

DRAFT

Lansingburgh Central School District Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Monday, December 21, 2020

This meeting was held remotely at

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/uyq-rdyw-ikr

In the absence of the Board President, the meeting was called to order by Board Vice President, Michael Cusack at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Cusack stated the District's Mission Statement:

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission at the Lansingburgh Central School District is to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment where high expectations, rigor, life-long learning and civic responsibility are developed and encouraged.

Board of Education Members, Kelley Bristol, Marie Cole, Michael Cusack, James Spear, Michele Speanburg, and Jeffrey White were present. Rob Morris, Jason Shover and Daniella Richards were absent from the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Others present include Lindsey Gibson (on behalf of the LTA), Matt Van Dervoort, Tom Hopkins, Greg Rashford, Carrie Phelan, Rebecca McGrouty, Ian Knox, Shaun Paolino, Joe Otter, Linda Klime, Lisa Kyer, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There was a total of 24 people who participated remotely.

No visitors addressed the Board.

Motion by Mr. Spear:

**RESO #1-12/21/2020
Agenda Approved**

The Board of Education hereby approves the December 21, 2020 meeting agenda.

Second: Mrs. Speanburg

Ayes -6

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Mrs. Bristol:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Audit Committee met this evening. At this time, there is not much going on other than keeping up with normal operations. We are done with COVID purchasing that included all PPE for opening all four buildings using CDC guidelines.

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- Federal funds are very slow in being approved this year.
- Tax payments will be coming in late January.

Motion by Mr. White:

**RESO #2-12/21/2020
Approve Financial
Reports**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the Treasurer's Report, Budget Transfers and Monthly Financial Report submitted by the Audit Committee.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Speanburg

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. White:

**RESO #3-12/21/2020
Approve Minutes**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 23, 2020.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. White:

**RESO #4-12/21/2020
Confer Tenure –
Stephanie Moryl**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby confers tenure upon Stephanie Moryl in the School Social Worker tenure area effective December 5, 2020.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Dr. Abitabile congratulated Stephanie Moryl on her tenure. Stephanie is doing an excellent job and we hope to have her here with the District for many, many years to come.

Motion by Mr. White:

**RESO #5-12/21/2020
Appoint Long-Term
Substitute Teacher –
Chelsey Horner**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education appoints Chelsey Horner to a Long-Term Substitute Teaching Position at Rensselaer Park Elementary School to fill the position currently held by Alejandro Williams, and then to continue on as the Building Substitute for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year, pending clearance by New York State and the Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, with compensation according to the LTA contract as set forth below:

Commencement of Service – January 4, 2021

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Expiration of Service – June 30, 2021
Certification Status – Music, Emergency COVID-19 (pending)
Prorated Salary – Step 1 - \$44,227

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. White:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education appoints the following people to serve as advisors for the RPI STEP Program, for the 2020-2021 school year with a stipend of \$2,500 paid through RPI:

Lansingburgh High School: Leesa Crawford-Young
Knickerbacker Middle School: Meghan Holdsworth

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

RESO #6-12/21/2020
Appoint 2020-2021
RPI STEP Advisors

Motion by Mr. White:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the request of Lauro Bartlett, Reading Teacher at Rensselaer Park Elementary School, for a continuation of her unpaid leave of absence through on or about April 18, 2022 (date equivalent with the first day of the third marking period of the 2021-2022 school year), in accordance with the terms of the LTA Contract.

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

RESO #7-12/21/2020
Approve Unpaid Leave
– Lauro Bartlett

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Mrs. Bristol:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education hereby accepts the following donations:

In Memory of Ayshawn Davis

Dance Craze - \$50.00 LCSD Anything is Possible Scholarship
Cornerstone Community Church - \$50.00 TES Dress a Knight
The Mary Fund - \$200.00 RPES Cooking Lessons with Katie Baril
The Mary Fund - \$285.00 RPES At Home PT Kits for Remote Students

Second: Mr. White

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

RESO #8-12/21/2020
Accept Donations

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Motion by Mrs. Speanburg:

**RESO #9-12/21/2020
Approve Teachers of
Tomorrow Service
Agreement and Award
Stipends**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the Teachers of Tomorrow Service Agreement and award a stipend of \$3,694.00 to each of the following teachers:

Lansingburgh High School:

Kimberly Stevens
Samuel Tanner

Knickerbacker Middle School:

Steven Caruso
David DeMarco
Danielle French
Jessica Foley
Sean Gunderman
Brooke Chandler-Miller

Second: Mrs. Bristol

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Mr. White thanked Mrs. McGrouty for obtaining the grant. This is excellent work on her part and a great opportunity for our teachers.

Mrs. McGrouty explained that the purpose of the grant is to provide a variety of incentives that encourage prospective teachers to teach in a school district that is experiencing a teacher shortage or subject area shortage. This is the third year that we have applied for and received this grant.

Motion by Mr. White:

**RESO #10-12/21/2020
Adopt Policy #5606 –
Student Voter
Registration**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the second reading and adopts Policy #5606 – Student Voter Registration.

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

**RESO #11-12/21/2020
Approve Corrective
Action Plan**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the Corrective Action Plan-Management Letter in response to the recommendations from the 2019-2020 External Auditor's Report.

Second: Mr. White

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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- The Lansingburgh High School Report by Mr. Van Dervoort is attached hereto as page 7.
- The Knickerbacker Middle School Report by Ms. Phelan is attached hereto as page 8.
- The Rensselaer Park Elementary School Report by Mr. Hopkins is attached hereto as page 9 and 10.
- The Turnpike Elementary School Report by Ms. Cataldo (in the absence of Mr. Knox) is attached hereto as page 11.

PRINCIPAL REPORTS

By Mrs. McGrouty:

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We continue to meet with Year 2 and 3 teachers. These meetings are designed as a check-in for on goals and to reset goals for the following quarter if necessary and ensure that they have the level of support needed to be successful.
Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• December- ELA work continues with TES RPES with Michelle Stone• Math - Brian Rayman• Foundations virtual training
Integration of Technology as an Instructional Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution of Chromebooks went very well• We celebrated the hour of code and reading celebrations by pushing in to remote classrooms and co-teaching lessons• Teachers feel prepared and confident in their ability to teach virtual.
Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The monies received from through Teachers of Tomorrow grant will serve as tuition reimbursement for staff members through the "Tuition Reimbursement for Teachers of Tomorrow: Tuition Reimbursement for Initial Certification in Science, Mathematics, and English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)." This reimbursement is focused on retention and recruitment for those historically hard to fill positions. There were eight teachers at Knickerbacker Middle School and Lansingburgh High School, who were eligible for this grant. The total monies received by the district (\$29,557) will be divided equally amongst the teachers, totaling \$3,694 per teacher.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TSS District Committee is meeting tomorrow for training with Rebekah Magin, who has been working with the district for several years now.

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By Dr. Abitabile:

- As we await returning to in-person instruction at TES on January 4, 2021, there is growing concern across the State about a large outbreak of COVID infection over the holiday season.
- As we continue to prepare to return to session in January, we sent out a survey to parents and to staff because we will need the consent to COVID testing 20% of students and staff in order to be in compliance. We are close to that 20%.
- We will partner with Questar III BOCES for COVID testing. They will be dropping off tests, then picking them up and transporting the tests to a lab.
- Steve Strichman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development for the City of Troy will be in attendance at the Board Workshop for January 11th to discuss the possibility of a PILOT on the Lion Factory Building that is proposed to become a 150 apartment building. A public hearing was scheduled for December 18th.
- Curriculum and Technology updates for RPES will be at the February 2021 workshop and KMS will be at the March 2021 workshop.
- This is a unique budgeting year. The 2021-2022 budget will be unique as well. We have lost \$500,000 in funding so far this year. We are hoping to get some relief with a Federal stimulus. Cuts will be coming to the State budget at the end of March.
- Our staff continue working harder than ever and the commitment to the welfare of our students is evident and beyond compare. The determination and generosity of the staff continues to inspire and amaze me. A special thanks extended to Stephanie Moryl and Coach Pasinella for going above and beyond.
- I am looking forward to better times in 2021 and wish everyone a healthy, happy holiday season.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Motion by Mrs. Speanburg:

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 6:52 p.m.

Second: Mr. Spear

Ayes – 6 Nays – 0

RESO #12-12/21/2020
Adjourn

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education

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Lansingburgh High School Report by Mr. Van Dervoort:

Community Engagement

- National Honor Society students came in to wrap presents for Adopt a Family.
- The LHS Staff adopted 6 more families.
- The LHS Staff provided gifts for 28 kids from the Giving Tree.
- Thanked Stephanie Moryl for all of her efforts in providing the Vega family with the support they need at this sad time.

TSS

- Cafe set to move mid-January.
- Ally program moving forward nicely with communication logs and outreach.
- Continued home visits and wellness checks by PPS staff.

Curriculum

- Senior review is underway to make sure they are meeting all requirements for graduation.
- HVCC careers pathways in the capital region focus on manufacturing and links students to local businesses.

Attendance

- Attendance Matters - Attendance vs. Engagement: There is no requirement for cameras to be on during remote learning, but it is encouraged because it makes for a better teaching environment and keeping the students engaged.

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Knickerbacker Middle School Report by Ms. Phelan:

Mission Statement: “KMS, along with the community, values equity, strives for excellence, and prides itself on student achievement while providing a safe environment, where students become active citizens by displaying respect and demonstrating responsibility.”

Area of Focus	ELA	Math	SEL- Respect/Climate/Culture	Attendance	Parent Communication
Group	ELA Department, AIS Department, SpEd Department	Math Department	Climate Committee	Attendance committee	Family Advisory Committee through Shared Decision Making Committee
Initiatives/ Actions	-PD in Dec continue work on Writer’s Wkshp -discussion on assessment (shorter) Work from Data Team Tech incorporating Math/ELA	-PD in Dec continue work on Math Inquiry -Time is also devoted during dept meeting -discussion on assessment (shorter)	-Push in once a month -Ally Program continues, teachers have been finding students will answer if they message them from Go Guardian -Positive Referrals	Attendance Raffle in Dec. Ss can order books. Continue home visits, phone calls, emails, etc as interventions Attendance Percentage: 87% Sept-Dec Teachers, Staff also keeping track of students on an updated attendance log	-2nd meeting held at the beginning of December -Mrs. Huttner reached out to about 60 parents -12 teachers -12 parents Our first virtual parent engagement night was Dec 17th Trivia Night We are also working on a Family Feud Night
Benchmark	68% of grade 6-8 students will score a 70% or higher on the January Common Grade Level Benchmark	By January 2021 60% of students in grades 6, 7, and 8, will achieve an overall score of 70% or higher on the common grade level benchmark.	By January 2021, 85% of student will respond yes to the statement, “There is a teacher, counselor, or other staff member that I can talk to at school about any problem	20% or less of KMS students will be chronically absent in January 2021 than were chronically absent the year before.	77% or more of our families will respond, “Yes” to: “Staff members seek my input on how to best meet my child’s needs.”
End Goal	In 2020-2021 the school will achieve an ELA Academic Achievement Index of 95.1.	In 2020-2021, the school will achieve a Math Academic Achievement Index of 79.9.	By June 2021 the goal is for 90% of the student’s respond yes to the statement “There is a teacher, counselor, or other staff member that I can talk to at school about any problem.”	By June 2021 23% or less of our students will be chronically absent.	80% or more of our families will respond, “Yes” to: “Staff members seek my input on how to best meet my child’s needs.”

Other items:

- K12 Insight Survey was open all of December
- 8th Grade Lunch-Student of the Month
- Thank you to Trinity Alliance for dropping off 82 gift grief bags for our Blue Team Students after the tragic death of Ayshawn Davis
- Thank you to Coach Pass and Alex Thomson Food Drive
- Thank you Mrs. Kilmer for the “Wishes for 2021” Slideshow (this will be posted on social media
- Our Knight has officially been named, introducing ‘Tyrone’ the KMS Knight
- KMS Third NYSED Visit: January 11th

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Rensselaer Park Elementary School Report by Mr. Hopkins:

1) School Leadership: Absenteeism

A. Attendance Percentages:

- Overall Attendance 90%
- 30 Day Attendance Rate 87%

B. Interventions:

- Fun Lunches
 - Support staff holding “fun lunches” with groups of kids to help socialization and school engagement
- Mentoring Program
 - Identified neediest students
 - monitored by Mrs. Santarcangelo through daily communication with student/family
- Tier 3 Attendance Incentives
 - Varies based off students requests
 - Teacher and student set goals
 - Students work toward incentive
- Communication Log
 - Teacher, Support Staff, Administrator, and Building wide communication logged
 - Includes emails, phone calls, home visits, letters, digital contact through various applications
- Rensselaer County Involvement
 - CPS beginning to take calls based on Educational Neglect due to our explicit documentation

2) Curriculum and Instruction:

A. iReady:

- Standards Mastery Intervention Plan:
 - ELA Team
 - (Goal) Select 2 standards from 1st Quarter (5RL1, 5RL2, 5RL3)
 - NYS ELA Standards Grade 5 p. 63
 - Math Team
 - (Goal) Select 2 standards from 1st Quarter (5.NBT. 1, 5.NBT.5, 5.NBT.7, 5.OA.1)
 - NYS Math Standards Grade 5 p. 67
- Review students instructional minutes
 - iReady Teacher Action Plan-Ensure all students are utilizing iReady 30-40 min. ELA & 30-40 min. Math a week; monitor instruction and progress
- January diagnostic
 - ELA - Week 1/11
 - Math - Week of 1/18

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B. IST- (Intervention Support Team):

- Referral deadline is Feb. 15th
 - Staff sends referrals based on students needs for extra supports

C. Virtual Lessons:

- [Critical Concept Document](#) (Questar III) shows the pieces of knowledge, skill, and understanding that are **most essential** for student growth at each grade level. Notice what you have taught, if students struggled with one look back at previous grade level, then next steps

Grade Level Examples:

- ELA: 5 strands of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. (Start p. 9)
- Math: number sense and basic operations open up a world of patterns, relationships, comparisons, and measurements. (Start p. 20)

D. i-Ready (via Clever)

- ELA: **Tools so Scaffolding Comprehension**
 - Assess & Teach → Tools for Scaffolding

3) *Social-Emotional Learning*

A. Toy Drive

- Over 700 Gifts Donated (Thanks to Pasinella's and company)
- Will be distributed by Mrs. Watts and Mrs. Pasinella 12/21-12/23 at RPES

B. Building Leaders Meetings

- RPES administrators meeting with Union leaders and grade level leaders bi-weekly
 - Meeting's Goal: Understand and support needs of teacher

4) *Parent and Student Engagement*

A. Picture Day 12/18/20: cancelled due to snow and will be rescheduled

B. Morning Show

- Parents have continually thanked us for the sense of “normalcy” and “connection the daily show provides (Thanks Mrs. Green, Mrs. Watts, and Mr. Williams)

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Turnpike Elementary School Report by Ms. Cataldo:

Attendance: 11/20/20 - 12/18/20

1. UPK: 86.11%
2. K: 81.30%
3. 1: 85.31%
4. 2: 87.26%
5. Overall: 84.98%

Curriculum and Instruction

1. Concurrent Teaching
 - a. Plan until after the 2nd quarter (shared with grade levels)
2. Social Studies Writing
 - a. Kim Inglee (1st and 2nd grade SS - standards, essential questions)
 - Timelines and resources need to be added
 - Resources - Social Studies Weekly (K-2)
3. Michelle Stone (12/15) - Will be back in late January
 - a. Working on assessing their writing
 - Student checklists
 - Teach to the writer and not the writing
4. Melissa Macalusso
 - a. Working with new teachers upcoming (January 8th) - Remote
5. New Teacher Meetings
 - a. Ongoing - Continuing to meet after holiday break

Social and Emotional Learning

1. Counseling Corner updates
2. TSS initiatives - Grade Level Representatives
 - a. Morning/Afternoon meetings
 - b. Leaving Google Meets open during lunch
 - c. Daily Check-ins
 - d. Presents for families and food - 30 backpack program, 7-10 families given presents donated by various organizations and individuals, Clothe a knight 10-15 families

School Leadership

1. Survey to go out to In person learners and Remote on January 13th.
 - a. Want to be extremely proactive with number of sections we are going to need for remote
 - b. May need to open a third section back up (depending on grade levels)