

Date: September 13, 2023
Where Held: School Cafeteria
Members Present: B. Whitacre, S. Karn, V. Nolan, D. Brean
Others Present:
Ronald Pavlus, Superintendent/Elementary Principal
Tiffany Lopez, Business Manager
Christa Case, District Clerk

Type of Meeting: Public Hearing/Regular Meeting
Presiding Officer: B. Whitacre
Members Absent: J. Beehm

I. CALL TO ORDER

The September 13, 2023 Public Hearing/Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board Vice President, J. Beehm.

PUBLIC HEARING: DISTRICT-WIDE SAFETY PLAN

- Mr. Pavlus presented the district-wide safety plan

II. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda consisting of Approval of: Warrants - **General Fund**: Warrant #79 dated May 31, 2023 in the amount of \$245,194, Warrant #87 dated June 8, 2023 in the amount of \$17,994.83, Warrant #88 dated June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$232,365.03, Warrant #89 dated June 19, 2023 in the amount of \$43,919.78, Warrant #90 dated June 23, 2023 in the amount of \$87,988.55, Warrant #92 dated June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$15,529.88, Warrant #93 dated June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$1,679.49, Warrant #2 dated July 7, 2023 in the amount of \$44,272.37, Warrant #4 dated July 7, 2023 in the amount of \$4,000, Warrant #7 dated July 24, 2023 in the amount of \$78,125.81, Warrant #10 dated August 10, 2023 in the amount of \$64,335.30, Warrant #13 dated August 18, 2023 in the amount of \$54,617.47, Warrant #15 dated August 24, 2023 in the amount of \$20,581.99, Warrant #16 dated September 1, 2023 in the amount of \$103,234.21, Warrant #18 dated September 1, 2023 in the amount of \$367.00, Warrant #19 dated September 1, 2023 in the amount of \$16,859.49; **Cafeteria Fund**: Warrant #2 dated August 10, 2023 in the amount of \$72.93, Warrant #3 dated August 24, 2023 in the amount of \$63.19, Warrant #4 dated September 1, 2023 in the amount of \$111.00, Warrant #13 dated June 8, 2023 in the amount of \$155.01, Warrant #14 dated June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$1,539.03; **Scholarship Fund**: Warrant #1 dated June 30, 2023 in the amount of \$7,145.00; **Federal Fund**: Warrant #1 dated August 10, 2023 in the amount of \$35.00, as presented.

Motion carried: 4-0

III. COMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Additions/Amendments to the Agenda

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education approves the Agenda for the September 13, 2023, as amended.

Discussion: Add Executive Session to discuss matters related to contract negotiations.

Motion carried: 4-0

B. Board President Communications: None

C. Principal Communications: None

D. District Clerk Communications: None

E. Business Communications:

- Ms. Lopez gave an update on discussions with FES regarding the building entry system. Waiting on a quote. More information will be forthcoming.
- Ms. Lopez provided the Board with information from NYSED with regard to the Community Eligibility Provision which is a meal service option for School Food Authorities (SFA) and schools to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without the burden of collecting household applications. The identified student percentage must be at least 40% for BCS to participate.

F. Superintendent Communications:

- Mr. Pavlus reported on the following items: Superintendent's Conference Days, Combined Brookfield CSD/Madison CSD Girls Soccer Team, Open House, and Departmentalized Grade 6.

IV. RESIDENT PARTICIPATION: None

V. OLD BUSINESS: None

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Approval of: District-wide Safety Plan

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, approves the District-wide Safety Plan for the 2023-2024 school year, as attached.

Motion carried: 4-0

B. Personnel: Appointment of Class/Club Advisors

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following appointments for the 2023-2024 school year:

Taylor Tessitore – Senior Class Advisor, Kallie Jaquay and Rachel Peck – Junior Class Co-Advisors, Sharon Cossette and Lisa Farmer – National Honor Society Co-Advisors, Colleen Peavey and Shelley Elliott – Yearbook Advisors, Juliet Abrams – Varsity Club Advisor, Kallie Jaquay – Future Farmers of America Club Advisor, Dakota Nelson – High School Student Council Advisor, Cassie Head – Elementary Student Council Advisor. Stipend is per the BTA contract.

Motion carried: 4-0

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C. Personnel: Appointment of Mentors

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of the following teachers to provide instructional support services: mentoring per NYS Education Regulations for the 2023-2024 school year:

Sharon Cossette – Heath Miller, Taylor Tessitore – Andrew Long, Robbie Reader – Jeffrey Havener, Colleen Rutherford – Anna Buehler

Stipend for this service is per the BTA contract.

Motion carried: 4-0

D. Personnel: Appointment of Substitutes

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following substitutes for the 2023-2024 school year as per attached list.

Motion carried: 4-0

E. Personnel: Appointment of Assistant Coach

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of Kristen DePasquale as Assistant Coach, Modified Girls Soccer, for the 2023-2024 fall season. Salary for this position is per the BTA contract.

Motion carried: 4-0

F. Personnel: Acceptance of Resignation

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of Kasandra Jardines, Elementary Teacher, effective August 23, 2023.

Motion carried: 4-0

G. Personnel: Acceptance of Resignation

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, accepts the resignation of James Rogers, School Bus Driver, effective August 15, 2024.

Motion carried: 4-0

H. Personnel: Appointment of Teacher on Special Assignment

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of Colleen Rutherford as Teacher on Special Assignment for the 2023-2024 school year. Stipend for this position is \$6,500.

Motion carried: 4-0

I. Personnel: Appointment of Long-Term Substitute Library/Media Specialist

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the appointment of Shelley Elliott to the position of Long-Term Substitute Library/Media Specialist for the 2023-2024 school year, effective September 1, 2023. Salary for this position is \$46,587.56 for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried: 4-0

J. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the following resolution:

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 “now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;”
- “[t]he onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;” and
- “[t]echnology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risk 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 especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison;”
- “[s]ocial media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;”
- “[i]n a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel ‘addicted’ to social media platform
- “[o]ver half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;” and
- [t]here is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use “depression among youth.”

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-continued-

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is “urgent we take action.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, “[m]ore 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 Brookfield 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; (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 IT 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 agreement on behalf of the School District.

Discussion: Recommended by our law firm – no cost to BCS

Motion carried: 4-0

K. Approval of: Special Education District Plan

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, approves the Special Education District Plan for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried: 4-0

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan, that the Board of Education enters Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing matters related to contract negotiations and personnel.

Motion carried: 4-0

Board Member, S. Karn moved, seconded by Board Member, V. Nolan that the Board returns to open session at 7:49 p.m.

No action was taken by the Board following Executive Session.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the September 13, 2023 meeting at 7:50 p.m. was made by S. Karn, seconded by V. Nolan.

Motion carried: 4-0