

**Board of Education Meeting
Special Meeting
Monday, February 1, 2021
High School Library
5:30 pm**

PRESENT: Matthew Dreher
Jason Fernau
Melissa Glastetter
Michael O'Donnell
Lillian McCarthy
Dorothy Sellers
Katie Whitemore

STAFF PRESENT: Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent of Schools
Brian Sirianni, Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Dorothy Sellers called the Board of Education meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Kenneth Slentz thanked everyone for their patience while the District waited for approvals needed to make recommendations for winter high-risk sports. Mr. Slentz discussed the requirements Saratoga County had set. He explained the confusion and the challenges regarding the clarity of the communications.

Mr. Slentz shared the District's numbers for quarantine and positive tests. Mr. Slentz discussed the concerns regarding the Super Bowl gatherings and vacation. He reminded everyone the District is tracking their own figures on the District website. He stated the District's metrics were lower than the County's figures.

Mr. Slentz stated the District was reviewing their schedules and the utilization of instruction times. He stated club meetings were being reevaluated. He cautioned that any changes would be dialed back if numbers started to rise. He reminded everyone that sports are extracurricular and keeping school open and providing the instructional program was the top priority.

Mr. Slentz announced the approval had been given for Section II to have JV and Varsity sports. He stated he would like to have modified sports available, but it was not possible at this time. He stated there seemed to be a common thread that wrestling was not being approved. Mr. Slentz stated the County stated the District physician would need to sign off on each program. He stated it was a possibility that wrestling would not be approved. He stated it was a County rule that if the District physician does not sign off on the decision to have particular sport, it would not be allowed.

Mr. Slentz stated the District was, at this time, recommending boys' and girls' JV and Varsity Basketball be approved. He stated the District was also recommending competitive cheer move forward.

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Mr. Slentz and Dave Sunkes shared the number of students that had signed up for the programs. Mr. Slentz shared the number of hockey sign ups the District had. Mr. Slentz discussed the challenges pertaining to the wrestling schedule and the number of practices needed. He stated wrestling may move to the spring season. Mr. Slentz stated that along with the approval of the District physician, the section and the league would have to make the decision to host wrestling. He reiterated that currently wrestling was not being recommended due to not having all the information necessary to make a recommendation.

Ms. Sellers asked if the number of participants was expected to increase.

Mr. Sunkes stated that numbers were down across the Council.

Ms. Sellers asked if JV and Varsity would be combined to expand the size of the roster.

Mr. Slentz stated it was possible. He discussed the options the District had discussed. He stated the recommendations were coming from the documents that have gone out. Mr. Slentz asked the Board for their direction. He discussed challenges including having enough student athletes to support a team. He stated one quarantine event could knock out an entire team and cause their schedule to be suspended. He stated there are a significantly low number of referees available due to concerns regarding the virus.

Mr. Slentz reiterated it was administrations highest priority is to keep the school District open. He stated administration would give weekly updates on the athletes to keep everyone informed. He stated that if numbers started to increase and the risk of closing down came into view, administration would be looking for the directive to suspend sports. He described the changes that would be necessary if numbers started to rise.

Mr. Slentz shared the discussions taking place regarding sports scheduling and the different options being discussed. He stated the District was looking to keep with the Suburban Council schedule. Mr. Sunkes described the potential scheduling scenarios and stated flexibility would be necessary as the potential for changes and an unusual play pattern were likely. He stated it would be the coaching staff's responsibility to manage the mask usage and athlete behavior.

Mr. Slentz stated Dr. Kuhles had discussed going back to the Saratoga County Board with a new methodology for determining numbers when student and staff number numbers are lower than the County's figures. He stated he would report back to the Board on February 10th. He thanked everyone for their flexibility while waiting for information necessary for the District to put forward recommendations.

Mr. Slentz and Mr. Sunkes addressed the issue of spectators. They discussed some of the challenges that would be present when and if spectators are allowed. They stated there would be no spectators until February 26th, a week after students return from vacation. They shared a myriad of future options and shared that all Suburban Council schools had voted to have no spectators at this time. Mr. Slentz and Mr. Sunkes stated the games would be lived streamed.

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Mr. Sunkes described the busing situations and the timing of the Varsity and JV games. He stated there was a potential for games to be cancelled due an insufficient number of officials.

Mr. Sunkes shared the information he had regarding a place for the hockey team to practice and play. He stated the District was ready once the green light was given.

Mr. Slentz stated that because of unanswered questions regarding wrestling it would be necessary to rescind some positions in the resolutions put forward. He explained the resolution would be brought back if wrestling were to be approved.

Mr. Slentz stated the drama clubs were looking for creative ways to go forward with in person groups and to produce a performance. He stated the District was looking for Board approval to go forward with the recommended sports and clubs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #369 - Winter 2021 Athletics

WHEREAS, On Friday, January 22, 2021 Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that as part of New York State school’s reopening, school-sponsored high-risk sports in all regions may begin to practice and play beginning February 1st pending approval of local county Departments of Health;

WHEREAS, the New York State Public High School Athletic League (NYSPHSAA) Section 2 has allowed for high-risk sports to be played based on a District-by-District decision; and,

WHEREAS, the Saratoga County Department of Public Health Services has approved high-risk sports to be played so long as certain District requirements and certain county COVID-19 metrics are achieved; and

WHEREAS, the District has begun the process for meeting all such requirements including seeking the approval of our District physician of sport-specific plans; and,

WHEREAS, the District has a strong interest in cautiously reintroducing student co- and extracurricular activities while minimizing the disruptions that positive test results and tracing protocols have on our ability to maintain a consistent program of teaching and learning;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Education resolves as follows:

1. The Board of Education hereby approves the recommendation of the Superintendent to allow junior varsity and varsity level high-risk athletics in girls and boys basketball and girls competitive cheer, and to allow the varsity high-risk sport of ice hockey for our combined team for the winter 2021 season in accordance with the presented Program DRAFT Plan.

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2. The Board of Education hereby endorses the recommendations of the Superintendent to explore additional in-person opportunities in co-curricular activities including drama for our students; to report back to the Board on February 10 regarding the possibility of such activities, and to report weekly to the Board on any impact that the introduction of high-risk winter sports might have on our ability to keep our schools open for hybrid learning.
3. The Board of Education hereby authorizes the Superintendent to suspend any high-risk sport that is showing a negative impact on the District's ability to keep our schools open.

MOTION BY Michael O'Donnell, seconded by Jason Fernau that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #369 – Winter 20121 Athletics

Ayes all

Resolutions #370 - #371 are recognized as a consent agenda for the purpose of Board of Education action.

Resolution #370 - Appointment Interscholastic Sports Coaches

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed to the coaching position(s) indicated below for the 2020-2021 school year, with salary shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Jessica Corwin	Varsity Cheer (Winter)	\$5,306
David Morse	Junior Varsity Girls Basketball	\$5,306
Ryan O'Reilly	Junior Varsity Boys Basketball	\$5,306
Gene Staulters	Junior Varsity Wrestling	\$5,306
Harold Staulters	Varsity Wrestling	\$6,898
Victoria VandePas	Junior Varsity Cheer (Winter)	\$3,714

Resolution #371 - Appointment Interscholastic Sports Coach Volunteers

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed to the coaching position(s) indicated below for the 2020-2021 school year, with salary shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Amanda Fifield	Varsity Girls Basketball	n/a
James Buffoline	Varsity Hockey	n/a

MOTION BY Michael O'Donnell, seconded by Jason Fernau that the Board of Education to approve Resolutions #370 - 371

Ayes all

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Walk-On Resolution #372- Rescission of Appointment – Interscholastic Sports Coaches

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the appointments of those listed below, previously approved by the Board at their special meeting held February 1, 2021, in Resolution #370, are hereby rescinded, be and is hereby approved.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Gene Staulters	Junior Varsity Wrestling	\$5,306
Harold Staulters	Varsity Wrestling	\$6,898

MOTION BY Michael O'Donnell, seconded by Jason Fernau that the Board of Education to accept Walk-On Resolutions #372 - Rescission of Appointment – Interscholastic Sports Coaches

Ayes all

MOTION BY Michael O'Donnell, seconded by Jason Fernau that the Board of Education to approve Walk-On Resolutions #372 - Rescission of Appointment – Interscholastic Sports Coaches

Discussion

Ms. Sellers stated hopefully there would be an answer soon.

Ayes all

Ms. Sellers thanked everyone for their flexibility. She stated Mr. Slentz and the Athletic Department were doing a wonderful job. She stated she was happy Public Health was involved in the decision-making process in order to make sports as safe as possible for the students. She encouraged anyone with questions, comments or concerns to send an email to the addresses Mr. Slentz provided.

Mr. Slentz reminded everyone all updates and information are available on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Michael O'Donnell, seconded by Jason Fernau to adjourn at 6:06 p.m.

Ayes all

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Sirianni
Clerk of the Board