

**Special Meeting of the Board of Education  
Irma Czubaj Board of Education Room, Woodrow Wilson Elementary School  
Friday, September 6, 2024  
7:00 a.m.**

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Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge

Board President called meeting to order

Roll Call

Roll Call: Denise McCowan – President  
Zachary Smith – Vice President  
Stephanie Dombrowski  
Jennifer L. Kregg  
Ava-Marie Shonitsky – excused  
Gary Sieczkarek – excused  
James Stachewicz

Motion by S. Dombrowski seconded by J. Stachewicz, to go into Executive Session at 7:04 a.m. for the employment history of particular people; and matters leading to the discipline of a particular person.

Executive Session

Motion Carried 5 Ayes 0 Noes 2 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by Z. Smith seconded by J. Kregg, to adjourn from Executive Session and resume regular order of business at 7:48 a.m.

Motion Carried 5 Ayes 0 Noes 2 Absent 0 Abstain

Motion by Z. Smith seconded by S. Dombrowski,

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2024, pursuant to Education Law § 3020-a, the Board of Education (“Board”) of the Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District (“District”) found probable cause concerning the written statement of charges filed against Mark Ostempowski, a tenured teacher; and

3020-a  
Mark  
Ostempowski

WHEREAS, Mr. Ostempowski requested a hearing on the charges preferred against him; and

WHEREAS, Hearing Officer Rocco M. Scanza, Esq., was mutually selected by the parties to hear and issue a determination on the charges; and

WHEREAS, the Hearing Officer did hold a hearing on the charges during which each party was given full and fair opportunity to examine and cross-examine witnesses and produce relevant documentary evidence; and

WHEREAS, on August 28, 2024, the Hearing Officer issued, and the District received, his Decision, finding Mr. Ostempowski guilty of certain Charges and Specifications against him and determining the disciplinary penalty to be imposed on Mr. Ostempowski;

WHEREAS, the Board disagrees with aspects of the Hearing Officer’s Decision, including the penalty imposed;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Law § 3020-a, the Board nonetheless must implement the Hearing Officer’s Decision within 15 days; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Law § 3020-a, the Board may make an application to the New York Supreme Court to vacate or modify the Hearing Officer’s Decision within 10 days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby implements the Hearing Officer’s August 28, 2024, Decision in SED File No. 43,217;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, pursuant to the Hearing Officer’s Decision, Mr. Ostempowski is suspended without pay from employment with the

