

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WEBB UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018
LIBRARY
6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joseph Phaneuf, George Hildebrant, Sharon Evans, and Philip Petty
Ryan Johnston– Student Representative

ABSENT: Anne Garbarino

ALSO PRESENT: Rex Germer, John Swick, Jennifer Dunn and Diane Kull

OTHERS PRESENT: Kendra Hopsicker, Jamie Russell

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President, Joseph Phaneuf.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jennifer Dunn, District Treasurer mentioned that Budget review will take place next meeting.

Joseph Phaneuf mentioned that the Board has been in discussion as to the vision of the school building in the future. After some discussion on a new school building versus maintaining/upgrading the old building, the board was in consensus that it is time to bring in the experts to lead us through a process to determine what would be best and favored by a majority of the community. Also, part of the discussion was enhancing the community resources for the year round and seasonal people to add to the quality of life such as pool facilities. Some suggested groups that could possibly use the building: Elder Care, SHARP & a day care facility.

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by P. Petty, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 12, 2017.

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by P. Petty the Board voted to accept the warrants:

WARRANTS

- #12 Fund A with 83 checks written for a total of \$220,845.23
- #9 Fund C with 9 checks written for a total of \$4,069.00
- Benefits January 2018 Fund TA with 2 checks written for a total of \$25,038.68
- December PR Fund TA with 22 checks written for a total of \$499,465.29

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by S. Evans, seconded by P. Petty, the Board voted to approve the Treasurer’s Monthly Report for November 2017 as presented.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Course Credit Committee, on a motion by S. Evans, seconded by P. Petty, the Board voted to approve the Education Course Credit Request as submitted by: Megan Pfeifer -“Why Argue: Teaching the Art of Oral and Written Argument” - 3 credits and Andrew Huntress - “Powerful Ideas & Quantitative Modeling in Mechanics” - 3 credits

COURSE CREDIT RECOMMENDATION

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by S. Evans, the Board voted to approve the recommendations and the authorization of funds as needed to implement the special education programs and services consistent with such recommendations.

CSE RECOMMENDATION

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:
CHILD REARING LEAVE

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by P. Petty, seconded by S. Evans, the Board voted to approve the Child Rearing leave requested by Hannah Schoen as per Article 8, #2 of the current TOWTA contract with the leave to begin at the completion of her pregnancy disability and last up to 4 weeks.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

ACCEPTANCE:
DONATION

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by P. Petty, the Board voted to accept the donation from an anonymous donor in the amount of \$520.65 to pay off the student outstanding charges in the school cafeteria with thanks.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPOINTMENT:
SAT PREP INSTRUCTOR

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by P. Petty, the Board voted to approve the appointment of G. Michael Cunningham as SAT Prep Instructor for 12 hours at the rate of \$35/hour, January 22- May 4, 2018.

Vote: Yes – 4 No – 0

APPOINTMENT:
VOLUNTEER

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by P. Petty, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to approve the appointment of the following for the 2017-2018 school year:

Volunteer to Assist the Ski Coaches: Jessica Hannah

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:
USE OF SCHOOL
BUS

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by S. Evans, seconded by P. Petty, the Board voted to approve the request from the Town of Webb Recreation Program for the use of buses and drivers to transport the Town of Webb Day Kamp program participants to and from different recreation activities from July 5-August 10, 2018 contingent on providing a certificate of insurance naming the school district as additional insured and pending driver availability.

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

ACCEPTANCE:
SURPLUS BID

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by S. Evans, the Board voted to accept the surplus bus bid of \$16,000 from Daniel Murdock for the 2013 Chevy 28 passenger bus VIN #1GB3G3BG8D1184127.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:
INTER- MUNICIPAL
AGREEMENT-

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by P. Petty, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to approve the Inter-Municipal Cooperation Agreement with Hamilton County and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the contract for transportation for the period January 8, 2018 to June 22, 2018.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

ACCEPTANCE:
INTENT TO RETIRE

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by S. Evans, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to accept the letter of intent for purposes of retirement from G. Michael Cunningham, Secondary English Teacher, with regret and appreciation for his 29 years of service, effective June 30, 2018.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Rex Germer, Superintendent reviewed with the Board of Education:

- At this time it is appropriate to engage in conversation with an architect to lay out a road map and timeline associated with a potential capital project. The scope and magnitude of this project would be determined by studies both internal to the District and external within the community. Conversation has been happening for many years regarding how the school could be used to serve the public in a different way and it is believed that those conversations need to be turned into potential actions looking forward. A large scale capital project is something that has not taken place here since 2000 so nobody currently filling the administrative roles or holding a seat on the Board of Education has been a part of this process within this District but it is hoped that we will actively engage many different constituents as we begin the process and formulate a plan to maintain and improve our facility and create a scenario where the school can further meet the needs of the entire community beyond the commitment we already have to educating our youth.
- Thank you to Principal John Swick for his diligence in pursuing an agreement with Herkimer County Community College to provide more dual credit classes within our school. This pursuit has led to a formal agreement with HCCC which will afford our students the opportunity to complete their first year of college studies while attending the Town of Webb UFSD. This agreement is sure to benefit students by offering credits that will be fully SUNY transferable if the students achieve passing marks.
- With the inking of the HCCC agreement we have shifted conversation to the tuition for these dual credit courses. Dual credit courses through community colleges, by practice, often had arrangements in place to cover the tuition for the courses. A couple of years ago SUNY took action to make this process nearly impossible to achieve. The Town of Webb UFSD has believed that our students deserve this opportunity without the burden of the tuition being charged so we have done what we feel is appropriate to make this happen. There are regional community colleges that have continued to offer these courses tuition free and we feel this should be happening system wide since schools like us provide the educators and pay the employment costs for those running these classes within the space of our buildings. We will continue to have conversations and push to see a return of the practices of the past that were so beneficial to our students and their families.
- At this point we are looking to welcome our first international student through the F-1 Visa program in a couple of weeks. We have a host family approved and ready to welcome a student from Russia into their home. This family will be receiving some reimbursement from the student's family for cost associated with providing a caring home and family environment during the time the foreign student attends our school and is exposed to Old Forge and the United States. We anticipate this will be a great experience for the visiting student, the host family, all of our students and the community. This student is currently scheduled to be with us for just the Spring semester although this type of visa does allow a student to attend school in the US for a full year. We are looking to hear from other families in the community that would like to be host families. Please contact us for more information if you have any interest. This opportunity to host would be potentially available to community members that may not have students currently in school but that are looking to provide this experience for a foreign youth.
- Just prior to the holidays we had several donations made that allowed for different events or the easing of financial burdens for some families.
 - All students, faculty and staff were invited to go to the Strand and see the movie Wonder in the theater. Students in the lowest grades were offered two alternate movies that were more age appropriate. The ticket costs were covered by the generous donations of three individuals/corporations making this event possible for everyone. The Enchanted Forest Water Safari was one of the entities making this event possible.
 - We had an individual come in right before break to find out what the debt was on student lunch accounts. This person then wrote a check to cover the costs of that debt allowing students/families to begin the new calendar year with zero monies due to the cafeteria. This was a very generous donation that covered just over \$500 of student meal debt.
 - Monies made available through grants and Catholic Charities allowed us to purchase student designed t-shirts for our entire school (students and employees). The shirts were maroon and white and along with our Eskimo mascot had the student and faculty chosen words "Town of Webb UFSD Where Snow Days Don't Exist". The shirts were worn the day before break by all of us. Monies from these sources have also been used for upgrades to our playground equipment/area.
- Thank you to all everyone for the above donations that have allowed us to do extra and nice things for our students. This community and its commitment to each other, especially our youth should be acknowledged and applauded!

BOARD CONCERNS:

S. Evans congratulated Ryan Johnston on being chosen to play in Area All State Band. The sign in the gym is straight. P. Petty: the clock has the incorrect time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by P. Petty, seconded by S. Evans, to enter into executive session at 7:21 p.m. to discuss the employment history of several TOWTA, CSEA and substitute employees.

Vote: Yes -4 No – 0

The employment history of several TOWTA, CSEA and substitute employees were discussed, no action was taken.

REGULAR SESSION: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by P. Petty, to return to regular session at 7:32 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by P. Petty, seconded by G. Hildebrant, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

District Clerk