

**Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, January 18, 2023  
High School Library  
7:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** Holly Barker-Flynn  
Matthew Dreher  
Jason Fernau  
Dr. Julia Routbort Baskin - Absent  
Lawrence Ryan  
Timothy Turbiak  
Katie Whittemore

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Gianleo Duca, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Brian Sirianni, Clerk of the Board

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jason Fernau called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**RECOGNITION**

Dr. Duca recognized BSNB for their support, and as valuable partners. BSNB was also recognized for the recent donation of \$6,000 to support High School Robotics team.

Chris Dowd of BSNB stated that bank was thrilled to provide support to the Robotics Program; and he commended the engagement and participation of the students. Mr. Dowd also congratulated the students and recognized the board members for their dedication to making the school stronger.

The High School Robotics team thanked BSNB for being a supporting sponsor, shared their alumni pamphlet, and noted the availability of the program and the growth associated due to BSNB's ongoing support.

Dr. Duca recognized TCT Federal Credit Union's longstanding partnership and the recently donated \$2,500 to support the Sponsor-A-Scholar, Community Literacy Efforts and the Scotties Backpack programs. He stated the Credit Union continually looks for ways to support the District, including their "Teacher of the Week" recognition.

Jeannie Dickinson of TCT reminded everyone the Credit Union had been formed by educators over 60 years ago. She added that the Credit Union is happy to support opportunities to make things better for the community.

Dr. Duca recognized fall athletes. He stated 99 students had qualified for the Scholar Athlete Award. He shared statistical information regarding the athletes; then presented student athletes with recognition certificates and congratulated all of them. Suburban Council All Star First team's members were also recognized.

Mr. Fernau recognized Coaches Harvey and Gene Staulters Section 2 Division 1 Dual meet Wrestling win. He shared statistical information regarding last night's win and historical information regarding the coaches.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jim Shear, Glenville, discussed the role of board members and the board's decision regarding surveying the community regarding the potential mask vaccine mandates. He asked the Board to be proactive instead of reactive regarding the vaccine mandate. He also discussed the published results of the survey on the superintendent search.

Louie Nowak, Ballston Spa, voiced concerns regarding vehicles illegally passing her son's bus. She voiced concerns regarding cameras on the bus not being used to keep her son safe.

Jason Gurtler, Ballston Spa, reiterated bus safety concerns and commented on transportation staffing needs. Mr. Gurtler shared information that 22 school districts have written letters to multiple agencies expressing opposition to potential vaccine mandates. He asked the board to reconsider a survey regarding the mandate.

Erin Terrizzi, Malta, voiced concerns regarding parents speaking at board meetings being painted in a negative light in an email that went out to all community members in the past. She added that parents are advocates for their children and that they would continue to fight. Ms. Terrizzi encouraged student government to observe how governing body meetings work or don't work. She voiced concern regarding cookie cutter responses that left unanswered questions asked by concerned parents. She also stated the board had sent her on a goose chase to address other administrative staff that did were unresponsive. Ms. Terrizzi voiced concerns regarding adult bullying and strong opinions held by those in certain positions. She advised the board that she would be filing a lawsuit if mandates were instituted. She urged the board to put out a survey.

### **STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT**

Student Government shared information on the Speak Out that would be held tomorrow regarding feedback about daily life in the High School. Representatives also announced that there would be a student leadership conference regarding clubs working together and team building activities in late March or early April.

Mr. Fernau thanked Student Government.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Lawrence Ryan that the Board of Education approve the amended December 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ayes all

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve the amended December 21, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ayes all

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve the January 4, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ayes all

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### MTSS & Special Education Program Update

Sharon D'Agostino, Kathleen Skellie, Kris Jensen, Daina Sisk and Alicia Backus gave an overview of the MTSS & Special Education Program. The multi-tiered system of support was discussed highlighting the cohesiveness of the academic and behavioral systems.

The collaborative review process was discussed. A snapshot of grade level, academic areas regarding MTSS tiers and specifically designed instruction in the District was shared. Academic and behavioral aspects were discussed.

Behavioral aspect shared goals and current proactive actions were discussed. Current and upcoming opportunities were shared. Partnerships and supports available to students and families were highlighted.

Special education objectives, services and available opportunities were discussed. The changes in the continuum for elementary and secondary levels that had been put in place to create a more robust program were shared. The continuum of services and changes for elementary level and secondary level students were discussed. The trend regarding % of enrollment with IEP for both elementary and secondary levels was illustrated by graph. The results of addressing the continuum were highlighted.

Sharon D'Agostino explained the fluidity of the homeless population and the challenges accompanying special circumstances.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Ms. Whittemore reported on the Policy Committee's meeting; and stated the website had been updated. She then shared wellness policy discussions, including that the Wellness Committee was being consulted to provide information regarding policy changes made during COVID regarding celebrations in the classroom.

Ms. Whittemore stated the Committee had also discussed the Code of Conduct and were able to incorporate the Crown Act language as required by law. Ms. Whittemore explained the how the document changes would be presented to board members and next steps.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr. Duca reported there had been 4 emails and 1 phone call regarding student matters.

Mr. Fernau stated there had been 5 emails with the board regarding student matters, a request for a power point from the last meeting, correspondence regarding vaccines and an email regarding cars passing school buses illegally.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Stuart Williams announced a parent information night “No One Walks Alone” will be held on 1/25/2023 in the High School library. He stated there would be an open discussion regarding depression, mental illness and suicide. Child care and light refreshments will be available.

Mr. Williams announced the District would be providing free breakfasts and/or lunches for students to encourage them to sample available meals on specific days and he shared the dates for each.

He announced that the High School will be hosting the Capital Region Science Olympiad Tournament on 2/4/23; with currently 20 teams from 15 schools slated to participate.

He noted the next meeting will be held on 2/8/23, and reminded everyone of the upcoming Regents testing days at the HS January 24-27, adding that there will be no classes in session on the testing days.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Resolution #390 - Acceptance of Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the Box Tops donation for the Ballston Spa Middle School, in the amount of \$63.10, be and is hereby accepted.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Lawrence Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #390 – Acceptance of Donation

### Discussion

Mr. Fernau thanked all for their donations.

Ayes all

### Resolution #391 - Acceptance of Donation

**Ballston Spa Board of Education**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the Hannaford Helps donation for the Milton Terrace Elementary School, in the amount of \$1,642, be and is hereby accepted.

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #391 – Acceptance of Donation

Ayes all

Mr. Fernau thanked Hannaford Helps for their donations.

Resolution #392 - Agreement – Professional Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, hereby approves the agreement between Ballston Spa National Bank and the District to provide banking services, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #392 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

Resolution #393 - Agreement – Professional Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, hereby approves the agreement between Benetech, Inc. and the District to provide Retiree Billing Services, for the 2022-2023 school year, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #393 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

Resolution #394 - Agreement – Professional Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, hereby approves the agreement between Benetech, Inc. and the District to provide Worker's Compensation Third Party Administration Services, for the 2022-2023 school year, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #394 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

**Ballston Spa Board of Education**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

**Resolution #395 - Agreement – Professional Services**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, hereby approves the agreement between Chelsea Place Psychological and the District to provide comprehensive psychological re-evaluation/assessment services, for the 2022-2023 school year, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #395 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

**Resolution #396 - Agreement – Professional Services**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, hereby approves the agreement between Children’s Neuropsychological Services, PLLC and the District to provide comprehensive record review and evaluation services, for the 2022-2023 school year, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #396 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

**Resolution #397 - Agreement – Professional Services**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the agreement between Expressive Journeys, LLC and the District, to provide music therapy services for certain students with disabilities, for the 2022-2023 school year, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #397 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

**Resolution #398 - Placement of Students with Disabilities**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the said Board arrange placement of the following students as recommended by the District Committee on Special Education, effective January 18, 2023, be and are hereby approved:

Student #23010	Student #274278	Student #23930
Student #273883	Student #25268	Student #279530
Student #24969	Student #273735	Student #278991
Student #279687	Student #276087	Student #279548
Student #278172	Student #277880	Student #275767
Student #277820	Student #278516	Student #274576
Student #277507	Student #276551	Student #272149
Student #279690	Student #277493	Student #276688

**Ballston Spa Board of Education**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

Student #278371

Student #273883

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Mr. Ryan that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #398 -

Ayes all

Resolution #399 - Placement of Preschool Students with Disabilities

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the said Board arrange placement of the following students as recommended by the District Committee on Preschool Special Education, effective January 18, 2023, be and are hereby approved:

Student #278507

Student #279686

Student #279689

Student #279123

Student #278150

MOTION BY Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #399 – Placement of Preschool Students with Disabilities

Ayes all

**Resolutions #400 - #410 are recognized as a consent agenda for the purpose of Board of Education action.**

Resolution #400 - Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the resignation for the purpose of retirement of the employee(s) listed below, with effective date(s) shown, be and is (are) hereby approved.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Joseph McClements	Teacher	7/01/23
Odilia Shaw	Bus Attendant	6/24/23
Candace Staulters	Assistant Coordinator for Purchasing	7/08/23

Resolution #401 - Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District hereby accepts the resignation of the employee(s) listed below, with effective date(s) shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Andrea Anadio	Bus Attendant	1/20/23
Angela Ebert	School Aide	1/03/23
David Murello	Lunch Supervisor	1/20/23

**Ballston Spa Board of Education****Wednesday, January 18, 2023****Resolution #402 - Amendment – Appointment – Instructional – Long Term Substitute**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) previously approved appointment on November 16, 2022 in Resolution

#323 be amended and appointed to instructional position(s) as indicated below, with salary and effective dates shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name / Position</u>	<u>Certification Status</u>	<u>Salary / Step</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Jackquelyn MacGregor/Teacher	NYS Emergency COVID, Early Childhood Ed B-2, Childhood Ed 1-6	\$46,380/yr. Step 1+0 (pro-rated)	11/29/22-2/3/23

**Resolution #403 - Amendment – Resignation**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following resignation, previously approved on January 4, 2023 in Resolution #384 be amended to the effective date(s) shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Melanie Lotto	Teaching Assistant	1/20/23

**Resolution #404 - Appointment – Administrative**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed as Administrator in Charge in the High School Principal's Absence.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Alfred Mattice	1/19/23-6/30/23

**Resolution #405 - Tenure Appointment**

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be awarded tenure, be and is hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Commencement Date</u>
Sarah Hinman	English	2/01/23
Maureen Northrup	Special Education	2/13/23
Derek Tuthill	Industrial Arts	2/03/23



**Ballston Spa Board of Education**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

Resolution #406 - Permanent Appointment

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be granted permanent appointment to the position(s) indicated below with effective date(s) shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Keirstein Downey	School Aide	1/20/23
Allison Sliper	Special Education Aide	1/20/23

Resolution #407 - Appointment – Teaching Assistant

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed to the probationary position(s) indicated below, with salary and effective date(s) shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tenure Area</u>	<u>Certification Status</u>	<u>Salary/Step</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Larry Hayes	Teaching Assistant	NYS Permanent, Physical Education	\$32,881/yr. Step 14 (pro-rated)	1/19/23-1/18/27
Megan Marshall-Sala	Teaching Assistant	NYS Professional, ELA 7-12	\$23,200/yr. Step 1 (pro-rated)	1/19/23-1/18/27

Resolution #408 - Appointment – Support Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be granted appointment to the probationary position(s) indicated below, with hours, rate and effective date(s) shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Max. Hrs./ Wk.</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Lydia Beyersdorf	Bus Attendant	25	\$16.86/hr.	1/19/23-1/18/24
Laura Layer	Typist	37.5	\$19.69/hr.	1/03/23-1/02/24
Jennifer Madia	School Aide	24.75	\$16.06/hr.	1/19/23-1/18/24
Lucas MacIsaac	Mechanic	40	\$25.03/hr.	2/06/23-2/05/24

Resolution #409 - Appointment – Increase in Hours – Support Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be granted an increase in hours to the position(s) indicated below with effective date(s) shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Max Hrs./Wk.</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Alison Hayes	Bus Driver	28.75	1/03/23

**Ballston Spa Board of Education**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

Resolution #410 - Appointment – Co-Curricular Clubs and Activities

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed to the advisor position(s) to the following clubs and activities for the 2022-2023 school year, with stipend shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title, Location</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Kathryn McTiernan	Senior Class Advisor, HS	\$2,018
Kathryn McTiernan	Student Council Advisor, HS	\$2,018
Tyler Russell	Drama Club Technical Director, MS	\$2,018 (pro-rated)

MOTION BY Mr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #400 - 410

Ayes all

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Ryan gave background information regarding buses and cameras on buses. He discussed the legal aspects and other school District's work arounds. Mr. Ryan thanked Dr. Duca for his research and explained the responsibility of the Towns and the County. He stated there was an opportunity for further discussion on proceeding with the County or with legislation. He also stated there would be continued research and that he had no recommendation at this time other than to continue the conversation. Mr. Ryan reiterated the Towns' responsibility regarding road signage and that continued research was necessary.

Ms. Flynn-Barker thanked Mr. Ryan for his research.

Mr. Turbiak outlined potential legislation for free meals to students. Legislation offering free meal programs during the COVID pandemic has expired. He asked the board to consider advocating for a free meal program.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Shear, Glenville, urged the board to be proactive as described in the MTSS presentation and discussed letters to the board regarding the covid vaccine and mask mandates that lobbied for choice. Mr. Sheer discuss Governor Hochul's action of closing the Capital, and shared experiences regarding the legislative representatives. He discussed the attempts of the Governor's team to reinstate an appeal opportunity for themselves. He urged the board to be cautious of the Governor.

Shannon Richute, Greenfield Center, voiced concern regarding media available in schools, and the lack of response from the Board and the Superintendent. She voiced a concern regarding statistics missing from presentations regarding student achievement.

**Ballston Spa Board of Education**  
**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

Jason Gurtler, Ballston Spa, voiced concern regarding student achievement verses information reported during a recent Board presentation.

**BSATA, BSTA, CSEA, and PTA**

Mr. Turbiak stated the High School PTSA had asked for donations of time, money and or gifts for teacher appreciation lunches.

Mr. Turbiak shared After Prom 2023 committee meeting dates.

Ms. Barker-Flynn stated the BARC Basketball Program had started and that participants are very pleased with the renovations at Malta.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION BY Mr. Turbiak, seconded by Ms. Barker-Flynn that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment of particular persons and the permanent superintendent search at 8:47 p.m. not to return to the regular session.

Next meeting  
Ayes all

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Sirianni  
Clerk of the Board