

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WEBB UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016
LIBRARY
6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Nahor, George Hildebrant, Joseph Phaneuf and Anne Garbarino
Casey Hamlin– Student Representative

ABSENT: Sharon Evans

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Amos, Brad Donovan, Jen Lis

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

SPECIAL TOPIC: 2016 – 2017 Budget was reviewed.

APPROVAL:
2016-2017 BUDGET On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by A. Garbarino, the Board voted to approve the 2016-2017 school district budget in the amount of \$8,769,490 and the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary tax on the real property of the district.

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

APPROVAL:
MINUTES 3/15/16 On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 15, 2016.

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

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

- #20 Fund A with 45 checks written for a total of \$30,627.64
- #16 Fund C with 6 checks written for a total of \$541.01
- #22 Fund TA with 18 checks written for a total of \$312,312.50

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

APPROVAL:
SCHOOL HOLIDAY On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by A. Garbarino, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to approve school holidays on Thursday, May 26, Friday, May 27 and Friday, June 24, 2016 using three unused emergency closing days, unless needed earlier. If an emergency day is needed before May 26th, we would have school on that day.

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

APPROVAL:
CSE RECOMMENDATION On the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, on a motion by A. Garbarino, seconded by J. Phaneuf, 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.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:
COURSE CREDIT RECOMMENDATION On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by A. Garbarino seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to approve the Education Course Credit Request as submitted by Megan Pfeifer “Human Growth & Development in Middle Childhood” and “Cognition, Learning & Assessment: Middle Childhood” for three credits each.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:
ELECTION INSPECTORS

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by A. Garbarino, the Board voted to approve the appointment of election inspectors/poll watchers for the May 17, 2016 Annual Budget Vote, at a stipend of \$85.00 as follows:

Dora Burnett Carol Clark
Mona Lincoln Joan Spring
Jane Tormey Anne Hasby
Alternate Election Inspector –Joan Liddle and Lois Lowenburg

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:
BOARD OF VOTER
REGISTRATION MTG.
MAY 12, 2016

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by A. Garbarino, the Board voted to approve that 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 May 12, 2016 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 Annual Budget Vote and that the Annual Budget Hearing be established on May 10, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town of Webb UFSD gymnasium, and that the Budget Vote be established May 17, 2016 from 2-9:00 p.m. in the Town of Webb UFSD gymnasium.

Vote: Yes – 4 No – 0

APPOINTMENT:
SUBSTITUTE

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by A. Garbarino, the Board voted to appoint the following:

Substitute Teacher: Alicia Burnett at the rate of \$65 day
Substitute Teacher Aide: Alicia Burnett at the rate of \$9.75/hour

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

John Swick, Principal reviewed the following:

- Spring sports were scheduled this week with games being rescheduled for next week.
- Spirit Week was a success with the Seniors again winning the Spirit Week overall competition.
- The PARP finale took place on Wednesday, 3/16, with a Batman vs. Superman themed performance. Students attained their goal of 85% of students reading for 15 minutes each night.
- The Senior class read to the K-5 during PARP before break as part of an assignment in public speaking for English 12.
- The Fall Book Fair earned \$663.24 in Scholastic Dollars for our PTC. The Spring Book Fair will be Wednesday, 4/20, Thursday, 4/21, Friday, 4/22 and will feature a buy one get one free sale!
- NYS ELA testing started today and will continue through Thursday. Math testing will be Wednesday-Friday of next week.
- The Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades created signs and wished the older students good luck on their NYS tests by making postcards for them this week.
- The TOW UFSD Crisis Response Team, sponsored by the NYS Office of Mental Health, consulted with Jeanne Elmer yesterday, an expert in the field of postvention dealing with grief and suicide.
- Today Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades took a field trip to View for the presentation of Songs of the Iroquois presented by the Adirondack Shakespeare Company. This provided an educational tour that teaches about the Iroquois' culture through the performing arts tying in NYS history.
- AP Government students continued their field trip to the Herkimer County Courthouse attending a seminar session eventually including a Board of Legislators meeting, interviewing a legislator and culminating in a group project/presentation.
- Ms. Gaudin took students on a field trip to NYC to see a Broadway production on Wednesday, 3/16.

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

- With the passage of the state budget there are a few things to take note of as they relate to the District.
 - The budget is being touted as having the largest increase ever for education. These massive increases do not include the Town of Webb UFSD. We did see an increase in foundation aid and the restoration of the GEA (Gap Elimination Adjustment) that is actually monies we should have been receiving for years that the state has not been paying to districts across New York State. We had a decrease in building aid keeping the bottom line of aids received to nearly the same amount seen this current year.

- The minimum wage increases passed for NY other than in the City or on Long Island will bring the minimum wage from the current \$9.00 per hour to \$12.50 per hour over the next 5 years (\$.70 increase per year). We will have to take a good look at all our starting wages and newer employees to make sure we are meeting this new requirement of the law.
- Paid Family Leave is part of the minimum wage deal. This new program will be employee funded through payroll deductions beginning at \$.70 per week for up to 8 weeks of paid leave at 50% of pay in 2018 and increasing to a \$1.40 per week deduction for up to 12 weeks of paid leave at 67% of pay in 2021. The program will cap the amount received at two-thirds of New York’s average weekly wage which was \$1266.44 in 2014 before the inclusion of the new minimum wage law which has very significant increases across the state. Although touted as “not costing anything” for business large and small this will have to be processed and deposited through the payroll systems by business office personnel and will also require the hiring of long term replacement personnel during these leaves. This also has other implications for the employee who has paid sick time/sick leave bank time available to them.
- The Building Condition Survey was completed by our architectural firm and submitted to the State as required by law. The Operations, Management and Transportation Committee met and went over the summary of that survey which includes approximately \$3 million of work earmarked for the next 5 years. This work is mainly repairs, replacements and upgrades to existing structures and systems including flooring, infrastructure, safety and security, ADA compliance concerns and bathrooms. It does include one expense for a possible additional feature in the Aux Gym which is being explored currently. We should be coming up with a definitive plan to address these identified items moving forward either through annual small projects or within the scope of a larger capital project. It has been 16 years since our last major capital project and although we have worked hard to maintain what we have the aging buildings and systems are going to need more attention than our budgets can foreseeably incorporate moving forward. Is this the time to think about a replacement of the school with a new facility and a repurposing of the current building to serve the needs of the community in a different way?
- We are currently making every attempt to preserve our varsity baseball season. Games were to begin yesterday but the weather helped delay what we didn’t have enough eligible players to undertake anyway. Students and their parents expressed a desire to make this work and we are working to minimize the conflicts in scheduling for our students that are two sport athletes this spring and have declared track as their primary sport. A strong commitment to the team from the student athletes involved will be necessary to keep us moving forward.
- We have had a team meeting at BOCES for the last few months to work on a new program offering through CTE that would directly link to industry as a pipeline of skills and characteristics sought out by larger manufacturers and production employers. The thought for our region was the need to prepare our students for the emerging jobs in nanotech and the supportive industries that will follow in the near future in the Utica area. Initially this program was being planned to begin in the Fall of 2017 but with the anticipated need BOCES was able to secure a classroom and the funds necessary through budgetary realignment and grants to offer this new program this fall at their Glenfield Tech Center. The new program being offered is Integrated Production and Design Technology.
- We will look to get the liaisons from both the School Board and Town Board together in May to begin sharing thoughts and ideas and enable the two boards to combine their knowledge bases for the betterment of the school and community.

BOARD CONCERNS:

K. Nahor acknowledged receipt of announcement of a rescheduled Jefferson-Lewis School Boards Association Workshop “The Effects of Social Media and Drugs in Our Schools” to May 11, 2016.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, to enter into executive session at 7:11 p.m. to discuss litigation related to the former Superintendent and the employment history of a particular teacher.

Vote: Yes -4 No – 0

Litigation related to the former Superintendent and the employment the history of a particular teacher were discussed, no action was taken.

REGULAR SESSION:

Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, to return to regular session at 7:54 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:

APPEAL OF HERKIMER
COUNTY SUPREME COURT
DECISION

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by A. Garbarino, the Board voted to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board, having reviewed the decision of the Herkimer County Supreme Court dated March 23, 2016, in a proceeding under Index No. 00097252, authorizes legal counsel to pursue appeal of said decision.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

District Clerk