

Board of Education, Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held remotely via Google Meet and was called to order by President Raymond Parmarter at 6:30 p.m., with the following additional board members present: Hannah Murray, Brent Doane, Nate Brace, Michael Blake, Josh Soper, and Rebecca Lyon, as well as Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:30 p.m., a motion was made by Michael Blake, seconded by Hannah Murray, to adjourn to executive session to discuss a particular personnel matter. All board members listed above were present, as well as Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski. At 6:30 p.m., CSE Chairperson Angela Holmes entered executive session to discuss the CSE/CPSE report. Mrs. Holmes exited executive session at 6:38 p.m.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

At 7:03 p.m., Josh Soper made a motion, seconded by Michael Blake, to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously. All board members listed above were present, as well as Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski, Jr/Sr High School Principal Wayne Aman, Elementary Principal Katie Volpicelli, Asst. Elementary Principal/Athletic Director Peter Ahart, CSE Chairperson Angela Holmes, Director of Transportation Holly Carling, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kimberleigh Nichols, Director of Technology Instruction Matt Gelder, Director of Operations Bern Smith, School Business Official Sydney Wade, and Board Clerk Kathlyn Hinkle.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said to begin regular session.

CSE/CPSE REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Brent Doane, seconded by Hannah Murray, to approve the CSE/CPSE report, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED:

A motion was made by Michael Blake, seconded by Josh Soper, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 11, 2021, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

School Business Official Sydney Wade summarized her report to the Board.

This month's packet included the Treasurer's Reports for July 2020 through February 2021, Budget Transfers for February 2021, as well as revenue and expenditure reports through February 2021.

Mrs. Wade updated the Board on the recent grant applications. The CARES Act Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER), and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds (GEER) were resubmitted on November 23rd, 2020, and are currently under review.

Mrs. Wade gave the Board information regarding the State Aid cuts and payments. To date, she has received all 20% withhold amounts, including the 2019-2020 BOCES final payment and the 2019-2020 Excess Cost payment, except for the withholding on the 2019-2020 final payment for the Pre-K grant. Mrs. Wade reached out to the UPK staff at NYSED, and they confirmed that the payments are forthcoming and grants finance is in the process of making good on this withholding. Mrs. Wade was told the payment would come through by March 31st, 2021. She added that the State has been true to its word on the withholds, so the District should have this payment by the end of the month.

Mrs. Wade spoke of the 2021-2022 State Aid. She stated that it has been a roller coaster ride with the projected State Aid for 2021-2022. After the last budget meeting, when everything looked pretty positive, the District was then told that the STAR Aid was in jeopardy and the District would not receive the full tax levy (with no recourse) and that a plan should be made to spread out the Federal "backfill" to the State's "Local Pandemic Adjustment" over two years, making a cut of half of the amount of the Federal Aid in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 to prepare for the impending funding cliff. However, since the Federal stimulus was passed, the District is now being told to sit tight while the Department of Budget is "...evaluating the Federal legislation and seeking further federal guidance to better understand how this funding can be used."

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Although the Governor is exercising excessive caution, based on the stimulus legislation and advocacy groups' interpretation of the legislation (NY ASBO, NYSCOSS), they hear a very positive outlook on the 2021-2022 State Aid. It is being speculated that the District will have significantly increased State Aid over both the 2020-2021 amount and what was initially proposed by the Governor in January. The STAR Aid will no longer be in jeopardy, and the Services Aid category will be rejected (Transportation and BOCES aid restored). Foundation Aid is slated to increase as well. The District is being told, in general, that they will be given a lot of money, with not a lot of time to use it. That will be an interesting "problem" to address. Given the ambiguity and uncertainty over 2021-2022 State Aid, it appears best to wait for the Governor's final executive budget proposal, which is expected on or before April 1st.

TREASURER'S REPORTS ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Michael Blake, seconded by Rebecca Lyon, to accept the Treasurer's reports for July 2020 – February 2021, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Nate Brace, seconded by Hannah Murray, to accept the Appropriation Transfers report for February 2021, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

WARRANTS ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Josh Soper, seconded by Michael Blake, to accept the following Warrants for February 2021, as presented: General Fund #43, Federal Fund #19, School Lunch Fund #22, and Capital Fund #8. The motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Board President Raymond Parmarter recognized the visitors present. Present were 32 faculty and staff members, 16 community members and parents, and two members of the press. Community members and parents were present to discuss the current status of the District's schedule due to COVID restrictions, and what the plans are for the future. At this time, Kailin Kittle, Veronica Williamson, Holly Alzitoon, Jessica Hobart, Kasey Eiklor, Anthony Huizinga, and Jennifer Schechter raised several questions, made suggestions, and spoke of their concerns.

Board Member Brent Doane exited regular session at 7:50 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Kisloski, a motion was made by Michael Blake, seconded by Josh Soper, to approve the following personnel items, pending fingerprint-supported criminal history background checks, where applicable*:

Resignations:

Accepted the resignation of **Jacki Hinkle** as Assistant Varsity Field Hockey Coach for the 2020-2021 season effective March 5, 2021, with regret.

Accepted the resignation of **Nick Petrie** as Assistant Track Coach for the 2020-2021 season effective February 16, 2021, with regret.

Accepted the resignation of **Kyle Pierce** as J.V. Football Coach for the 2020-2021 season effective February 23, 2021, with regret.

Recommended Appointments:

Approved the appointment of **Kristen Paluch** as a Full-Time Cook at the Elementary School cafeteria, effective March 19, 2021, with salary and benefits in accordance with the current Candor Employees Unit Contract.

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Approved of the *Extra-Curricular Activities* positions for the 2020-2021 school year, with salary in accordance with the current Extra-Curricular Pay Schedule:

1. **Amanda Reeves:** Modified Girls Soccer Coach

Approved of the *Substitute Teachers* for the 2020-2021 school year, with salary and benefits in accordance with the current Substitute Teacher Pay Schedule:

1. **Alyssa Haber:** pending B.A. Math Education (May 2021) (HS Only)

2021-2022 Staff & Instructional Calendar:

Approved the 2021-2022 Staff and Instructional Calendar, as presented.

2021-2022 Notice of Budget Hearing and Vote:

Approved the 2021-2022 Notice of Budget Hearing and Vote as presented. In addition to advertising the dates for the vote and budget hearing, it provides for the election of three (3) Board of Education members. The Candor Free Library has not requested additional funding for this year.

The first publications will be on Friday, April 2, 2021, in the *Ithaca Journal*, and on Sunday, April 4, 2021, in the *Owego Pennysaver*.

Section IV Sports Merger - JV & Varsity Baseball:

Approved the merger of sports teams for the spring 2021 season with the following resolution:

"BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Candor Central School District hereby authorizes the merger of athletic programs with the Spencer-Van Etten School District for the spring 2021 season. The sports to be merged are J.V. & Varsity Baseball."

Health & Welfare Services Contract - Ithaca CSD:

Approved the Contract for Health and Welfare Services between the Candor Central School District and the Ithaca City School District for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented and authorized the Superintendent, and the Board President to sign the same on the District's behalf.

New Textbook Purchase:

Approved of the following textbook purchase to be used in 9th Grade English classes:

Publisher: Follett School Solutions, Inc.
Author: Trevor Noah
Title: *It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime, Stories from a South African Childhood: Young Readers Edition*

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Total</u>
80 at \$14.33 ea.	\$1,146.40

Estimated s&h (10%)	<u>114.64</u>
<i>Approximate cost:</i>	\$1,261.04

Textbook Request – Fletcher:

Approved of the use of the following text to be used in 10th Grade English classes:

Title: *The Hunger Games* (2008)
Author: Suzanne Collins

The Board noted that Ms. Fletcher will use the free audiobook version of the text for the 2020-2021 school year. The purchase of textbooks is not necessary for teaching the text due to the current hybrid format. The Board approved of teaching the text at this time.

Retirement:

Accepted the retirement of **Lisa Cantone**, as an Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2021, with regret.

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Terminate Position Terminated:

Approved the following resolution:

"RESOLVED that **Dean Legursky** is terminated from his position as Full-Time Custodial Worker, effective February 26, 2021."

Administrator Reports:

Jr/Sr High School Principal Wayne Aman summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Aman stated that the Biden administration is requiring states to continue their annual standardized testing this spring; however, they said they will be offering "flexible options." In the Jr/Sr High School, this would include the Grades 7 & 8 Math, ELA, and Science Proficiency Exams. It also includes the Algebra I, English, Biology, and Earth Science Regents Exams. The High School team is continuing to process new information as it is presented and planning accordingly.

Mr. Aman informed the Board that a continuous conversation among High School principals is offering credit recovery options for the many students who are struggling academically during this school year. Mr. Aman has had multiple discussions with the faculty regarding credit remediation alternatives, and he appreciates their willingness to be flexible and creative with strategies to benefit the students. Mr. Aman stated that hopefully, the majority will get through, but he realizes that the High School staff will probably see course failure numbers higher than the District has seen before. Resources may need to be used creatively to manage the higher than usual failure rate.

Mr. Aman stated that due to COVID, the District provided a virtual National Honor Society (NHS) Induction Ceremony for viewing by students, family, and friends. The High School had a group of 17 well-deserving students who have worked very hard for this noteworthy accomplishment. Mr. Aman congratulated each of them on their induction into the Fanny Sackett Smith Chapter of NHS.

Elementary Principal Katie Volpicelli summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Volpicelli updated the Board on iReady Data. She stated that the iReady Diagnostic is a nationally norm-referenced assessment that students in grades 1-6 take three times a year in Reading and Math. Mrs. Volpicelli provided the Board with a table that shows the comparison of results between the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school year for Reading and Math. Comparatively, 2019-2020 Reading and Math scores are similar to 2020-2021 scores. Despite a very difficult year with limited in-person learning, the students are still making progress. In Math, a high percentage of students are at least one grade level below. The Math Committee is prioritizing standards and will work on aligning strategies when teaching essential skills at each grade level. In Reading, a high percentage of students are performing below grade level. The ELA standards were prioritized during the 2019-2020 school year. The ELA Committee is committed to learning more about the Science of Reading and will focus on selecting and aligning curriculum.

Mrs. Volpicelli stated that the Elementary literacy committee, led by Karlie Both, did a great job of planning Dr. Seuss activities this year. The daily themes were crazy hats, silly socks, wacky clothes, and red and white day for Cat in the Hat. Adults videotaped Dr. Seuss read alouds that students were able to watch. They read daily Dr. Seuss quotes on the announcements and handed out Swedish Fish to represent One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. Mrs. Volpicelli stated that it was a fun celebration in honor of Dr. Seuss.

Assistant Elementary Principal/Athletic Director Peter Ahart summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Ahart spoke of the sports teams returning to play. He stated that the teams have had a successful winter season. The student-athletes, coaches, and families adjusted very well to the sanitation, social distancing, and mask requirements for sports. Visiting teams were very cognizant and respectful of protocols and requests. Mr. Ahart stated that he is proud of the coaches and players as a few athletic directors from opposing schools reached out to him to commend the Candor Athletic Department on the flexibility and understanding when the District had to adjust game times, locations, dates, or make any last-minute adjustments because of the current pandemic.

Mr. Ahart updated the Board on the latest sports numbers. The Athletic Department made the decision to go to eight-man football due to low numbers. Additionally, they were forced to cancel the upcoming varsity girls soccer season due to low numbers.

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They are currently looking at the feasibility of maintaining a full modified boys soccer program for the entire season, and the numbers are low. Mr. Ahart provided the Board with a table with the sports sign-ups dating back to 2015 for reference.

Unfortunately, the District has had to cancel many seasons this year (J.V. girls basketball, varsity girls soccer, J.V. boys soccer, J.V. football, and consolidated the 7th and 8th-grade boys and girls basketball teams) this year due to low numbers. Based on the data, it looks as though these low numbers are simply an outlier due to COVID.

Mr. Ahart informed the Board that the Athletic Department has scheduled or is in the process of scheduling many of the home games on other District's turf fields for football, field hockey, and soccer. Currently, the District is scheduled to play at Waverly, Dryden, Owego, and Vestal. Other districts such as Johnson City and Binghamton are potential options as well.

Mr. Ahart provided the Board with the IAC policy on fall spectators. It is as follows:

"For Outdoor Fall Season II Sports (Modified Football, Varsity Football, Modified/J.V./Varsity Field Hockey, Boys and Girls Modified/J.V./Varsity Soccer, and Boys and Girls Modified/Varsity Cross-Country):

The IAC will allow 2 spectators per player on the home team and 2 spectators per player on the visiting team. Schools that host events with large facilities may exceed the 2-person spectator rule if their health departments allow it. We are currently working with other districts who host our home games (Owego, Waverly, Vestal and Dryden) to ensure they too will allow this same number of spectators.

For Indoor Fall Season II Sports (Modified Basketball, Modified Volleyball, J.V. and Varsity Volleyball):

The IAC will allow 2 spectators per player on the home team only.

Spectators must arrive for their child's contest only AND leave after their child's contest has been completed. If spectators arrive early for the 8th Grade Volleyball or Varsity Volleyball contests, they may not enter the building-they must wait in the parking lot until the previous game ends. Once the spectators clear out of the recently completed contest, those waiting may enter."

Board Member Hannah Murray asked Mr. Ahart if they will be recording or live streaming the outside games. Mr. Ahart said they would be recorded. He stated that there are Hudl cameras like the one in the High School gymnasium that can be used outside that he may look into. Matt Gelder added that the wi-fi outside is poor, which makes it impossible to live stream. The games would have to be recorded and uploaded to YouTube.

CSE Chairperson Angela Holmes summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Holmes informed the Board of upcoming Professional Development for the Special Education Department. Along with the regularly scheduled meetings, the department needs to participate in the following professional development by the end of this school year due to 2018-2019 data pertaining to Students with Disabilities: Graduation Rate/ ELA Performance /3-8 Math Participation & Performance / H.S. Performance.

During this process, Candor will focus on the percentage of students with disabilities participating in NY State math testing.

Mrs. Holmes informed the Board that Dr. Maria Morog will begin working within the District beginning Monday, April 12th. She will be filling in for Alison Wright when she begins maternity leave at the end of April.

Mrs. Holmes stated that as of March 11, 2021, the department is over halfway (54%) through with CPSE/CSE/504 meetings for the 2020/2021 school year.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kimberleigh Nichols summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Nichols informed the Board of the Data Wise Improvement Process. The Data Wise Improvement Process is a problem-solving, data-based improvement cycle with a strong emphasis on collaboration and looking deeply at instructional practice. Ten teachers currently participate in a district-led book study and apply the process strategies to congruence meetings with elementary and junior high teams. The District has successfully secured funding for this project through the Tioga County Teacher Center.

Mrs. Nichols updated the Board on the iReady Junior High Diagnostic Results & Congruence. She provided the Board with a chart that shows overall placement data for Grade 7 and 8.

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She stated that using iReady data and additional evidence of student performance, the junior high data team identified that vocabulary and comprehension is a domain-specific reading need that impacts all content areas. During congruence meetings, teachers will specifically identify what students struggle with, determine possible interventions and create an action plan.

Mrs. Nichols gave a State Assessment update for the 3-8 ELA, Math, Science exams, and the Regents exams. She stated that on February 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) sent a letter to all states indicating that the USDOE will not approve a blanket waiver for state assessments; however, states can request waivers from using assessment data toward accountability. The New York State Education Department (NYSED) has submitted a waiver to the USDOE based on New York State's unique needs. NYSED is also proposing a series of regulatory amendments at the March Board of Regents meeting. If the USDOE does not approve NYSED's assessment waiver request, only the following Regents exams will be administered in June 2021: Algebra I, English Language Arts, Living Environment/Biology, and Physical Setting / Earth Science. As for the 3-8 ELA, math, and science, the District will move forward with local planning for the administration of these assessments.

Director of Technology Instruction Matt Gelder summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Gelder informed the Board that the planning for technology purchases for the 2021-2022 school year is underway so that the District can continue to support the best parts of online learning. The District was well-positioned to support teachers and students this year utilizing the current stock of Chromebooks, but there is a need to replace devices that will be beyond Google's End of Life Policy (EOL) in September. Mr. Gelder provided a chart showing the number of devices currently issued to students and teachers and their EOL date. Mr. Gelder stated that Google imposes the EOL dates to ensure device compatibility with the Chrome browser's newest features and updated security patches. Previously purchased devices have served the District well for at least five years. The District will continue to use some of these as temporary loaner devices or extra devices in classrooms for students who forget to bring in their devices. The rest will be removed from the inventory but could still have a useful life as a basic web browser. Mr. Gelder is looking at the possibility of allowing graduating seniors the option of keeping these Chromebooks. Mr. Gelder will be working with School Business Official Sydney Wade to purchase about 450 devices using the Smart Schools Bond Act Allocation.

Director of Transportation Holly Carling summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Carling stated that the District is lucky to have a great group of individuals who are dedicated to driving in any weather, and lucky to have substitute drivers who accept calls at 5:00 a.m. and who check in regularly to step in at any point they may be needed. She stated that with all of the challenges that have been thrown at everyone this year, she is extremely impressed with the drivers. They know the routes, know the students, know, to the minute, of when they will pick up a student, and that is with daily changes to routes.

Mrs. Carling stated that sports are in full swing, and the buses are running daily with practices and games. Mrs. Carling complimented Pete Ahart, Beth Ebel-Ruocco (SVE), and Tim Wilson (SVE) for their work and coordination efforts.

Board President Raymond Parmarter asked Mrs. Carling if she feels comfortable that the Transportation Department would be ready if the District goes back to a full schedule. Mrs. Carling stated that yes, the department will be ready.

Director of Operations Bern Smith summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Smith stated that he is hoping the warmer weather will stay and continue to melt off the snow piles in and around the District so that Lonny Seeley and the Grounds crew can start cleaning up the winter mess.

Mr. Smith informed the Board that with so much snow this winter, several flat roof areas developed small leaks. As the snow melts and creates ice in the evenings, any water trapped underneath eventually finds the compromised areas. When staff goes onto the roofs, it has to be done with extreme care, as stepping on sections of the ice can snap and puncture the rubber roofing membrane.

Network Administrator's Log for February 2021 was submitted.

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Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Kisloski informed the Board that at the request of the school nurses, athletic trainers, office staff, and associated administration, the District will be canceling the Health Services contract with UHS and signing on with Lourdes. The relationship with UHS has been changing due to their staff's retirements, and the relationship with Lourdes has been very productive since signing on with their Athletic Trainer/Strength & Conditioning personnel. The change will be effective July 1, 2021.

Mr. Kisloski let the Board know that if they have any questions regarding the TST BOCES budget or their services, to let him know. He knows that TST BOCES would be happy to answer any questions or concerns the Board may have.

Mr. Kisloski informed the Board that petitions for Board seats are available March 22nd and due back to the District Clerk with 25 signatures no later than April 19th, 2021. He added that it appears this year's school budget vote will be back to the traditional (vote in the auditorium) format.

Mr. Kisloski stated that he asked the Board to consider and register their opinion on the tax levy at the last Budget meeting. Mr. Kisloski provided several scenarios for comparison.

Our Tax Cap:	1.61% = \$94,822
	1.50% = \$88,348
	1.00% = \$58,899
	0.50% = \$29,449

Mr. Kisloski provided information from Superintendents of other TST BOCES regional that listed early predictions of their projected tax levy increases. (The information was given before new State Aid and Federal Assistance was released).

Groton:	between 1.5 and 2.0%
South Seneca:	1.97%
Trumansburg:	2.4%
Newfield:	needs 5% but still uncertain

Mr. Kisloski added that these will change for the same reasons the Budget Advisory meeting was canceled.

Mr. Kisloski informed the Board that as of Monday, March 15th, 2021, area Superintendents reported the following:

Groton:	Currently planning to buy "cough boxes" and going back to full days (4 or 5 – undetermined) after Spring Break (April 12 th) for the rest of the school year.
Dryden:	Maintaining the current schedule for the rest of the 20/21 school year. They currently utilize the A/B schedule four days per week.
Newfield:	Maintaining current schedule (AM/PM cohorts) for the remainder of the school year. They do not have room, staff and are not buying "cough boxes."
Trumansburg:	PK-6 will move to Monday-Friday full days with 6' social distancing due to the majority (up to 75% in some grades) of their students choosing the remote option. 7-8 and 9-12 still two days per week, no Fridays.
Ithaca:	No decisions have been approved or finalized as their unions are heavily involved. They are not utilizing or purchasing "cough boxes" as many of their parents have expressed concerns of reduced social distancing with barriers.
South Seneca:	Has been able to provide PK-6 full days due to availability of staff and rooms and maintain 6' social distancing. Jr/Sr High School will continue with two days per week as long as social distancing requirements remain.

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Board President Raymond Parmarter asked Mr. Kisloski if he wanted to submit a memo to the Board for approval of the "cough boxes." Mr. Kisloski stated that he will wait a few days for approval. He wants to wait and see if the CDC changes the social distancing from 6' to 3'.

Board Comments:

Hannah Murray thanked the community for attending the meeting and advocating for the students. She thinks this is a great start. Mrs. Murray commented on Anthony Huizinga's question as to where the Board stands on whether or not the students should come back full time. She stated that she hopes the CDC changes the social distancing from 6' to 3'. If they do, she is for the students coming back full time.

Mrs. Murray thanked Ben Taylor and Matt Gelder for helping with Remote Learning and thanked Sara Loomis for her work with synchronous learning.

Rebecca Lyon also thanked the community for attending the meeting. She thanked the teachers attending the meeting. She stated that she supports the kids coming back full time.

Josh Soper thanked the community for their comments. He stated that CNN had sent out a report regarding information from the CDC. He thanked Ben Taylor for his work.

Michael Blake stated that everyone that commented did a very good job. It was a good exchange of ideas. He thanked everyone for attending.

Raymond Parmarter stated that he wants to get the kids back as soon as it can be done safely. He thanked the community for their involvement.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Board President Raymond Parmarter recognized the visitors present. At this time, Kasey Eiklor, Jennifer Schecter, Kailin Kittle, and Michael Siegel raised several questions, made suggestions, and spoke of their concerns.

Adjournment:

President Parmarter announced the regular session of the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

The Board adjourned to an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathlyn M. Hinkle, Clerk of the Board