

HORNELL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – APRIL 14, 2021

President Davis opened the meeting at 5:15 PM and led the Board/Public in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was held in person for the Board and Administration and was live streamed for the public.**

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Kerry Davis, Jessica Hess, Uzma Mehr, Meghann Khork, Christopher Clark

Absent: James Marino (arrived at 5:46 PM)

BY: MEHR/HESS

RESOLVED: that the agenda be approved as presented:

CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

RECOMMENDED ACTION

PRESENTATIONS:

Ted Illi and Erica Siebert gave a presentation on “Equity, Diversity and Inclusion” which included an overview of the districtwide Superintendent’s Conference Day presentation of Dr. Bryant T. Marks on “Implicit Bias” which was held on March 15, 2021.

REPORTS:

Construction Report: Andy Billiotte (Welliver) provided the Board with a construction update.

Celebrating Success:

Barb Kramer, North Hornell Principal reported:

- We had a great response to our Conference Day with Dr. Marks, it has spurred requests for additional training, more information and book studies.
- Our students returned to five day in person classes on March 16th;
 - The students were welcomed back with a “fiesta” with balloons and signs,
 - We have noticed improved attendance,
 - You can see the relief on the faces of the parents dropping off their kids in the morning – the sense of life is getting back to normal,
 - The kids are doing great with their masks and distancing,
 - Everyone was very excited to be back!
- Kindergarten and First Grade Teachers attended two Writer’s Workshop trainings, part of which also included students,
- The BCT has been very busy preparing for the activities that take place during the last two months of school, they are making modifications for safety etc.
- The teachers are planning for their summer days, our orders are in and things are going great in North Hornell.

Lisa Sanford, Bryant School Interim Principal reported:

- At Bryant, our socio-emotional learning theme for April is perseverance, and Bryant staff have persevered to prepare for our everyday opening on March 22. Teachers are working hard to revamp their schedules to enable for more instructional time, and provide

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opportunities for former A and B day students to get to know each other. We are grateful to all staff how have done their absolute best to be welcoming and supportive of kids building back their learning stamina to five days a week.

- In 2nd grade, students are working on writing friendly letters and telling time.
- Our 3rd graders are preparing for next week's NYS ELA testing, they are also deep into their study of fractions and their ELA Fractured Fairy Tales unit.
- At both grades, students have begun a pen pal correspondence with Intermediate School students, this will be a great way to build some friendships as the two schools merge.
- A shout out to Mrs. Carretto and Mrs. Willsey, our library is currently hosting a "Read Across Genres" challenge with a goal of reading nine books form nine different genres, like graphic novels and fairy tales as well as less well known genres like reference books, biographies and poems. Students can use books from their home or school libraries to complete all of the genres. In just two weeks,, we've had many students check our less-used sections of our library and we already have thirteen students that have completed the Genres Board by reading nine books. They are certainly motivated to ready widely!

Sean Gaffney, Intermediate School Principal reported:

- Paraprofessionals Day was before break, want to give a shout out to them for all they do, they are our unsung heros.
- A big thank you to Jodi McAneney for organizing our assessments every year and keeping up with the State Ed changes. She has been knee deep in planning for the space, staff etc. for all of the required accommodations.
- Our return to five day instruction has been busy and very positive! It is exciting to see everyone together! Thanks to all staff for being supportive and flexible during this new transition.
- Thank you to Mark Kelly, Mr. Palotti, and Officer Kerr for helping to plan for and manage the increased traffic...we are also planning for next year!

Scott Carroll, High School Principal reported:

- Just wanted to give a big "thank you" to everyone at the High School – faculty, staff, transportation, custodial, paras, food service, etc. for coming together to arrange for the return of our students to five day instruction and putting our students first!!
 - It started like a 1000 piece puzzle with a few pieces missing on the first day, but everything was falling into place over the next couple days and today things are running smoothly. The puzzle has now been famed and hung!

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Palotti reported:

- Our entire year has been about doing things differently and using different spaces. The High School was impacted the most as far a space goes, having to utilize large spaces like the chorus room and gymnasiums for many different purposes.
- Admins worked tirelessly, counselors reinvented schedules, there were so many moving pieces to make this happen...the details, extra hours and dedication to make this happen was amazing!!
- I was able to visit every building on their first day back in full force, the excitement was evident on the faces of all levels. We are very happy that they will all be able to spend the last quarter of the year together...they missed so much last year.

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- We are busy planning for the next few months figuring out how to end the year to include some of the “extras” that make school fun. We are working on such things as performances, prom etc., so that we can end on the best note possible.
- New guidelines have been released for graduation celebrations – our goal is to be able to have one large in person ceremony (not four like last year). It may not be the traditional ceremony we are accustomed to, but we will try to make it as close as possible. It will take a lot of planning and coordination – and nice weather!!
- In the last few days we have received a handful of modifications to the DOH guidelines that we currently have in place. One change is in the verbiage regarding face coverings, removing the option to remove them under certain circumstances regardless of physical distancing. We are working through piece by piece on revising our plan to be in accordance with the State DOH. In some areas such as the Elementary schools they are reducing the physical distancing requirement from 6ft to 3ft, however the High School level is more stringent and remains unchanged for now. As plans evolve we will maximize wherever we can continuing with the 6ft safest model. We will look for input from members of the school district and community. The timeline is that we will work through modifying the plan, we will then put it out to the various association’s leadership for review and comments, then to the staff and then to the community.
- At this point we are just happy and thankful that the kids are back, the noise level in the hallways feels right....September was too quiet...the buzz is back!!

Member Marino arrived at 5:46 PM

Supt. Palotti was joined by Patrick Flaitz, School Business Official to provide an update on the 2021-22 Budget:

- Provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the finalized 2021-22 budget with a review of the updated state aid budget changes. The budget will be voted on by the Board later in the meeting.

ROUTINE ITEMS

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti to approve/accepts the following Consent Agenda items:

- Approves of the minutes for the meetings of March 3, 2021.
- Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report of February 28, 2021.
- Acceptance of the Student Activities Report of February 28, 2021.
- Acceptance of the Revenue Report of February 28, 2021.
- Acceptance of the GF Budget Transfer Reports of February 18, 2021
- Acceptance of the Appropriations Report of February 28, 2021.
- Acceptance of the Warrant Report of February 28 and March 31, 2021.
- The Board has no objections to the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and approves the authorization of funds to implement the special education programs and services consistent with such recommendations for the meetings of

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March 3, 8, 10, 11, 17 and 24, 2021. The CPSE meetings of March 5, 8, 9, 19, 22, 29, 30 and 31, 2021 and the 504 meetings of March 3, 10, 17 and 31, 2021.
CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

POLICY/PROCEDURE - FINANCE

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, agenda items VI D.1a-f and 2.a-j together for one action.
CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves / accepts / authorizes the following:

- approves the proposed 2021/22 School Calendar and 2021/22 Payroll Calendar.
- **approves THE DISTRICT'S PROPOSED CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT INVOLVING IMPROVEMENTS AT THE DISTRICT'S NORTH HORNELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDING AND THE SITE THEREOF) TO BE AN UNLISTED ACTION UNDER THE NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT, AND UTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INCLUSION OF FUNDING FOR SUCH PROJECT IN THE DISTRICT'S PROPOSED 2021-2022**

BUDGET. WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the "Board") of the City School District of the City of Hornell, Steuben County, New York (the "District"), after consultation by District officials with the District's retained architectural firm (Hunt Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors & Landscape Architect D.P.C. or "Hunt"), has resolved that the District should propose to undertake, during the District's pending (2021-2022) fiscal year, a capital outlay project (the "Project") involving improvements at the District's North Hornell Elementary School building (and the site thereof), such work being anticipated to include, but not necessarily to be limited to, the following generally described items. Interior work is anticipated to include hallway safety and finishes upgrades, flooring upgrades, and the conversion of the stage area to offices. Site work will be undertaken to reduce and reconfigure parking areas and sidewalks near the southwest wing of the school building to accommodate a Pre-K building addition that will be concurrently constructed as a Smart Schools Bond Act project that has been previously reviewed and approved. Related site work such as grading, erosion and sediment controls, relocation of underground utilities around the new addition, landscaping (including in some currently paved areas), and site lighting improvements are anticipated to be undertaken. Additional site work is anticipated to include the installation of new Pre-K playground equipment and associated site preparation work; and

WHEREAS, the estimated maximum cost of the Project (inclusive of all preliminary and incidental costs) has been determined by Hunt to be \$956,000; and

WHEREAS, the District is proposing that the Project be financed by the application of \$956,000 of funds to be earmarked for such purpose as a "Transfer to Capital Fund" in the District's pending (i.e., 2021-2022) budget, with the work on the Project being expected to be completed during the 2021-2022 fiscal year of the District; and

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WHEREAS, the District reserves the right to expand, contract or modify the scope of the Project in light of the level of future construction bids received, with the understanding that the estimated maximum cost of the Project will not exceed \$956,000; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with State Education Department guidance and policy, the District and the Board constitute, collectively, the lead agency under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) for the environmental review of the Project, which is an Unlisted Action; and

WHEREAS, the District and Board have duly considered the Project, the Environmental Assessment Form, the criteria for determining whether the Project will have a significant adverse impact on the environment as set forth in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. § 617.7(c) of the SEQRA regulations, and such other information deemed appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the District and Board have identified the relevant areas of environmental concern, have taken a hard look at these areas, and have made a reasoned elaboration of the basis for its determination under SEQRA;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the final determination of the District’s Board that the Project constitutes an Unlisted action under SEQRA, that the Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment (as set forth in a reasoned elaboration of the basis for such determination that has been provided in the Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment Form which have been presented to, and reviewed and evaluated by, the Board, and are incorporated herein by reference), and the Superintendent is hereby authorized to sign and file all documents necessary to comply with SEQRA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the proposed Project shall be included as a “Transfer to Capital Fund” line item (not exceeding \$956,000 in amount) in the District’s proposed budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year (with appropriate additional notification to District voters regarding the anticipated details of the work to be given in connection with the District’s approval process), so that the Project may be initiated and completed (assuming voter approval of the District’s proposed budget) during the District’s 2021-2022 fiscal year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- authorizes Patrick Flaitz to dispose of the following PE Equipment:
Espresso Bike – Asset Control #A00496870
- approves the updated “Acceptable Use Policy for Chromebooks” as presented.
- approves the updated “Board of Education, Qualifications, Numbers and Terms of Office” Policy #1120 as presented.
- approves the “Hornell City School District Public Employer Emergency Health Plan”.
- approves the Memorandum of Agreement with Building Blocks Comprehensive Service, Inc., as the LEA and the ASEP for flow-thru funding for the 2021-22 school year.
- approves the Memorandum of Agreement with Pathways as the LEA and the ASEP for flow-thru funding for the 2021-22 school year.
- approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Rochester School for the Deaf for as the LEA and the ASEP for flow-thru funding for the 2021-22 school year.
- accepts the lowest bidder meeting the specifications on the waste pickup bid and contract for the 2021-22 school year: Lippincott’s - \$26,900.00
- approves the continuation of the following services per previous RFP continuation agreements for the 2021/22 school year:
School Physician – Stony Brook Pediatrics - \$10,000.

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- approves the resolution to participate in the Cooperative Food Service Bids with the GST BOCES for the 2021/22 school year.
- approves the resolution to participate in the Cooperative Natural Gas Bid with the WFL BOCES for the 2021/22 school year.
- approves the 2021-2022 school budget in the amount of \$39,843,578.
- approves the contract with Teresa Howard to provide Staff Development Services at St. Ann's Academy, effective September 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.
- approves the updated contract with Welliver for services related to the Capital Outlay project and additional North Hornell work.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

PERSONNEL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the permanent appointment of Diane VanScoter as Bus Attendant effective September 3, 2020.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the permanent appointment of Christine Smith as Bus Attendant effective September 3, 2020.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the permanent appointment of Edward Knitter as School Bus Driver effective September 3, 2020.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the permanent appointment of Cynthia Harding as Cleaner effective September 17, 2020.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the 26-week probationary appointment of John Hollister as Cleaner effective April 15, 2021, 8 hours per day, 12 months at the rate stated in the HESSA contract.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the increase in hours of Vicki Plank from 7 hours per day to 7.5 hours per day effective April 15, 2021 through the end of the 2020-21 school year.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the appointment of Charles Class as Crew Chief effective January 9, 2021.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

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BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board accepts the resignation for the purpose of retirement of James Miller as Maintenance Foreman effective May 7, 2021. (29.5 years of service).

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

The Board congratulated Jim and thanked him for his many years of service.

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the appointment of Kathleen Swift as Student Activities Central Treasurer effective April 15, 2021 through the remainder of the 2020-21 school year.

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approves the following Spring Coaching Assignments for the 2021 season, (pending proper certifications and clearances) appointments are conditional upon actual existence of a Spring 2021 season, with stipends as defined in the HEA Contract – stipends may be prorated to reflect the abbreviated season due to the COVID restrictions in place. Appointments are effective April 19, 2021:

Baseball:

Jacob Kenney –	Varsity Head Coach
Joe Flint –	JV Head Coach
Christopher vanLeeuvan -	Mod Head Coach

Softball:

Aubri Mosher –	Varsity Head Coach
Jennifer Larkin –	JV Head Coach
Kara Capozza –	Modified Head Coach

Track and Field:

Michael DeGaetano –	Boys Varsity Head Coach
Damien DeMarco -	Girls Varsity Head Coach
Mary Wolf -	Assistant Coach
Angela DeLany -	Assistant Coach

Tennis:

Sean Gaffney -	Varsity Head Coach
James Dagon -	Modified Head Coach

Golf:

Amy Feeley -	Varsity Head Coach
Barbara Kramer -	JV Head Coach

Volunteers:

Steve Carson	(Baseball)
Pat McHale	(Baseball)
Caden Dunham	(Baseball)
Bill Headley	(Baseball)
Jennifer Kellogg	(Softball)
Conor Lynch	(Track)
Andrew Newman	(Track)
Erin Briggs	(Track)

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

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BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board accepts the resignation of Alejandra Quintana as Elementary Teacher effective July 25, 2021.
CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Karen Kuhn as Elementary Teacher effective June 30, 2021. (24 years of service in the district– 9 as an aide and 15 as a teacher).
CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

The Board congratulated Karen and thanked her for her many years of service.

BY: HESS/CLARK

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board approve the following changes to the substitute roster and other assignments, **pending successful fingerprint clearance through the New York State Education Department and approval through DMV and or Civil Service if applicable:**

Substitute Additions:

Erin Briggs - Teacher Aide, Typist (Effective 3/23/21)

David Browne - Teacher Aide

Kelly Kuhn - Teacher Aide, Typist

CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

DISCUSSION:

The Board discussed the need for a meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 for the sole purpose of voting on the 2021-22 GST BOCES Budget and their Board Members. It was determined that this meeting could be held via ZOOM at 5:30 PM.

INFORMATIONAL:

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held virtually via ZOOM on Wednesday April 21, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

The Annual Public Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:00 PM in the HS Auditorium with the next regular meeting of the Board of Education will follow immediately thereafter.

The Annual Budget Vote/Board of Education Election will be held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from Noon 9:00 PM in the High School Lobby with a meeting of the Board of Education to follow at 9:30 PM in the HS Cafeteria to accept the results of the vote.

BY: HESS/MEHR

RESOLVED: that, at 6:21 PM the Board move to Executive Session to discuss the tenure of particular individuals.
CARRIED – 6 AYES – ALL

BY: HESS/CLARK

RESOLVED: that, at 7:11 PM the Board return to Regular Session and the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED – 6 AYES - ALL

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Eaton, District Clerk