

September 26, 2023

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Middle-High School Library

Present: Joseph Ciccone
Angela Service
Dominick Bellino
Jack Bono
Jason Wasielewski
Tricia Service

Absent: 1 – Kathleen Sarafin

Others Present: Joseph Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, Kacey Sheppard, Ass't. Superintendent, Connie Giordano, District Clerk, Julie Tangorra, K-12 Director for Student Achievement

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken by Joseph Ciccone 6 – Present 1 - Absent

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Joseph Ciccone at 6:47 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Convene to Executive Session to discuss the employment status of specific personnel – a motion was made by Jack Bono, seconded by Dominick Bellino, to convene to Executive Session at 6:31 p.m.

Convene to General Session – a motion was made by Dominick Bellino, seconded by Angela Service, to convene to General Session at 7:03 p.m.

6 – YES

0 – NO

MOTION PASSED

Reports/Presentations/Good News to Share:

1. Updates – Superintendent Joseph Palmer
Opening of School Year

Discretionary Period for Residents to Address the Board:

N/A

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Dominick Bellino, seconded by Angela Service, to approve the following **CONSENT AGENDA:** Minutes, Finance, Personnel 1-7, New Business 1 - 3.

6 - YES

0 - NO

MOTION PASSED

Minutes:

September 12, 2023

Finance:

1. Extraclassroom Activities Fund Report
2. Scholarship Report
3. June Treasurer's Report
4. Revenue Report
5. Bank Reconciliation
6. Trial Balance
7. Revenue Status
8. Appropriation Status
9. Budget Transfer Query

Personnel:

1. **Appointed Creative Writing Club Advisor (Schedule E):**
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appoints Savannah Lanz to the position of Creative Writing Club Advisor, with a stipend of \$600.
2. **Appointed Alliance Club Advisor (Schedule E):**
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appoints Danielle Haslauer to the position of Alliance Club Advisor, with a stipend of \$650.
3. **Approved Substitute Teacher:**
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appoints Jill DeLuke-Puleo as a substitute teacher, at a pay rate of \$120/day. This appointment is contingent upon clearance from the New York State Department of Education (fingerprint clearance).

Personnel:
(Continued)

4. Approved Substitute Teacher:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appoints Jonah Tangorra as a substitute teacher, at a pay rate of \$110/day. This appointment is contingent upon clearance from the New York State Department of Education (fingerprint clearance).
5. Amendment to the Contract of the Superintendent of Schools:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the amended contract of the Superintendent of Schools (attached).
6. Appointed ELA Teacher (Grade 7):
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appoints Isabella Hudziak to the position of Grade 7 ELA Teacher, at a salary of Step 1 BA, \$39,887 (pro-rated), effective 9/25/23. This is a four-year probationary appointment, 9/25/23 – 9/25/27, and is contingent upon clearance from the New York State Department of Education (fingerprint clearance).
7. Appointed Champion Mentor:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appoints Eva Fiorentino as a Champion Mentor for the 2023-2024 School Year.

New Business:

1. Approved CSE/CPSE Recommendations:
It is hereby recommended that the CSE/CPSE recommendations for the following student case numbers that were reviewed be approved:

<u>Student ID</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
580513438	09/12/2023
580511693	09/13/2023
580511898	09/15/2023
580513449	09/12/2023
580513411	09/15/2023
580513430	09/12/2023
580513342	09/12/2023
580513155	09/12/2023
580513339	09/12/2023
580511782	09/13/2023
580513445	09/11/2023
580513420	09/11/2023
580513364	09/11/2023
580513374	09/11/2023
580513439	09/11/2023

2. Field Trip Request:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the field trip request of the Music Department to New York City for the purpose of Arts/Performance, and to see a Broadway Musical Performance on November 15, 2023.
3. Authorization for Partial Settlement of Vaping Litigation:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in recent years the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices increased dramatically among high school and middle school students, leading to significant risks of addiction and potentially life-threatening respiratory ailments; and

WHEREAS, students attending the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District (the "School District") have not been immune to this phenomenon with the School District observing students using e-cigarettes and vaping devices in school and on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices by students has caused the School District to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops; and

WHEREAS, the School District authorized the law firms of Ferrara Fiorenza PC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC, to initiate litigation against Altria Group, Inc. and Philip Morris, USA, Inc., Altria Client Services

LLC, Altria Enterprises LLC, and Altria Group Distribution Company (collectively “Altria”) by board resolution relating to the production, marketing, sale, and distribution of e-cigarettes and vaping devices; and

WHEREAS, a tentative settlement has been reached with Defendant Altria whereby in return for discontinuing the litigation, the School District would receive certain cash payment; and

WHEREAS, the amount that the School District receives will be no less than \$5,679; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) has determined it is necessary, advantageous, desirable, and in the public interest and the best interests of the School District that it settle this litigation against Altria.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the School District, as follows:

1. The Board authorizes the partial settlement of the vaping lawsuit against defendant Altria.
2. A Settlement with the substantive terms contained herein is hereby approved in substantially the form reviewed by the Board and together with such in or modifications as are deemed necessary by the School District’s attorneys and administrators to protect the best interests of the School District.
3. The Board President, Superintendent and their designee(s) are hereby authorized to finalize, sign and enter into the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the School District and take all actions and execute all documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Old Business:

Discussions:

Turf Discussion

Adjourn – A motion was made by Angela Service, seconded by Jason Wasielewski to **adjourn** at 7:17 p.m.

7 – YES

0 – NO

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

District Clerk

September 12, 2023

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Middle-High School Library

Present: Joseph Ciccone
Kathleen Sarafin
Angela Service
Dominick Bellino
Jack Bono
Jason Wasielewski
Tricia Service

Absent: 0

Others Present: Joseph Palmer, Superintendent of Schools, Kacey Sheppard, Ass't. Superintendent, Connie Giordano, District Clerk, Melanie Welch, Elementary Principal

ROLL CALL:

Roll call was taken by Dominick Bellino 7 – Present 0 - Absent

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Joseph Ciccone at 6:47 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Convene to Executive Session to discuss the employment status of specific personnel – a motion was made by Kathleen Sarafin, seconded by Dominick Bellino, to convene to Executive Session at 6:47 p.m.

Convene to General Session – a motion was made by Kathleen Sarafin, seconded by Tricia Service, to convene to General Session at 7:16 p.m.

7 – YES

0 – NO

MOTION PASSED

Reports/Presentations/Good News to Share:

1. Updates – Superintendent Joseph Palmer
Opening of School Year

Discretionary Period for Residents to Address the Board:

N/A

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Kathleen Sarafin, seconded by Dominick Bellino, to approve the following **CONSENT AGENDA:** Minutes, Finance, Personnel 1-11, New Business 1 - 5.

7- YES

0 - NO

MOTION PASSED

Minutes:

August 15, 2023

Finance:

N/A

Personnel:

1. **Accepted Resignation from Maintenance Worker:**
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby accepted the resignation of Scott Gillette from his position of Maintenance Worker, effective 9/06/23.
2. **Accepted Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement from Custodian:**
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby accepted the resignation for the Purpose of Retirement of Michael Abdallah from his position of Custodian, effective 8/25/23.
3. **Accepted Resignation from ELA Teacher:**
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby accepted the resignation of Rachel Opels from her position of ELA Teacher, effective 8/31/23.
4. **Accepted Resignation from Cleaner:**
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby accepted the resignation of Kayla Hubbard from her position of Cleaner, effective 8/18/23.
5. **Stipend for Purchasing Duties:**
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby approved a \$6,000 stipend for Kendra Tillinghast for performing purchasing duties.

Personnel:
(Continued)

6. Appointed Maintenance Worker:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appointed Scott Schneegas as Maintenance Worker, at a pro-rated salary of \$47,626.74, effective 9/15/23. This appointment is contingent upon clearance from the New York State Department of Education (fingerprint clearance).
7. Appointed Custodian:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appointed Robert Huffman to the position of Custodian, at a salary of \$37,949.65 (pro-rated), plus 4 hrs. night differential, \$650/yr. (pro-rated), effective 8/28/23.
8. Appointed Cleaner:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appointed Colton Smith to the position of cleaner, at a yearly salary of \$32,677 (pro-rated) plus night differential of \$1,300 (pro-rated) pending clearance from the New York State Department of Education (fingerprint clearance), effective 8/22/23.
9. Rescinded Previous Schedule E Appointment:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby rescinded the previous Schedule E appointment of Kathy Donaleski as Middle School Jazz Band Advisor.
10. Schedule E Appointment:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appointed Kaitlin Bunger to the Schedule E position of Middle School Jazz Band Advisor, with a stipend of \$1,200.
11. Schedule E Appointment:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby appointed Nikki Bick to the Schedule E position of Freshmen Class Advisor, with a stipend of \$525.

New Business:

1. Approved 2023-2024 Tax Warrants:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the 2023-2024 Tax Warrants as follows:

Village of Frankfort - \$1,925,191.54
Town of Frankfort - \$5,085,777.53
Town of Schuyler - \$1,459,317.66
2. Donation of Cheerleading Uniforms to Frankfort Pop Warner:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the donation of cheerleading uniforms to Frankfort Pop Warner.
3. Declare Textbooks Obsolete:
Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District hereby declares the following textbooks as obsolete:

McGraw Hill Third Grade Science (LISBN: 0-02-280036-0): 41 books
Macmillian/McGraw-Hill – Our Communities Third Grade Social Studies – 49 books
4. Participate in 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 “how is the time to act swiftly and excessively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;”
“the onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers,” and
“technology 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 essentially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison,”
“social media may.... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls,”
“in a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one third or more say they feel ‘addicted’ to a social media platform,”
“over half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media,” and
“there 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, “more 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 has been a push for more schools to Develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media.”

WHEREAS, the Frankfort-Schuyler 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; L(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 TI 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.

5. Approved Creation of Creative Writing Club (Schedule E):

Be it resolved that the Frankfort-Schuyler Central School District Board of Education hereby approves the creation of a Creative Writing Club, with a stipend of \$600.

Old Business:

Discussions:

Turf for athletic fields

Resident property adjacent to school property

Pickleball Court

Airconditioners

Adjourn – A motion was made by Kathleen Sarafin, seconded by Dominick Bellino to adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

7 – YES

0 – NO

MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted,

District Clerk