

**Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 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

Jason Fernau called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education adjourn to executive session at 6:30p.m. to discuss the employment of a particular person and return to regular session.

Ayes all

Mr. Fernau called the Board of Education Meeting back to order at 7:01 p.m.

RECOGNITION

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kristofer DuBuque, Kaleen Drive Ballston Spa, spoke on behalf of NY Inform Saratoga County. He voiced pleasure in the transparency at the last meeting regarding violence in the Ballston Spa School District.

Mr. DuBuque expressed concern regarding communication relevant to a non-District student gaining access to a District building and threatening a Ballston Spa junior student. He stated the parents of the threatened student had not been contacted and were not aware of the situation until the student returned home and reported the incident. Mr. DuBuque asked how the public would be alerted to incidents happening in the District.

Jason Savaria, Rte. 67, stated he had middle school students. He raised concerns and voiced displeasure on the sexually graphic content in two specific books in the school's library. He read excerpts from Lawn Boy and Gender Queer and asked the School Board to intervene and do something about the books being available in the District library.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting from March 16, 2022.

Ayes all

MOTION BY Dorothy Sellers, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting from March 22, 2022.

Ayes all

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Slentz stated the Special Education Update would be moving to May 6th as the presenter was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

2022-2023 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Slentz stated very little had changed since last week's meeting. He stated there were some minor fluctuations in aid figures that had been applied to reduce the tax levy. He shared bottom line information that resulted in a tax levy of 2.46%.

Mr. Slentz gave a summary of proposed new positions for 22-23 including academic, behavioral social and emotional needs positions. He stated explicit and direct instruction was needed for necessary skills. He highlighted each of the proposed new positions and explained the support that would be provided by the positions. He discussed Federal funding and the positions being supported by the Federal funds. He shared plans regarding moving the currently funded positions to the general fund in future years.

Brian Sirianni stated not much had changed regarding State Aid. He stated there was no change in budget. He addressed the updated revenue on State Aid. Mr. Sirianni explained the increase in excess cost aid and special education. He stated the additional small amount of Aid had been removed from the levy. He discussed the tax rate calculations and the budget change amount. Mr. Sirianni explained tax rates in towns that drive the actual amount homeowners will pay. He explained the equalization rates and how tax rates were effected by PILOT programs. He stated final tax rates would not be set until August.

Mr. Sirianni stated there were tentative assessment rolls and equalization rates given in May. He stated final assessment rolls and equalization rates came out between July and August.

Mr. Sirianni explained tax certiorari claims, and gave an example of a large commercial property's request. He explained the process that would follow. He stated the claims could take away from the new growth taxes the District was expecting and could impact tax rates. Mr.

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Sirianni stated he would be working closely with assessors' offices. He assured everyone the District had available reserves to handle the situation if funds needed to be returned.

Mr. Sirianni shared the revised tax levy cap calculation and shared the cap vs. the actual levy. He stated the Budget Hearing would be on 5/4/22, and the Board of Education election and vote would be on 5/17/22.

Mr. Slentz discussed the tax reserves. He explained where on the Property Tax Report Card all the reserve funds were listed.

Mr. Sirianni shared the location of the presentation on the District's web site.

Mr. Slentz stated this was the recommended budget that would be presented in a resolution later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Jason Fernau reported the Policy Committee had met. He stated the Committee was looking at the update on climate and culture project and the policy implications. Mr. Fernau shared where the information was available for board members and the public. He stated progress was being made. He discussed the areas of the policy being changed. He stated there would be a new policy regarding District recognition, memorials and dedications. He gave examples and discussed the length of the policy.

Mr. Fernau discussed existing policy updates regarding language of diversity and hiring practices in respect diversity. He stated there would be a first read on May 6th.

Mr. Fernau explained the life cycle of policy changes.

Mr. Fernau shared District would be putting out an RFP for professional help for some of the changes. He stated timelines and stated the next Policy meeting would be on May 18th.

Mr. Fernau stated the next Board meeting would be on May 4th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Slentz shared the correspondence that he had received. He stated there was communication regarding a racial charged slur at the middle school, bus changes and child endangerment concerns. He stated there was correspondence regarding a student in the school that was not registered in the District.

Mr. Fernau stated there had been no correspondence to the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stuart Williams stated Wellness Day 2022 would be held on May 14th. He stated registration was open for the 5K and the Color Fun Run. He stated volunteers were needed for the Wellness Expo.

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Mr. Williams announced Meet the Candidate would be held on May 2nd. He stated the League of Woman Voters would facilitate the 6:30 event.

Mr. Williams announced the District would be bringing back the Annual School Pride Day events including the take out barbeque dinners, the student ice cream social and the art project displays. He reminded everyone this would be held on May 17th.

Mr. Williams announced the newsletter would be going to the printer after the meeting.

Mr. Williams announced recess would begin on 4/15 and classes would resume on 4/25/22.

Mr. Fernau stated Malta Ave PTA would be holding Community Day on April 20th from 11-3. He stated there was a rain date of 5/21.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #472 - Adoption of 2022-2023 School Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the annual budget for the 2022-2023 school year, in the amount of \$98,575,342 be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #472 – Adoption of 2022-2023 School Budget

Discussion

Dorothy Sellers thanked the District for all the hard work that had been done putting the budget together. She stated it was a very good budget.

Ayes all

Resolution #473 - Property Tax Report Card

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the Property Tax Report Card for the 2022-2023 school year, be and is hereby accepted and approved.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #473 – Property Tax Report Card

Ayes all

Resolution #474 - Approval – Renewal Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the Renewal Agreement between the Office of Sheriff-Saratoga County and the District, to

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provide School Resource Officer (SRO) services for the 2022-2023 school year, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #474 – Approval – Renewal Agreement

Discussion

Mr. Fernau thanked Sheriff Zurlo, the Department and the deputies assigned for their partnership and for the wonderful addition to the school's environment.

Ayes all

Resolution #475 - Agreement – Professional Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, hereby approves the agreement between Hawkins, Delafield & Woods, LLP, and the District to provide bond counsel services, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #475 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

Resolution #476 - Appointment of Election Inspectors

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the persons listed below be appointed as election inspector for the May 17, 2022 annual budget vote, are hereby approved:

Election Inspectors

Suzanne Canell

Cynthia Young

Alternate Inspector

Joanne Bosley

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #476 – Appointment of Elections Inspectors

Ayes all

Resolution #477 - Appointment – Board of Registration

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that following qualified voters of the District be designated to constitute a Board of Registration to serve until June 30, 2022, be and is hereby approved:

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Melissa Glastetter

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #477 – Appointment – Board of Registration

Ayes all

Resolution #478 - Internal Audit

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District hereby accepts the Independent Audit Report prepared by the firm of The Bonadio Group, and approves the associated corrective action plan, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #478 – Internal Audit

Discussion

Mr. Sirianni explained the due dates and the process.

Ayes all

Resolution #479 - 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 April 13, 2022 be and are hereby approved:

Student # 23857	Student #275470	Student #275305
Student #276763	Student #276514	Student #272965
Student #279163	Student #273527	Student #274939
Student #23918	Student #277590	Student #277931
Student #277087	Student #278779	Student #278434
Student #273483	Student #277196	Student #275977
Student #23766	Student #278437	Student #25910
Student #276763	Student #23738	Student #278779
Student #278437		

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #479 – Placement of Students with Disabilities

Ayes all

Resolution #480 - 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 April 13, 2022 be and are hereby approved:

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Student #278617

Student #277733

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolution #480 – Placement of Preschool Students with Disabilities

Ayes all

Resolutions #481 - #485 are recognized as a consent agenda for the purpose of Board of Education action.

Resolution #481 - 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>
Michelle Greco	Lunch Supervisor	4/08/22
Renee Lavigne	Lunch Supervisor	4/08/22
Danial Quinn	Bus Driver	4/14/22
Colleen Renzi	Special Education Aide	4/14/22
Stephanie Stomski	School Aide	4/14/22
Bonny Wilson	Bus Driver	4/14/22

Resolution #482 - 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) be 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>
Sarah Stodolka	NYS Permanent, Social Studies 7-12	\$60,607 (prorated) Step 11 + 36	4/14/22-6/30/22

Resolution #483 - 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./</u> <u>Wk.</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>
Colleen Renzi	School Aide	37.5	\$15.59/hr.	4/25/22-4/24/23
Stephanie Stomski	Special Education Aide	32.5	\$17.96/hr.	4/25/22-4/24/23

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Resolution #484 - 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>
Wayne Joseph	Bus Driver	28.75	4/06/22

Resolution #485 - Termination

WHEREAS, pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 75, the Superintendent of Schools preferred disciplinary charges against Gregory Peters by letter dated March 25, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Peters did not request a hearing pursuant to Section 75 or object to the charges; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District has fully reviewed and considered the charges against Mr. Peters and any supporting documentation and/or statements and/or recommendation from the Superintendent.

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED:

1. Mr. Peters is guilty of the Charge of Misconduct, both Specifications 1 and 2, as well as guilty of the Charge of Incompetence, both Specifications 1 and 2.
2. As a result of the above, the penalty of dismissal effective April 13, 2022, is hereby imposed.
3. The Superintendent of Schools is directed to so notify the employee and the Civil Service Commission of this action and take any other action to place into effect this determination.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #481 - 485

Ayes all

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Galish, Town of Milton, stated he was shocked and disappointed at the books available in the school library. He stated he recognized it was a heavy burden, but stated it was the Board's responsibility. He demanded, as a tax payer, the removal of the books tonight, and asked how many similar were available. He asked who had ordered the books and who had authorized the purchase of the books.

Mr. Galish stated it was not mission of the District to promote the sexuality of students but to make them valuable community members. He stated he was ashamed of what is in the school and stated it could not be tolerated.

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Jason Gurtler – Rowland Street Ballston Spa, echoed Mr. Galish and Steve Severia's comments. He reminded everyone students were minors and they were being allowed access to pornography. He stated the books should not be allowed in the library.

BSATA, BSTA, CSEA, and PTA

Timothy Turbiak stated Gordon Creek was in need of families to make games for the Spring Fling.

Mr. Turbiak stated Malta Avenue would be hosting Community Day on 4/30 and was looking for volunteers.

Mr. Turbiak stated the HS PTA was looking for help for After Prom. He stated they were still accepting donations and looking for volunteers to reach out to business for donations.

Mr. Fernau stated the Board took the information shared at Public comment very seriously. He stated Board would be reviewing the comments of this evenings meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Matthew Dreher that the Board of Education adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

Ayes all

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Sirianni
Clerk of the Board