

Board of Education, Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2020

(Meeting held via video/phone conference.)

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held in the office of the Superintendent 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 Brent Doane, to adjourn to executive session to discuss a particular personnel matter. All board members listed above were present as well as Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski. Superintendent Kisloski presented the CSE/CPSE reports to the Board for review.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

At 7:00 p.m., Nate Brace made a motion, seconded by Hannah Murray, to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously. All board members listed above were present, as well as Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said to begin regular session.

CSE/CPSE REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Rebecca Lyon, seconded by Josh Soper, to approve the CSE/CPSE report, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED:

A motion was made by Michael Blake, seconded by Hannah Murray, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 13, 2020, as presented, noting an error in the Elementary Principal's report. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Manager/Treasurer Sydney Wade's report to the Board.

Mrs. Wade was not present for the meeting. A summary of her written report to the Board is as follows. Mrs. Wade included the February budget transfers and financials. Mrs. Wade stated that it has been a very busy time for finance with three huge deadlines on March 1st: the ESSA Transparency reporting, Tax Cap filing, and IDEA grant Maintenance of Effort reporting. She is very glad to have them behind her, and to be able to focus on the budget and upcoming contract negotiations. There is uncertainty in the Governor's budget that greatly affects the budget. If the Governor's budget is passed as is (the initial budget runs sent out in January), BOCES aid is frozen and rolled into Foundation Aid, which then affects all of the BOCES costs and considerations. The Governor's budget also proposed limiting Transportation and Building Aid (capital projects) going forward, and froze and rolled categorical aids (hardware, software, textbook and library) into Foundation Aid. The BOCES, Transportation and Building Aid changes would have a significant, negative impact on the budget, though at this time, it appears that they are not going to actually happen in the Governor's final budget.

Mrs. Wade stated that she filed the ESSA Transparency report on February 28th, just ahead of the March 1st deadline. This is the reporting that identifies and allocates expenditures by building within the District; it was reporting expenditures for the year ending June 30, 2019. The report was received as submitted by the State, and is now being reviewed.

Mrs. Wade stated that she filed the Tax Cap on March 1. The tax cap without any capital exclusion was 1.47%. However, she is confident in the numbers for the capital exclusion, which results in a tax cap of 4.26%. A capital exclusion results when capital expenditures exceed State Building Aid. For 20-21, the District's fiscal advisor has projected the District's bond principal and interest payments (debt service) to exceed Building Aid by \$36k. Then there is capital outlay expenditures for new buses for 20-21 and the \$100k project, which does not have aid behind it until the following fiscal year. This results in a total capital exclusion of \$161k, and the resulting 4.26% tax cap.

TREASURER'S REPORTS ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Nate Brace, seconded by Rebecca Lyon, to accept the Treasurer's reports, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Brent Doane, seconded by Josh Soper, to accept the Appropriation Transfers report for February 2020, 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 2020, as presented: General Fund #42, Federal Fund #20, and School Lunch Fund #19. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Resolution to Pay Unrepresented Employee Wages During Closure:

A motion from the floor was made to approve the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, the Candor Central School District Board of Education hereby authorizes the continuation of salary, wages, and benefits for any regular, non-substitute employee not covered by a collective bargaining agreement employment agreement who is available to work, but is directed by the Superintendent of Schools to not work during the County mandated COVID-19 closure, commencing March 16, 2020, and terminating at the end of the County mandated COVID-19 closure.”

The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Kisloski, a motion was made by Rebecca Lyon, seconded by Nate Brace, to approve the following personnel items, pending fingerprint-supported criminal history background checks, where applicable*:

Recommended Appointments:

Approved the appointment of ***Kathryn Douglas*** as a Part-Time Teacher Aide, with salary at \$11.80/hr for hours worked, no benefits, in accordance with the 2019-2020 Candor Employees Unit Contract.

Extra-Curricular Activities for the 2019-2020 school year, with salary in accordance with the 2019-2020 Extra-Curricular Pay Schedule.

- 1.) Volunteers:
- ***Brent Doane***: Softball - ***Ernie Marilley***: Track - ***Rick Neild***: Varsity Baseball

2020-2021 Staff & Instructional Calendar:

Approved the 2020-2021 Staff and Instructional Calendar, as presented.

2020-2021 Paper Bid:

Paper bids were opened on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. by the District Clerk/Board Clerk Kathlyn Hinkle.

Two bids were received, they are as follows:

- 1.) Contract Paper Group, Inc., Cuyahoga Falls, O.H. - \$3,811.30
- includes delivery
- samples provided as requested
- 2.) W.B. Mason, Syracuse, N.Y. - \$3,837.90
- includes delivery
- samples were not provided as requested

Upon the recommendation of Jeffrey Kisloski, the Board of Education awarded the bid to **Contract Paper Group** in the amount of **\$3,811.30** for the 2020-2021 school year.

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2020-2021 Notice of Budget Hearing and Vote:

Approved the 2020-2021 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 two (2) Board of Education members. The Candor Free Library has not requested additional funding for this year.

The first publications will be on Friday, April 3, 2020 in the *Ithaca Journal*, and on Sunday, April 5, 2020 in the *Owego Pennysaver*.

19/20 Capital Outlay Project Bid Acceptance:

Accepted the lowest bid for the 19/20 Capital Outlay Project from *Marchuska Brothers Construction, LLC*. in the amount of \$98,300, as presented.

Health & Welfare Services Contract - Vestal CSD:

Approved the Contract for Health and Welfare Services between the Candor Central School District and the Vestal Central School District for the 2019-2020 school year, as presented, and authorized the Superintendent, the President, and Clerk of the Board of Education to sign the same on the District's behalf.

Administrator Reports:

Jr/Sr High School Principal Wayne Aman's report to the Board.

Mr. Aman was not present for the meeting. A summary of his written report to the Board is as follows.

Mr. Aman stated that the High School is strongly considering making modifications to the schedule in order to accommodate new philosophies and programs. The length of the instructional day will be extended from 7:47 - 2:20 to 7:45 - 2:25. He itemized the rationale for the schedule change for the Board:

- There is a growing concern that students do not have time to eat breakfast in the morning. Without proper nutrition, students cannot concentrate and behavior issues increase. Therefore, the High School would like to build in a consistent time in the mornings for students to eat breakfast. They would offer 10 minutes at the beginning of 2nd period for junior high classes to get breakfast, and 10 minutes at the end of 2nd period for senior high to get breakfast.
- In order to accommodate "Crew Time" two days a week next year, they have developed a modified crew day schedule. To provide a 30-minute crew period, they will reduce the length of each class period from 42 minutes to 38 minutes. They will have a morning crew schedule and an afternoon crew schedule so CTE and work placement students can participate as well.
- Based on the grades 7-12 numbers, they are considering reducing the number of lunch periods from three lunches (7&8, 9&10, 11&12) to two lunches (7-9 and 10-12). Looking forward to projected sizes, Mr. Aman feels they can accommodate three grade levels in the cafeteria at one time. Also, they are considering allowing senior lunch release privilege with parental permission (most area schools allow this).
- They will plan to consolidate study halls from multiple classrooms into the cafeteria periods 1-4 and 7-9. This will hopefully alleviate some of the classroom coverage issues the High School has been facing the past few years.

Mr. Aman will keep the Board informed as plans are solidified.

Elementary Principal Katie Volpicelli's report to the Board.

Mrs. Volpicelli was not present for the meeting. A summary of her written report to the Board is as follows.

Mrs. Volpicelli stated that recent conversations with grade level teams and instructional support staff have caused inquiry in regards to changing the elementary reporting periods from quarters to trimesters. Teachers are advocating for more time in between marking periods in order to more carefully assess and report progress to parents. Teachers also see the value in having the second marking period later in the year as it would allow more time to consider student retention. Reporting progress to parents on a trimester schedule would also provide closer alignment with i-Ready data in both the Winter (2nd Trimester) and Spring (3rd Trimester).

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Teachers are currently working on report card updates to reflect three marking periods instead of four. For many grade levels this includes reviewing of pacing guides. The Elementary continues to work through the implications of changing to three marking periods. Ultimately, they believe this will provide students and families with a better picture of their child's progress.

Mrs. Volpicelli stated that during the months of March and April, the Elementary is focusing on Empathy. The Empathy kits include Digital Citizenship lessons. It is extremely important that students understand and show empathy while they are interacting with each other in person and online. Mrs. Volpicelli thanked Wendy Bruttomesso and Jessica Martone for creating these learning opportunities for students.

Mrs. Volpicelli stated that the literacy committee decided to present the children with a reading challenge this month. They are asking children to keep track of the minutes they read at home each week so they can keep a school-wide tally. The goal is to read 100,000 minutes by the end of the month. They have planned a special assembly at the end of the month to celebrate the literacy goals.

Assistant Elementary Principal/Athletic Director Peter Ahart's report to the Board.

Mr. Ahart was not present for the meeting. A summary of his written report to the Board is as follows.

Mr. Ahart stated that the fall 2019 sportsmanship ballots have all been tallied for the IAC. This sportsmanship recognition is voted on by all of the other District's coaches and athletic directors. Candor/SVEC teams placed first amongst schools in Candor's division in girls and boys cross country, cheerleading and volleyball. The District placed second in field hockey, football and boys soccer. As a school, Candor placed second in the overall ranking during the fall season. Mr. Ahart provided the Board with a sportsmanship document for all of the results. Mr. Ahart stated that at the March 11th IAC meeting, Section IV representatives were present and praised the league schools on their efforts to maintain positive sportsmanship during events. Other leagues are looking to implement the IAC's initiatives and protocol regarding sportsmanship in an effort to improve sportsmanship in their respective leagues.

Mr. Ahart stated that at the last Athletic Director meeting, the IAC president and executive director began discussion regarding esports amongst the league schools. Currently, there are eight schools in the league that are either participating in esports as a gaming club or strongly considering it. The schools already participating in esports discussed the potential of competing against each other in an unofficial esports competition.

Much of the discussion occurred around concerns as to who would oversee this at our schools (the athletic director, principal, advisor, etc.) if/when it becomes a sanctioned NYSPHSAA Sport, whether or not schools considered it a "sport", cost of initiating the program, participation in esports taking away from other sports/programs, most of which have been discussed through conversations here at Candor. Section IV and the IAC suggested implementing esports through a club first and monitoring the interest of students before making any further decisions, just as Candor Schools has done. Mr. Ahart and Wayne Aman visited Waverly to see esports in action this winter and the league is hosting another meeting at Waverly next month to gather further information and observe an esports competition to better inform schools.

Mr. Ahart stated that it is hard to deny esports is gaining momentum and strongly being considered as a sport at the State level. Mr. Ahart is hoping Section IV, the IAC, and Candor can be at the forefront of the esports movement.

Mr. Ahart stated that once again, he is happy to announce that Candor has another ESPN Ithaca Athlete of the Week. Jennah Kareem (Girls Basketball) had an outstanding performance in the team's last regular season game to help her team beat Groton to get into Sectionals. This is Jennah's second time earning athlete of the week this year. Jennah's interview with ESPN can be heard on the District's Athletics' webpage. This is the sixth student-athlete earning this honor from one of the teams here at Candor.

CSE Chairperson Angela Holmes's report to the Board.

Mrs. Holmes was not present for the meeting. A summary of her written report to the Board is as follows.

Mrs. Holmes stated that on March 4th, Nancy Hinkley, a transition specialist from The Mid-State Regional Partnership Center, came to meet with the high school special education team. She updated the team on transition practices within the IEP and gave them resources to help guide students with creating and obtaining goals post-graduation.

Mrs. Holmes stated that Pat Gillule presented information regarding the 6:1:2 room at the Regional Special Education Chair's meeting. She has not heard of interest from districts within TST BOCES. Waverly is interested in the program for one of their students and will be visiting in the near future.

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Mrs. Holmes stated that a new State requirement pertaining to certification is affecting special educators who teach one or more special classes. Special Educators who teach special class must now obtain a teaching certificate in the subject area they are teaching in special class. This change is due to the graduation pathway changes that have occurred and in order to teach a credit bearing class, educators must be certified in the area in which they teach. Currently, all of Candor's high school special education teachers meet the requirements to obtain a certificate to teach special class due to their years of experience as well as years of being highly effective educators for the State of New York. Teachers who do not qualify for this certificate have three years to obtain it.

Mrs. Holmes informed the Board that Dian Smith is retiring from the Special Education department in October 2020. She will be greatly missed by her students and the department. She has held an important role in helping so many of students over the years become employable, independent citizens. Her position is needed at Candor High School and we are looking to hire for her position for the 2020-2021 school year.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kimberleigh Nichols's report to the Board.

Mrs. Nichols was not present at the meeting. A summary of her written report to the Board is as follows.

Mrs. Nichols stated that Candor Schools, as part of the TST BOCES region, has been included in a regional School Food and Nutrition grant sponsored by the Park Foundation. Each district has identified a team to attend regional meetings, identify local needs, find creative and effective ways to teach students about nutrition and get nutritious foods in the hands of students and their families. Candor's team consists of Mrs. Nichols, Sydney Wade, Wayne Aman, and Nate Thomas. They attended their first meeting on February 25th. Mrs. Nichols will keep the Board informed as the work progresses.

Mrs. Nichols stated that the District is continuing to prioritize the ELA standards by grade level bands. On March 5th, teams of teachers met to discuss and prioritize the Speaking and Listening ELA Standards and develop the draft document that will eventually be published as our local ELA guidance document. During the next meeting they will review and discuss the ELA Reading Foundational Skills Standards with grades PreK - Third Grade. They will identify the skills outlined in the standards, review the current reading curriculum, and determine if the materials they are using are appropriately aligned to the standards.

Mrs. Nichols stated that by the end of the school year and leading into Summer 2020, grade levels and departments will have defined what it looks like and sounds like to be effective *Communicators, Collaborators, Critical Thinkers and Creative Problem-solvers*. Once the common language and descriptions are clearly articulated, they will be better prepared to incorporate opportunities for students to practice these critical skills.

Mrs. Nichols stated that after attending a session at NYSCOSS focused on *Surviving and Thriving as an Educational Leader*, a decision was made to change up the March Crew Activity. The wellness information shared at NYSCOSS hit home, felt timely and relevant for staff and worthy of sharing in a very intentional way. Discussion questions and conversations around sleep, exercise and setting limits to promote a healthy work-life balance were well received by staff. The health and well-being of staff and students is very important to us and finding ways to incorporate these topics into the instructional day and professional development will continue to be a priority.

Director of Technology Instruction Matt Gelder's report to the Board.

Mr. Gelder was not present for the meeting. A summary of his written report to the Board is as follows.

Mr. Gelder stated that the added spotlight on personal hygiene related to COVID-19 has prompted a move away from shared classroom Chromebooks. He has spent time sanitizing all of the shared devices and labeling them for individual student use to reduce one more point of germ transmission. Student issued devices have an added benefit of allowing easy distribution of devices if needed during an extended school closing. At this point all students in grades 2-6 and 9-12 have devices assigned to them. For a variety of reasons, 7th and 8th grade students are still using shared devices, but they could easily be distributed for use at home if the need arises. Mr. Gelder stated that the District is in the process of surveying students to determine home internet so they have the information needed to deliver learning materials during any extended closing. A significant amount of online instruction is possible with the current suite of online learning tools and they even have the ability for students to watch videos, open and create Google documents and Slideshows even if they do not have internet access.

Mr. Gelder stated that the educational software has moved almost exclusively away from an ownership model to a subscription model with yearly renewals based on the number of students using the software.

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There are huge advantages in terms of not having to install individual pieces of software on machines, the ability of students to access programs on any device, and enhanced usage analytics, but they come at a large financial cost. To best use limited resources, he is constantly surveying the software that is purchased to determine:

- how often is the software being used by students and faculty.
- why some software is being underutilized.
- if there are any alternative programs or resources that could be used to replace any programs that are costly.
- ways that more teachers can take advantage of the software we use.

Currently, he has found two underutilized subscriptions the District will be phasing out next year and is working with teachers to move them to alternative software tools that will meet their curricular goals.

Director of Operations Holly Carling's report to the Board.

Mrs. Carling was not present for the meeting. A summary of her written report to the Board is as follows.

Mrs. Carling stated that spring sports started on March 9th. With baseball being the only sport that is merged currently, there is one bus run in the afternoon that goes to Spencer each day and one of the coaches is also a bus driver so it works out nicely.

Mrs. Carling gave a special shout out to all of the drivers for their dedication and commitment to making sure that all runs are covered no matter what day, time or destination.

Mrs. Carling thanked Cindy Jantz, Gail Darrow, and Sandy Blinn who are always willing to fill in whenever and wherever.

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

Mr. Smith was not present for the meeting. A summary of his written report to the Board is as follows.

Mr. Smith stated that as the weather has begun to warm and we are finally seeing the sun more than not, Lonny Seeley and the Grounds crew are starting district yard / field work. They are hoping to broom the remnants of winter off the sidewalks and parking lots to welcome spring and summer activities.

Mr. Smith stated by viewing some of the upcoming calendar reservations, the annual Alumni Banquet has recently been posted, which signals another school year coming to a close. It so hard to believe that this school district and community are ready to see another group of Candor's finest going out into the world.

Network Administrator's Log for February 2020 was submitted.

Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Kisloski updated the Board on the Capital Outlay Project (\$100k Project). On February 26th, bids were opened for the \$100k Project. The bids came in slightly over budget, but Gary Henry (Hunt Architects & Engineers) has been working on some value engineering and some vendor negotiating with the low bidder.

Mr. Kisloski stated that the budget preparations continue to move along slowly. There has been no official change in the Governor's proposal of a cap in expense driven aid, although leaders at the NYSCOSS conference were confident his proposal will not stand. Therefore, the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) is, in essence, creating two budget strategies with different approaches to BOCES and Transportation. The BAC is also looking at several options related to Special Education as there has been a dramatic rise in student placement costs this year, mainly from new student move-ins.

Adjournment.

President Parmarter announced the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathlyn M. Hinkle, Clerk of the Board