

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, held on November 14, 2023.

Present:

(Board)

(Administration)

Mrs. Melinda Leising, President
Dr. Lyndsey Bauer
Mr. Sam Catterson
Mrs. Rachael Clark
Mr. Patrick LaVeck
Mrs. Lisa Magnarelli

Mr. Christopher Clancy, Superintendent
Mr. Joseph Barretta, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mrs. Michelle Gabree-Huba, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Technology
Dr. Matthew Lee, High School Principal
Mr. Edward Waskiewicz, Elementary Principal
Mrs. Elizabeth Dougherty, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Mr. Robert Bentley, Director of Athletics, Safety and Wellness

Ms. Julia A. Scranton, District Clerk
Absent: Ms. Erica Shaw, Vice-president

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Leising called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

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

A. Superintendent’s Report

Emergency Responder Tax Relief

Mr. Clancy presented the results of research he and Mr. Barretta completed with the assistance of Oneida County. The purpose of considering the tax relief proposal is to serve as a recruitment and retention incentive for agencies who are struggling. Active members must meet specific criteria to qualify. It is estimated that an emergency responder would receive a 10% tax reduction, which would increase tax rates for other property owners by about \$.03 per \$1000 of the assessed property value, or an average of \$3.50 per household for a \$150,000 assessment. The recommendation is that the District adopt the parts of the proposal that benefit active members with more than 2 years of service and unremarried spouses of volunteers killed in the line of duty. A public hearing and potential adoption will be held on December 19. It was noted that the Clinton and Clark Mills Fire Departments play an active and responsive role in District safety and activities.

Mr. Clancy reported that NYSED just released a report from the Blue Ribbon Commission with updated recommendations about new graduation measures, which have remained unchanged for some time. After holding meetings throughout the state, the NYSED Blue Ribbon Commission

identified four areas needing revision. In their final report, the Commission made twelve recommendations to the Board of Regents for consideration. It is expected that feedback and recommendations will be received in the spring of 2024.

Pupil Personnel Services Department Goals

Mr. Clancy began by briefly reviewing the work that has been done to identify District and Building goals and objectives. Mrs. Elizabeth Dougherty, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, then described, for this department, specific strategies, programs and resources that will be implemented toward fostering equity, inclusivity, better communication, and clear expectations. A Special Education Plan and Handbook are being developed.

Athletic Department Goals

Similarly, Mr. Robert Bentley, Director of Athletics, Safety and Wellness, spoke about plans to review athletic philosophy, policies and procedures; foster an interactive, holistic school community; balance athletic and academic achievement and synchronize schedules; and employ evidence based decision making regarding program offerings. Both the Wellness and Safety Teams will ensure policy execution. The APP process will be reviewed.

Mr. Clancy added that he has been engaged in ongoing discussion with both Mr. Waskiewicz and Mr. Bentley during their time in the Athletic Department. Questions will be addressed by the Athletic Partnership Council.

Administrators Reports

Elementary Principal Mr. Eddie Waskiewicz informed the Board about recent building activities. Thank you to the Clinton and Clark Mills Fire Departments for a successful Fire Safety Day. Two PTA movie nights held in the school gym were well attended providing families with a fun night out. The Halloween Parade was held in the Theater giving students the opportunity to safely display their costumes. Students look forward to reading with Hamilton College students on Tuesdays. The Brain Show was revived from pre-COVID days where both student and teachers teams had the opportunity to compete. Fifty veterans were recognized with songs and speeches during a meaningful Veterans Day celebration. Mr. Moshier, father of teacher Rebecca Stiliz, served as the guest speaker, and District parent Mark Bolos honored Veterans by performing an original song.

Mr. Clancy, in Middle School Principal Dr. Shaun Carney's absence, reported that 6th grade students participated in a democratic process to select the official tree, bird and flower for Oneida County. Middle School Student Council members assisted elderly community members with fall yard clean up. This initiative was organized by the Oneida County Youth Bureau.

Dr. Matthew Lee, High School Principal, reported that physics students in Mr. Bashant's class have been building hovercrafts using everyday products. Hamilton College student Maggi Maselli is leading the unit as part of her senior thesis. The annual NHS winter coat drive is underway, and teacher Katie Petrie and her team of students raised \$1,994 for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. A very well attended 3 on 3 basketball tournament involving student and faculty members was organized by Mr. Sirianni and Mr. Bialek. Thank you to the Esports Team who ran the event and provided refreshments.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

6. STANDING RESOLUTIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

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

A motion was made by Ms. Clark, seconded by Mr. Catterson, and carried (6, 0) to approve items 6A through 6E

- A. Agenda and Any Additions to the Agenda for November 14, 2023
- B. Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on October 24, 2023
- C. Extra-classroom Treasurer’s Report for October 2023
- D. Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) and Committee on Special Education (CSE) Report:

Reevaluation	5
Annual	0
Program Review	2
Administrative Transfer	0
Preschool	3
New Referral	0
504 Transfers	0
504 Referrals	0
504 Review	0
Amendment with no meeting held	5

- E. Updated List of Substitute and Supervisory Personnel

7. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Policy Committee: Dr. Bauer reported that the Policy Committee, at their most recent meeting, reviewed in detail policy #4321.12 which is on this agenda for a first reading.
2. Facilities Committee: Mr. Barretta reported that the committee interviewed three potential candidates to serve as consultants for the electric bus study. A report to NYS is required to be submitted in August 2024. The committee will meet again in December.

B. Liaisons

1. CCSD Foundation: Ms. Magnarelli reported that highlights of this past year’s funded projects was presented, which is extensive. Revisions to the Hall of Distinction program and procedures are in discussion. Whether or not the District possesses a database of alumni was questioned.
2. SBI: Ms. Leising reported that Dr. Rick Timbs gave a presentation about 2024-24 school budget considerations, including electric bus funding. At this point, there are more questions than answers. A meeting with legislators is scheduled for January 25.

3. Safety Committee – Mr. Clancy reported that the committee began by establishing roles and purpose. The new SPO’s were in attendance and welcomed. Plans for two upcoming projects were laid out: 1. consistent emergency folders for teachers, staff and substitutes; and 2. the completion of the door key project with the assistance of Mr. Kulinski. The committee will meet again in January, and every two months following.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy

First reading:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #4321.12, Timeout and Physical Restraint (All Students) be adopted.

NOTE: This is the first reading. No action necessary.

Second reading:

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

2. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #0100, Non-discrimination and Equal Opportunity, be adopted.

NOTE: This is the second reading and adoption.

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Mr. LaVeck, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following item:

3. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #4772, Graduation Ceremonies, be adopted.

NOTE: This is the second reading and adoption.

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

B. RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE FILING OF RETURN TAX CLAIMS

WHEREAS the Education Law provides that the tax collector shall be relieved of responsibility for the uncollected portion of the tax list when a complete list of the delinquent tax items have been certified to the Board of Education and since the collector has affixed his affidavit to such statement and has filed a statement accounting for the handling of the tax warrant and list as follows:

TOWN	ASSESSED VALUE	TAX RATE PER \$1000	AMOUNT TAX LEVY	TOTAL TAXES COLLECTED	TOTAL TAXES RETURNED TO COUNTY
Marshall	\$10,178,309.00	\$44.03	\$411,128.77	\$400,757.22	\$10,461.55

Paris	\$776,762.00	\$29.12	\$18,841.30	\$18,128.27	\$713.03
Vernon	\$1,804,445.00	\$38.93	\$65,572.55	\$65,012.57	\$559.97
Westmoreland	\$6,066,863.00	\$48.66	\$736,919.06	\$681,270.94	\$55,648.12
Kirkland	\$317,926,225.00	\$43.00	\$12,756,595.87	\$12,381,368.26	\$375,227.61
New Hartford	\$50,983,572.00	\$32.44	\$1,579,884.09	\$1,563,766.39	\$16,117.70
Whitestown	\$993,978.00	\$39.34	\$32,056.38	\$24,096.73	\$7,959.65
TOTAL	\$398,670,154.00		\$15,601,088.02	\$15,134,400.39	\$466,687.63

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following item:

C. BE IT RESOLVED, that the following tax bill revisions be approved:

Resident, tax map #347.006-1-31, an adjustment of \$825.31.

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Mr. LaVeck, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following item:

D. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts a donation from Pinny and George Kuckel to support the Clinton Comets Girls’ Ice Hockey Team:

\$1,000 CM688 Hockey

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following item:

E. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts a donation from the Class of 2030 to purchase a hydroponics grow tower for the Elementary School:

\$500 A.2705 (Gifts and Donations)

Budgetary Distribution

\$500 A.2110.450.01.0000

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

F. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, in accordance with Board Policy #6150, the attached 2023-2024 line item budget transfers, be approved.

Description	Account Code	Increase	Decrease	Reason
State Aid Computer Hardware	A.2630.220.00	\$6,550		Purchase two interactive TV panels for HS English Department
HS Textbooks	A.2110.481.05		\$6,550	

A motion was made by Ms. Clark, seconded by Mr. LaVeck, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following item:

G. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LITIGATION AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health which:

- "calls attention to the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health;"
- emphasized that "now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;"
- "[t]he onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;" and
- "[t]echnology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media."

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has further concluded that:

- "Social media use by youth is nearly universal. Up to 95% of youth ages 13-17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media 'almost constantly.'"
- "nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media;"
- "in early adolescence ... brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison;"
- "[s]ocial media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;"
- "[i]n a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel 'addicted' to a social media platform;"
- "[o]ver half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;" and
- "[t]here is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use "depression among youth."

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is "urgent that we take action."

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, "[m]ore than ever, were glued to [their cellphones] during class."

WHEREAS, it has been reported that "a growing number of educators ... find themselves on the front lines of a fight to change how students use social media" and "there was been a push for more schools to ... develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media."

WHEREAS, the Clinton Central School District (the "School District") has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of social media, which use, among other things:

(i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and prevent such use and its results harms; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District is a leader in education excellence whose faculty and administrators care deeply about the education and well-being of its students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

That the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP and Ferrara Fiorenza PC to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek compensation to the School District for damages suffered by the School District and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The School District hereby authorizes its Superintendent of Schools or their designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the School District.

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

H. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVE ENERGY PURCHASING SERVICE (NYSMEC) FOR ELECTRICITY

WHEREAS, Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law authorizes municipal corporations to enter into cooperative agreements for the performance or exercise of services, functions, powers or activities on a cooperative or contract basis among themselves or one for the other, and

WHEREAS, Section 119-n of the General Municipal Law defines the term "municipal corporation" for the purposes of Article 5-G as a county outside the city of New York, a city, a town, a village, a board of cooperative educational services, a fire district or a school district; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton Central School District, (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Participant") is a "municipal corporation" as defined above; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes for this municipal corporation to become or remain a Participant pursuant to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement For Energy Purchasing Services dated the 1st day of May 2005 (the "Agreement"), among municipal corporations collectively identified as the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium ("NYSMEC") upon the terms of the Agreement and further wishes to authorize participation as an energy consumer as specified below.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board hereby determines that it is in the interests of the Clinton Central School District to participate in the NYSMEC, and authorizes and directs Mr. Christopher Clancy to sign the Agreement/and or the Billing Schedule and Agreement for electricity on its behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board authorizes the Administrative Participant (as defined in the Agreement) to prepare, advertise, disseminate and open bids pursuant to the General Municipal Law and to award, execute and deliver binding contracts on behalf of this Board for the purchase of electricity delivered to the delivery point of the local utility distribution company for the Participant's facility or facilities, on a firm basis, for this Participant to the lowest responsible bidder as is determined by the Administrative Participant at a price for such commodity electricity

not to exceed \$.0845 cents per kWh for a term of at least one year and no more than three years commencing May 1, 2024, and other terms and conditions, all as may be determined by the Administrative Participant, or to reject any or all such bids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Participant agrees to advertise said bid as may be directed by the Administrative Participant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers and employees of this Participant are authorized to execute such other confirming agreements, certificates and other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following item:

I. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN COOPERATIVE ENERGY PURCHASING SERVICE (NYSMEC) FOR NATURAL GAS

WHEREAS, Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law authorizes municipal corporations to enter into cooperative agreements for the performance or exercise of services, functions, powers or activities on a cooperative or contract basis among themselves or one for the other, and

WHEREAS, Section 119-n of the General Municipal Law defines the term "municipal corporation" for the purposes of Article 5-G as a county outside the city of New York, a city, a town, a village, a board of cooperative educational services, a fire district or a school district; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton Central School District, (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Participant") is a "municipal corporation" as defined above; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes for this municipal corporation to become or remain a Participant pursuant to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement For Energy Purchasing Services dated the 1st day of May, 2005 (the "Agreement"), among municipal corporations collectively identified as the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium ("NYSMEC") upon the terms of the Agreement and further wishes to authorize participation as an energy consumer as specified below.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board hereby determines that it is in the interests of the Clinton Central School District to participate in the NYSMEC, and authorizes and directs Mr. Christopher Clancy to sign the Agreement/and or the Billing Schedule and Agreement for natural gas on its behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board authorizes the Administrative Participant (as defined in the Agreement) to prepare, advertise, disseminate and open bids pursuant to the General Municipal Law and to award, execute and deliver binding contracts on behalf of this Board for the purchase of natural gas delivered to the city gate of the local utility distribution company for the Participant's facility or facilities, on a firm basis, for this Participant to the lowest responsible bidder as is determined by the Administrative Participant at a price for such commodity natural gas not to exceed \$.0656 cents per therm for a term of at least one year and no more than three years commencing May 1, 2024, and other terms and conditions, all as may be determined by the Administrative Participant, or to reject any or all such bids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Participant agrees to advertise said bid as may be directed by the Administrative Participant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers and employees of this Participant are authorized to execute such other confirming agreements, certificates and other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Mr. LaVeck, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following item:

- J. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the agreement between Clinton Central School and Garden Entertainment. LLC (Nexus Center) for the 2023-2024 Girls Ice Hockey season, be approved.

9. OTHER

A motion was made by Mr. Catterson, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried (6, 0) to approve the following item:

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, and in accordance with Section III policy and procedure, that two students be granted permission to participate as combining athletes in the Rome City School wrestling program.

10. PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli seconded by Mr. Catterson, and carried (6, 0) to combine items 10A through 10E.

A motion was made by Ms. Clark, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (6, 0) to approve items 10A through 10E.

- A. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following coaching appointments for the 2023-2024 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.

Juan Reyes	Girls JV Volleyball Coach
Emily Burns	Girls Volleyball Volunteer
Mallory Faffley	Intramural Fitness Center Coach (Winter Season)

- B. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following musical accompanist for the 2023-2024 school year to be compensated in a total amount not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$2000, be approved.

Mindy Polarolo

- C. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the creation of a 1.0 FTE civil service position, Telecommunications Specialist, be approved
- D. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation of Thomas J. McAvaney from the cocurricular position of Chamber Orchestra Director for the 2023-2024 school year, be accepted.

- E. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Edward Westcott to the full time civil service position of cleaner, to be compensated at Step 4, in accordance with the current CSEA agreement, beginning November 27, 2023, with a probationary period of 8 to 26 weeks, be approved.

11. QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ms. Magnarelli reported that she, Mr. Clancy and Ms. Scranton had attended a demonstration on Board Docs. She was impressed by several features, particularly the Pro version, and recommended moving forward with its purchase.

Ms. Leising asked about an Affordable Connectivity program that is available to families based on free and reduced lunch applications. Mr. Clancy reported that a letter has been drafted informing qualifying families about how to apply.

Dr. Lee clarified that the Fitness Center is open to grade 9-12 students after school for one hour on Tuesdays and Thursday under an appointed supervisor. It has not been open to the public for some time due to cost and safety issues.

Attendees were reminded of the upcoming Michael Wratten Scholarship concert taking place on November 25.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Catterson, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried (6, 0) to go into executive session to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation; and the medical, financial, credit, 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 7:24pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Clark, seconded by Mr. Catterson and carried (6, 0) to return to regular session. The time was 8:08pm.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (6, 0) to adjourn the meeting. The time was 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia A. Scranton
District Clerk