of the Superintendent

- none

## 19. Executive Session

19.01 Enter Executive Session (duration 30 min)

*Recommended Action:* Motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person.

Motioned: Trustee Bishop

Seconded: Trustee Reimondo

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

19.02 Exit Executive Session

*Recommended Action:* Motion to exit executive session and return to public session.

Motioned: Trustee Storey

Seconded: Trustee Reimondo

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

## 20. Adjournment

20.01 Adjourn Meeting. Next meeting is July 6, 2023 at the Middle/High School. Have a great summer!

*Recommended Action:* Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57pm.

Motioned: Trustee

Seconded: Trustee

Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Sherry, Trustee Bishop, Trustee Storey, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Mitchell-Marell

Board of Education: Emily Sherry, Cindy Bishop, Valerie Storey, Meghann Reimondo, Sarah Hemingway Lynch, Clark Goodrich, Emily Mitchell-Marell