

## 9/23/20 - Regular Business Meeting

Present - Patrick D. McCabe, Roxanne Rebmann, James Grant, John Schiavone, Seth Hennard, Erik Polkowski, Robert Masse, Heather Cayea, Deborah Forrestel, Jody Brege, Philip Kenline

Jim - 7pm Call meeting to order. Pledge to the Flag. We have a presentation tonight. John Schiavone from Lumsden & McCormick are here to discuss the audit.

John Schiavone - Seth Hennard has been on the engagement for a number of years. He is a principal in our firm and does a lot in the governmental arena. School district audits, towns, governments, county audits, public authorities. Seth and I have been working together over the years. I'm going to let Seth start, then I'll have some things to contribute at the end. Thank you.

Seth Hennard - So we'll start with the handout or you have the board packages, but we're going to present off of the slides, the 9 page slide that you have in front of you. So just to start with the page one slides is all the deliverables that we do issue. Going through those the auditor's report on the financial statements, is really the primary purpose of what we're doing with the audit. Our main goal is to give you the audited financial statements and to give you an opinion about whether or not those financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the government auditing standards or government accounting standards that we are required to publish those under. The report on that was an unmodified opinion, a clean opinion. It basically means your statements are fairly presented in accordance with those standards. Also included in those financial statements is a report required by government auditing standards where it includes more internal control testing and compliance testing. We do issue that report as well, and there were no findings or concerns to report in that regard. The third report included in those statements is the auditor's report on compliance for each major federal program. That report is specific to your federal funds. That includes the direct money that you get from the US Department of Education. Also includes the pass-through money you get from NYS that is also federal. The total for that this year was \$1.9 million in federal funds compared to \$1.7 million in 2019, so there was an increase there. The primary reason for that increase is the child nutrition cluster and the main reason for that is the shut down in March and the state basically passed through more money to you for the child nutrition program, which is the lunch and breakfast program. All those meals that were free to kids, you received the free reimbursement rate, so your child nutrition program actually increased by \$250k this year. A very sizable increase from last year, which was \$300, now it's over \$506k. The other programs are fairly consistent and because of the big increase, we did test the child nutrition cluster this year. That was \$506k out of the \$1.9 million in federal funds, which was 30% of the testing. That covers us, covers you on the 20% minimum requirement testing for being a low risk auditee because you have not had findings in the past. Again, we tested that program. There was no findings, no compliance or control findings to report on. The next part is the debit collection form, which is just an online submission of that same single audit compliance type report. That will be filed in the coming months. It's not due until March. We'll prepare that and Cindy will submit that. Next part is extra classroom activity statement. That's all of your student clubs. All that is a separate report in the package you have. The beginning cash balance is \$85k. The students collected about \$99k and spent \$114k. The ending cash balance was \$70,600. In contrast to last year, the kids rose last year was \$135k, so that was a decline, which is not unreasonable given the school shut down mid-March. We do test that, we have a comment on that. That's in the managerial comments that John will talk about at the end. John will also get into the communication of those in charge of governance. The last thing on slide one is the other matters, just to kind of mention. You're probably aware of it, but the state did pass the law where you can spend your reserve funds next year or this current year on essentially any operational needs or any kind of cash shortfalls. We have to pay it back in five years with interest, which is just paying yourself interest. It doesn't really go outside the district. Any reserves you use are not for the intent and purpose of the underlying reserve account, you have to pay it back about 20% per year.

John - If you look at your fund balance, your general fund, you are very, very good. When you look at the reserves and you appropriated next year's tax levy, you've almost got \$17 million in all of those reserve funds. That's about 47% of

your annual budget. From my perspective, and this is my opinion, I don't think you would need to tap into your reserve funds. You have to pay them back and pay in interest. I think where you are right now, you're in a very good financial position in terms of fund balance in the general fund. Just a couple of more comments I wanted to add. When we had the virtual meeting on June 17th, 2020, we talked about some state aid that was supposed to be given to the school district in fiscal 2020. That then moved from state aid to CARES Act money. Now it's federal money and it should be in 2021, this fiscal year and should be about \$263k. There was also two other, I think it came out of Washington, two other moon treats coming, I don't know what to call it. More money coming into the school districts. One is HEERF, and that's the governor's Emerging Education Relief fund for NYS. NYS got about \$164 million of that. It will be distributed as Title I money throughout this fiscal 2021. Then there's the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, which is \$1.37 billion that will be distributed among 672 school districts. There should be more federal money coming in the 20-21. Let's hope and hope they don't have to shut down.

Seth - Can you go to page 2. John mentioned that's your fund balance of all your different funds. The top half of that is really your general fund, that's what most of that fund money is, \$16.7 million John mentioned basically was a \$356k increase over last year. The various reserves you have in your reserve fund and employee benefits reserve \$92k was spent, \$38k on the retirees and sick time when they left. Some interest was allocated into that. The Workers' Compensation increases because of interest. Your retirement contribution reserve was \$5 million. Almost \$1.2 million increase over the prior year. That retirement account reserve includes the ERS and the TRS reserve together. You funded ERS reserve \$950k and you funded TRS reserve \$200k. TRS was new last year and you basically funded that the maximum that you can. You can fund it 10% of teachers' salaries. You funded \$200k with a maximum of basically 10% of teachers' salaries, so that would be funded 5 years, about 3 more years total. ERS reserve in total is \$4.6 million and you do have a reserve plan that defines where that balance should be. You are in compliance with that reserve plan, which is your own plan. I know that is something that the state comptrollers looked at last year, you are following your plan, so that's good news there. The capital project reserve is \$5,073,000 decline of \$1.2 million from the prior year. You did fund that reserve by \$1,350,000. That capital reserve is now fully funded at \$7.5 million. The capital reserve, you funded that this year and you spent \$2.6 million by transferring those funds over to capital project funds and also spent those funds primarily on the 2019 capital project this year. The remaining parts of the general fund balance are the assigning funds balance for next year's budget and encumbrances, which are carryover purchase orders. By the difference, the rest of your general fund fund balance is the unassigned fund balance that is a part of that by New York City, will probably tax close to 4% of your 2021 budget. You're at 11.5%, so you are over that 4%. You were over the 4% last year, last year that was 8.7%. There was a large increase in that, which primarily is the result of the reserve on the revenue side, where you had more revenue on the Native American tuition, which was really unplanned for because of how that works county-wise. The fund balance on the debt service, that was a usage of \$342k transference of money over to pay for debt service on the general fund. The capital project was a deficit fund balance last year of \$1 million because of a transfer of \$2.6 million that I mentioned earlier, plus some transfers of Native American building aid that came in during the year. That was transferred over to the capital project fund as well. That was used, like I said, for the 2019 capital improvement, plus some buses for \$400k. Finally, the fund balance in the school lunch fund is \$266k. That is a sizeable increase over the prior year. That really comes back to the CARES Act funding of all those meals that were free to kids from the middle of March to the end of June. Your cost of sales and salaries, which also went up also 20-30% each, but that was more than enough to cover the increase of the reimbursements for that. Obviously, going forward that program has continued on through July and now those meals are still 100% free to all kids. We would expect that revenue to keep coming in for the current year. Page 3 is the general fund revenue. We'll dig into some of those a little bit. You can see from the charts, most of those categories are very consistent. Your property taxes have almost not changed at all. Only \$90k per year. The big increase in state aid as I mentioned earlier, has the Native American building aid of \$1.2 million. Once that came in, that got transferred right over to the capital project's funds. There was not really a spending in the general fund. Sales tax, very consistent. There was a decline. That was because of the pandemic going on. There was a decrease in the sales tax. The other category is what I mentioned earlier that kind of caused your unassigned fund balance to jump up. Your

Native American tuition aid that comes from the state usually is one year behind because it's on a modified accrual basis. You have to defer it because you don't really receive it in the current period. You receive it months down the line. You have to defer what you'll recognize in revenue. What happened this year, the state actually paid back timely, so you received most of it during the year, and the remainder of it came in July. There was no need to defer it, you recognized it in the current year. Basically recorded two years of that revenue in one year. It boosted up this year and next year you'll have to assume it will drop back down to more normal levels. That in all was about \$700k, so that is where that increase came from. Increase was offset by some decreases in interests and some refunds with BOCES and stuff like that. That was the main increase for your unassigned fund balance jumping up the way it did. Slide forward is your general fund expenditures. Again, your salaries are your biggest expense, about 45% of your general fund expenditures. You added in employee benefits to that, about 66%. Your salaries in full only increased 1% in general fund. You had some 2.5% raises, some basic changes in FTE, some retirees. On the employee benefit side, the retirement system decreased because of the TRS system on a cash basis, they lowered their required contribution from 10.26% to 8.26%. Your required contributions to that TRS pension were lower than it was in the past. Your health insurance increased 5%, which is a fairly decent increase from what we've seen in other districts. Anywhere from 5-12% is normal, so you're on the lower end of that increase, which is a good thing. Payroll tax is another function of your salaries, also the increase of Workers' Compensation expenses, unemployment insurance, which did increase about \$30k in total. That makes up the difference of your increases in payroll and taxes. Debt service fund is this principal interest on your bonds. BOCES and Other is very consistent with the last 3 years. Nothing going on or changed there. Other primarily consists of outside services, outside contracts, transportation expenses, legal expenses and stuff like that. In total your general fund expenditures only increased \$300k, 1% from last year, so very cost control. Just from a perspective of 18-19 change, they've increased about 3%. Did very well on controlling costs.

John - Thank you Seth. On page 5 this is where it gets a little bit confusing and over the years you've heard me say that you have two sets of books. You have the general fund and basically a modified cash composition when it comes to the fund statements. Because of our governmental accounting standards, we take that and make it look like a corporation. Looking like a corporation, when you bought about \$400k of buses this year, you expended them. It was an expense. In the government-wide statement, the \$400k ends up on your balance sheet as an asset. That is depreciated over the useful life of those buses. Overall, we're looking at a full accrual model here where we have current assets of about \$22 million and the majority of that is \$18.6 million is cash at that point and time. Seth did say because of some of those aids that came through, you guys were flush with money. You guys had a lot of cash coming in at the end of the year. On a non-accrual basis, that net income was about \$1.2 million in net model, that's mostly cash. Receivables are about \$3.5 million compared to about \$3.9 million last year. Capital assets have depreciated. Capital assets is \$49.4 million compared to \$48.4 million last year. As Seth said, the construction project going on, buying some vehicles. That was over \$3 million. The depreciation this year was about \$2 million. That delta is \$1,033,000. You go down to long term liabilities. You have principal payments of your bond and then an accrual of bond premiums. That's the difference between this year and last year. The principal payment cash wise was over \$3 million. Other liabilities include accounts payable. Due to ERS and TRS, outstanding obligations. The most significant change from this year to last year is really accounts payable for construction projects that increased from last year of \$1,153,000. If you look at what we call net position, or in corporate America we would call retained earnings at equity, it's \$48.7 million compared to \$45 million. The big picture here, the anomaly here is taking in all of those liabilities. Pension liabilities for both the teacher retirement system and the employee retirement system. Other post-employment benefits, which are all actuarial connotations, actuarial calculations. That in an essence, the assets related to those items are about \$8.5 million. The liabilities related to those items were about \$9.8 million. Therefore, that's why you see the negative \$1,223,000 on the line designated as pension, owed, and deferred resources. That is just the way the math works. Seth and I did one of these presentations a few days ago. Something that Seth resonated to me that I did not pick up on, the ERS has a measurement date of March 31st. Think of March 31, 2020. Think of March 13 or 14, 2020. Where did the stock market go? I think there was a depreciation of about \$17 billion you said? That all came back to your balance sheets proportionally across the entire state. All the school districts, all the community

colleges, all the towns, all the villages, all the cities, get a portion of that share. \$17 billion is a lot. That's why you're seeing a negative trend. Who knows what is going to happen this year. Overall, having a balance sheet like this, you're still in very, very good position. On page 6 I'm just going to go through quickly. Communication with those in charge of governance. That is a mandate audit format that we have to do as auditors. We have to explain to you as clients if we had any accounting principal changes, technical issues, we would have the obligation to tell you. Accounting estimates, as I said, we're looking at estimates for the teacher's retirement system, the employee's retirement system, the other post-employment benefits. We're looking at depreciation, expense, and items like that. Is that consistent? Overall, no issues there. Footnote disclosures, we're talking about again having that 11.5% as opposed to having the 4% number that the state would like to see in terms of unrestricted general fund balance. Note seven is long term liabilities. Note 8 is pension plans. Note 9 is other post-employment benefits. Note 12 we just talked a little bit about COVID-19 and the uncertainty of where we're all going with the pandemic. If we had any difficulties encountered in the audit, we would let you know. We had one adjustment and this was a very, very late adjustment. As a management group with Cindy and Seth and I, we decided not to accrue a 20% holdback. The state on August 25 or 26, 2020, we were already done with most of this, they said that they were going to hold from aid 20%. Some of the districts force it through. We agreed that it was not material, we did not need to put it on the balance sheet. It really is what's going to happen with the 20% this year? We've got a lot of months to go through before we know what the outcome is going to be. I think we have to understand that the state has no money so they're going to pick and choose what they want and when they want to do it. It's not gonna come from, I get into politics, I should not be. I just feel that the state took a big hit and it's gonna look to see how they come back. Again, no difficulties, no disagreement with management. The management representation letter we just got. We got our legal letters, so we're ready to go if you are ready to have us sign off and produce the financial statements. We're ready to go. From a management letter concept, there were no material weaknesses. We've already talked about the fund balance, extra-classroom activity clubs. We were always looking at this. I think you need a fresh start because when everyone left in mid-March, some of those items that still needed to be taken care of were not. We would be happy to help you with that. We've done refreshers for numerous school districts with extra-classroom activity. That would be the central treasurers, faculty advisors, and then your student treasurers. Something to think about. The accounting standards, we're always changing in accounting standards. We had one accounting standard that I really, really liked. It was GASB 95. GASB 95 said you know all those standards that you were supposed to implement this year? We're giving you a one year reprieve. We've been talking about fiduciary activities for probably 4 or 5 years. It was supposed to be done this year. It's now going to happen in 2021. We talked about lease accounting for at least 4 or 5 years, it moves to 2022. In 2023 there's this concept of subscription-based information technology arrangements. Just imagine this, you sign a contract with Microsoft using the Cloud using Azure. It's a four year commitment. It's now looking like it's a lease and the lease is going to go on your balance sheet. That's really all it is. It makes the accounting four entities more confusing than it needs to be and I think you heard me say that numerous times. Any questions or concerns or comments?

Jim - I did have some comments, but thank you for the presentation and your work on the audit. I just want to comment on the unrestricted fund balance, which we've talked about before. I understand your position John, and I'm hopefully not putting words in your mouth, that we're being fiscally responsible as a board to build that reserve. General comment, I think Seth mentioned that our property tax levy only went up \$90k in a year. We're not building this reserve out of tax from the taxpayer. This board is very understanding and aware of not overcharging our taxpayers and our community and have consistently had a property tax levy increase of that or below 1%. You also mentioned the state holdback. Having these reserves allowed us to balance the needs of the community and we had a timing difference on aid from the state. The increase of the reserve wouldn't have been that significant had the state not actually paid us. I know we've been dinged by the state auditors in the past with that reserve, but we're going to continue to be fiscally responsible. Our long range financial plan shows that we're gonna need that reserve.

John - Again, I hate to be a cliché. Time is of uncertainty and we don't know where we're headed.

Jody - That reserve got the district out of some hard times. I sat here in 2009 and 2010, we were able to bring back teachers and fund things. I'm ok if we're over.

Jim - Thank you, gentlemen. Item #3 Hearing of Individuals and Delegations. Item #4 is Superintendent's Report.

Pat - Certainly, I'd like to start by thanking Cindy Tretter and Sue Brewer from our Business Office. Clearly, Mrs. Tretter's leadership in our long-range financial planning and Sue and Cindy working together on those accounting practices are evident through the report we just received. I just want to acknowledge the tremendous amount of work they do and the relationship they have with our auditors and getting them the information, the files, the data, so when the auditors come in, they can get their work done. I mentioned briefly last week that I would comment this evening to the board on how the reopening of schools has gone. I want to start those comments by thanking and congratulating our teachers. They have been working exceedingly hard to make our reopening plan come to life. I would candidly say it's not easy. The teachers have put in tremendous hours, continue to put in tremendous hours in preparation and planning and implementation of learning for our kids. Again, I mentioned this last week, but as you can see around you, school looks different. We are planning upcoming safety drills for later this week. Those will look and feel different. We're in a learning process. Again, I think it's going as well as anyone would hope. It's a large part because of our administrators and teachers. I had an opportunity this afternoon to meet with our administrative leaders and a group of selected teacher leaders where we had a little over two hour exchange of identification of challenges and work toward the creation of manageable solutions. I appreciate the teachers bringing those concerns to our attention so we can engage in a collaborative dialogue on how to address it. Some were as simple as parents are confused on how to get into the new entrance to much more complex things about the challenges associated with technology, remote-learning. In particular, there is a great deal of concern about our children who are in the fully remote model as well as the kids who are in the hybrid model. We recognize the best opportunity for kids to learn is when they're here with us, at the same time we fully respect parents' decisions to keep their kids home. I shared this data with you recently, I'd like to just keep updating it. There are currently 1274 kids that attend our brick and mortar building. More children are in outstanding programming. 276 children are participating in a remote-only learning modality. In addition, we have 116 kids that are homeschooled by their parents. They are not engaging in our curriculum. Their parents are delivering curriculum to them. 990 kids are here in the hybrid model. We have 55 students who are fully remote that don't have access to reliable internet. That is a significant barrier for us and for the families to overcome. It is to no fault of any individuals, not the families', not necessarily the District's. The infrastructure is not there. You've heard me say this a number of times. To date to address that, we've purchased 34 Wi-Fi hotspots. 24 of those have been distributed to families and because there are multiple children within a household, it's more than 24 kids being served. We have 10 that we're currently configuring and are seeking to distribute. We just need to test those devices to make sure when they land in the household, they actually can still connect to a signal. Our children who are here on campus, approximately 150 of them in the hybrid model, don't have access to reliable internet either at home. Their only internet connection right now is when they're in school. We did prioritize those fully remote kids for support and people are asking can I get a Wi-Fi hotspot? We want to meet that need, but we also want to verify that we're purchasing technology that is actually useful. They're expensive, it's contract, and to buy a \$400 device and have it not work is not a wise use of taxpayer dollars. Today, however, was our first remote Wednesday. We contacted families that don't have reliable internet access. We asked would you like us to pick up your children, bring them here, and at least they can use internet in school. I want to credit Caroline Kos for working amongst the three buildings, particularly working with Anto Abrams and Mark Alexander, our transportation director for identifying those kids, get them picked up and bring them into school. We had two sessions. The first was 8-10am. The second was 10am-12pm. My understanding was that it went exceedingly well. Parents were extremely grateful. It may have the ripple effect now that they came here, they were greeted by a breakfast when they came in in the morning, and they were sent home with a lunch. The afternoon kids were given a lunch. Maybe just seeing it coming in may ease some of that anxiety. It may make some of those families reconsider and choose an in-person model. With that, there's always a twist. We will have to carefully measure we'd have enough classroom space, do we have enough space on the bus? There is this delicate balance all the time, but I

just wanted to share with the board that it's constantly at the forefront of our attention. It is a major concern of mine, the administrators, and the teachers today. We're obligated to help these kids learn and this is a unique challenge to our district and other districts. I know I mentioned this, not to be redundant, but beyond the technology piece, we have what I call school-dependent kids. They rely on us for meals, for nurturing, for love, for attention, for social interaction. I had a conversation at the end of the day today at 3:30pm that lasted about an hour with Mr. Dimitroff and I. Met with a family who are the parents of a high-performing student, had a sibling who graduated as a high-performing student, and they shared with the hybrid model their child feels disconnected. We talked about social-emotional connection for that child. Our counseling and social workers will reach out, but it's another area that we're not overlooking. Sometimes we need caring parents to bring it to our attention. I also talked to our school psychologist in the high school about what are we doing for outreach to kids? How can we do more? How can we monitor some of these other needs that they have? We're in week 3, give us some time to work on it, but I'm sure many of you who have children here in school are seeing it and hearing about it as well. It's kind of a unique and challenging ramification of living in a pandemic. Again, the good news is our first remote Wednesday had 35 kids and went exceedingly well. I expect that participation number to grow in time. Want to segway quickly and not dwell on it too much, but some recent updates from the Erie County Department of Health. Without exaggeration, the guidance has changed four times in a week. It changed again on Monday, I mentioned it changed last Friday, the previous Wednesday. These are minor revisions, but they are important. The most notable, and I have been reluctant to share, have been providing the information to teachers, administrators, and our nurses, I've been reluctant to send out full communications to the entire community because it's ever changing and I don't want to confuse and mislead people based on my experience of it being ever changing. Trust me, internally, we've got a good handle on it. We created our reopening plan based on the premise all through August even into September, right to the start of school, that contact tracers would be looking in the case where we had a positive student or staff, people that were in close contact for more than 10 minutes within 6 feet without a mask, that is a close contact case and would be subject to a potential quarantine. In an effort to broaden the scope, they changed the guidance to say the original guidance we reopened with any student or staff member exposed to a COVID-19 case in a classroom setting for 60 minutes or more will be instructed to quarantine in their own home and use their own bathroom for 14 days. It went from, if I can use a practical example, Mrs. Rebmann and I are within 6 feet of one another without a mask for more than 10 minutes and I'm positive, she may need to quarantine. They now say if you're in the same classroom for 60 minutes with or without a mask, the classroom quarantines, including the teacher. This has a tremendous impact that could potentially close entire classrooms down for two weeks at a time.

Jim - I'm already aware of two separate incidences where that's happened.

Jody - There's a parent in Amherst who's suing the Erie County Health Department.

Jim - That's one. Another one where a teacher in a district tested positive and the entire classroom is quarantined for two weeks, even though they all wore masks and there were barriers.

Pat - As recently as 9/16, I kind of lost track of days, was that Thursday? Last Wednesday. The guidance changed from Wednesday to Friday then Friday to Tuesday. It was if your child or member of your family had to quarantine, that your whole family quarantined. Let's use that as an example. A whole class quarantines, so every child from that grade four classrooms quarantines for two weeks, then their entire family is supposed to quarantine. The County of Health decided that the broadened security measure was too much and they retracted it. I would like to think somehow because of their reaction the superintendents had at our conference. You will shut down schools and people won't be able to go to work. There was another meeting today, the health department, they intend to issue some new guidance again. We're in a unique situation in that our physical building is in Erie County. We get a lot of our information, the guidance is not necessarily the same in Niagara and Genesee. Case by case.

Heather - Can you tell me, will the quarantined class still be getting instruction at home?

Pat - Yes. Again, we would need to work on that. We need to prepare ourselves for that. I will tell you that some good news is there is now a dedicated liaison, Dr. Nicholas, that we have a hotline number to. She's very responsive. We call with questions. The nurse is calling her regularly, and she gets back to us right away. Briefly, this afternoon, I did see some press information for the County, just to superintendents, that the dedicated COVID-19 testing sites for schools are opening up very soon. These will be sites only for students and teachers, whether they're colleges, universities, public or private or parochial to be open so that you can get tested right away. We will be sharing that with communities as soon as we have it. There's some other things relative to health and safety. You're all familiar, you came in and you had your thermal-scan. One area we need to quite frankly improve on is doing the other aspects of the daily health screening. Our teachers when they swipe in, they're attesting that they haven't travelled through a restricted state or area, they haven't been exposed to COVID-19, and they're not symptomatic. Those are the three other tests besides the temperature. With our parents we just said it's passive consent. If you're putting your child on the bus or bringing them to school, you're stipulating these things as well. We need to start collecting that data. We are working on an app where parents will be able to click and attest to that. That will be very helpful for us in terms of uploading that information to the NYS dashboard that we're required to do daily, but also for contact tracing. The reason we haven't got the app up and running is that so many schools are requesting it. It's coming through FrontLine, which is one of our software providers that does our teacher attendance and sick requests and a variety of other things. There's just a delay. We're in a queue to get it up and running, but it will sync directly with our healthcare. Go right to the health office. That will be of benefit. A letter will be going out with an explanation of how to use it. Other districts that have started it have said it's confusing for parents to figure out how to download it. You have to create it on a device first, then sync it to your phone. We're going to create some videos for parents to help them. Last thing for me is to make you aware, if you haven't seen Erie County Executive Poloncarz's press release about the \$25 million being allocated through schools with cooperation of schools to childcare entities, so parents can have access to affordable or free childcare. Akron will be participating in that. We are liaison and working through Erie 1 BOCES who is doing the direct communication to our childcare agencies and entering in an agreement with the county. Our responsibility is just to inform parents as to where agencies are and to give all of that information to Erie 1 BOCES, so they know approximately how many families are interested and they'll support our childcare agencies and filling out the applications. I've been working with our childcare agencies here in Akron since August. They're aware this is all coming. That is it, unless there are any questions.

Jim - Any questions for Mr. McCabe?

Phil - If we send a child home, they come down to the nurse, they've got a stomach ache, one of the thousand symptoms of COVID-19, in order for them to come back they need to get a note or they have to be tested or they have to quarantine.

Pat - Correct.

Phil - If a child is kept home by the parents, what kind of criteria is there to readmit that child to school? They have to meet the same criteria?

Pat - Yeah. It's a 14 day quarantine without symptoms, without a fever or anything. You're right, Mr. Kenline, it is the parent reporting that my child is asymptomatic and ready to return. We know internally, the first we're going to do is communicate. This has happened. We had a situation prior to the free testing sites that we were able to find for a family. Mom said I can't afford \$176 test right now for my child, can't get them into the doctor, I'm just going to keep them home for a period of time. Our school nurses are fantastic. Daily communication with the family. How's the child doing? Any symptoms? How are they feeling? At the same time helping mom find a clinic that won't charge. These new clinics dedicated for just schools are free of charge. We encourage parents to get their children tested, but we cannot mandate that they get a test to return.

Phil - We have had some of the same kind of situations.

Jim - Item #5 is Minutes of our previous meetings. August 12, 2020 Regular Business Meeting, our Workshop Meeting on September 2, 2020, and our Special Business Meeting on September 16, 2020. Our recommendation is that the Akron Central School Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve the minutes, consent items #5A-5C.

Heather - Moved.

Phil - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on those minutes?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #6 is Personnel Instructional. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve the following instructional items, consent items #6A-6D.

Bob - Moved.

Debbie - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on those items?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Thank you. Item #7, Personnel Non-Instructional. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve the following non-instructional items, consent items #7A-7G.

Heather - Moved.

Debbie - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on the non-instructional items?

Erik - The only question I had was in regards to, we have resignation from Ms. Jensen and resignation from Ms. O'Malley. How's that work?

Pat - Previously, Mrs. O'Malley had been the sole interact club advisor. She is stepping down and reapplying to be the co-advisor.

Erik - Ok. In the case of Ms. Jensen and bus driving?

Jim - My understanding is she stepped down as a driver and is being reappointed as a sub.

Erik - Ok.

Roxanne - Motion carried.



Jim - Thank you. Before we return to the district items, there is a new item on there that was brought to the board's attention yesterday. We've inserted an opportunity to go into executive session if the board feels we should discuss this item. Do I have a motion to go into executive session?

Bob - Moved.

Phil - Second.

Jim - Questions or comments on that item? If we could vote on going into executive session.

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Motion carried. I declare us in executive session at 7:50pm. Because of the logistics of the Zoom meeting the microphones, the board is going to go into the board room for executive session. Mr. McCabe, Mrs. Rebmann, and Tristan will stay here. When we're done, we'll come back. End of executive session at 8:09pm. Item #9, District Items. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve the following District Items, consent items #9A-9F.

Heather - Moved.

Debbie - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on this item?

Jody - I have a question. Do we pay for fingerprinting for maintenance guys that come on? Teachers, coaches? Do we do that for any of those other groups?

Pat - No, we do not. There is a distinction between the groups that you just mentioned and that they are paid directly through taxpayer dollars, whereas the food service is a self-sustaining fund. It's separate in that way. That's my understanding. She can use assets from her revenue stream to offset the cost as opposed to direct dollars that we collect out of the general fund. We don't pay for fingerprinting or certification for teachers or things of that nature. That is the distinction between the two and really why I was willing to entertain the request and put it before the board for your consideration.

Jody - It seems like we're going to get more revenues in that category from what the auditor said and going forward. I just wanted to know if we did that for any of the other groups.

Pat - No, it is my understanding that that topic has been brought to the board before previously, in years past. Those prior occasions they have never moved forward.

Jim - We're not precluded from doing that for those other groups.

Pat - You are not precluded from doing that for the other groups. The ramifications are such that it's a requirement for employment, among others beyond fingerprinting. It could potentially put the board in a position where cost is on our end.

Jim - Understood. Mrs. Brege, would you like to take any further action?

Jody - Just a question I've never seen us get asked. There are other groups here that are paying for their fingerprinting out of pocket. I just wanted to make sure I understood why we were doing this.

Jim - Any additional questions or comments on this item? If you could vote please?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Item #10 is District Item Tax Law 487. It's a resolution to rescind our opt-out under the real property law section. WHEREAS, Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL") Section 487 provides that certain solar or wind energy systems or farm waste energy systems are exempt from real property taxation for a period of fifteen years; and WHEREAS, RPTL Section 487 permits a school district to adopt a resolution providing that the exemption under RPTL Section 487 shall not apply within its jurisdiction to such solar, wind or farm waste energy system projects which Commence Construction, as such term is defined therein, subsequent to the effective date of such resolution; and WHEREAS, on September 23, 2020, the Board of Education adopted a resolution opting out of the tax exemption under RPTL Section 487; and WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to adopt a resolution rescinding its opt out under RPTL Section 487. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that: 1. It is resolved that the Akron Central School District's opt out of the tax exemption made available by Real Property Tax Law Section 487 for solar, wind or farm waste energy systems is hereby rescinded and such exemption shall be applicable within the boundaries of the Akron Central School District. 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Bob - Moved.

Heather - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments?

Erik - The question that I have is we're rescinding the previous opt-out.

Jim - We're rescinding the previous opt-out. We opted out, which would have allowed us to charge the full tax available under the property tax law.

Erik - Now we're rescinding that. Now it will be tax free, right?

Jim - Subject to a pilot.

Erik - What happens after the pilot is put into place. Do you re opt-out or is it under some sort of agreement? What happens with the next solar company that comes in?

Pat - My understanding is the board could opt-out again. We were informed by our legal counsel that is not appropriate practice to rescind your opt-out, then opt-out again within a relatively short period of time, but the board could choose to opt-out in the future in this particular pilot if we come into agreement. Essentially, grandfathered in.

Erik - Ok. Just knowing that there's another project coming forward, in discussion with the pilot. Those conversations are already ongoing, but with the possibility that this is number 2 of what we've done. Then we'll have a third. Just trying to figure out the ramifications are if we essentially opted out again if another project were to come forward. The rule of practice is that a pilot is established, but here's no law or ordinance that is governing that a pilot has to be there. It's essentially leaving the school district open to whether or not that agreement happens.

Phil - It says that certain solar wind or energy systems. The way I would read that and I may be wrong, but in the event that a new one comes down the road we would have the option to opt-out. It's not that we're giving blanket approval for now or in the future, right?

Jim - Correct. Even if we stayed in where we're accepting a pilot for these two projects here in front of us, we wouldn't necessarily have to approve anything for us in a negotiation. Both of these prospective projects where we were presented with pilots, we based on discussion and research have determined that they're reasonable pilots compared to what else is out there. We would have the option to reject an unreasonable offer for a future project.

Erik - I understand. My concern is that if you're opting out, there's no reason a solar company coming in would have to enter into an agreement with a pilot. You've essentially opted back out, meaning not we're not applicable and nothing necessarily pushing that organization to enter into a pilot agreement.

Jim - From a practical matter though and based on your experience, there usually is a pilot from what you've seen.

Bob - We have a certain timeline from when they introduce the project to opt out, so it's in their best interest to come to us with a pilot.

Pat - We will get the notification. Also, not just the notification the date which they entered into agreement with the utility. I think it's approved by the town. There's a couple of things they have to have solidified in order for the 60 day window start.

Bob - We always have the option.

Jim - Right, we have the option. I think what we need to do as an entity is reach out to our local governments and try to coordinate better response and communication because solar projects are only to continue to increase in our community and communities.

Pat - They certainly have been the first to know, if you will. The one smaller pilot that we discussed last week is Buffalo Solar, I believe. They contacted us and they were very forthcoming. Did a presentation to Mrs. Tretter and I, explaining the project and they contacted me again this week for any updates. That particular smaller project, I think their communication has been very good. To your point, yes, coordination with the town to give one another essentially a heads up would be a ton of help.

Jim - Any other questions on this item? Do you need us to take a verbal vote on this item?

Roxanne - Yes, please.

Jim - All in favor?

All - Aye.

Jim - Opposed? Motion carries. Item #11 Special Education. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Patrick D. McCabe, Superintendent of Schools, does hereby approve Special Education items, consent items #9A & 9B.

Phil - Moved.

Heather - Second.

Jim - Questions or comments on Special Education items?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Item #12 are the Financial Reports. Our recommended action is that the Akron Central School Board of Education, approve the financial reports from July and August 2020 as submitted by District Treasurer, Susan Brewer.

Jody - Moved.

Erik - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on the financial reports?

Roxanne - Motion carried.

Jim - Item #13 School Board Correspondence. Thursday, September 24, 2020 is the ECASB Legislative Team Meeting 6:30-8:30pm. Thursday, October 1, 2020 is the ECASB Annual Awards, drive-thru awards dinner at Erie 1 BOCES. If you haven't received the information, see Mrs. Rebmann. I know Dave Lowery sent that information out to everyone. Thursday, October 8, 2020 is the ECASB Budget and Finance Team Meeting from 6:30-8:30pm again at Erie 1 BOCES. Upcoming dates. Wednesday, October 7, 2020 is our Workshop Business Meeting at 7pm here. Item #15 Hearing of Individuals and Delegations of Non agenda Items. Do not have anything. Board Discussion? I do have a couple of items if no one else has anything? This week Friday, I've been invited to participate in a round table that's being hosted by NYSSBA with Commissioner Rosa. Specifically about internet connectivity and rural broadband. As I queried at our last meeting at the Delegate Assembly was a big topic of discussion. We've provided information to Linda Hoffman. Mr. McCabe sent that information to her, which they had a meeting with Commissioner Rosa a week ago. They've now opened it up and I'll be participating and speaking to the needs of our district. Reiterating the statistics Mr. McCabe has already shared with us and the issues we have in our community with broadband and internet connectivity, as some of you live with that in the district. It is a major issue. We've talked before when we were looking at the hybrid model, someone brought up the question of Monday holidays and its impact on the A Cohort. Had a conversation with someone I work with in a different district, and they have a suggestion if you haven't thought about it already. Their school actually has a superintendent's day already next Monday, not sure why. What they've done is they've moved their Monday cohort to a Wednesday in-school, so that cohort doesn't lose an in-class day, you lose your remote Wednesday. That may be a way to help balance the schedule for those A Cohort students.

Pat - Thank you. I believe there are 3 Mondays impacted on our school calendar with that? There's 3.

Jim - The other thing I would like the board to consider, and you don't need to act today, is reopening the meeting to the public. Obviously, we'd have to work within the guidelines available to the school and Mr. McCabe would have to think about how we'd handle that given our safety plan and our requirements and the fact that we continue to leave the building closed to outside groups. Don't expect an answer, but it's something we need to think about. I understand that we are streaming to the public, but there may be a need for the public to participate to a greater extent than they are now. Internet connectivity being an issue. Does anyone else have anything? Item #16 Executive Session. We do have a need to go into a second executive session tonight to discuss the employment history of particular persons. If I may have a motion.

Phil - Moved.

Debbie - Second.

Jim - Any questions or comments on that item?

Roxanne - Motion approved.

Jim - Motion approved. We are in executive session at 8:21pm. We do not expect to conduct any regular business coming out of executive session. Thank you.