Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, held on March 28, 2023.

Present:
(Administration)
Ms. Melinda Leising, President
Mr. Christopher Clancy, Superintendent
Dr. Luke Perry Vice-president
Mr. Joseph Barretta, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Dr. Lynsey Bauer
Dr. Matthew Lee, High School Principal
Mr. Sam Catterson
Dr. Shaun Carney, Middle School Principal
Ms. Lisa Magnarelli
Ms. Ellen Leuthauser, Elementary Principal
Mr. Joseph Barretta, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Dr. Matthew Lee, High School Principal
Mr. Sam Catterson
Dr. Shaun Carney, Middle School Principal
Ms. Lisa Magnarelli
Ms. Ellen Leuthauser, Elementary Principal
Ms. Erica Shaw
Ms. Elizabeth Dougherty, Director of Pupil Services
Ms. Debora Van Slyke, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Amie Johnson, High School Asst. Principal

Julia A. Scranton, District Clerk
Absent: Kevin Magdon, Board Member

1. CALL TO ORDER
Ms. Leising called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT
Ms. Leising read the Mission Statement.

4. INFORMATION-REPORTS-PROPOSAL/SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Clancy called attention to several outstanding recent CCS musical events including the high school musical “Mama Mia”, and the Jr. High All-county Festival which was hosted here. Nationally known A Capella group “Ball in the House” worked with students from several schools, each being given an opportunity to perform, culminating with an evening concert.

Thank you to the PTA, Sports Boosters and Optimist Club for organizing a well-attended and enjoyable Harlem Wizards event. He congratulated our six retiring employees representing anywhere from 8 to 33 years of service to the District. In addition, several staff members were recognized at the March 17 conference day for 15 or more years of service at CCS. Thank you for your dedication!

Mr. Clancy updated attendees on communications from the State regarding the use of the Warrior name. Although the Board had taken action more than twenty years ago to remove the Native American mascot image, it is unclear as to whether or not the Warrior name will be allowed moving forward. NYSED should be providing clarification in the coming weeks.
Fall 2023 will see the switch to 8-man Football due to the anticipated size of the team and age of potential players. Seventeen football players will be graduating in June, significantly impacting our ability to field a team. It may be possible to switch back in future years as feeder teams develop.

The hard work accomplished by middle school staff has resulted in the removal of the Targeted School for Improvement designation received a few years ago. Mr. Clancy commented that we are not taking our foot off the gas, but continuing on this path. Congratulations!

He reported that we are in the design phase of the Capital Project, primarily involving the Elementary cafeteria, libraries, playground and turf field. District personnel have been meeting with vendors to explore options. On Thursday, he and a few CCS staff members will be visiting recently remodeled libraries in neighboring districts to see what might be possible.

He presented the 2023-2024 school calendar and explained how it is developed and why. All regional BOCES and districts attempt to coordinate since many students attend programs elsewhere. This year, Clinton was able to reschedule a Superintendent’s Conference Day from October 6 to September 25 without consequence, allowing families to celebrate Yom Kippur.

March 17 Conference Day

Ms. Debora Van Slyke, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reported on all of the offerings enjoyed by staff members during the March 17 conference day which focused on Standards and Instruction in all content areas. Several regional collaborative trainings at other locations were offered to social workers, guidance counselors, PE teachers, and world language teachers, with CCS hosting library media specialist training. She thanked teachers and administrators for their assistance in planning this important event.

Building Goals Update

Mr. Clancy began by reviewing District Goals adopted by the Board in September. Each principal then reported on their buildings progress in reaching each one.

District Goals:
1. We will efficiently and effectively utilize District resources and personnel to maximize learning opportunities and achievement for all students to fulfill the Vision 2025 Strategic Plan.
2. We will create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where all students feel accepted and capable of achieving their goals.
3. We will engage all students by utilizing a prioritized curriculum and high expectations through collaborative partnerships and community support.

High School

Goal #1: Dr. Matthew Lee, High School Principal, explained strategies implemented to retain and nurture staff members, as well as a communication, support and reward systems put in place to address chronic absenteeism. Absenteeism rates are still higher than desired.

Goal #2: Dr. Lee was happy to report that the number of disruptive incidents have decreased as students continue to recover form COVID isolation. Students have expressed a desire, when meeting with administrators, to increase school spirit. Strategies include efforts to incentivize student attendance at
athletic events, to engage in waste reducing programs, and to create a 9th grade peer mentoring program.

Goal #3: The adoption of an academic accountability program in place of detention has seen marked reduction in the number of failed classes. Regents and AP results will be reported in July.

**Middle School**

Goal #1: Dr. Shaun Carney, Middle School Principal, began by explaining how absentee rates are calculated, and situational influences affecting that data. An effort to send frequent and direct communication home to parents/guardians, as well as home visits, are in place. He displayed a letter that is sent home every five weeks, similar to a utility bill, which compares an individual student’s absence rate with their peers. Additionally, detailed information regarding state testing has been circulated to families to help correct misconceptions.

Goal #2: Students surveyed revealed that some do not feel comfortable reaching out to an adult at school for emotional support. More work is needed in this area.

Goal #3: Happily, middle school students have attained the goal of having a 98% passing rate. Additionally, 75% of students are on or above grade level in math, and 84% in ELA.

**Elementary School**

Goal #1: Ms. Ellen Leuthauser reported that RtI implementation continues to improve with continual professional development opportunities offered. Examining reasons for absences, frequent communication with parents, home visits and engaging outside agency support are helping to address chronic absenteeism. The rate is still higher than desired.

Goal #2: Although disruptive incidents still occur, there has been some improvement. So far, there have been two reportable incidents. Students are allowed to choose a “go to” adult with whom they feel connected for support. Transportation adjustments have been helpful. The Elementary School has formed a Building Safety Team, and is working on updating their Safety Plan. A plan for evacuation drills is in process.

Goal #3: Student achievement has not yet reached the desired level in ELA or Math. Universal benchmarking systems and other programs are being considered. 100% of parents and teachers are using Parent Square as a communication tool. ENL families have been provided with workshops to help them navigate this and other systems.

**Budget Presentation**

Mr. Clancy and Mr. Barretta presented the anticipated Instructional Budget for 2023-24. They explained savings that will occur due to retirements, and in the areas of non-instructional salaries, and special education tuition. Some additional expenses will occur in BOCES CTE Program costs, and with the addition of a 0.5 FTE BOCES psychologist. Overall, the instructional budget is expected to increase by 1.9% or $283,605.73. Several position are now being funded by the ARP grant which ends in September of 2024. A plan is in development to potentially absorb positions that continue to be necessary.

Revenue sources include a 2.17% increase in the tax levy as determined by the tax cap calculation, a 4.1% increase in state aid, some miscellaneous revenue, and the use of fund balance and ERS reserves resulting in an overall revenue total of $30,777,153.
A list of typical expenditures and of particular highlights were provided that include some staffing and BOCES enrollment expenses, as well as bus purchases, health insurance, and the purchase of student devices. Revenues and expenditures balance at $30,777.153 representing a 3.28% budget increase and a 2.17% tax levy.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Two community members read statements in support of our librarians and the inclusion of a wide range of diverse titles in our libraries to the benefit all readers. They are grateful to the Board for supporting this effort. Ms. Leising mentioned that over twenty letters had been received so far expressing the same sentiment.

A community member said he would like to see the addressing of students socio-emotional needs more clearly articulated in District goals.

6. **STANDING RESOLUTIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)**

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to combine items 6A through 6K.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (6, 0) to approve items 6A through 6K.

A. Agenda and Any Additions to the Agenda for March 28, 2023

B. Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on February 28, 2023

C. Minutes from the Special Meeting held on March 7, 2023

D. Internal Claims Auditor Report

E. Summary Treasurer’s Report for February 2023

F. Treasurer’s Report for February 2023

G. Executive Summary for February 2023

H. Revenues/expenditures by Month

I. Extra-classroom Treasurer’s Report for February 2023

J. Committee on Preschool Special Education and Committee on Special Education (CSE) Report:

- Initial Review: 0
- Program Review: 2
- Annual Review: 12
- Reevaluation (Triennial): 1
- Administrative Transfer: 3
- Preschool: 6
- 504 Review: 10
7. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Committees
   1. Finance
      Ms. Magnarelli reported that the committee had reviewed the budget materials included in tonight’s presentation. Our financial consultant, Dr. Rick Timbs, complimented Mr. Barretta for his sound planning. The District is in good financial shape.

   2. Policy Committee
      Dr. Perry reported that the committee continues to review the policy manual by sections and the recommendations made by the New York State School Boards Association to insure legal compliance.

B. Liaisons
   1. School Board Institute
      Ms. Magnarelli reported that, at the last SBI meeting, the discussion included electric buses, and next year’s calendar of professional development offerings. The OHM BOCES awards night is next Wednesday.

   2. CCSD Foundation
      Ms. Shaw reported that she and Mr. Clancy attended the March 8th hybrid meeting where he updated members about the Capital Project and school events. Community member Zach Lewis was voted in as a new trustee. The 24th annual golf tournament will take place on July 10, largely relying on advertisers for its success. The Juice and Jammies event attracted about 150 children, and involvement in the Arts Fair was discussed. Compliments were received regarding the latest District newsletter.

   3. PTA
      Dr. Bauer reported that the PTA online Q&A continues to be developed. The Harlem Wizard event and the Gertrude Hawk candy sale proved to be very successful. The results of the Book Fair will be reported at the next meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy

   A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (5, 1) with Mr. Catterson voting no, to approve items the following resolution.

   1. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #2350, Board Meeting Procedures, be adopted.
      NOTE: This is the second reading and adoption.

   Mr. Catterson questioned as to whether or not this policy change was wise. However, since ample time for discussion had occurred previously, the vote was called for.
A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

2. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #9420, Evaluation of Staff (Not Covered by 3012-d of Education Law), be adopted.
   NOTE: This is the second reading and adoption.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

B. Curriculum
   1. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the creation of a one year unpaid pilot Middle School French Club, as described in the attached proposal, be approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Dr. Perry and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

C. RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 28, 2022

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, ONEIDA COUNTY, NEW YORK APPROVING A PROPOSITION TO LEVY A TAX FOR THE KIRKLAND TOWN LIBRARY.

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Kirkland Town Library (the “Library”) has requested that the Clinton Central School District (the “School District”) levy a tax upon the taxable property in the School District to fund public library services in accordance with Section 259(1) of the Education Law of the State of New York, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the School District (the “Board of Education”) desires to seek the authorization of the duly qualified voters of the School District in order to levy the tax requested by the Library;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Education of the School District as follows:

Section 1. The Board of Education hereby approves the inclusion of the following proposition on the ballot at the annual meeting of the School District scheduled to be held on May 16, 2023:

   Proposition No. 2

Shall the sum of $337,905 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable property within the Clinton Central School District for the purpose of funding the Kirkland Town Library?

Section 2. The School District Clerk is hereby directed to include the foregoing proposition in the notice of annual School District meeting in accordance with the provisions of the Education Law.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.
Ms. Leising noted that the District is obligated to serve as a vehicle for library tax collection.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN OSWEGO COUNTY BOCES COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Cooperative Purchasing Service is a plan of a number of public school districts in the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services Area in New York (known as the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation [CiTi]), to bid jointly for water testing and sampling services, and

WHEREAS, Clinton Central School (hereinafter the “Participant”) is desirous of participating with Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi and other Boards of Cooperative Educational Services and public school districts in the joint bidding of the services mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS, the participant wishes to appoint the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to advertise for bids, accept bids, tabulate bids and award bids on their behalf; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the participant hereby appoints Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to represent it in all matters relating above, and designates the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi designated newspaper(s) as the legal publication(s) for all Cooperative Purchasing bid notifications, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the participant authorizes the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi to represent it in all matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned services, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the participant agrees to (1) assume its equitable share of the costs of the Cooperative Bidding; (2) abide by majority decisions of the participating districts; (3) abide by the Award of the Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services/CiTi; (4) and that after the award of the bid it will conduct all negotiations directly with the successful bidder(s).

A motion was made by Dr. Perry seconded by Ms. Magnarelli and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

E. RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE CLINTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District desires to enter into a 5 year contract with the Madison-Oneida BOCES in order for the Regional Information Center to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: CoSer 505-6360 Instructional Technology Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is
**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District agrees to enter into a contract with the Madison-Oneida BOCES for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed $113,701.00 plus related borrowing fees, plus Regional Information Center support during the term of this contract, finalized by the Superintendent, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period of 5 year(s); 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Mr. Catterson, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

F. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF VAPE LITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Clinton Central School District (the “District”) previously authorized the District Superintendent to take all steps necessary to join a nation-wide lawsuit by school districts against Juul Labs, Inc. the largest seller of e-cigarettes in the United States and Altria Group, Inc. formerly known as Phillip Morris Companies, Inc. (the “Lawsuit”);

WHEREAS, following extensive negotiations, counsel for Juul Labs, Inc. and counsel for the school districts, have reached an agreement in principle to resolve all claims against Juul Labs, Inc., as well as its corporate representatives (the “Settlement Agreement”);

WHEREAS, the Settlement Agreement provides, in relevant part, that in exchange for a full release of claims against Juul Labs, Inc. and its corporate representatives, the District will receive monetary remuneration in the amount of $21,682.00 (the “Settlement Amount”);

WHEREAS, the Settlement Amount will be paid to the District in five installments pursuant to the following schedule: 62.5% in December 2023; 12.5% in December 2024; 12.5% in December 2025; and 12.5% in December 2026.

WHEREAS, in entering the Settlement Agreement, the District is not releasing claims against any other defendants in the Lawsuit, including, but not limited to, Altria Group, Inc.;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District hereby ratifies the Settlement Agreement, a copy of which is incorporated into the minutes of this meeting, and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take any further actions necessary to effect the settlement authorized herein.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

G. **WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, has called a special district meeting of the qualified voters of said School District to be held on the 16th day of May, 2023; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to provide for the appointment of a chairperson and inspectors of election for the special district meeting to be compensated in accordance with the agreement
between the Oneida County Board of Elections and the Clinton Central School District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Jennifer Giannone, duly qualified voter of said School District is hereby appointed as the chairperson of the special district meeting referred to in the preambles hereof.

Section 2. The following named qualified voters of said School District are hereby appointed to act as inspectors of election at said special district meeting:

INSPECTORS: Dottie Kalies, Diana Huss, Joanna Huss, Karen Winkler, Emily Call, Nancy Lillibridge, and Jennifer Giannone.

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

H. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the agreement between the Clinton Central Schools District and Ferrara Fiorenza PC, be approved.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

I. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts a donation from the Clinton Central Schools District Foundation to fund a multi-media project in the High School.

$32,000 A.2705 (Gifts and Donations)
Budgetary Distribution
$26,600 A.2110.450.05.0000 (High School Equipment)
$ 3,940 A.2630.490.00.0000 (BOCES-Computer Equipment)
$ 921 A.2630.220.00.0000 (State Aid Hardware)
$ 539 A.2110.400.055.0000 (High School Contractual)

9. OTHER

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

A. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the calendar for the 2023-2024 school year be approved.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

A community member was disappointed in the process by which Mr. Catterson’s comments regarding the policy change was handled.

11. PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.
A. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation with intent to retire of Jody Chandler, Elementary Teacher, after 33 years of service at CCS, in accordance with Article 22 of the current CTA agreement, effective June 30, 2023, be accepted with regret.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

B. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation with intent to retire of Phyllis Lopiccolo, Secondary ELA Teacher, after 21 years of service at CCS, in accordance with Article 22 of the current CTA agreement, effective June 30, 2023, be accepted with regret.

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Mr. Catterson, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

C. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation with intent to retire of Lisa Colozzi-Peseky, Special Education Teacher, after 33 years of service at CCS, in accordance with Article 22 of the current CTA agreement, effective June 30, 2023, be accepted with regret.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

D. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation with intent to retire of Karen Romano, Secondary ELA Teacher, after 30 years of service at CCS, in accordance with Article 22 of the current CTA agreement, effective June 30, 2023, be accepted with regret.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

E. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation with intent to retire of Cynthia Smiegol, School Nurse, after 10.5 years of service at CCS, in accordance with Article 22 of the current CTA agreement, effective June 30, 2023, be accepted with regret.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

F. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation with intent to retire of Ellen Leuthauser, Elementary Principal, after 8 years of service at CCS, in accordance with the current CAA agreement, effective August 15, 2023, be accepted with regret.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

G. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following coaching appointments for the 2022-2023 school year, pending team formation, to be compensated
in accordance with Article 14 of the CTA contract or other agreements/understandings between the District and CTA, be approved.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

H. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Alexa Mahserjian as a part-time Physical Education teacher at .50 FTE, Step 1MA, in accordance with the current CTA agreement, effective March 29, 2023 through no later than the end of the 2023-24 school year, be hereby approved.

A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

I. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Kimberly Garbry to the position of long-term substitute elementary teacher to be compensated at Step 2MA in accordance with the current CTA agreement, beginning on or about April 17, 2023 through June 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (6, 0) to approve items the following resolution.

J. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Memorandum of Agreement between the Clinton Central school District and the CSEA be approved.

12. QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Board agreed to hold the April 18th meeting as a special meeting, and the April 25th meeting as the regular meeting.

Ms. Leising reminded Board members that she had shared documents regarding the Superintendent Evaluation.

The April 5th OHM BOCES Annual Meeting and Budget Presentation will be attended by Ms. Leising, Ms. Magnarelli, Ms. Van Slyke and Mr. Clancy.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Dr. Perry, and carried (6, 0) to go into executive session to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation; collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law); the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person(s) or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. The time was 8:05pm.
A motion was made by Dr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Catterson, and carried (6, 0) to return to regular session. The time was 10:07pm.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Dr. Perry and carried (6, 0) to adjourn the meeting. The time was 10:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia A. Scranton
District Clerk