ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
5:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024
MS/HS AUDITORIUM

1. Opening Items

1.01 Call to Order 5:30pm
1.02 Tobacco Policy Statement
1.03 Pledge of Allegiance
1.04 Roll Call: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop

2. Proposed Executive Session

2.01 Enter Executive Session (duration 90 min)
Recommended Action: Motion to enter into executive session to meet with their attorney to discuss a contract and the tenure and employment of specific employees
Motioned: Trustee Reimondo
Seconded: Trustee Mitchell-Marell
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop

2.02 Exit Executive Session
Recommended Action: Motion to exit executive session and return to public session
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Reimondo
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop

3. Welcome

3.01 Middle School Principal, James DiDonna will welcome the Board (duration 10 min)

4. Presentations

4.01 Assistant Superintendent for Business, Monica LaClair will present the Budget Update

5. Acceptance of Minutes

5.01 Acceptance of Minutes
Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby accepts the minutes of February 20, 2024
Motioned: Trustee Jerome
Seconded: Trustee Reimondo
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop

6. Superintendent District News

6.01 The Superintendent will report District News

I attended the NYS Council of School Superintendent's conference this week. We had a session in which we had an audience with two members of the Governor's staff. I was one of the individuals who spoke regarding both the EV bus mandate and the Governor's proposed reduction to Foundation Aid and the elimination of the Save Harmless provision. I implored them to provide districts in our situation with time to plan for this drastic change.

At the end of the conference, the Commissioner of Education spoke with our group. Some of what she shared was that on the topic of the EV buses, she has heard consistent willingness from Superintendents across the state. She has heard real issues- and she is advocating for resources. The Commissioner has asked the governor for additional staff at State Ed. to help districts. The state aid proposal from the Board of Regents did not include this request for additional staff but did ask for a working group to be assembled to discuss the issues that districts are working to overcome. The Commissioner noted that she and her staff have been talking behind the scenes and have not seen adjustments to date. She is looking for ways to help with upfront costs for districts, but State Ed won't solve grid capacity. The Commissioner has committed to continue to represent districts in these discussions.

The Commissioner also spoke about the Science of reading/literacy initiative. NYSED's position was to start with early childhood standards. NYSED was clear in not supporting bills for curriculum and actively opposed them to honor local control. NYSED is supporting districts and opposes a mandate from people who are not experts. The Commissioner believes that NYS educators need to have a voice in this work. She also believes that the state needs to work on other issues that impede the ability of students to succeed such as housing.

The Commissioner spoke to us about Foundation aid as well. She is advocating that the state considers a 3-5-year plan instead of the abrupt change in aid that has been proposed. The Governor needs to create a longer runway. 337 districts are impacted. Rural, urban, and suburban. She has asked the governor's office to let NYSED work on a new formula instead of tweaking the existing formula. The Commissioner's staff feel that regionalization is possibly the future outcome that the governor is hoping to achieve. The decline in enrollment is statewide and there is a concern that school districts will lose the ability to continue to provide opportunities for all students. NYSED trying to create a model for districts to look at the problem regionally. The Commissioner feels that regardless of this year's budget outcome, the challenge will remain. She has asked for time for leaders to have conversations and make proposals to support kids. NYSED believes that for now, the predictability we want with state aid will be elusive. They advised that we focus on the essential functions in the district and be careful in the good years. NYSED will continue to advocate for the restoration of foundation aid, but don't know what will be the result.

We have had conversations for several months regarding the Summer Skill Academy and we regret to say that with the asbestos abatement work that is happening in all of

our buildings this summer and the normal summer work, we have to suspend the Summer Skills Academy for one year.

We have tentatively scheduled our community build for the Bennett playground addition for the weekend of Friday, May 31st and Saturday, June 1st. As soon as we have more information we will share it and get the word out regarding the opportunity to participate in the build. Those of us who built the playgrounds at Woodstock, Phoenicia, and Bennett can attest to how positive it is and what a fun process it is to participate in.

I had the pleasure of attending the all-county elementary and junior high school orchestra performance last weekend and Onteora was incredibly well represented and the students did a great job. Our own Erica Boyer is the chairperson this year and her pride and passion for music education was obvious. One of the guest conductors is a former student of Ms. Boyer's.

Next week on Wednesday, we have another Superintendent's Conference Day and once again there are a lot of sessions planned. Some of the sessions include:

District Wide Clerical staff meeting to ensure consistency in our procedures, our reading faculty meeting to review the NYSED Literacy Briefs, many groups receiving CPR training, PE staff participating in a district-wide inventory of PE supplies and equipment, and planning for the transitions in September, Illustrative Math PD, work on the Branching Minds platform to support our MTSS building teams, Engaging Students with Alternative Methods of Assessment, Using Castle Learning to support student success, and our faculty leading a session on supporting English Language Learners in the Classroom among others. Again, many thanks to Assistant Superintendent Laffin and the admin team for creating a day filled with productive and valuable sessions.

We are looking ahead to the solar eclipse on April 8th and will be bringing a recommendation to the Board. Some of our neighboring districts are buying solar eclipse glasses for students, some are utilizing a snow day to close school and some are dismissing early. We inquired with our insurance carrier regarding purchasing the glasses for students and they strongly advised against that as an option.

7. Student Representative Report

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

- Ms. Odato was not present for the meeting and did not provide an update

8. Board District News

8.01 The Board will report District News

- Trustee Bishop wanted to mention that the feeling that was received from assemblypersons and senators is that they are all pushing back on the governor's budget. Ms. Bishop specifically mentioned that when they recently met with Senator Hinchey, she recommended having the Onteora community reach out to directly to the Governor to communicate concerns surrounding the recommended 2024-2025 budget.

- Ms. McLaren wanted to mention that the Governors contact information will be put on the district's advocacy page

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. Discussion and Possible Action

11.01 Discussion on the Draft 2024-2025 District Calendar

12. Consent Agenda

12.01 Approve Consent Agenda

Recommended Action: The Board hereby approves item numbers 12.02 -12.07
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Jerome
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop

12.02 Approve Corrected Senior Tax Exemption

Recommended Action: WHEREAS, section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL Section 467") authorizes a school district to adopt a resolution granting qualified owners at least 65 years of age a partial exemption from taxation on owner-occupied residential property to the maximum extent of 50% based on a maximum income level corresponding to the exemption schedule set forth in RPTL Section 467(1)(b); and
WHEREAS, on 2/20/24, the Board of Education has previously adopted a resolution granting the exemption schedule set forth in RPTL Section 467(1)(b); and
WHERAS, the exemption schedule for the 2024-2025 school year set forth in the resolution previously adopted on 2/20/24 misstated the income eligibility levels corresponding to the exemption schedule set forth in RPTL Section 467(1)(b); and
WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to correct the income eligibility levels corresponding to the exemption schedule set forth in RPTL Section 467(1)(b) for the 2024-2025 school year;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education does hereby correct the previous resolution's income eligibility levels for the partial tax exemption in accordance with the schedule set forth in RPTL Section 467(1)(b) to read as follows:
Effective July 1, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year
Income $42,000 or less 50% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $42,001-$42,999 45% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $43,000-$43,999 40% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $44,000-$44,999 35% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $45,000-$45,899 30% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $45,900-$46,799 25% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $46,800-$47,699 20% reduction in assessed valuation

Income $47,700-$48,599 15% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $48,600-$49,499 10% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $49,500-$50,399 5% reduction in assessed valuation

It originally read:

Income $42,000 or less	50% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $42,001-$42,999	**45% reduction in assessed valuation**
Income $42,000-$43,999	**40% reduction in assessed valuation**
Income $43,000-$43,999	**35% reduction in assessed valuation**
Income $44,000-$44,899	30% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $44,900-$45,799	25% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $45,800-$46,699	20% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $46,700-$47,599	15% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $47,600-$48,499	10% reduction in assessed valuation
Income $48,500-$49,399	5% reduction in assessed valuation

12.03 Donations

Recommended Action: The Superintendent recommends approval for the attached donations, each contributing to various initiatives within our district, and increasing their respective budgetary appropriations. The total amount for approval is $3,056.97.

Donations Received for Board of Education Approval, March 5th, 2024

Donor:	***Amount:***	***Purpose:***	***Appropriation:***
Retired Employees of Onteora	$2,750.00	Retired Employees of Onteora Scholarship Award	CM2989.400-15
Lynne & Theodore Byron	$200.00	Christopher M. Byron Scholarship Fund	CM2989.400-15
Shutterfly, LLC	$106.97	Phoenicia Elm. Farewell Fair	A2110.431-04
Total	**$3,056.97**		

12.04 Personnel Agenda

Salary Advancements March 5, 2024 BOE Meeting, retroactive to February 1, 2024										
			Current			Added	Add'l	After Advancement		
Name	Position	School	Step	Credits	Salary	Credits	Money	Step	Credits	Salary
Countryman, Kristina	Reading Teacher	Bennett	18	48	$109,392.00	6	$894.00	18	54	$110,286.00
Heekin, Molly	Elementary Teacher	Woodstock	17	12	$102,262.00	6	$894.00	17	18	$103,156.00
Katz, Emily	ENL Teacher	MS	9	6	$85,099.00	6	$894.00	9	12	$85,993.00
Kirn, Laura	Elementary Teacher	Phoenicia	11	9	$89,456.00	6	$894.00	11	15	$90,350.00
Niewiadomski, Blazej	Science Teacher	HS	8	8	$77,594.55	12	$1,788.00	8	20	$79,382.55

Be it hereby resolved that the Board appoints:
Haro Montelongo, Sharee certified in Childhood Education to a 4-year probationary period in the tenure area of Elementary at a salary of Step 1MA commencing on 04/02/2024 and ending on 04/01/2028.
Be it further resolved that, to the extent applicable under Education Law Section 3012-d and the accompanying Commissioner's Regulations, in order to be considered for tenure, the above teachers must have received an APPR rating of effective or highly effective in three of the four probationary years and must not receive an ineffective in the fourth year.

APPOINTMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL
FULL-TIME PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT

NAME	CERTIFICATION	TENURE	PROB. DATES	SALARY	REMARKS
Thomas, Elizabeth	School Social Worker	Social Worker	04/02/24 – 04/01/28	MA Step 1	Replace Resignation

EXTRA DUTY STIPENDS

NAME	POSITION	AMOUNT
Harkin, Alexandra	UPK Aide Supervision Advisor	$500.00
Simco, Jennifer	Peer Mediation Advisor 2	$3,087.00 (prorate, rescinded)
Sommer, Torre*	Track-Modified- Assistant Coach	$2,064.00

Pending certification

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: INSTRUCTIONAL

EMPLOYEE NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON
4163	09/01/24 – 04/25/25	Parental Leave of Absence

SUBSTITUTE

NAME	POSITION	RATE
Clapper, George*	Teacher (uncertified)	$115.00/day
Jobson, Ethan*	Teacher (uncertified)	$115.00/day
Merritt, Cathy	Teacher (certified) effective 09/01/24 after retirement	$150.00/day
Perls-Shultis, Robin	Teacher (certified) effective 09/01/24 after retirement	$150.00/day
Wall, William	Teacher (certified) effective 09/01/24 after retirement	$150.00/day

*Pending pre-employment processing *

RESIGNATIONS: INSTRUCTIONAL

NAME	POSITION/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REMARKS
Davis, Kimberly	Teaching Assistant/HS	03/07/24	Personal

12.05 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 books from the Bennett Elementary School Library as surplus and authorizes the sale or disposal of the listed material

12.06 Financial Report
Recommended Action: The Board of Education has reviewed and hereby accepts the Financial Report from January 2024

12.07 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, #03/24, Confidential, as reviewed by Trustee Reimondo

13. Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers

13.01 Approve all Contracts and Independent Contractor Retainers
Recommended Action: The Board hereby approves item number 13.02
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Goodrich
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop

13.02 ICR- N. Reynaud
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 Nathaniel Reynaud retained as Trainer effective March 6, 2024 to June 30, 2024 at a rate of $40.00 per person to a maximum rate of $240.00 with no fringe benefits or deductions and authorizes the Superintendent to sign such an agreement.

14. Policies

14.01 First Reading of Policy 3210 Visitors to the School

14.02 Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 6110 School District Officer and Employee Code of Conduct
Recommended Action: The Board of Education hereby adopts Policy 6110 as written
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Reimondo
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop

15. Committee Reports

15.01 Audit Committee
- Meeting was cancelled

15.02 Board Norms Committee
- Nothing to report

15.03 Communications Committee

- Trustee Jerome's update discussed that the committee had a conversation regarding DEI (Diversity, equity and inclusion) and went through the communication plan with Holly Brooker surrounding the transition
- Trustee Hemingway Lynch also discussed that the committee drafted the first email communication to the Onteora community and discussed the purpose of the email
- Trustee Bishop continued the discussion regarding the community email and the survey results indicated that it is evident that the community prefers email communications
- Trustee Storey discussed how often this email should be sent out and believes that monthly is not the best choice for various reasons
- Trustee Mitchell-Marell indicted that the survey results mentioned multiple times that the community felt as though the board still forged ahead with their plans regardless of their responses.
    - Trustee Mitchell-Marell suggested the board add in the email that the current board is now different and is listening to the community
- Trustee Goodrich asked when the community will be updated on the survey results
    - Trustee Bishop indicated that there will be a presentation with these results at the next Board of Education meeting, March 19, 2024
- Trustee Bishop also wanted to add that a lot of the results from the survey also did mention that the community did feel informed and some mentioned that if they weren't up to date with the information that is was on them
- After the discussion, the Board of Education agreed to the monthly email communications
- Trustee Hemingway Lynch asked the board to send any information/ideas for the FAQ page (upcoming product)

15.04 Facilities Committee

- Nothing to report

15.05 Legislative Action Committee

- Trustee Bishop reported that Superintendent McLaren, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, and herself met via zoom with Senator Hinchey and a few of her staff to discuss the 2024-2025 school budget and was given insight and guidance surrounding the EV buses.
    - Trustee Bishop announced that the assemblypersons and senators hold community officer hours and encourages the community to attend

15.06 Policy Committee

- Nothing to report

16. Old Business

16.01 The Board will discuss Old Business

- Nothing to report

17. New Business

17.01 The Board will discuss New Business

- Trustee Mitchell-Marell asked that the board come up with a plan if the Bond doesn't pass
    - Trustee Bishop indicated the "job" of the school board is to support the decision of the administrators
- Trustee Reimondo suggested that a representative from SuperEval train the board in a future board retreat to use the program
- Trustee Hemingway Lynch discussed the reasons as to why the board should support a central campus

18. Request for Information

18.01 Board Members will Request Information of the Superintendent

- Trustee Storey asked what the participation of students is for free breakfast and lunch

19. Adjournment

19.01 Adjourn the Meeting. Next meeting is March 19, 2024 at Woodstock.
Recommended Action: Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:57pm.
Motioned: Trustee Storey
Seconded: Trustee Jerome
Result: Unanimous
Yea: Trustee Jerome, Trustee Mitchell-Marell, Trustee Goodrich, Trustee Hemingway Lynch, Trustee Reimondo, Trustee Storey, Trustee Bishop