

**Board of Education Meeting
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
High School Library
7:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Matthew Dreher
Wayne Evans, Jr
Jason Fernau
Dorothy Sellers - Absent
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 7:07 p.m.

Mr. Fernau gave highlights of District activities. He stated the District understood the frustration brought on by mandates. He gave an update regarding mask mandates and reporting requirements. He shared some questions and answers from the Scottie Scoop.

Mr. Fernau stated the District is an educational institution and talked about responsibilities of other entities and their abilities to impose rules and regulations on the District. He stated the District would continue to follow all laws and mandates from the State and County.

Mr. Fernau stated the District has in-person school 5 days a week. He stated the District was committed to providing the least restrictive environment while keeping students and staff safe.

RECOGNITION

Mr. Slentz recognized the MS Troupe and students shared a scene from the upcoming play. The students invited the Board to attend and shared the dates and times of their show.

Matthew Lopez encouraged everyone to come see the presentation of The Puffs.

Mr. Slentz shared information regarding the NYS Seal of Literacy. He gave historical information and explained the intent of the program. Mr. Slentz highlighted future advantages students would enjoy.

Mr. Slentz discussed the changes being implemented in the Middle School with the Rescue Funds to support the Language Program. He stated the District was very proud of the work being done.

Dr. Gianleo Duca introduced the staff involved. The staff shared information on requirements and future opportunities. The staff stated they were very proud of the students' achievements.

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Mr. Slentz stated the Seal of Civic Readiness would be discussed at a later meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adrienne Rickson voiced her concerns regarding the mask mandates. She voiced the importance of critical thinking, leadership and listening. She asked the District to give children a voice.

Dr. Diana Galish-Frasier provided information regarding mandates and vaccine. She asked for critical thinking and shared information. She voiced concern regarding the trustworthiness of the information and the people responsible for releasing the information regarding the Covid vaccine. She voiced her concern on informed consent and cautioned the injection was not actually a vaccine, but an injection being marketed as a vaccine to garner support. Dr. Frasier stated she would like to share information for educational purposes.

Mr. Fernau encouraged her to send an email.

Lily Wei shared her experience as an immigrant from China. She discussed what she saw as the similarities of communist China and the behaviors in our current society in America. She reminded everyone of the power of collective fear. She cautioned the most fundamental of human rights were being violated. She stated she cherished the opportunities and freedoms the United States has provided, and issued a warning regarding the division amongst Americans.

Casey Deegan voiced his concern regarding the constitution. He talked about the difference between laws and mandates. Mr. Deegan voiced concerns regarding restrictions and the disruptions of education. He encouraged the District to not accept Federal money and support children.

Christine Osgood voiced her concerns regarding vaccine mandates. She stated she was concerned mandates would force students to be vaccinated.

Kristofer DuBuque voiced his concern on the fear mongering in the District. He shared his child's experiences in class being yelled at regarding masks. He voiced concerns about staff asking students who have been vaccinated. He stated teachers should not be supporting the vaccine or the clinics. Mr. DuBuque voiced his dismay at the District holding a clinic on campus and sending a message of District support. He asked that the District remain neutral and allow parents to make choices for their children without interference. He stated the presence of a clinic on the campus emboldened teachers to ask if students have been vaccinated. He shared that teachers were telling kids that the cameras were watching them and they would be seen if they were not wearing their masks.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT

Student Government reported on the food collection and the student distribution of the food.

They stated there would be a Toy Drive between 12/4 and 12/5 for gently used toys available that would be made available for families in need.

They stated the Holiday Trivia sign up would be on line. They stated the cost was \$15 per teams of 5. Student Government stated the proceeds from Holiday Trivia would support their adopt-a-family program. They stated their goals were to support the community.

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Student Government announced Spirt Week would start on November 25th.

Mr. Fernau and Mr. Slentz thanked the students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

American Rescue Plan State Reserves Plan

Mr. Slentz gave an update on the new Federal money the District would be receiving. He announced \$700,000 would be received by the District over the next three years. He stated the funding would support the summer school extension program, the after school comprehensive program and the comprehensive prevention of learning loss initiative.

Mr. Slentz shared and explained the 4 goals the District. He discussed the current and emerging programs for students. He also discussed the demands on the nursing staff. Mr. Slentz discussed the pilot program to test students to keep them in school and the time it would take. Mr. Slentz stated parental consent would be required for all testing. He explained some of the quarantining and testing rules.

Mr. Fernau stated the District is in competition with other Districts for staff and availability of testing and stated the District did have licensing.

Mr. Slentz stated there would be information on the website as it became available.

2022-23 Budget Principles and Guidelines

Mr. Sirianni presented the budget principles and guidelines. He stated they had been the same for many years. He explained it was the framework the Board uses to make decisions on the budget. He read each item and supplied explanations are requested.

Mr. Slentz stated the budget principles and guidelines would match up to the priorities and goals for the District.

Improving School Climate and Culture Project Overview

Mr. Slentz shared the mission and vision of the District. He shared the challenges including the loss of predictability. He stated the work that is being done is exhausting and easy to lose sight of goals. He stated everyone was working collaboratively to stay focused on providing a meaningful diploma, wellness and citizen readiness for students.

Mr. Slentz discussed the changes and highlighted current student success. He described the environment necessary to overcome challenges facing students. He shared the strategic points of focus for the District.

Mr. Slentz shared the draft goals for 2021- 2022. He stated an analysis of the District compared to 10 years ago would be shared. He stated it was important to give children living in impoverished situations a pathway to success by accessing high level teaching and learning. Mr. Slentz stated Special Education was near 20%, the District wants to make sure education accessible to all. He stated it was important to prepare all students for international settings.

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Mr. Slentz talked about the Districts' graduation pathways and the future ramifications on students. He addressed some questions regarding school climate and programming. He discussed the structure of the committees and the work they would be focused on to move the District forward to remove obstacles that prevent students from accessing pathways. He stated there would be a multi-year timeline to get the involved technical work done.

Timothy Turbiak thanked the Superintendent. He said students face challenges that others don't recognize due to perspective. Support from the community will help the District achieve.

Mr. Slentz stated the District was educational not political. He stated the District needs to educate the community and the students and the District also learns from students, staff and community. He stated it was important to have critical thinking and to accept and think about diversity.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Fernau reported the Policy Committee had met. He explained the work of the Erie 1 BOCES. Mr. Fernau stated the District had received results of a policy audit done last spring. He stated the intention had been to review and update policies over the summer. Mr. Fernau stated the audit was still under review and being made ready for presentation.

Mr. Fernau stated the Committee was looking for an update from the new behavior specialist for a proposed policy related to behavior classrooms. He stated a draft was expected in the first quarter of 2022 that would go through the Committee and be presented to the Board.

Mr. Fernau stated revisions to the Wellness Policy were still in progress, and that existing policies are being updated for new smoking products.

Mr. Fernau stated the Policy Committee would have their next meeting December 16th, and that the Committee would be meeting monthly for the rest of the year. He stated an additional member was needed for the Policy Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Slentz stated there had been correspondence regarding vaccination clinics. He stated the correspondence was both in opposition and support. He stated some of the correspondence offered thanks to the District for holding the clinic. He stated the mix was reflective of the community.

Mr. Slentz stated there was correspondence regarding quarantining. He stated there was still some confusion regarding the ever changing rules and testing out. He stated the District would continue to update as information was made available.

Mr. Slentz stated the parents had done a great job making suggestions to help with the bussing situations and the fast changing circumstances. He stated parents generally did not want remote learning. Parents want to keep school open and allow parents to transport. He described additional suggestions parents had made that helped the District make the best decisions possible. He thanked everyone for the positive and helpful suggestions.

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Mr. Fernau stated the correspondence to the Board were in regards to the vaccination clinic. He stated there was an ongoing email from the NY Informed Group. He stated there had been correspondence related to concerns of quarantine exclusion and the impact on students.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Slentz reminded everyone of The Puffs and encouraged all to come.

Mr. Slentz congratulated the sports teams and the student athletes on their great performances. He stated there was a significant number of scholar athletes, and that relevant information would be coming shortly.

Mr. Slentz reminded everyone of Thanksgiving Break, and reminded everyone to check the calendar for parent teacher meetings.

Katie Whittemore reminded everyone of the online auction for BSEF.

Mr. Fernau announced the BSEF had purchased ukuleles for the District, enriching the music program. He also encouraged everyone to check out the online auction.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #278 - Budget Principles and Guidelines

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the Board of Education approves the budget principles and guidelines for the preparation of the 2022-2023 school year budget.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Resolution # 278 – Budget Principles and Guidelines

Ayes all

Resolution #279 - Acceptance of Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the Hannaford Helps Schools Program donation to the Wood Road Elementary School, in the amount of \$312.00, be and is hereby accepted.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Resolution #279 – Acceptance of Donation

Discussion

Mr. Fernau thanked the Hannaford Helps Program for their donation.

Ayes all

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Resolution #280 - Acceptance of Donation

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) donation to the Gordon Creek Elementary School, in the amount of \$200.00, be and is hereby accepted.

Discussion

Mr. Fernau thanked the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study for their donation.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Resolution #280 – Acceptance of Donation

Ayes all

Resolution #281 - Agreement – Professional Services

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the agreement between Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. and the District, to provide educational services and maintenance and residential services for certain students, for the 2021-2022 school year, be and is hereby approved.

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Resolution #281 – Agreement – Professional Services

Ayes all

Resolution #282 - 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 November 17, 2021 be and are hereby approved:

Student #23010	Student #22011	Student #277801
Student #25910	Student #278767	Student #279006
Student #272091	Student #273698	Student #275111
Student #272950	Student #23808	Student #23008
Student #276939	Student #277796	Student #272295
Student #23077	Student #276973	Student #276316
Student #276551	Student #278927	Student #278199
Student #24807	Student #276158	Student #278742
Student #24403	Student #276345	Student #275559
Student #25602	Student #272243	Student #277028
Student #23997	Student #23199	Student #273872

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Resolution #282 – Placement of Students with Disabilities

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Ayes all

Resolution #283 - 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 November 17, 2021 be and are hereby approved:

Student #278822
Student #278876

Student #278903

Student #278321

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Resolution #283 – Placement of Preschool Students with Disabilities

Ayes all

Resolutions #284- #297 are recognized as a consent agenda for the purpose of Board of Education action.

Resolution #284 - 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>
Ted Brandt	Substitute Bus Driver	11/05/21
Joan Durnford	Bus Driver	12/23/21
Charles Fannucci	Substitute Bus Driver	11/06/21
Rachel Jeffers	Teaching Assistant	11/10/21
Kanoktip Lynn	School Aide	11/19/21
Deanne Nolin	Receptionist	11/23/21
Heather Swistak	Special Education Aide	11/19/21

Resolution #285 - Rescission of Appointment

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the appointment of Jennifer Hotaling, previously approved by the Board at their meeting held October 20, 2021, in Resolution #250, is hereby rescinded, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution #286 - Amendment – Permanent Appointment

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that Resolution #268 previously approved by said Board on November 3, 2021 be amended to the permanent 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>
Shane DeVoe	Cleaner	11/19/21

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Debra Famularo	Bus Attendant	11/05/21
Jennifer Martin	Bus Attendant	11/05/21

Resolution #287 - Amendment – Co-Curricular Clubs and Activities

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District that the appointment of the following person(s), previously approved by the Board at their meeting held October 6, 2021, in Resolution #233, be amended 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>
Melissa Glastetter	Drama Costume Designer, MS	\$931

Resolution #288 - Appointment – Medicaid Compliance Officer

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Ballston Spa Central School District, that the appointment of Margaret Giller as Medicaid Compliance Officer, effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, be and is hereby approved.

Resolution #289 - Approval – Individual Employment Agreement

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

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Margaret Giller	Medicaid Compliance Officer	7/01/21-6/30/22

Resolution #290 - 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>
Robert Roy	Mechanic	11/19/21
Katie Sheridan	Special Education Aide	12/03/21

Discussion

Mr. Slentz thanked the employees for their flexibility and hard work. He encouraged anyone interested to apply for the open positions the District has available and needs to fill.

Resolution #291 - 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>
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Thomas Dufort	Teaching Assistant	Teaching Assistant Level 1	\$22,325/yr. Step 1 (pro-rated)	11/18/21-11/17/25
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Resolution #292 - 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>
Danyela DeLaurie	Special Education Aide	32.5	\$17.96/hr.	11/18/21-11/17/22
Nyrelle Horton	Special Education Aide	32.5	\$17.96/hr.	11/29/21-11/28/22
Deanne Nolin	Special Education Aide	32.5	\$17.96/hr.	11/29/21-11/28/22

Resolution #293 - 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 shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Max Hrs./Wk.</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Richard LaTorre	Driver In Training	40	\$17.00/hr.
Dennis Rheame	Substitute Bus Driver	40	\$22.22/hr.

Resolution #294 - 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>
James Belcastro	NYS Professional, English Language Arts 7-12	\$40.72/hr.
Christine Darmofal	NYS Professional, Childhood Education 1-6, Early Childhood Education B-2	\$40.72/hr.
April Dow	NYS Permanent, Pre K-6	\$40.72/hr.
Deborah Haber	NYS Permanent, Special Education	\$40.72/hr.
Megan LaRowe	NYS Professional, Childhood Education 1-6	\$40.72/hr.
Tracy Manning	NYS Permanent, Pre K-6, Reading Teacher	\$40.72/hr.
Colleen Phillips	NYS Professional, Literacy B-6	\$40.72/hr.

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Resolution #295 - 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>
Danial Quinn	Bus Driver	27.5	11/01/21
Krystina Minett	Bus Attendant	26.25	11/01/21

Resolution #296 - 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>
Brannigan Bryant	Intramurals (winter), MA	\$622
Kevin Dayton	Intramurals (winter), MS	\$622
Andrew Ferrone	Intramurals (winter), WR	\$622
Brad Fersch	Intramurals (winter), WR	\$622
Patrick Greveling	Intramurals (winter), MT	\$622
Joseph McClements	Intramurals (winter), MS	\$622
Kelly Morgan	Intramurals (winter), WR	\$622
Kristin O'Connor	Intramurals (winter), WR	\$622
Mark Rabideau	Intramurals (winter), MT	\$622

Resolution #297 - 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>
Kristine Phelps	Alpine Skiing Volunteer	N/A

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Resolutions #284 - 297

Ayes all

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education accept Walk-On Resolutions #298 – Appointment – Instructional

Ayes all

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Resolution #298 - 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>
Amanda Mody	Registered Nurse	NYS Registered Professional Nurse	\$29.80/hr. Step 1	11/18/21- 11/17/22

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Walk-On Resolutions #298 – Appointment – Instructional

Ayes all

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education accept Walk-On Resolutions #299 – Appointment – Support Services

Ayes all

Resolution #299 - 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 shown, be and is (are) hereby approved:

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

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education approve Walk-On Resolution #299 – Appointment – Support Services

Ayes all

Mr. Slentz thanked the Board for allowing the walk-on resolution for the critical position. He stated the District tries to minimize walk-on resolutions, adding that the walk-ons were for critical staffing needs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Shannon Richute voiced concerns regarding leashes on student's necks, employees ignoring safety concerns, and teachers being afraid to speak up. She questioned what would happen to students that do not get vaccines that are mandated?

Jason Gurtler voiced his concern regarding District funding and constitutional rights.

Kristofer DuBuque discussed accessible information, and voiced concern regarding the negative impact of the vaccine.

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Erin Terrizzi voiced her concerns regarding what students are learning regarding the division between groups of individuals. She voiced her concerns regarding a substitute's comments. She voiced her concern regarding her child's fear of not being safe at school. She expressed concern related to having a vaccination clinic on an educational campus. She stated it was scaring her child. She voiced concerns regarding teachers placing blame on children for not wearing their masks correctly as a reason for students being quarantined. She voiced concerns regarding the mask mandates. She asked the Board some questions regarding protection from mandates, and the reasons for encouraging kids to get vaccinated by having a clinic on campus. She asked what the District would do if the mandate is to vaccinate all students and then families pull their students from the school.

BSATA, BSTA, CSEA, and PTA

The High School PTSA President announced the new executive officers. She encouraged anyone interested in volunteering for the position of Vice President to contact her. She encouraged membership and stated the group had earned acknowledgement for the number of members that have joined. She shared meeting dates, and announced the goal of increasing attendance at meetings with increased communication.

PTSA stated they have supplied seniors with lawn signs and shared program information they were partnering.

The PTSA President stated parents had expressed an interest in making the parade for seniors an annual tradition.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY Timothy Turbiak, seconded by Wayne Evans, Jr. that the Board of Education adjourn at 9:13 p.m.

Ayes all

Respectfully submitted,



Brian Sirianni
Clerk of the Board