

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District, Oneida County, New York, held on December 19, 2023.

Present:

(Board)

Ms. Melinda Leising, President  
Ms. Erica Shaw, Vice-president  
Dr. Lyndsey Bauer  
Mr. Sam Catterson  
Ms. Rachael Clark  
Mr. Patrick LaVeck  
Ms. Lisa Magnarelli

(Administration)

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  
Ms. Amie Johnson, Assistant Middle/High School Principal

Julia A. Scranton, District Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Leising called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. READING OF THE MISSION STATEMENT

Ms. Leising read the Mission Statement.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Volunteer Firefighters Tax Exemption

Mr. Clancy reviewed the proposed resolutions allowing a tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers that are on tonight’s agenda for Board approval. Thorough reports had been given at two prior meetings. No questions arose.

5. INFORMATION-REPORTS-PROPOSAL/SUPERINTENDENT & STAFF

A. Superintendent’s Report

District Events

Mr. Clancy reported that two of the three winter concerts took place last week. He continues to be impressed with the quality of performances. He congratulated CCS Scholar Athletes for commitment to both athletics and academics. The Middle School Career Fair included Wynn Hospital CEO Ms. Darlene Stromstad as the keynote speaker. Thank you to the more than 40 community members who informed students about career opportunities and to Guidance Counselor Danielle Tesak and Principal Shaun Carney for organizing this event. Thirty-seven students were recently inducted into the National Honor Society demonstrating not only academic achievement, but commitment to the four pillars of the organization.

Employee News

Mr. Clancy announced that Mr. Jordan Ezman will be returning to CCS as our new Telecommunications Specialist, and congratulated Mr. Gary Zalewski on his retirement from the position of bus driver.

Legislative Advocacy

Mr. Clancy reported that area Superintendents and BOCES administrators met with Legislators Brian Miller and Joe Griffo to help them understand common needs of education providers. Mr. Clancy presented and explained a short list of the following prioritized items that are aligned with other agencies: Safeguard Expense-Based Aids, Minimum Increase in Foundation Aid, Revise the Retiree Earning Limit, Increase Flexibility with Reserves, Increase Capital Outlay Authority and Flexibility, Reconsider PILOT Calculations within the Tax Cap, Mental Health Programming and Family Supports, Align NYS Burden of Proof for Special Education Matters with the US Supreme Court, and Time for Zero Emission Implementation. A unified message from all involved constituencies will hopefully help push the agenda forward.

Fall Athletic Summary

Mr. Bob Bentley, Director of Athletics, Safety and Wellness shared fall season team results, pointing out students' and coaches' many accomplishments and efforts. Several varsity teams including Boys Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Girls Field Hockey and Girls Soccer earned Section III Championship titles, while Girls Cross Country and Girls Tennis qualified for sectional play. Mr. Bentley applauded the Cheer Team for "epitomizing spirit and perseverance" and appreciated the many events that they attended, including the mascot reveal. He also drew attention to the \$5,605 raised by the Girls Field Hockey Team to help a middle school student who is battling cancer.

Several individual athletes earned all-star status and all varsity teams were named as Scholar Athlete Teams, with over 80% of team members maintaining a GPA of 90 or above. He shared what team numbers might look like going into next year.

Budget Presentation

Mr. Joseph Barretta, Assistant Superintendent for Business, reviewed preliminary budget information in two categories: Debt Service and the Tax Levy Limit.

The District is currently paying, based on a 15 year cycle, on three Capital Projects. A comparison of 2023-2024 and projected debt service numbers for 2024-25 reveal a decrease of 7.13%, or \$161,584.75. Bus purchase savings for 2024-2025 amount to \$130,018. Both of these decreases impact the Tax Cap Calculation.

The Tax Cap Calculation is an eight step process that includes a number of factors including the tax base growth factor, PILOT amounts, and consumer price index. At this point in time, the anticipated allowable increase in the tax levy is 0.24% or \$40,465. Further information that includes the final consumer price index, the final BOCES capital share calculation and final building aid will influence this number.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

7. STANDING RESOLUTIONS (CONSENT AGENDA)

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (7, 0) to combine items 7A through 7M.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried (7, 0) to approve items 7A through 7M.

A. Agenda and Any Additions to the Agenda for December 19, 2023

- B. Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on November 14, 2023
- C. Internal Claims Auditor Report
- D. Summary Treasurer’s Report for October 2023
- E. Summary Treasurer’s Report for November 2023
- F. Treasurer’s Report for October 2023
- G. Treasurer’s Report for November 2023
- H. Executive Summary for October 2023
- I. Executive Summary for November 2023
- J. Revenues/expenditures by Month )
- K. Extra-classroom Treasurer’s Report for November 2023
- L. Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) and Committee on Special Education (CSE) Report:

Reevaluation	6
Annual	0
Program Review	3
Administrative Transfer	0
Preschool	4
New Referral	2
504 Transfers	0
504 Referrals	0
504 Review	1
Amendment with no meeting held	3
Manifestation Determination	1

- M. Updated List of Substitute and Supervisory Personnel

8. COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Policy – Dr. Bauer reported that there are several policies on the agenda for first readings with mostly minor changes, as well as a new required policy, Employees’ Right to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace.

Mr. Clancy added that another new required policy, Workplace Violence Prevention, recently came to our attention along with a short timeline for implementation. A committee, most likely the Safety Committee,

will be called upon to assist with assessing risk and developing a plan. Staff training will also be required. New information continues to arrive.

2. Facilities – Mr. Catterson reported that the committee met with Capital Project architects and construction managers to review plans which are progressing nicely. He was pleased to learn that local suppliers will be involved. The District is waiting for feedback from the State on plans that have been submitted.

B. Liaisons

1. School Board Institute – Ms. Leising reported that 2023 accomplishments and 2024 priorities were reviewed, aligning with the legislative priorities explained by Mr. Clancy earlier in the meeting. School Board members will be allowed to voice concerns at the January meeting.

2. NYSSBA – Ms. Leising, Ms. Shaw, Ms. Magnarelli and Mr. Clancy, who all attended the NYSSBA Convention in Buffalo, NY, reported on one highlight from the events in which they participated including Grading Equity, Interscholastic Athletics, Strategies for Successful Recruitment and Retention, and Independent Educational Pathways. New ideas will be shared with key staff members.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy

First reading: No action necessary

- 1. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #5605, Student Voter Registration, be adopted.
- 2. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy #6700, Purchasing, be adopted
- 3. BE IT RESOLVED that draft policy # 9520.6, Policy on the Rights of Employees to Express Milk in the Workplace, be adopted.
- 4. BE IT RESOLVED that drafty policy #8030.2, Workplace Violence Prevention, be adopted.

Second reading and adoption:

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

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

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Mr. LaVeck, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

B. WHEREAS, Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law authorizes New York State school districts to permit an exemption from real property tax for certain individuals after a public hearing (“Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District held a public hearing on December 19, 2023 on the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District has considered all available information regarding the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption, including but not limited to testimony received at the public hearing.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Education of the Clinton Central School District resolves as follows:

Section 1. The real property Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers Exemption made available pursuant to the provisions of Section 466-a of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, shall apply to qualifying individuals as follows:

- a) 2 Years of Service. For purposes of Clinton Central School District real property taxes, qualifying residential real property shall receive an exemption of ten percent of the assessed value of such property upon proof of the following:
  - i. Applicant timely files the appropriate exemption application with the applicable town assessor; and
  - ii. Applicant is an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service residing in Oneida County; and
  - iii. Applicant resides in the city, town, or village which is served by such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service; and
  - iv. The property is the primary residence of the applicant; and
  - v. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes (or a portion of the property is used for applicant's residence as outlined in the statute); and
  - vi. Applicant obtains and provides a certification from the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service stating he/she is an enrolled member with at least 2 years of service; OR
- b) 5 Years of Service - Un-Remarried Spouses; Line of Duty Death: For purposes of Clinton Central School District real property taxes, qualifying residential real property of un-remarried spouses of volunteer firefighters or volunteer ambulance workers of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service killed in the line of duty shall continue an exemption or reinstate a pre-existing exemption upon proof of the following:
  - i. such un-remarried spouse is certified by the authority having jurisdiction for the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service as an un-remarried spouse of an enrolled member of such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated voluntary ambulance service who was killed in the line of duty; and
  - ii. such deceased volunteer had been an enrolled member for at least five years; and
  - iii. such deceased volunteer had been receiving the exemption prior to his or her death.

Section 2. The School District Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee is hereby authorized and directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to all town assessors within the Clinton Central School District and to the Oneida County Department of Real Property Tax.

Section 3. The Superintendent or his designee is directed to prepare a procedure for certification pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately for the 2023-24 School tax year.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- C. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts a \$1,297 donation from Hannaford for the Elementary School.

\$1,297            A.2705 Gifts and Donations  
 Budgetary Distribution  
 \$1,297            A.2110.450.01.0000 (ES Supplies)

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Mr. Catterson, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- D. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education accepts a \$3,750 donation from the Edwin J. Wadas Foundation to support the 2023-2024 Girls Regional Ice Hockey Team.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Mr. LaVeck, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- E. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Clinton Central School District enter into a Master Subscription agreement with Erie BOCES for the cooperative purchasing of Zoom licensing.

10. PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Mr. Catterson and carried (7, 0) to combine items 10A through 10J.

A motion was made by Dr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Shaw, and carried (7, 0) to approve the following resolution:

- 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.

B.

Heather	Hillage-Scribner	Intramural Rising New York Runners Club Coach
Travis	Grogan	Intramural Rising New York Runners Club Coach
Travis	Grogan	Boys Modified Basketball Head Coach
Amy	Randall	Girls Modified Basketball Coach
Miquel	Grimm	Girls Modified Basketball Coach

- C. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation of Dolores Bach from the part time civil service position of school monitor be accepted with regret.

- D. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the provisional appointment of Jordan Ezman to the full time civil service position of telecommunications Specialist, to be compensated at an annual salary of \$88,000 as per the attached agreement between Mr. Ezman and the Clinton Central school District, effective on or before January 22, 2024, including a probationary period of 8 to 26 weeks, be approved.
- D. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following placement be approved:
1. Della Smith: Administrative Internship beginning January 8, 2024 through March 17, 2024 under the supervision of High School Principal, Dr. Matthew Lee.
- E. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointment of Sarah Colone to the position of long-term substitute school social worker, to be compensated at step 1BA in accordance with the current CTA agreement, beginning December 7, 2023 through approximately January 26, 2024, be approved.
- F. BE IT RESOLVED that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the resignation with intent to retire of Gary Zalewski, bus driver, effective November 30, 2023, be accepted with regret.

#### 11. QUESTIONS BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. Clancy clarified that flood mitigation on the school campus prevented any major problems during the most recent rainstorm. Some of the water flow on Norton Ave is concerning. He thanked the transportation department for getting students to school safely.

He informed Board members that BoardDocs training will take place for District users in January. A one hour training, as well as dedicated devices, will be provided to Board members prior to implementation at the February meeting.

#### 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Clark, seconded by Ms. Magnarelli to go into executive session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law); and 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 6:55pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Shaw, seconded by Dr. Bauer, and carried (7, 0) to return to regular session. The time was 7:30pm.

A motion was made by Ms. Magnarelli, seconded by Ms. Clark, and carried (7, 0) to adjourn the meeting. The time was 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Julia A. Scranton  
District Clerk