ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024
MS/HS AUDITORIUM

Superintendent McLaren read the following statement.

"The Onteora Board of Education and I extend our deepest condolences to the families, friends, teachers, and fellow community members of the Kingston students whose lives were lost in the tragic accident in Mount Tremper on Monday. Our hearts are broken for your loss. We wish a full recovery to the Kingston student who remains in medical care. We recognize the impact this accident has had on our school community and also the greater Ulster County community, understanding that we are connected by interscholastic sports, academic competitions, performing arts, and so many other opportunities to bond as a caring multi-school community. During times like these, all children are our children, regardless of district lines. The pain of this terrible accident has touched us all. We deeply appreciate the first responders, both volunteers and professionals, who were on the scene for much of a very long and difficult day. We are so very grateful for their service. We wish everyone impacted by this tragedy peace."

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 6:00 pm
1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
1.04 Roll Call: Present: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop
Not Present: Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Goodrich

2. Proposed Executive Session

2.01 Enter Executive Session (duration 30 min)
Recommended Action: Motion to enter into executive session to discuss OTA and ONTSA negotiations
Motioned: Trustee Reimondo
Seconded: Trustee Mitchell-Marell
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop
Not Present: Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Goodrich

Now Present: Trustee Goodrich at 6:10 p.m.

2.02 Exit Executive Session
Recommended Action: Motion to exit executive session and return to public session
Motioned: Trustee Reimondo
Seconded: Trustee Storey
Result: Unanimous

Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop
Not Present: Trustee Hemingway Lynch

3. Welcome

3.01 High School Principal, Lance Edelman will welcome the Board (duration 10 min)

4. Presentations

4.01 Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair will present the 2024-2025 Budget Development (duration 20 min)

5. Acceptance of Minutes

5.01 Acceptance of Minutes

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of December 12, 2023
Motioned: Trustee Jerome
Seconded: Trustee Goodrich
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop
Not Present: Trustee Hemingway Lynch

6. Superintendent District News

6.01 The Superintendent will report District News

- Superintendent McLaren started off her report by mentioned that this week has been difficult and not one that any of us would like to live through again. As many of you know, I am a Kingston parent and I personally am heartbroken for my fellow parents and all our children who should not have to experience this situation.

  Principal Edelman described the work that the faculty did to support our students this week, but if you as a parent feel that your child is struggling and may not reach out for support, please contact the school and let us know so that we can take appropriate actions. Also, there is a resource on our website for parents to help support children dealing with death and grief. It is on the Community Resources tab.

- Roof Leaks
  - As many of you may know, we had some leaks yesterday due to the rain on top of the significant snow on the roof that blocked the roof drains. Our Director of Facilities and his staff spent time on all of the roofs removing snow to allow the roof drains to function properly. This is an unfortunate aspect of buildings with flat roofs. We have roof work for the MS/HS building already in our capital work plans that have been voter-approved. The architectural plans for the roof work were mailed to the NYSED Office of Facilities Planning for review and approval on October 9, 2023. We can provide an overview at a board meeting in February. Our Facilities Committee maintains a several-year rolling plan of capital work to be completed to maintain our facilities and receives updates monthly on the status of work in progress, work that is designed and has been submitted to the NYSED, work that is in the design phase, and work that is planned in the future. As always, the safety of our

staff and students is our priority. If community members would like to speak with someone directly regarding the status of projects, they can reach out to Ms. LaClair.

- Transition Update
    - Our MS Principal has invited the current fifth-grade parents to a meeting in February to discuss the transition. The Elementary Transition Committee has met twice and will meet again on January 16th. The Bennett parents have decided that they would like to have two separate moving-up ceremonies. The PTA supports this decision as long as sufficient parent volunteers can assist.

      Our Elementary Transition Committee inquired at our last meeting as to whether the name of Bennett could be changed so that it would represent a new identity. This would require the Board to take action. If the Trustees would like to consider this, we can put it on an upcoming agenda for discussion.

      Transition Planning Actions since the Dec. meeting (from 12/4 to 1/16)

      - Dec 4 - Central Administration met with PH PTA to discuss how we can support PH with their celebrations.
      - Dec 5 - PTA Summit Meeting - discussed how WD & BN PTAs could support PH Farewell Fair (June 8th), as well as end-of-year celebrations
      - Dec 6 - Sup. Conf. Day
          - Sixth-grade teachers met with Mr. DiDonna and the Meteor representative on classroom design and furniture choices. Yesterday, January 10th, Meteor sent a draft design for each room and requested meetings to review the designs with the faculty.
          - Morningside led a PH staff workshop on helping students work through change
          - Librarians continued planning the movement of books and resources to BN, WD, and the MS
          - Dec 14 - To best align staffing with the wishes of individual faculty and staff, we sent out a survey to all K-6 ONTEA and OTA members asking what their preferred building and work assignment is for the 2024-2025 school year - The survey closes this week and we have received 66 responses so far. We will utilize this information when planning for the 2024-2025 school year and the 2025-2026 school year.
      - Dec 18 January 5th - We presented the three designs for the new K-3 playground installation to staff and students from grades K-4 (all students who will be at BN next year). Students and staff voted on their choice. There was a clear winner - choice #3. The chosen option will be shared with our families soon.
      - January 11 - Mr. DiDonna and his team had another 6th-grade transition meeting today.
      - January 16 - Mural Assemblies for PH students and grades 5-6 BN students to continue gathering their input on the murals and discuss the process

- Athletic Update
    - Our Interim Director let me know today that we will be unable to continue to support the Modified Wrestling season effective after the meet on 1/12/2024. From the start of the season, the Head Varsity Coach and the Volunteer Coaches have been stepping in the best they can to cover practices and matches. Due to their work schedules and commitment to the Varsity program, this is no longer feasible. Ms. O'Donnell, the wrestling coaches, and the physical education staff have made numerous phone calls to fill the Modified wrestling coaching position without any success.

- Anonymous Letters Regarding Coaching
    - We have received two anonymous letters in the past several weeks indicating that the writer has questions regarding our coaches' certification and whether the certifications are checked. I'd like to publicly state that the certifications are checked by the Athletic Director but double-checked and confirmed by our District Clerk who is also our Personnel department.

      I'd like to remind everyone that if you have a concern, please report it directly so that we can take the appropriate steps. We cannot investigate anonymous reports that have no information. We have an anonymous reporting app on our website that can be utilized as well.

7. Student Representative Report

7.01 The Student Representative on the Board, Sophia Odato, will give a report

- Ms. Odato reported that today, the High School and Middle School Student Governments had a joint meeting, where we discussed the progress we've made on our initiatives so far, as well as the goals we have for the next few months. The Middle School was excited to tell us about the Spirit Week they organized which took place before winter break and included different days of festive dress up and concluded with a fun lunch period of silly games. Their next idea is to create a movie night. HS Student government shared the fun lunchtime activities we organized in October, the progress we've made toward our outdoor classroom, and our newest initiative to incorporate artwork into more parts of our building. The newest establishment for our Outside Initiative is that Mr. Edelman ordered a single bench for us to examine before we purchase enough of them to fill a full classroom in the Spring.

- Throughout the High School students are slightly discombobulated from the strange weather we've had, but are gearing up for midterms which will be administered throughout the next 2 weeks. Last Thursday, DECA (our business club) competed at regionals at Rockland County Community College. This past weekend Science Olympiad had an invitational at Columbia HS with many of our students placing within the top 10 in their events. They are now preparing for their regional competition coming up in February. Girls Basketball is having a strong season. They played a fierce game against New Paltz yesterday and won. Today they are away at Rhinebeck. Lastly, the Ski team has been practicing at Belleayre Ski Mountain for the past few weeks, however their first 2 meets were

canceled due to the weather. Their fingers are crossed that their next meet, which is scheduled for this coming Tuesday, will occur.

8. Board District News

8.01 The Board will report District News

- Trustee Jerome reported that most of the board members took a tour at Ulster BOCES on January 5, 2024. She indicated how great it was and encourages anyone interested to investigate further. Trustee Jerome has an art degree and specifically mentioned how magnificent the arts were
- Trustee Goodrich also reported how amazed he was taking the BOCES Tour
- Trustee Bishop also reported on the BOCES Tour. She mentioned how wonderful it was, and how involved and engaged the students were

9. Acknowledge Public Be Heard Comments

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

- No one spoke

10. Public and Student Comment

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

- No one spoke

11. Consent Agenda

11.01 Approve Consent Agenda

Recommended Action: The Board hereby approves item numbers 11.02 -11.07
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Reimondo
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop
Not Present: Trustee Hemingway Lynch

11.02 Personnel Agenda

EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Allison, Bridget	Sixth Teaching Assignment- English	$8,318.00
Stropoli, Primo*	Wrestling-JV-Assistant Coach	$3,727.00 (prorated)

Pending pre-employment processing

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: NON - INSTRUCTIONAL

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
4184	11/27/23 – 12/29/23	FMLA- paid
3310	01/04/24 – 02/06/24	Medical Leave

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: INSTRUCTIONAL

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON

1830	12/01/23 – 12/22/23	FMLA- paid
3463	02/03/24 – 06/30/24	Extended Unpaid Parental Leave of Absence

TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	RATE
Garcia, Elena	ENL Teacher/ HS	01/29/24 – 02/23/24	Leave Replacement, MA Step 1
Langdon, Kaitlin	Elementary Teacher/ Woodstock	02/03/24 – 06/30/24	Leave replacement, MA Step 1- extended

SUBSTITUTE

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Fliegel, Alan*	Teacher (certified)	$150.00/day
Mills, Kristen*	Teacher (certified)	$150.00/day

pending pre-employment processing

RESIGNATIONS: INSTRUCTIONAL

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
Bucher, Donald	Science Teacher/High School	06/30/24	Retirement
Burgher, Brittany	Teaching Assistant/Middle/High School	01/01/24	Personal
Kenly, Maryanne	AIS Teacher/Bennett	01/20/24	Retirement
LaMonda, Heidi	Kindergarten Teacher/Phoenicia	06/30/24	Retirement
Loheide, Laura	English Teacher/High School	06/30/24	Retirement
Merritt, Cathy	Special Education Teacher/ High School	06/30/24	Retirement
Napolitano, Kate	School Social Worker/High School	02/02/24	Personal
Panico, Robin	ENL Teacher/ Bennett	06/30/24	Retirement
Partridge, Hilary	AIS Teacher/Phoenicia	06/30/24	Retirement
Thongs, Melissa	Special Education Teacher/ Woodstock	06/30/24	Retirement
Wall, William	Special Education Teacher/High School	06/30/24	Retirement

11.03 Cell Phone Assignment change

Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby approved the following cell phone assignment change as listed below:

Cell Phone Assignments 2023/2024
MIFI Access Point –Lance Edelman
~~MIFI Access Point~~ and cell phone - Victoria McLaren
~~John Hanley~~ Kevin Brosnan
Lance Edelman
James DiDonna
Gabriel Buono
Scott Richards
Dieter Schimmelpfennig
Nicole Sommer

Kyle Harjes
Thomas Sharon
~~Beth Fletcher~~ Jonnah O'Donnell
Elizabeth Fallo
Carol Grima
Stephanie Laffin
Amanda Allison
Raymond Clinton

11.04 Surplus Items

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 list of items and books as surplus and authorizes the sale or disposal of the listed material

11.05 Budget Transfers

Recommended Action: The Superintendent recommends the transfer of $1,600,601.74 between various budget codes to cover EPC Debt Payoff.
From To
Amount Budget Code Budget Code
$ 54,500.00 A2330.150.00 A9711.600-10
$ 66,411.00 A2330.160.00 A9711.600-10
$ 171,000.00 A9060.875.10 A9711.600-10
$ 1,241,971.76 A9060.800.10 A9711.600-10
$ 66,718.98 A2110.130.01 A9711.600-10
The Superintendent recommends the transfer of $125,000.00 to professional services to improve the Bennett playground to encompass equipment for lower K-2 grades and special needs students.
From To
Amount Budget Code Budget Code
$ 125,000.00 A9950.900-10 A1620.449-10

11.06 Financial Report

Recommended Action: The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial Reports from October 2023 and November 2023

11.07 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, #01/24, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Hemingway Lynch

12. Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers

12.01 Approve all Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers

Recommended Action: The Board hereby approves item numbers 12.02 - 12.03
Motioned: Trustee Reimondo
Seconded: Trustee Storey

Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop
Not Present: Trustee Hemingway Lynch

12.02 K. Salem ICR

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 Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Kevin Salem retained as Mentor in Music Recording effective January 10, 2024 to June 6, 2024 at a rate of $0 (stipend waived) with no fringe benefits or deductions and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

12.03 Woodstock School of Art- ICR

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 Independent Contractor Retainer between the Onteora Central School District and Woodstock School of Art retained as Mentor in Art effective January 10, 2024 to June 6, 2024 at a rate of $ 250.00 stipend with no fringe benefits or deductions and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

13. Committee Reports

13.01 Ad Hoc Committee

- Nothing to report

13.02 Audit Committee

- Nothing to report

13.03 Board Norms Committee

- Nothing to report

13.04 Communications Committee

- Nothing to report

13.05 Facilities Committee

- Trustee Storey reported that the committee met prior to the winter break, and involved in the meeting was CPL, BBL and various stakeholders.
    - The High School Classrooms and Bennett HVAC projects are complete.
    - The projects slated for the summer are set:
        - Woodstock Heating and Ventilation
        - District Wide Abatement and Flooring
        - Sidewalks in the rear of the High School
        - Exterior Doors
        - High School Generator- Generator delivery set for September 24, 2024 (could lead to ARP issue)

- The Classroom Phase 3 project, which is the $8.8 million-dollar project that voters approved last May is currently at SED awaiting approval. Unfortunately, we do not know when it will come out of SED. If it isn't approved by SED by the end of February, the project will most likely not happen until Summer 2025, because there won't be enough time to put together BID packages, complete the bidding, award the contracts, and allow enough lead time for contractors to get what they need to complete the project during the summer.
- We will most likely be able to do the roof repair and replacement as that is on state contract.
- CPL is currently working on drawings for a Summer 2025 project that includes a Middle/High security vestibule that will be located at the loading dock entrance. This project will also include some parking lot paving up at the tennis courts and a cafeteria patio with a canopy. This project is also part of the $8.8 million approved by the voters last spring and should be ready to go to SED this spring.
- The district is also planning a new crosswalk with grass separation that will attach to the new crosswalk the DOT did. We are replacing the pedestrian crossing signs with new push button ones that blink when pushed, new digital speed signs, and a replacement school zone flashing sign.
- Bennett playground
  - There are three options that are being looked at by the Phoenicia students and they were given until Friday, January 5, 2024 to decide to allow the equipment to be ordered and installed prior to the summer, as summer will be very busy for all of our staff with the moving of classrooms.

- Next meeting is Thursday, January 18, 204 at Woodstock Elementary School at 3:45 p.m.

13.06 Legislative Action Committee

- Nothing to report

13.07 Policy Committee

- Nothing to report

14. Old Business

14.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

- Nothing to discuss

15. New Business

15.01 The Board will discuss New Business

- Nothing to discuss

16. Request for Information

16.01 Board Members will Request Information of the Superintendent

- Trustee Storey asked for the following information, and understands that this cannot be reported until the end of the school year.

- How many students are enrolled in Advancement Placement (AP) classes?
- How many of those students completed those classes?
- How many students receive the AP credits?
- How many students will receive college credits?

- Trustee Goodrich mentioned reading Governor Hochul's plan to improve reading proficiency and asked how this will improve the district K-3 literacy plan.

17. Adjournment

17.01 Adjourn the Meeting. Next meeting is January 23, 2024 at Woodstock.
Recommended Action: Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:37 p.m.
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Reimondo
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop
Not Present: Trustee Hemingway Lynch