

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WEBB UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014
LIBRARY
6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Nahor, George Hildebrant, Sharon Evans, Joseph Phaneuf and Anne Garbarino
ALSO PRESENT: Rex Germer, John Swick, Jennifer Dunn and Diane Kull
OTHERS PRESENT: Sara Alves, Jennifer Lis, Bill Burns, Tory Dunn, Meg Ulrich, Margaret DiOrio, Kelly Greene, Diane Gaige, Casey Hamlin, Daniel Stephanko, Doug Riedman, Jason Perkins, Erica Wilcox

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President, Kathy Nahor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The proposed 2015-2016 Instructional Calendar was discussed. Various community members expressed their opinions on the proposed spring break taking place at the end of April and the first week of May. Comments regarding calendar included:

- Local company’s employees are not allowed vacation after April 20.
- Local business starts to gear up for a busy season during that period of time.
- Parents would plan vacation earlier and students would miss school.
- Boys baseball would have a 32 day time period to hold games. March and 1st part of April are best time periods for spring sports.
- Split the weeks February and April?
- It is a long period of time for students without vacation.
- Half days are difficult for parents to find childcare and a half day doesn’t leave much time to do anything.
- Couldn’t we take and score the exams at another time or opt out of taking the scheduled exams?
- BOCES students would potentially miss classes during TOW vacation.

It was decided not to vote on the calendar as proposed giving time to review and then possibly approve a calendar at the next meeting.

APPROVAL:
MINUTES 1/20/15

On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by A. Garbarino, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2015 regular meeting.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL:
WARRANTS & CLAIMS

On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by A. Garbarino, seconded by J. Phaneuf the Board voted to accept warrants and claims:

- #14 Fund A with 50 checks written for a total of \$109,464.43
- #11 Fund C with 6 checks written for a total of \$3,445.21
- #13 Fund TA with 26 checks written for a total of \$461,284.02
- #15 Fund TA with 1 check written for a total of \$27,717.68

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL:
ELECTION INSPECTORS

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by S. Evans, the Board voted to approve the appointment of election inspectors/poll watchers for the March 11, 2015 Roof Reconstruction Vote, at a stipend of \$85.00 as follows:

Dora Burnett	Carol Clark
Mona Lincoln	Joan Liddle
Betty Draper	Anne Hasby
	Alternate Election Inspector –Janine Phaneuf

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL:
PUBLIC HEARING

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by A. Garbarino, the Board voted to approve that a Budget Hearing be established on for March 3 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town of Webb UFSD School Library of said District located at 3002 NYS Rt. 28, Old Forge, New York purpose of reviewing project in regard to Roof Reconstruction Vote on March 11, 2015.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL:
VOTER REGISTRATION
MEETING

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by S. Evans, the Board voted to approve the Town of Webb Union Free School District Board of Registration shall meet in the schoolhouse of said district located at 3002 NYS Rt. 28, Old Forge, New York on March 5, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of preparing the final voter registration register of the school district for the May 11, 2015 Roof Reconstruction Vote.

Vote: Yes- 5 No- 0

APPROVAL:
CSE RECOMMENDATION

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

Vote: Yes - 5 No – 0

APPROVAL:
USE OF SCHOOL
BUS

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by A. Garbarino, the Board voted to approve the request from the Inlet Community Church for the use of a bus and driver:

- March 28 – April 4, 2015. One (1) driver (volunteered his time to drive the bus) and bus to transport mission workers to and from Albany Airport. The Inlet Community Church bearing all related costs and upon provision of a certificate of insurance naming the school district as an additional insured.

Vote: Yes -5 No – 0

APPROVE:
DONATION

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to accept the following donated books from the Tayler Schmid Fund:

10 - Kaplan SAT Prep Books:	\$19.99 each	- \$199.90
10 - Trig for Dummies Books:	\$15.13 each	- <u>\$151.30</u>
		\$351.20

Vote: Yes – 5 No – 0

SPECIAL TOPIC:

Board Members reviewed 1st draft of the 2015-2016 Budget.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

John Swick, Principal reviewed the following:

- Our Guidance Department ran a Financial Aid Night for parents of juniors and seniors tonight at 5:30 in conjunction with Utica College. This included an overview of the financial aid process as well as the FAFSA and CSS Financial profile.
- Our junior class took the English Common Core Regents examination on Monday, January 1/26. There were many students who did well with 17/36 achieving Mastery (85% or higher). Overall we had 89% of students attained a passing grade. Students will have a second attempt in June of this year.
- Second semester began on Monday, 1/26.
- Our Mid-Term week schedule was changed to be three (3) days instead of four (4) which increased instructional time in the classroom and cut down testing by 25%. This also allowed students a day to come back for review after a three (3) day weekend. Adjustments will continue to be made once feedback is gathered from teachers, students, and parents.
- Webb Way rewards were handed out to all students who did not receive a referral or get sent to the office during the second quarter. Also students who received an ice cube or chain link were rewarded with an ice cream.
- Val Gaudin (Vocal Music Instructor) and Emily Herrmann (Instrumental Music Instructor) along with their students traveled to rehearse and play in the Bi-County Music Festival on Monday, 1/26, Friday, 1/23 and Saturday, 1/24. Students in attendance: **Vocal Music:** A.Cooper, M.Murphy, O.Pthaneuf **Band:** J.Bartel, L.Bogardus

- K-5 Parent/Teacher conferences provided parents and teachers to meet to discuss second quarter report cards on Friday, 1/30 with the Monday, 2/2 (snow day) date rescheduled for Monday, 2/9. K-5 students were dismissed @11:15 a.m.

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

- The Governor is holding firm on his school reform demands in many ways. He has packaged them together and said that the increase he proposed in funding of over \$1Billion to schools will only happen with unilateral approval of the reform package. This includes APPR and tenure changes as well as other items.
- This battle at the State level has also caused the aid runs we normally have to start developing a budget to be withheld. Many groups are pushing for them to be released but it has been stated that we would see them once a budget agreement is reached at or around April 1st. School districts are expected to meet certain calendar deadlines for building, advertising and voting on a budget. The April 1 deadline is ridiculous to accomplish what the state requires prior to a vote and for this reason we are developing a budget with even more unknowns or in this case without even a belief that we have an adequate idea of the starting numbers for aid. This is further compounded by our need to report to the state our Tax Levy Limit calculations by March 1st. This submission to the state is also to include our intention to breach the Tax Levy Limit with the budget we are putting out to voters **if** that were to be the plan.
- The BOE had asked Mr. Swick and me to look at our course offerings and entire program outside of current contractual and budgetary constraints to see how we could offer the best program possible for our students including what else we could be offering. We already have a number of teachers who teach several different subject areas at a wide variety of grades. It has been the case that our mid-level grades have very full schedules and our upper classmen, although meeting and often exceeding the number of credits needed for graduation, have fewer options of varied courses to explore than we would hope to be able to expose them too. Part of this is easily relatable to the limited number of professional staff we have which is a direct result of our enrollment numbers. Increasingly we will have to look at other avenues to offer courses in a locale that is not really conducive to hiring and retaining part time staff. Overall students and parents met with Kandis to set up schedules as part of this process. This increased level of involvement is an attempt to flush out where students may be looking to gain experiences and exposure and also to identify areas we need to bolster so the academic experience is richer for our students.
 - We have looked at moving to a rotating quarterly schedule for the non-core classes in 6th grade. Classes would meet for 10 weeks instead of once every 6 days as part of the cycle. This would allow increased teacher contact and continuity and a deeper/richer experience with the material.
 - There has been interest in off level as well as more options for Math courses. Math curriculum is the latest being impacted by significant changes and frustrations across the state. It is known that many students in the state meet their requirement and then don't take another math class until possibly college where many then have to take remedial courses that don't earn credit but cost tuition.
 - With the nano tech facility down the road from us what are we doing to create thinkers who are ready for this job market that could potentially afford our students the opportunity to remain community members into the future? Computer technology classes are definitely lacking and have caused several students to request programming rich classes within our schedule.
 - Other areas that had interest outside of our current offerings were: Other languages including French and Sign Language and Business classes such as Accounting
 - We have more students interested in attending BOCES next year. These are great programs that offer significant experiences while providing skills that will enable students to enter the workforce as trained employees and in recent months these courses when culminated with certain rigorous tests will allow some degree of graduation requirement attainment.

Many of the ideas we heard and examined have a budgetary impact and have been included in draft 1 presented tonight. Our students have every right to receive the best education we can offer to them. We would love to realize the ability to tap into the staff we have and look at future hires to impact our programming and vary the opportunities and offerings we have available to them.
- Letters of retirement or intent received already this year have caused us to look at how we do things very closely. We have taken this as an opportunity to reevaluate what each job looks like and what credentials we would like a possible new hire to have to best suit the needs of the District tomorrow and much further into the future. Ideas and possibilities:
 - Math (Replacement position): Look to hire a math certified individual that also has a second certification most likely in Special Education.

- Technology Education (Industrial Arts) (Replacement position): Look to hire a certified individual with strong STEM abilities including Project Lead the Way training or willingness to do so.
- Library Media Specialist (Replacement position): Look to hire a certified individual that also has a strong computer technology integration orientation or certification.
- Computer Technology Integration (Possible new position): Look to hire a person who is certified and could offer more significant computer courses like programming but also has the ability to work with teachers to fully integrate technology into and enhance their daily lessons and interactivity with students and home. This person could also handle many of the daily activities that our network specialist no longer has the time to handle due to the increase in technology in our building in the last few years.
- Cafeteria manager and worker(Replacement): Proper nourishment is important and with student free and reduced percentages much higher than we have traditionally seen it is important that we look to continue this program even though it costs a significant amount of money from the general fund as it is currently not self sufficient. This area will be better defined and evaluated to meet the new guidelines and restrictions while we look to streamline process and functionality.
- Account Clerk (Replacement) (Civil Service test slated for Feb. 28 with a Feb. 6 registration deadline): This position is being looked at to cover other duties including cashier in the cafeteria and possible significant or total connection to tax collecting among other items. This position will morph to meet current needs within the District.
- 6th Grade (Reconfigure): We have the opportunity to create a transition period in 6th due to certifications currently held by our staff. We are looking at the possibility of having all 4 core subjects taught by only two teachers. The students would still be mobile between classes but have fewer teachers to learn from and about as they transition from the single teacher classroom to switching teachers on a period schedule.
- Several other positions are anticipated to be open later this year but as of yet have not had official letters submitted from current employees and some possible further needs for Aide/Assistant time to support the offering of other electives by teachers and the needs of our Special Education population.
- Inlet planning has become a reality in our budgetary preparations. Inlet has had several meetings now within their school community to discuss the future of the school. These discussions include the possible future tuitioning of all of their students to the Town of Webb UFSD. In our budget we have looked to incorporate the needs of this type of contractual arrangement in terms of our supplies, staff and facilities. Initially we only present the expenditure side of the budget that is representative of all expenses including new positions, new mandates, benefits, supplies, insurance, etc. On the revenue side there is a potential for a significant increase due to an increase in tuition received from Inlet if they were to send all students K-12 to us rather than just the currently tuitioned 7-12 and one elementary student. We have not officially been asked to be the receiving district for the remainder of their students but it is necessary to budget appropriately as an approved maximum spending plan (what you vote on as our budget) cannot be breached even if our needs change after the fact.

CLERK PRO TEMP: Motion to appoint R. Germer as Clerk Pro Temp made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf.

Vote: Yes –5 No – 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, to enter into executive session at 8:12 p.m. to discuss the employment history of 3 particular teachers; information related to a potential contract and the employment history of the Superintendent.

Vote: Yes -5 No – 0

The employment history of 3 particular teachers; information related to a potential contract and the employment history of the Superintendent were discussed, no action was taken.

REGULAR SESSION: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by A. Garbarino, to return to regular session at 8:50 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 5 No – 0

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by A. Garbarino, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 5 No – 0