

BOARD OF EDUCATION – REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF WEBB UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015
LIBRARY
6:30 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathy Nahor, George Hildebrant, Joseph Phaneuf and via video conferencing - Anne Garbarino. Connor Glasser– Student Representative

ABSENT: Sharon Evans

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Casey Hamlin, Daniel Stefanko, Megan Ulrich, Michael Cunningham

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by President, Kathy Nahor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Kathy Nahor acknowledged receipt of two letters of that would be voted on during the meeting, information from two of the four BOCES candidates competing for three seats on the BOCES Board. Kathy Nahor also read a letter from the Dean of Harvard praising the two local students attending Harvard and their home community.

SPECIAL TOPIC: 2015 – 2016 Budget Review - Revenue was discussed.

APPROVAL: 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 March 7, 2015 regular meeting.
MINUTES 3/17/15

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Board President, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to accept warrants and claims:
WARRANTS & CLAIMS

- #18 Fund A with 54 checks written for a total of \$113,218.32
- #15 Fund C with 8 checks written for a total of \$3,483.99
- #18 Fund TA with 20 checks written for a total of \$313,457.29
- #20 Fund TA with 1 check written for a total of \$27,633.68

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to approve school holidays on Friday, May 22 and Thursday, June 25, 2015 using two unused emergency closing days, unless needed earlier. If an emergency day is needed before May 22nd, we would have school on that day.
SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Vote: Yes- 4 No- 0

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

Vote: Yes -4 No – 0

APPROVAL: On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to approve the appointment of election inspectors/poll watchers for the May 19, 2015 Annual Budget Vote, at a stipend of \$85.00 as follows:
ELECTION INSPECTORS

Dora Burnett Pauline MacDonald
Mona Lincoln Joan Spring
Betty Draper Anne Hasby

Alternate Election Inspectors – Carol Clark and Janine Phaneuf Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

ACCEPTANCE: On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Karen Morosko, Spanish teacher, effective June 30, 2015.
RESIGNATION

Vote: Yes - 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:
BOARD OF VOTER
REGISTRATION MTG.
MAY 14, 2015

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by G. Hildebrant, 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 14, 2015 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 a Budget Hearing be established for May 4 at 7:00 p.m. at the Big Moose Fire Hall, and on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Woodgate Free Library, that the Annual Budget Hearing be established on May 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town of Webb UFSD gymnasium, and that the Budget Vote be established May 19 from 2-9:00 p.m. in the Town of Webb UFSD gymnasium.

Vote: Yes – 4 No – 0

APPROVAL:
PROPANE BID
2015-2016

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, the Board voted to approve the 2015-2016 Propane bid from Helmer's Fuel & Trucking, Inc. at the fixed price of \$2.0090/gallon.

Vote: Yes -4 No – 0

ACCEPTANCE:
RESIGNATION FOR
RETIREMENT

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, on a motion by J. Phaneuf, seconded by G. Hildebrant, the Board voted to accept the resignation for retirement of Bonnie Tracy, Teacher Aide, with regret and appreciation for her multiple years of service at various positions at the Town of Webb UFSD, effective June 30, 2015.

Vote: Yes – 4 No – 0

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: John Swick, Principal reviewed the following:

- Thank you to our ELA and Art Departments for helping students submit work to the Old Forge Library Poetry/Art contest that took place on 3/17/15.
- Our first day of department meetings took place on Monday, 3/16/15, at 3pm after school. Students were asked to stay after in the library or choose a different day to stay with their teachers in an effort to carve out time for teachers to work together as a department or on interdisciplinary projects. This will take place on the third Monday of every month.
- The 9th Grade went to HCCC on 3/18 for Career Day with the guidance office.
- Mary Starring took several high school students to a presentation of 'Life After High School' by the Regional Center for Independent Living.
- The K-5 students met their PARP Challenge with 85% of students reading 15 minutes a day. Mr. Germer and Mr. Swick competed in an obstacle course after serving lunch as Thing 1 and Thing 2.
- The Spirit Week Assembly and Hallway Decorating went over very well before leaving for Spring Break.
- Our third mandatory K-12 bus drill took place on Tuesday, 4/7.
- The 3rd Quarter marking period closes on Friday, 4/10.
- We want to remind parents to have students get a good night's rest after a healthy dinner and a healthy breakfast in preparation for the 3-8 NYS ELA exams April 14-16 and for the 3-8 NYS Math exams April 22-24.
- Congratulations to N.Brownsell for winning second place in the 7th grade essay contest for the Scottish Rite Masons of Utica.
- The Utica Board of Volleyball Officials gave the Varsity Girls Volleyball Team the 2014-15 Sportsmanship Award. Congratulations to the Girls Varsity Volleyball Team.
- The Boys Alpine Team was presented with an award by State Senator Hugh T. Farley. Pat Russell, Herkimer County Legislator, presented the boys with an award prior to the Spirit Week Assembly in recognition of their NYS Skiing Championship Plaque. A banner was hung in the gym recognizing their accomplishment as well.

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

- The State did pass an on time budget and aid runs were released prior to finalization of language. A total increase of 1.3 billion dollars was put in funding for education over the previous year. Town of Webb fared about as we had anticipated.
- State assessments begin next week. It is a requirement of Federal Law that students in grades 3-8 be assessed. The tests are designed and administered by the State of NY under this law. The Board of Education and Administration are bound by this law to administer these assessments locally without any mechanism to “opt-out” of the administration based on our current position as a public school receiving State and Federal funding. The State has made it very clear that Boards of Education and Administrators can be removed if they fail to follow the laws and their oaths of office.
- The New York State Teachers Union as well as other associated unions have come forward to encourage parents to opt out of testing through community organized informational meetings, media outlets and social media. As part of the Federal Laws dictating administration of the assessments it is also a requirement that 95% of students within those populations be assessed annually. Due to the size of our enrollment it won’t take much for us not to reach that 95% and see potential consequences associated with that lack of compliance.
- Within the plans next year we are looking to seize an opportunity to bolster the academic program and transition out of the traditional elementary classroom model and into the “middle school” model where students change classes. It is our intention, after multiple conversations with students, parents and staff and after analysis of the failure lists and workloads that a chance to make an improvement on what we are currently doing exists. We will be looking to have the students have fewer teachers as a transition from the single core teacher in elementary to the multiple core teachers in high school. This will be accomplished by having only two core area teachers working with the students as they enter 6th grade instead of the four they have encountered for the last few years. One teacher will be working with the Science and Math curriculum while the other will be working with the Social Studies and English curriculum.
- The paperwork for the roof project has been finalized and submitted to the State of NY for approval of the project. We will be hoping for a fairly quick approval and bid process in hopes to get the work done this summer.
- We are planning to approve a final budget at our next regular meeting on Monday, April 20th. Budget brochures need to go to the printer within a day or two of that meeting so that we can get our mailings out as required by law to inform the taxpayers of the spending plan they will be voting on. The budget vote across the State is scheduled for May 19th this year.

Board Member Anne Garbarino was not privy to Executive session via video conferencing.

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

Vote: Yes –3 No – 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, to enter into executive session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss the litigation related to the former Superintendent; collective negotiations related to the TOWTA Contract and the CSEA Contract; Superintendent’s Contract and the employment history of all memo employees.

Vote: Yes -3 No – 0

The litigation related to the former Superintendent; collective negotiations related to the TOWTA Contract and the CSEA Contract; Superintendent’s Contract and the employment history of all memo employees were discussed, no action was taken.

REGULAR SESSION: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, to return to regular session at 8:05 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 3 No – 0

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by G. Hildebrant, seconded by J. Phaneuf, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Vote: Yes - 3 No – 0