

Cheektowaga-Sloan Reorganization Meeting Transcript/Summary of July 7, 2020.

I would like to welcome you to the Cheektowaga Sloan Reorg meeting. We will now recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Roll Call

Stephanie Dombrowski, here

Claire Ferrucci, here

Denise McCowan, here

Zachary Smith, here

Jeffery Stewart, here

I would like to make a motion and second to appoint Andrea Galenski as Clerk Pro Tem.

Motion, that was Jeff, and who second? Denise

All those in favor, Aye. Opposed? Motion Carried.

I would like to have Andrea give the Oath to our two new members.

Yes, at this time I would like to give the Oath to our new members. If Mrs. Dombrowski and Mr. Schlossin would please stand.

If you will repeat after me please, I hereby pledge and declare, that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and the Constitution of the State of NY, and that I will faithfully, to the best of my ability, discharge the duties of the position of member of the Board of Education.

Thank you very much you are both sworn in.

Congratulations.

At this time, I will turn it back over to Mr. Sieczkarek.

We will be going into executive session. After executive session the lines will be back open, later, when we finish. We don't know how long it will take it depends on how long the executive session will take.

I need a motion and a second to go into executive session at 6:35. Claire, Stephanie. Did you get the reason? Yes, I did. Collective Bargaining negotiations; and Matters leading to the appointment of particular people. All those in favor? Aye, Opposed? Motion Carried.

Motion by Z. Smith seconded by W. Schlossin, to adjourn from Executive Session and resume regular order of business at 8:11 p.m.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

At this time, nominations were taken for the office of President of the Board. I nominate Denise. Denise, will you accept the nomination? Yes.

Are there any others nominations for President?

I would like to call for a vote on the nomination of Denise for the office of President. 7 Votes

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by Z. Smith that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that Denise McCowan be elected President of the Board of Education for the ensuing year ending June 30, 2021.

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

The Oath of Office was administered to the new president of the board by the Clerk Pro-tem.

I declare Denise McCowan has been elected President of the board of Education for the ensuing year ending June 20, 2021.

Congratulations!

At this time, I need a nomination from the floor for vice President. I nominate Claire.

Claire, will you accept the nomination? Yes. Are there any other nominations for Vice President?

I would like to call for a vote on the nomination of Claire Ferrucci for the office of Vice President. 5 votes.

Motion by S. Dombrowski seconded by D. McCowan, that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that Claire M. Ferrucci be elected Vice President of this Board of Education for the ensuing year ending June 30, 2021.

Motion Carried 5 Ayes 1 Noes 0 Absent 1 Abstain

I declare Claire Ferrucci has been elected Vice President of the Board of Education for the ensuing year ending June 30, 2021. Congratulations! At this time, I will turn the meeting over to our President, Denise McCowan.

Motion by Z. Smith seconded by C. Ferrucci, that Dawn Kross be appointed as District Clerk for the ensuing year ending June 30, 2021 at the annual salary provided in the budget.

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by S. Dombrowski, that Linda Hybicki be appointed as District Treasurer for the ensuing year ending June 30, 2021, at the annual salary identified in the Terms of Employment.

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by S. Dombrowski, that Claire M. Ferrucci be authorized and designated as Deputy Treasurer (Alternative Officer) to sign District checks in the absence of the Treasurer.

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

The Oath of Office was given to the new Vice-President, District Clerk and Deputy Treasurer. District Treasurer and Superintendent received their Oath of Office during business hours in the District Office.

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by C. Ferrucci, to suspend the reading of each appointment and approve the following appointments for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by Z. Smith seconded by G. Sieczkarek, that Wayne Drescher, School Business Manager be authorized to certify all payrolls during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by C. Ferrucci seconded by W. Schlossin, that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District Treasurer is authorized and directed to invest idle funds as guided by Policy 5220.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by S. Dombrowski seconded by C. Ferrucci, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to sign the necessary documents enabling the District to borrow up to \$4,000,000.00(four million dollars) in Revenue Anticipation Notes or Tax Anticipation Notes at such time as the Treasurer notifies the President of the Board and Superintendent that such borrowing is immediately required in order to meet the ordinary and necessary operations of the District.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by S. Dombrowski, that the Superintendent be authorized to approve budget transfers, up to **\$10,000** for the ensuing fiscal year, ending June 30, 2021.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by Z. Smith, that the District Treasurer be bonded in the total amount of at least **\$100,000** and that such be secured by the District Clerk and that the Business Manager shall file a copy of such insurance policy.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by S. Dombrowski, that the Board Member designated to substitute for District Treasurer, in her absence, be bonded also.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by C. Ferrucci seconded by W. Schlossin, that this Board of Education re-adopt the Board of Education Policies and Code of Ethics as changed and revised during the past fiscal year.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by Z. Smith seconded by S. Dombrowski, that this Board of Education re-adopt the Student Code of Conduct and Attendance Policy.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by C. Ferrucci seconded by S. Dombrowski, that this Board of Education re-adopt the Wellness Policies on Physical Activity and Nutrition.

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by Z. Smith, that all existing committees of the Board of Education be abolished.

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Buildings and Grounds Committee: Zachary Smith

Interviewing Committee: Claire Ferrucci

Audit Committee: Gary Sieczkarek

Motion by S. Dombrowski seconded by G. Sieczkarek, to approve the new committee members as outlined above for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by C. Ferrucci seconded by Z. Smith, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to pay necessary expenses incurred including those for transportation, salaries and equipment, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 after the original purpose of other appropriations have been fulfilled.

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by Z. Smith seconded by G. Sieczkarek, to participate in the BOCES co-operative bids for 2020-2021 school year for the following items:

1. office and art supplies
2. audio-visual equipment and TV supplies
3. micro computer supplies & equipment and software
4. motor fuel (gasoline & diesel fuel)
5. waste removal & disposal
6. Co-operative supplies & equipment for asbestos inspection
7. BOCES Bread & Milk Products Bid
8. Cafeteria and Paper Products

Motion Carried 7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by Z. Smith seconded by G. Sieczkarek, THAT

WHEREAS, Chapter 181 of the laws of 2000 (“Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act” hereinafter, “the Act”) requires that courts throughout New York State notify school districts where a student is enrolled of the student criminal conviction, youthful offender adjudication, or adjudication and placement as a juvenile delinquent;

WHEREAS, school districts are required by the Act to appoint a “designated educational official” to receive such notification from the courts and to coordinate the student’s participation in programs which may exist in the school district or community, including; non-violent conflict resolution programs, peer mediation programs and youth courts, extended day programs and other school violence prevention and intervention programs;

IT IS HEREBY MOVED by Z. Smith, seconded by G. Sieczkarek, that upon the recommendation of The Board of Education, Andrea L. Galenski, be hereby appointed as the “designated educational official” for the Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD to act pursuant to Criminal Procedure Law §§ 380.90, 720.35 and Family Court Act §§ 301.2(17), 380.1.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by G. Sieczkarek seconded by C. Ferrucci, THAT

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District from time to time receives requests to hold hearings pursuant to either Section 71 or 73 of the Civil Service Law; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has determined that when requested, hearings held pursuant to either Civil Service Law Section 71 or 73 shall be conducted by an impartial hearing officer;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Education does hereby appoint **Daniel J. D’Amico, Esq., Amanda Dermott, Esq., Kristen Coons, Esq., and Kimberly Sebastian, Esq.** of Erie 1 BOCES Labor Relations Services as its designated impartial hearing officers under Civil Service Law Section 71 and 73 for the purpose of conducting such hearings as may be necessary under those statutes for the duration of the 2020--2021 fiscal year; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Daniel J. D’Amico, Esq., Amanda Dermott, Esq., Kristen Coons, Esq., and Kimberly Sebastian, Esq.,** as applicable, is to make a record of each such hearing which, together with his/her written findings of fact and recommendations on each matter, shall be referred to the Board of Education, for review and decision, and be it further resolved that Erie 1 BOCES Labor Relations Service be paid its usual and customary fee for services rendered in these matters.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by S. Dombrowski seconded by W. Schlossin, to approve the 2020-2021 Instructional Calendar.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by C. Ferrucci seconded by S. Dombrowski, to accept the following resignations:

- Hillary Weir, Principal, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School effective June 30, 2020
- Laura Seney, Spanish Teacher, John F. Kennedy Middle School effective June 30, 2020.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain

Mrs. Galenski and Mrs. Finn shared the following information on the reopening plan progress:

The Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD formally began the process of creating a reopening plan in June. At the center of our preparations has been and continues to be the thoughts and feelings of the Cheektowaga-Sloan community. We are aware that the Governor will make the ultimate decisions on reopening schools. But, while we wait for guidance from the Governor, we are preparing tentative reopening plans so that we are as prepared as possible for different scenarios that we may be told to implement.

To create a reopening plan, we believe that it is crucial to consider the opinions of all stakeholders. There were surveys completed by stakeholders across the State (*Thought Exchange*) and across the County (*Erie County Superintendent Survey*). We collected the results of these surveys and posted them online at

<https://www.cheektowagasloan.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=1144>. The responses were varied. Some people have expressed desires for schools to open as soon as possible, while others are hoping to delay the opening until a vaccine is created.

In addition to the State and County surveys, we have been conducting stakeholder meetings in an attempt to create a reopening plan that considers as many viewpoints as possible.

A core team was developed which has been involved in all stakeholder meetings to date. The core team includes Mrs. Galenski, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Finn, Executive Director of Curriculum & Accountability; Mr. Drescher, Business Manager; and Mr. Horton, School Attorney. The presence of our School Attorney at these meetings is essential as many Executive Orders need to be properly interpreted and followed as we plan for reopening. We have researched the reopening plans of other school districts in other states, along with the regulations created through Executive Orders to create a PowerPoint to use with the groups of stakeholders.

The first stakeholder meeting was with our Leadership Team which includes Mrs. Galenski, Mr. Drescher, Mrs. Finn, Mr. Mochrie, Mr. Julian, Mrs. Emmerling, Mr. Goodrow, Mrs. Brucz, and Mr. Zybala.

Our second stakeholder meeting included a group of parents, including a Board Member, Mrs. Dombrowski, who were selected by each building's PTO. This representative parent group included parents from each of our schools to ensure equity among the schools in terms of who was represented.

Our third stakeholder meeting involved a representative group of teachers and staff from the District. Mr. Brinson, the Teacher's union President, was tasked with forming this stakeholder group so that individuals who were interested in being a part of this important stakeholder group were given the opportunity to participate. There was representation from all schools, different grade-levels and departments including art, physical education, and instrumental music.

The next stakeholder meeting will take place this Thursday, July 9, 2020 and will involve our school nurses as well as a portion of our Leadership Team.

Each of the stakeholder meetings addressed three approaches to reopening schools: in-person instruction, remote learning, and a hybrid approach. The hybrid approach will include options such as some students returning, some students remaining home and learning remotely, or an alternative schedule for students to reduce the number of students together in each classroom. There are challenges to each of these approaches, and we recognize that no strategy is going to satisfy everyone.

We will continue to engage our stakeholder groups as we learn more details from the State about what is required to be included in these plans. The involvement from everyone is so important especially when these approaches are so different than what we are all used to.

Our plans will need to be submitted by late July for review by the State. We are still in the process of waiting for specific guidance from both the New York State Education Department and the Governor's Office.

We did receive a Statement from the Communications Director Dani Lever on Schools which reads:

**STATEMENT FROM COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR DANI LEVER ON SCHOOLS**

*"The state law governing schools and business closings or openings has been in effect since the pandemic first started and all such decisions are made by state government and not local government.*

***Of course the state consults with local stakeholders and when it comes to opening schools in New York City we will consult with parents, teachers, health officials and local elected officials - but the Governor has said any determination is premature at this point and we will need to see how the virus develops.***

***"The Governor has also told all school districts to have plans ready for the 'new normal' in the event schools can open. The Governor hopes schools will reopen but will not endanger the health of students or teachers, and will make the determination once we have more current information.***

***"We value the opinion of local politicians and the state's 700 local school districts as to what should be done, but the public should not be confused on this important decision that has practical consequences for many."***

The guidance from New York State is expected to come out next week [this specific timing of guidelines is an addendum to the original presentation based on information issued by the Governor on July 8<sup>th</sup>].

There is a great deal of work that needs to be completed in the coming weeks. We are looking forward to continuing our planning process and will be providing another update at our next Board meeting. We appreciate the great work that our stakeholder groups have done and how collaborative this process has been.

Motion by S. Dombrowski seconded by C. Ferrucci, to adjourn this meeting at 9:12 p.m.

Motion Carried            7 Ayes 0 Noes 0 Absent 0 Abstain