

**Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 9, 2022
High School Library
7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Matthew Dreher
Wayne Evans, Jr.
Jason Fernau
Lawrence Ryan
Dorothy Sellers
Katie Whittemore
Timothy Turbiak

STAFF PRESENT: Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent of Schools
Brian Sirianni, Clerk of the Board

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fernau called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Mr. Fernau held a moment of silence for the faculty that had recently passed.

Mr. Fernau shared comments regarding the frustration associated with being a parent and care giver during the pandemic. He thanked everyone for their patience and shared his personal thoughts.

Mr. Fernau stated all mandates would be followed. He stated the District continues to have full and rich programs for all students. He shared positive experiences and opportunities available in the District. He thanked those that continued to support normalcy.

RECOGNITION

Mr. Slentz reported the District was celebrating School Counselor Week. He stated the position has changed dramatically. He shared some of the challenges and good work being done by the counseling team and encouraged everyone to thank school counselors when they had an opportunity.

Mr. Slentz recognized the work being done by the coaches. He stated coaches and families were encouraging students with their support.

Mr. Fernau recognized Harvey Staulters and his accomplishments.

Mr. Slentz encouraged anyone interested in coaching wrestling next year to contact the District.

Mr. Fernau announced Science Olympiads had been held at the District. He stated BSCSD would be participating in a State Science Olympiads in March.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristofer DuBuque voiced his concerns regarding the regulations of the Governor and requested an emergency resolution supporting optional mask wearing.

Cody Reed, 15 Lancaster Place, Ballston Spa voiced his concerns regarding masking mandates. He stated he pulled his students from school and gave the reasons why. He voiced his concerns regarding quality of life for all students especially students with special needs. He encouraged the Board to push for an end of mandated masks. He stated he wanted to know the Districts plan to keep students from retaliation when options for mask wearing become available.

Adrienne Rickson, Greenfield Ave, Ballston Spa thanked the Board for the work of a least restrictive environment. She voiced support for rights regarding what goes into and onto an individual's body. She voiced her concern that masks do not allow for a full rich academic setting.

Kristen Dolan, Century Drive, Malta voiced her concern regarding an email response received from the Board President. She voiced her concern with allowing outside agencies instead of elected officials to make decisions for students of the District. She voiced concern regarding education on health and well-being not being available while only face masks and vaccines were offered.

Jason Gurtler voiced concerns regarding mask mandates and asked for an emergency resolution for an end of the mandates. He also asked for an explanation regarding funding from the American Rescue Plan in regards to retirement funding.

Carmela Frias, 1477 Saratoga Road voiced her nonsupport of masking mandates. She asked the Board to advocate for the students of the District.

Magan Wittemeyer voiced her concerns regarding mask mandates and the health and safety of students.

Sadie Wittemeyer shared her experiences as a student.

Steve Gallish, Milton, stated he appreciated folks coming to speak. He voiced concerns regarding mask mandates and required curriculum. He voiced his concerns regarding unions and their perceived harm. Mr. Gallish encouraged the Board to remember their moral obligation and be courageous leaders.

Erin Terrizzi, Malta, stated everyone was doing their part to stop the spread. She voiced support for regaining rights as parents and citizens. She asked the Board to react to the results of the survey. She asked the Board to support individual rights and have a resolution to have masks be optional by February 21st.

James Warlikowski, voiced his concern about utilizing measures that he believes are not protecting anyone. He voiced his concerns regarding coercion and pressure opposed to safety. He voiced support for a resolution to make masks optional by February 21st.

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Ben Riehlman voiced his concern regarding the treatment of students in the District. He voiced his concern regarding amendments to change the public health law allowing the commissioner to make decisions such as mask mandates as a matter of law.

Mr. Fernau requested that all attendees wear their masks unless speaking at the podium.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve regular meeting minutes for January 5, 2022.

Ayes all

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve regular meeting minutes January 19, 2022.

Ayes all

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

2022-23 Budget Review #1

Mr. Slentz reminded all the budget process began in October. He stated that Mr. Sirianni would review the budget development thus far.

Mr. Sirianni reviewed the Governor's State Aid Proposal, District revenues and transportation. He shared the historical and current process pertaining to State Aid. He discussed both the annual restructure and the Foundation Aid formula. He shared the components of the formula and the increasing inequities of the formula. He shared the figures for the formula and the current underpayment to BSCSD. Mr. Sirianni explained the phase-in plan by the State. Mr. Sirianni shared the figures of State Aid as a percent of total revenue. He stated the percentages were going up. He shared the revenue sources as percentages based on taxes, state aid, fund balance and other sources which he explained.

Mr. Sirianni discussed the Tax Levy Cap Calculation and shared the cap vs actual figures. He explained the difficulty of the steps and shared the allowable but unlevied amounts. He stated the District had historically chosen not to levy the allowable amounts. He stated the District would not levy the allowable amount this year.

Mr. Sirianni discussed tax base growth and new construction related to Global. He stated the growth had been slowing down. He shared the Global PILOT assessment schedule and illustrated the continually decreasing revenue for the District. He discussed the positivity of plant expansion.

Mr. Sirianni shared the other active PILOTs in the District and the revenue associated with each.

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Mr. Sirianni discussed the special challenges of the building the budget this year. He stated the trends and historical data are not all applicable due to changes specific to the pandemic.

Mr. Sirianni discussed employment trends associated with retirees and baby boomers. He discussed the impact of rising minimum wage and competition for minimum wage employees.

Mr. Sirianni stated inflation was up 7% and effected fuel and diesel fuel for buses. He stated the increase would impact the budget. He shared the challenges pertaining to transportation costs.

Mr. Sirianni explained the functional areas of the budget. He broke down the components and gave an explanation of increases and decreases in expenditures. He stated there were some unknowns regarding inflation and changes in cost of employees.

Mr. Sirianni stated the next meeting would be on March 2nd. He stated additional areas of the budget would be discussed. He stated there would be an update on programs.

Lawrence Ryan asked for an estimate on the levy.

Mr. Sirianni explained the historical schedule of budget development. He stated it was too early to have figures for an estimate.

Mr. Ryan asked about other PILOT changes in revenue.

Mr. Sirianni explained the process of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

Mr. Ryan asked about the bus replacement schedule.

Mr. Sirianni explained the current situation with bus replacements and stated it was important to stay on the replacement schedule.

Mr. Fernau reiterated the allowable tax cap increase and the actual levy. He reiterated the historical trend of the District to have a levy below the allowable levy. He also reiterated the explanation of the expansion and contraction of the tax base related to actual increases.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Fernau reported the Policy Committee had met. He explained the life cycle of a policy, and discussed the type of policies. He stated the District was undergoing a climate and culture project. He stated the committee was working to allow for a District that was welcoming to all students and staff. He cited the policies that would be presented in March for a first review.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Slentz shared the topics of the correspondence since the last meeting. He stated correspondence was largely focused on mandates. He stated there was correspondence related to Special Education challenges, budget questions and Federal funding.

Mr. Slentz stated all approved Federal funding was posted on the web site once it was approved.

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Mr. Fernau shared the topics of correspondence to the Board. He stated there had been positive correspondence regarding the Science program. He stated a new family in the District had also reached out regarding their student coming to the District.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stuart Williams announced the SpongeBob Musical dates and times. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Mr. Williams announced the Ballston Spa Rotary Club was conducting their annual Food Drive for local pantries. He gave the location of the collections sites for the month of February.

Mr. Williams encouraged everyone to access the Scottie Scoop on the District's website.

Dorothy Sellers stated BARC thanked everyone for the support received during the Universal Pre-K event.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #373 - Board of Education Policy Manual File 1510-Board of Education Meetings

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that Board of Education Policy Manual File 1510 Board of Education Meetings, having been tabled for the required 28-day period, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #373 – Board of Education Policy Manual File 1510 – Board of Education Meetings

Ayes all

Resolution #374 - Board of Education Policy Manual File 5640-Smoking and Tobacco Use

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that Board of Education Policy Manual File 5640 Smoking and Tobacco Use, having been tabled for the required 28-day period, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #374 – Board of Education Policy Manual File 5640 – Smoking and Tobacco Use

Ayes all

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Resolution #375 - Agreement – Professional Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the agreement between the St. Catherine's School and the District, to provide education and/or related services for certain students with disabilities for the 2021-2022 school year, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #375 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

Resolution #376 - Acceptance of Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the Box Tops for Education donation to the Ballston Spa Middle School, in the amount of \$21.80, be and is hereby accepted.

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #376 – Acceptance of Donation

Ayes all

Resolution #377 - Award of Bid – General Excavation Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, to award the bid for general excavation services to M & J Construction, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #377 – Award of Bid – General Excavation Services

Ayes all

Resolution #378 - Award of Bid – Special Transportation

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the bid award for special transportation to the following location, be and is hereby approved:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Daily Rate</u>
Upstate Transit of Saratoga	Neil Hellman School	\$68.50

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #378 – Award of Bid – Special Transportation

Ayes all

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Resolution #379 - 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 February 9, 2022 be and are hereby approved:

Student #25268	Student #277271	Student #275762
Student #277991	Student #275541	Student #278764
Student #278969	Student #271379	Student #276087
Student #276562	Student #273505	Student #25449
Student #277326	Student #278567	Student #23086
Student #278450	Student #275857	Student #272121
Student #272986	Student #277570	Student #275395
Student #277757	Student #273872	Student #274894
Student #272997	Student #23858	Student #275275
Student #273883	Student #25268	Student #274964
Student #277078	Student #24537	Student #276763
Student #23067	Student #275764	Student #276549
Student #275548	Student #274417	Student #276172
Student #276171	Student #277075	Student #277074
Student #277492	Student #272986	Student #275396
Student #275048	Student #277571	Student #273283

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #379 – Placement of Students with Disabilities

Ayes all

Resolution #380 - 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 February 9, 2022 be and are hereby approved:

Student #279120	Student #278943	Student #278067
Student #278834		

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolution #380 – Placement of Preschool Students with Disabilities

Ayes all

Resolutions #381 - #396 are recognized as a consent agenda for the purpose of Board of Education action.

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Resolution #381 - 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>
Naomi Barnwell	Teacher	6/30/22
Lynn Hudson	Teaching Assistant	6/27/22

Resolution #382 - 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>
Helen Christopher	Teacher	6/24/22
Kristina Greene	Lunch Supervisor	2/05/22
Rebecca Hojohn	Special Education Aide	1/21/22
Jessica Meaker	Bus Attendant	2/04/22

Resolution #383 - Rescission of Resignation

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the resignation of Colleen Dunleavy, previously approved by the Board at their meeting held January 19, 2022, in Resolution #361, is hereby rescinded, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution #384 - Rescission of Appointment

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the appointment of David DeMarco, previously approved by the Board at their meeting held October 6, 2021, in Resolution #236, is hereby rescinded, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution #385 - Amendment – Appointment Instructional

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) previously approved appointment on July 7, 2021 in Resolution #78 be amended and appointed to the probationary position(s) indicated below, with salary and effective dates 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>
Amanda Belmonte	Registered Nurse	NYS Registered Professional Nurse	\$31.69/hr. Step 2	9/01/21-8/31/22

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Resolution #386 - Approval – Addendum

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the addendum to the individual employment agreement(s) for the following person, be and is hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Lynn Baker	Transportation Operations Supervisor	1/31/22

Resolution #387 - 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>
Jessica Hadden	Teaching Assistant	Teaching Assistant Level 4	\$23,100/yr. Step 1 (pro-rated)	2/10/22-2/09/26
Eric Jensen	Teaching Assistant	Teaching Assistant Level 1	\$22,325/yr. Step 1 (pro-rated)	2/10/22-2/09/26

Resolution #388 - Appointment- Instructional

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 dates shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Certification Status</u>	<u>Salary/Step</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Barbara Cearley	Registered Nurse	NYS Registered Professional Nurse	\$38.88/hr. Step 10	3/01/22- 2/28/23

Resolution #389 - 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>
Richard Beck II	Cleaner	40	\$18.45/hr.	2/10/22-2/09/23
Christine Heflin	Bus Attendant	25	\$16.37/hr.	2/07/22-2/06/23
Charlene Pink	Cleaner	20	\$18.45/hr.	2/10/22-2/09/23
Ronald Shultes	Bus Driver	25	\$22.91/hr.	2/07/22-2/06/23

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Resolution #390 - Appointment – Support Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed to the position(s) indicated below for the 2021-2022 school year, with hours and rate shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Max Hrs./Wk.</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Paul Boettner	Substitute Bus Driver	40	\$22.22/hr.

Resolution #391 - Appointment- Tutor

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed to the Tutor position for the 2021-2022 school year, with rate shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Rate</u>
David Leveroni	NYS Permanent, Special Education	\$40.72/hr.

Resolution #392 - 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>
Shonna Hunter	School Aide	37.5	1/20/22
Keith Murphy	Bus Driver	28.75	1/24/22
Dennis Rheaume	Bus Driver	28.75	1/24/22
Jill Richards	School Aide	32.5	2/07/22
Tiffany Salazar	Bus Driver	30	2/01/22
Brandy Taylor	Cleaner	25	1/24/22

Resolution #393 - 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 2021-2022 school year, with stipend shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title, Location</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Bryant Brannigan	Intramurals (spring), GC	\$622
Bryant Brannigan	Intramurals (spring), MA	\$622
Angelo D'Annibale	Intramurals (spring), GC	\$622
Kevin Dayton	Intramurals (spring), MS	\$622
Andrew Ferrone	Intramurals (spring), WR	\$622
Brad Fersch	Intramurals (spring), WR	\$622
Michael Gatzendorfer	Drama Producer (spring), HS	\$2,018
Michael Gatzendorfer	Drama Technical Director Co-Advisor (spring), HS	\$1,009
Matthew Germann	Intramurals (spring), MS	\$622

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Patrick Grevelding	Intramurals (spring), MT	\$622
Sarah Kinney	Drama Choreographer (spring), HS	\$931
Catrina Kohl	Drama Technical Director Co-Advisor (spring), HS	\$1,009
Matthew Lopez	Drama Director (spring), HS	\$2,018
Joseph McClements	Intramurals (spring), MS	\$622
Kelly Morgan	Intramurals (spring), WR	\$622
Kristin O'Connor	Intramurals (spring), WR	\$622
Mark Rabideau	Intramurals (spring), MT	\$622
Brian Retersdorf	Drama Music Director (spring), HS	\$2,018
Theodore Snyder	Unified Bowling, HS	\$622
Melinda Whisenhunt	Intramurals (spring), MS	\$622
Tyler Williamson	Intramurals (spring), MA	\$622
Tyler Williamson	Intramurals (winter), MA	\$622

Resolution #394 - Appointment - Interscholastic Sports Coaches

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed to the coaching position(s) indicated below for the 2021-2022 school year, with stipend shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Benjamin Eldridge	Unified Basketball	\$3,714

Resolution #395 - Appointment - Interscholastic Sports Coach Volunteers

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the following person(s) be appointed to the coaching position(s) indicated below for the 2021-2022 school year, with stipend shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Peter Sorbera	Baseball Volunteer	N/A

Resolution #396 - Memorandum of Agreement – CSEA

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ballston Spa Central School District and the Civil Service Employees Association, Inc., Local 1000, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Saratoga County Educational Local 864, dated February 9, 2022, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education to approve Resolutions #381 - 396

Discussion

Mr. Slentz recognized the retirement of Ms. Barnwell and Ms. Hudson. He stated they had done wonderful work and were leaving big shoes to be filled.

Mr. Fernau stated he hoped to see them and all retirees at the end of year presentation.

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Mr. Fernau recognized the Unified Basketball Program. He stated it was a wonderful program with wonderful coaches that supported special education students.

Ayes all

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shannon Richute, Ballston Spa voiced her concern regarding mental health related to the mandates and vaccine ineffectiveness. She discussed suicide attempts by students here on campus and on another campus.

Erin Terrizzi, voiced concern about troubling trends with students regarding mental health and physical health impacted while COVID is not impacted.

Bob Bush, Church Ave Ballston Spa, voiced concerns related to testing for only unvaccinated employees. He stated he was concerned a safe school environment included testing either everyone or no one since the vaccinated can also spread disease.

Kristen Dolan shared a personal story and urged the board to consider making the masks optional for students.

Jason Gurtler thanked everyone that came out to support students and take a stand. He voiced concerns regarding the absence of discussion around the resolution requested during the first public comment session.

Travis Fitzgerald, 7 Oakwood Court Ballston Spa, voiced his experiences and concerns regarding mask mandates.

BSATA, BSTA, CSEA, and PTA

Timothy Turbiak shared the HS PTSA would be holding an After-Prom Committee Meeting.

Mr. Turbiak shared the Malta Avenue PTA would be hosting a virtual game night.

Mr. Fernau reminded everyone the information would be available on the individual school's websites.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Timothy Turbiak that the Board of Education adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Ayes all

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian Sirianni', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Sirianni
Clerk of the Board