

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
JANUARY 17, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Cheryl Carpenter, Mr. Jack Cuddihy, Mrs. Marlene Grunder, Mrs. Jennifer Horschel, Mrs. Ellen Kindley, Mr. Donald Sutfin

ABSENT: Mr. Paul Shephard

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mrs. Sandy Anzalone, Superintendent; Mrs. Laura Feldman, Director of Finance; Mrs. Barbara Thomasulo, District Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Jeff Cervoni, JSHS Principal; Mrs. Shawn Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel; Mrs. Lucinda Karstedt, Director of Information Technology; Hailey Brenner, Student Representative

At 7:04 p.m., Mrs. Horschel called the meeting to order and asked those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Called to
order**

- ◆ Robotics Presentation – Mr. Smith thanked the administrators and Mrs. Feldman for getting a new air compressor for the Technology Department. He also thanked Canfield Landscaping for a donation of a very large, new tool chest and Adam Hoffman from The Used Tool Truck for a donation of tools, including wrenches, socket sets, drivers, and pliers. Mrs. LaRosa applied for and received a grant through the STEM program. This grant enabled the Technology Department to purchase items to build a robot and enter a robotics competition at Painted Post High School in Corning. Students, Sam Overhoff, Oliver Eisenberger and Leora Eisenberger demonstrated their robot for the Board. Beginning in December, students designed, built and programmed a robot with autonomous and remote control. The five students prepared a ten-minute presentation for the judges. They then answered questions from the panel of judges for a five-minute period. Eden students, mostly 7th graders, did a great job in such a short amount of time, winning three of the last four competitions. The team will be looking for corporate sponsors and help with funding and are hoping to raise at least \$800 for next year. There is interest in starting an after school club for robotics.

**From Admin
& Staff**

- ◆ PSA – Freshman Academy – Mrs. Costanzo and Mrs. Kanick are teaching Freshman Academy. Because it is a Humanities course, the curriculum adheres to the New York State Common Core Standards in ELA. It is a seminar style course using the book, *7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey. The chapters in the book help to foster the curriculum and conversation with the kids. They learn skills they need to succeed academically and to work collaboratively in groups. They focus on things like leadership development and public speaking. Students, Camille Profic, Maddie Pye, Brooke Woodard, and Blaise Witmer described things they have learned through Freshman Academy and the team building games they played. Students made videos depicting issues some teens may have and discussed in class what could be done to help.

- ◆ Special Education – Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Carriero gave a presentation on the Eden Special Education program. The District operates a variety of programs and services for students with disabilities. These students are placed in the least restrictive environment. Services are available through the end of the school year during which their 21st birthday occurs, or until a Regents/local high school diploma has been attained. The total number of students with disabilities assigned to a consultant teacher should not exceed 20. Eden uses an integrated co-teaching service at the elementary level, where both a general education and a special education teacher are assigned to a class and share planning and grading responsibilities. In this case, the maximum number of students with disabilities in the class is 12. Resource Room services assist students in remediating skill deficits. Services consist of basic academic skills, oral and written language, study skills and organizational skills. This group consists of no more than five students in a period. Self-contained classes have students with similar needs grouped together. The District is obligated to service pre-school students with disabilities. The number of three and four-year-old students with disabilities is up substantially. Most are behavioral issues. Early intervention is very important. Extended school year services are provided to eligible students. Other districts pay to send their students with disabilities to the Eden summer school program. Eden currently has 210 school age students with disabilities for whom the District has CSE responsibilities. Eden offers unified basketball through a grant, where special education students team up with general education students to play the game. This year, Unified Bowling was added.
- ◆ Budget Presentations:
 - Mrs. Feldman announced that a board presentation style and community workshop will be used throughout the budget process.
 - Athletics – Ms. Fallacaro reported that Eden has 28 teams this year – 28 Varsity, 10 Jr. Varsity and 12 Modified. Seven programs are combined with another school district – North Collins, Gowanda, Lake Shore and/or Springville. Four teams were sponsored through private funding (JV Fall Cheerleading, Modified Wrestling, Unified Basketball, Unified Bowling and Girls' Ice Hockey). Former student athletes are playing in Division I, II and III colleges in Girls' Volleyball, Softball, Lacrosse, Swimming/Diving, Soccer, Tennis, Field Hockey, Track and Basketball and Boys' Wrestling, Football and Lacrosse. Fall highlights include the Boys' Volleyball State Championship, Makayla Scheu competing at the NYSPHSAA State Championships, the Girls' Volleyball team winning the Class C1 Section Title and the Boys' Cross Country team winning the Class C2 Section Title. The Athletic Department will not ask for an increase in their budget this year, nor will they have a cut. The officials' contract includes a raise. The conference and travel line is for state championships and sectionals. If a roster size decreases, a season may be cancelled, a 7-8-9 program may be implemented, or a sport may be merged with another school. Inviting another school to participate will generate money for the District. Should the financial situation improve, the Athletic Department would like the Board to consider

restoring any of the following: funding for non-league contests, tournaments, equipment, uniforms, Boys' and Girls' Modified Track teams and the Fall JV Cheerleading position.

- Utilities – Mrs. Feldman reported that the budget line for electric is doubling due to GLP, Eden Elementary and the Bus Garage going back on the grid. All other utilities should remain stable.
- Debt Service – This line will change due to the capital project. There is a \$74,000 increase in Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) interest for the current project. The BAN is one-year short term financing, so while a project is being built, less than the full amount is borrowed to pay workers. When doing a capital project, it is like a mortgage payment – debt service is about payment and long term financing. Current expenses need to be paid prior to completion and receiving a long-term loan from the bank. In the meantime, the district will do a one-year BAN. It allows renovations to be financed for 15 years. Option one – the interest being paid on the BAN can be put in the project and financed, but then interest upon interest would be paid. Eden prefers to pay the BAN interest costs each year. That way the money goes into the capital project, rather than paying interest on interest. The increase in that line is because we are borrowing more money to complete more items, and the interest rate is a little higher. The energy performance contract is the purchase of the co-generation plant, and the reduction is due to the final payment in 2018-2019. Overall, the transfer to debt service amount is \$170,799. The total debt service increase is 8.09%.

Mrs. Horschel asked if anyone wished to remove any items from the consensus items. No items were removed.

**Consensus
items**

Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that the following consensus items be approved as listed in the Administrative Memorandum A-I:

**Approved
consensus
items**

Minutes of the December 13, 2017 Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Multi Fund Warrant for the period ending November 30, 2017 in the amount of **\$612,082.57**. This Warrant is broken down as follows: **General Fund portion \$528,098.84**, **Cafeteria Fund portion \$40,623.78**, **Federal Fund portion \$1,567.50**, and **Trust & Agency Fund portion \$41,792.45**.

Capital Project 2020 Warrant for the period ending November 30, 2017 in the amount of **\$1,045,427.33**.

Extraclassroom Activities Fund Report for the period ending November 30, 2017.

Appropriation Status Report for the period ending November 30, 2017.

November 2017 Budget Transfers.

CSE/CPSE Recommendations.

Substitutes – The following personnel are appointed as substitutes, provided that these appointments will not be effective and service to the district pursuant thereto shall not begin until there has been compliance with statutory and regulatory provisions for fingerprinting/certification and clearance for employment:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Certification</u>
Mary Lee Roush	Bus Attendant	January 18, 2018	RN
Allison Winiecki	PK-12 T, TA	January 18, 2018	None
Jonathan Rice	PK-12 Teacher	January 18, 2018	None
Aaron Johnson	PK-6 T, TA	January 18, 2018	None

Supplemental Activity advisors and coaches 2017-2018 Supplemental Activity Advisors and Coaches for the 2017-2018 school year, provided that these appointments will not be effective and service to the district pursuant thereto shall not begin until there has been compliance with statutory and regulatory provisions for fingerprinting/certification and clearance for employment:

1. **Thomas D. Page**, Assistant Wrestling Coach
2. **Phil Archabald**, Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Coach
3. **Joshua Walker**, Boys' Modified Basketball Coach
4. **Paul O'Connor**, Boys' JV Basketball Coach
5. **Charles Rizzo**, Volunteer Wrestling Coach
6. **Colin Sperrazza**, JSHS Musical Adult Musician
7. **Ian Liedke**, Piano Accompanist for Concerts

Comments **Consensus items IV. A-I carried unanimously.**

At 8:15 p.m., Mrs. Horschel asked for comments from the public.

- ♦ Jennifer Cavarello asked Mrs. Hall to read a statement on behalf of her daughter, Haley, who questioned the removal of art electives, which does not allow students to expand further with their artistic talents. Moving 6th grade into the JSHS building penalizes older students by taking electives away from them. Sports are not cut as music and arts are. It seems more important to offer study hall rather than electives. Over the last few years, advertising, cartooning, advanced draw and paint, ceramics II and creative innovative art have been cut. Sixth graders will get art, but students only take art once in 7th or 8th grade for half a year. There are only three art electives for the senior high students. Enrollment keeps dropping, but why would families come to this district if there are no elective classes available. She inquired how students could get scholarships without electives.
- ♦ Karen Hall updated the board on the advocacy effort. Between September and December, 151 letters and 224 signatures on petitions were collected at various events, which asked for support for public school funding and full financial funding for mandates. Four packets were put together and mailed to the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, one to the Governor, one to Senator Gallivan, and one to Assemblyman DiPietro. She also expressed her concern for the cuts in the art program. She hopes that

some of the cuts she has heard about will still be offered to students. There are so many careers that have a component of art or creativity that will be cut out of the program. A student majoring in art needs a portfolio, requiring 20-30 pieces. With only a half year of art in 7th or 8th grade and maybe ½ credit some other time, they would not be able to put together a portfolio that would get them into an art program in a college. Mrs. Anzalone responded that the Board has not had conversation about staffing yet. Because of the incoming 6th grade, we had to get a jump on the master schedule to see what staff would look like, but there has been no formal conversation about staffing – up or down.

- ◆ Sheri Stoneberg, FACS Teacher, stated that in the past few years, the FACS department has taken huge cuts. She is the only FACS teacher in the department. There were two full time teachers, now there is only one. With bringing 6th grade up, she asked the board and administration to look at the possibility of adding electives back, because there is desire for the students to be in art, music and FACS classes.
- ◆ Colleen Gaglione also spoke in support of FACS classes and how they prepare students to be independent.

Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, after successfully completing her probationary period, **Kathleen Gage** be permanently appointed as a Microcomputer Repair Technician effective February 1, 2018. Discussion ensued. Carried unanimously.

**Permanent
Appointment
K. Gage,
MCRT**

Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, after successfully completing his probationary period, **Kevin Lex**, be permanently appointed as a Microcomputer Repair Technician effective February 1, 2018. Discussion ensued. Carried unanimously.

**Permanent
Appointment
K. Lex,
MCRT**

Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a quote for fitness center equipment be accepted from G&G Fitness in the amount of \$58,831.39. Discussion ensued. Carried unanimously.

**Accepted
quote for
fitness
equipment
from G&G**

Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a donation of 50 books valued at \$500 be accepted from Jennifer Tylock for use in the Jr./Sr. High School Library. Carried unanimously.

**Accepted
donation of
books**

Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a Liability Reserve be created at a planned funding level of \$870,532. Carried unanimously.

**Approved
creation of
liability
reserve**

Approved workers' comp. reserve Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a Workers' Compensation Reserve be created at a planned funding level of \$1,261,640. Carried unanimously.

Approved reserve plan Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Reserve Plan for 2017-2018 be approved. Discussion ensued. Carried unanimously.

Approved excessing of tech equipment Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, technology equipment as presented be declared excess and disposed of as the District deems appropriate. Carried unanimously.

Approved excessing of diesel loader and box scraper Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 1998 Hyundai Diesel Loader 86 HP Articulating with 1 Yard Material Bucket (A00068202) and 10' Box Scraper (A00068203) be declared excess and disposed of as the District deems appropriate. Discussion ensued. Carried unanimously.

Approved excessing of miscellaneous items Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following items be declared excess and disposed of as the District deems appropriate:

1. Craftsman table saw 10" asset tag #00395
2. Sheldon metal lathe asset tag A00502681
3. Kawai piano asset tag A00186588
4. Kawai piano asset tag A0067577
5. Library card catalog asset tag A00067876
6. Potter wheel asset tag 00213
7. Two bay fryer asset tag 00266
8. Onan building generator 3KW diesel
9. Onan building generator 15KW natural gas
10. Onan Building generator 10 KW water cooled

Discussion ensued. Carried unanimously.

Note: Items will be sold at Auctions International.

Approved amended 2017-2018 calendar Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2017-2018 School Calendar be amended as presented. Discussion ensued. Carried unanimously.

Business report Mrs. Feldman reported the following:

- ◆ Last week, all the cameras were installed on every bus in our fleet. Each bus has at least three cameras per bus. Mary Banko added that there are three interior cameras and one forward facing out the windshield. Mrs. Feldman added that it would help prevent any liability claims in the event of an accident or a student issue. She thanked the Board for their support in that.

- ◆ At the next board meeting, the property tax cap will be discussed. The Board will be asked to approve a projected levy percentage increase. The tax base growth factor for new building assessment values went from .0055 last year to .008. The CPI is at 2.13%, so there is a 2% property tax cap maximum. The preliminary calculation shows that .46% of the levy can be raised for a total of \$66,000. There will be a full presentation to the Board on February 13th, at which time the Board will be asked to approve it. The deadline to let the State know the approved tax cap amount is March 1st.
- ◆ The State Aid runs came in today. For years, the State calculated what it owed districts, but under the Gap Elimination Adjustment, they did not give schools what was owed to them. There was a little increase in Foundation Aid for next year. It is up 1.92%. Expense driven aids are transportation, building, excess cost (special education mandated extra service), and instructional materials (software, hardware, textbooks, etc.) They appear to be budgeted higher on the Governor's runs than anticipated. Based on this year's conservative spending, it is possible that when we look at what we will receive at year end based on this year's spending, the aid numbers could be lower. It looks like a 9.48% increase in aid, but it could be closer to 5%, which is still an increase. At the next board meeting, you will see conservative numbers used to create the budget, so we do not overspend.
- ◆ Thank you to the Board for adopting the reserve plan. The goal of the reserve plan is not just to amass savings. If there is a one-year surplus, some things that can be done are painting classrooms, sprucing up buildings, replacing fixtures, etc., things that have fallen into decay because of funding cuts. Parking lot resurfacing and re-striping might be done. These are one-time items.

Mrs. Anzalone reported on the following:

Supt. report

- ◆ She has been working with Erie County Co-op and Diane Held on the Erie County Farm to School Project. Eden is one of three schools to be awarded this grant. Alden, Springville and Eden applied in October and were notified last week that we will receive the grant. The premise is to use local farms to bring food into our cafeteria.
- ◆ Update on Eden Elementary School Auditorium Upgrades – the scaffolding is down and the ceiling is visible. Extra ceilings were removed, and decay was found up there. There is now a nice HVAC system in place. A sound system will be going in next, along with some handicapped seating in the back. There is enough money left to paint the back of the auditorium black and refinish and paint the floor and pit railing.
- ◆ Update on Cutover to National Grid – In December, preparation for the cutover to National Grid at the Elementary School was completed. There is a backup generator to fully power the Elementary School. The cutover has not been completed yet. In February, the same thing will be done at GLP; however, at GLP there is no backup generator. The preparation and cutover will both be done at GLP in February. It

is hoped that this will be done in two or three days. It is likely GLP will be closed for the entire break week. Once that is done, the GLP, Bus Garage and Eden Elementary will all be running off the grid. This will allow the District to be eligible for a NYSERTA grant. Mrs. Feldman added that the District will go to the school municipal energy co-op to get a reduced cost for electric. Some of our electric lighting will be changed over to LED.

- ◆ The 2018-2019 BOCES calendar is available. BOCES 1 and 2 try to agree on break times. Eden's calendar is currently on draft 4. There is a proposal to change the way attendance is calculated for State aid. Half days have always been a problem. Years ago, the last few days in June were half days. Currently, no aid is given for half days at the end of June or in shortened weeks. The new guidance, expected to be adopted by the Board of Regents in March, will allow districts to go a total number of hours and still maintain 180 days. The number of hours for next year's calendar must be calculated for when students are in instruction. Lunch and recess will not count. It will be cumbersome.
- ◆ Thanks to Lucinda Karstedt, Jeff Cervoni, all the sixth grade teachers, all the special area teachers and everyone who came to the second parent information night for the middle school. It has been an initiative since 2013 to create a STEM focused Middle School with grades 6-7-8.

Board Report

- ◆ Round Table
 - Mrs. Horschel spoke about advocacy and the great job that the Music & Arts Boosters has done getting all the letters and petitions out. Karen Hall had asked where we go from here. Mrs. Anzalone responded that there was a time when the State funded 50% of our needs. It is approximately 38% - 39% now. If the State funded 50% of what we need, we could have everything that was being asked for. Mrs. Horschel said that the Erie County Association of School Boards is asking all local representatives to commit to public education. The decrease in funding from the State, as well as the increase in the local burden has created a rift between school boards and communities. Dr. Frazier is asking for this burden to shift back to New York State. There will be a dessert forum at the end of the month with Dr. Timbs and another legislative meeting in February.
 - Ms. Carpenter asked what needed to take place to get back to 50%. Mrs. Feldman stated that the Foundation Aid formula needed to be updated. Wealthier districts do not get as much State aid. There is disparity in the formulas. It is complicated and political. The percentages are allocated to certain areas based on population, wealth and votes. Mrs. Anzalone added that we need the State to not handcuff us by restricting how to use the money they give us. There may be money allocated for Eden's Community Schools (those in distressed areas), but Eden does not have a Community School, so we do not get that money. Mrs. Feldman said at the

State level, they say there are grants, but nobody is applying for them. Some of the grants available are restricted to a greater than 50% free & reduced population, which leaves a lot of school districts out across the State. When no one applies for the grants, that money goes into the general fund.

Regular Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. in the JSHS Cafeteria. **Future dates**

Mrs. Horschel withdrew the motion to enter executive session.

**Motion
withdrawn**

Mrs. Horschel made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cuddihy to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Carried unanimously. **Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara J. Thomasulo
District Clerk

BT/