

Board of Education, Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 6:34 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 Kisloski. At 6:34 p.m., CSE Chairperson Angela Holmes entered executive session to present the CSE/CPSE reports to the Board. Mrs. Holmes exited executive session at 6:40 p.m.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

At 7:02 p.m., Josh Soper made a motion, seconded by Nate Brace, to return to regular session. The motion carried unanimously. All board members listed above were present, as well as Jr/Sr High School Principal Wayne Aman, Elementary School Principal Katie Volpicelli, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kimberleigh Nichols, Asst. Elementary Principal/Athletic Director Peter Ahart, CSE Chairperson Angela Holmes, Director of Operations Bern Smith, Director of Transportation Holly Carling, Director of Technology Instruction Matt Gelder, School Business Official Sydney Wade, and Board Clerk Kathlyn Hinkle. The Pledge of Allegiance was said to begin the regular session.

CSE/CPSE REPORT APPROVED:

A motion was made by Hannah Murray, seconded by Michael Blake, 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 December 17, 2020, as presented, with minor changes noted to the Elementary Principal's report. The motion carried unanimously.

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

This month's packet includes the December budget transfers as well as the expenditure reports.

Mrs. Wade updated the Board on the status of the grants. The budgets for the Title Funds were submitted on 08/31/20 and again on 12/21/20 and 1/7/21 (due to requested changes and additional details requested for private school's allocation) and are currently under review, but approval is expected any time. Mrs. Wade has received an email confirmation from Grants Finance at NYSED that they will be approved. The PreK grant was submitted on 09/04/20 and has been approved. The CARES Act Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) and Governor's Emergency Education Relief Funds (GEER) were resubmitted 11/23/20 and currently under review; the same for all schools.

Mrs. Wade informed the Board of the State Aid Cuts/Payments. The District received a General Aid payment in December with no withholding to the total amount. General Aid payment reports were released at the end of December that detail payments for January to June, and there is no withhold calculated. It appears as though the State is planning to make full payments of aid; however, this remains unconfirmed. Mrs. Wade stated that the Governor gave an executive briefing on 1/19/21 and again referenced the 20% withholds for 2021-2022. A lot is riding on the anticipated stimulus package from the Biden administration. The Governor said if New York State gets \$6 billion in stimulus funds, the State would need to raise revenue, cut spending, and borrow additional funds. In this scenario, the payment withholding for school districts would drop from 20% to 5% and would become permanent reductions in aid. Also, the expense-based aids (BOCES, Transportation, Categorical) would be rolled into a single block grant, removing the reimbursement process currently in place. The Governor also noted that should New York State get the requested \$15 billion in stimulus funds, all school district withholdings would be fully restored, and schools would receive an additional \$3.8 billion in aid.

Mrs. Wade spoke of the State Aid Executive Budget Runs. She stated that she would get into this more in the Budget Advisory Committee meetings, but she gave a quick overview of the State Aid runs that came out recently.

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She stated that all expense-driven aid (BOCES, Transportation, Categorical) was rolled into a new category called "Services Aid." Foundation Aid is the same as 2020-2021. STAR aid is showing up on the State Aid runs, but this is not new aid. STAR aid is an offset to the District's tax levy. The District can only receive the total tax levy; STAR aid benefits taxpayers by reducing the amount of school taxes that are paid by taxpayers, but the District will receive the full tax levy, regardless. The Building Aid is what was expected to be received for the current projects. There is a new stimulus grant noted and a new corresponding deduction called "Local District Funding Adjustment," where the State deducts from State Aid the same amount as the new grant money, net change \$0 to the District. The total increase year over year in State Aid is showing as approximately \$295k, but it is buried in the new Services Aid line, and Mrs. Wade believes it is due to inflated BOCES aid. Without detail in the line, it is difficult to tell. Mrs. Wade views this very skeptically and would not count all/most of this as a "real" increase.

TREASURER'S REPORT ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Josh Soper, seconded by Brent Doane, to accept the Treasurer's Report, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Michael Blake, seconded by Nate Brace, to accept the Appropriation Transfers reports for December, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

WARRANTS ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Rebecca Lyon, seconded by Brent Doane, to accept the following Warrants for December 2020, as presented: General Fund #30, Federal Fund #12, School Lunch Fund #15, and Capital Fund #6. The motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

President Parmarter acknowledged there were no visitors present at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Resignation/Retirements:

Accepted the resignation of **Penny Willis** as a Part-Time Teacher Aide, effective January 14, 2021, with regret.

Accepted the retirement of **Vicki Lyon** as a Full-Time Food Service Worker, effective April 13, 2021, with regret.

2021-2022 Budget Development Calendar:

Approved the 2021-2022 Budget Development Calendar, as presented, with a change to the February Budget Advisory Committee Meeting from February 18, 2021 to February 11, 2021.

2010 Dodge Caravan Bid Acceptance:

Two sealed bids were received for the sale of the 2010 Dodge Caravan. Holly Carling, Director of Transportation, and Kathlyn Hinkle, District Clerk, opened the sealed bids at 11:00 a.m. on January 11, 2021. The bids received were:

Tom Zacharias:	\$635.50
Liz Hatton:	\$1,500.00

Based on the highest bid of \$1,500.00 for the 2010 Dodge Caravan, the Board awarded the bid to Liz Hatton.

Public School Fire Safety Reports:

Approved the Public-School Fire Safety Reports for 2020-2021, as presented.

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Acceptance of the Corrective Action Plan:

Accepted the Management Corrective Action Plan, as presented, for the audit conducted for the year ending June 30, 2020.

The motion carried unanimously for all consent agenda items

Administrator Reports:

Jr/Sr High School Principal Wayne Aman reported to the Board.

Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Aman was unable to review his report. A summary of his written report to the Board is as follows.

Mr. Aman stated that the High School is going to implement a schedule change as the District approaches the middle of the year. The High School has maintained a one period/day schedule throughout the first half of the school year out of an abundance of caution. Data from this period suggests that schools are extremely safe environments with a very low transmission rate. Therefore, in order to help increase the amount of instructional time between teachers and students, the High School is going to transition to a two-period/day schedule. Remote students will be asked to join their classes virtually every day. Hopefully, this will improve student engagement as well as student academic performance.

Mr. Aman stated that he is pleased to share that the High School has a State-approved CTE program within the building. Through what has been approximately a year-long process, Stephen Lindridge has applied for and secured a certified Manufacturing Technology program. Students will be able to graduate with a Machine Tool Technology/Machinist technical endorsement on their diploma. Mr. Aman stated that this is a great opportunity for students, and he appreciates the effort Mr. Lindridge put into this process.

Mr. Aman informed the Board that the District is in the early stages of exploring the possibility of constructing the arrangement of a shared program between Owego Free Academy, Newark Valley High School, and Candor High School. With the blessing of the superintendents, the principals have recently met to discuss programs and logistics. Candor will offer CTE certified Manufacturing program, Health Services, and Food Services. OFA will offer their certified CTE Building Trades program and a certified Work Placement Coordinator. Newark Valley has an extensive Agriculture program that Candor students will have access to. Mr. Aman stated that there would be logistical challenges, but the opportunities the District can offer students make this worth the effort.

Elementary Principal Katie Volpicelli summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Volpicelli stated that with the upswing of cases in the community over the break, the Elementary staff assumed some parents would choose to switch their children to remote learning in January. However, that was not the case, and almost all students and staff were able to return to school safely on January 4th. The number of remote learners the Elementary school has at each grade level has remained fairly consistent. At the beginning of the next marking period (February 1st), the Elementary school will have 76 remote learners, which is less than 20% of the Elementary school student population.

Mrs. Volpicelli informed the Board that the Elementary school had another great Crew Day on December 23rd before the break. The students learned more about their Super Strengths and had the opportunity to participate in Strength Spotting while involved in team-building activities. Strength Spotting is recognizing and highlighting positive traits in others. They also held their annual Food Pantry Parade on December 23rd. The Elementary students and families contributed about 1500 food items that have been donated to the Bread of Life Food Pantry here in Candor.

Mrs. Volpicelli stated that the Elementary staff has formed a committee that will focus on the English Language Arts curriculum and instruction. The group will meet twice a month for an hour. During the first meeting on January 8th, they spent time setting the table for their work together. As a committee, their first step is to conduct a curriculum audit and review all ELA materials that are being used. Having a representative at each grade level to help conduct this work will be extremely helpful. As a committee, they also plan to research and learn more about teaching reading. The goal is to gain a common understanding of the five essential components of reading: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. This work will prepare them to make decisions about the ELA curriculum in hopes of building stronger vertical alignment across the grade levels.

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Mrs. Volpicelli informed the Board that the Elementary staff received a lot of positive feedback from families and teachers about virtual parent/teacher conferences. In the future, many of the teachers hope to offer the option of a virtual conference to families as it seemed to be a more efficient way to meet with parents while also being a more convenient option for families.

Mrs. Volpicelli spoke of Candor Elementary's Million Minute Reading Challenge. She stated that the Elementary students are working together to read for a total of 1,000,000 minutes. Each week students are asked to log their reading minutes, and a total is calculated. When they have met half of their goal, they will celebrate together with some potato chips as they are "chipping away" at their goal. When they complete their goal, they will celebrate with an event that features adults in the school participating in some silly challenges.

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

Mr. Ahart informed the Board that the athletic department has taken part in a High School Sports COVID-19 study in an effort to identify if high school sports participation increases the risk of adolescents contracting COVID-19 and transmitting it to others. The study is being conducted by doctors and certified athletic trainers at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. The goal of this study is to help define the risks of COVID-19 transmission among high school athletes. The hope is that this study could be an additional tool that may be utilized when making decisions about returning to play. Specifically, the information provided for the research included the current COVID-19 policies, sport start dates, sports played, the number of athletes, the number of practices and games for each sport, and some details of COVID-19 cases in players. Student's personal identifiable information was not released for the purposes of this study.

Mr. Ahart stated that Bowling began on January 4th. All bowling matches, home and away, are being held at Owego Bowl, with the visiting team bowling at their respective bowling alleys. Travel to other bowling alleys is being eliminated this year. There have been several basketball players who expressed interest in participating on the bowling team while they are waiting to hear about "high risk" winter sports. After having conversations with the coaches, they are in full support of providing this opportunity to those students. Students are permitted to participate on the bowling team then decide to participate on the basketball team if they so choose, when/if basketball begins.

Mr. Ahart thanked the owner of Owego Bowl, Rick O'Neil, for letting the team play there. Mr. O'Neil only charges a small fee for the use of the facility.

Mr. Ahart informed the Board that the coaches have been offering off-season open gyms/workouts and provided the Board with the numbers of participants.

Mr. Ahart provided the Board with the notes of the recent Steering Committee meeting.

Mr. Ahart informed the Board that the District will be opening the school's Fitness Center for community use. They will be utilizing the staff from Lourdes (Aaron Litman - Athletic Trainer, and Jessy Williams - Strength & Training Coach) to facilitate the opening. It will be open three times a week for 1½ hours. Mr. Ahart will be sending out a message to those that have a card, and it will be first-come, first-serve. Community members will have to sign in and out, and their temperature will be taken.

CSE Chairperson Angela Holmes summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Holmes informed the Board that the Committee on Special Education has been holding CSE meetings every Tuesday and Thursday of this month. This will continue throughout the rest of this school year. In between meetings, she has been collaborating with Wayne Aman, Katie Volpicelli, and Pete Ahart to brainstorm ways to make instructional programs better pertaining to special education.

Mrs. Holmes spoke of the Elementary School's Response to Intervention (RTI) Tiered Instruction. She has been working with Mrs. Volpicelli and Mr. Ahart on placing a more intentional RTI intervention system in place at the Elementary School. This system will help all teachers utilize research-based interventions with students who may be struggling with grade-level content. An RTI team was created that will meet weekly to discuss student progress. This team is composed of the Principal, Asst. Principal, Director of Special Education, School Psychologist, and AIS teachers. This process is beginning by mirroring the current SST team process, which focuses on Social Emotional Support. RTI focuses on academic support within 3 Tiers of Instruction.

Tier 1 - All students/Grade level curriculum

Tier 2 - Skill-based intervention when not meeting the grade-level expectation

Tier 3 - Intensive Skill-based instruction

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The current goals for the RTI team are:

- To promote the mindset that ALL Students are OUR Students.
- To meet regularly on the academic needs of our students.
- To help teachers learn and try interventions within the general education classroom to prevent larger skill gaps.
- To have documentation of what has worked/been tried with students prior to taking through Tier 2 support and/or the special education process.
- To Communicate with parents throughout the RTI process.

Mrs. Holmes informed the Board that she and Wayne Aman have been in discussions about sharing programs with other schools. One program they are trying to gain more students in is the current 6:1:2 room at the High School. Mr. Aman discussed this room's description at a meeting with Newark Valley and Owego. They are hoping to have an interest and get some more kids into the Candor 6:1:2 program.

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

Mrs. Nichols informed the Board that the December Crew Day was Wednesday, December 23rd, and was a great way to see students off for Winter Break. During Crew, individual students shared how their Signature Strengths show up in their lives, and Crew members took turns "strength-spotting" each other. The day also included team-building activities, creativity challenges, and a culminating activity asking students to identify the following:

- *One thing they have LEARNED during 2020* - Students shared their responses during Crew.
- *Something they wanted to LET GO OF from 2020* - Students wrote their responses on a piece of scrap paper and were asked to have it with them when they exited the building. Staff members were stationed at the main exits with shredders all warmed up. The symbolism of "shredding" whatever it was they were Letting Go Of seemed to be appreciated by the students.
- *What they are LOOKING FORWARD TO in 2021* - Students wrote their response on a paper chain link which was used to construct a wall-hanging for the January 2021 return to school.

Mrs. Nichols gave the Board a Curriculum update. The administrative team is currently working with teachers in Grades 7 - 12 on how to prioritize curriculum for the remainder of the year, with the shift to a 2-period per day schedule. Choosing what is most essential is challenging, and they will support teachers by providing examples and coordinating conversations.

Mrs. Nichols informed the Board that they had completed the first round of unannounced observations.

Mrs. Nichols stated that students in grades 1 through 8 will take the Winter Diagnostics for math and reading between January 19th and February 5th. The GoGuardian program is used so staff can ensure that remote learners are participating as well.

Mrs. Nichols updated the Board on the NYSED 3-8 Assessments and Regents. All went well with the required CBT (computer-based testing) simulation on January 12th. Students interacted with the digital/online platform and practiced using the math tools for answering questions. There have been no recent updates regarding whether or not 3-8 testing will proceed this spring or if Regents exams will be administered in June.

Mrs. Nichols spoke of Data & State Reporting. She stated that Chris Pierce, the District's Data Coordinator from CNYRIC, works throughout the year to verify required NY State reports. Accurate verification is important to a variety of funding sources (i.e., UPK, Governor's budget, grant funding food service). One example of verification that has far-reaching impacts due to COVID is the June 2020 Regents exemptions. Jason Banks will continue to verify these exemptions until all students that were impacted finally graduate.

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

Mr. Gelder spoke of the opening of Live Classes to remote students. He stated that connecting the remote students to the physical classroom, even virtually, will have a significant impact on their connection to their teachers, peers, and classroom content. The pilot that was done before the Holiday Break enabled teachers to practice connecting with their remote students and had no technical issues related to the network infrastructure.

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Mr. Gelder is confident that the High School is ready to incorporate all of the remote students in the Live Classes. Remote students will be asked to join their class Google Meeting for at least the first 10 minutes of class. In the first few weeks, teachers will be encouraged to share their learning targets for the week, clarify expectations or instructions for their lesson, and answer any questions the in-person or remote students might have. They can then close the Google Meeting or allow remote students to stay online during their Live Class, depending on their lesson for the day and their comfort level with running synchronous classes. Mr. Gelder hopes that as teachers and students become more comfortable with having remote students in their Live Class, teachers will expand this opportunity for longer periods of time. The advantages of having Live Classes available to remote students include a more regular schedule, daily connection to their classes, and connections to peers. Mr. Gelder believes that there are many opportunities to connect remote students with the in-person learners using Google Meet to have group discussions and work on small group projects. While this poses challenges, Mr. Gelder believes the teachers will embrace this as another learning opportunity that provides an opportunity to stretch the District's technology skills and continue to adapt teaching to best meet the needs of students. Mr. Gelder spoke of the Computer-Based Testing (CBT) Simulation. He stated that no network or computer related issues arose during the CBT simulation on January 12th. Due to the success of this trial run, Mr. Gelder is confident that should there be 3-8 State assessments, the District will be ready.

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

Mrs. Carling informed the Board that Bowling started on January 4th and will continue through February 11th. Practices and matches will be at Owego Bowl. She stated that it is great to have at least one group participating in sports.

Mrs. Carling stated that, like everyone else, the Transportation Department continues to work through quarantines and the challenges that they bring.

Mrs. Carling stated that she is extremely grateful for the collaboration and quick response that Kevin Noble and his team at the Town of Candor Highway Department bring to the District with inclement weather, snowy/icy roads, and trees/wires down.

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

Mr. Smith stated that since the snowstorm, it has been a nice change having more mild weather. Lonny Seeley and the Grounds crew have taken advantage of the weather to work outside in the District, pushing back snow piles and addressing other items.

Mr. Smith informed the Board that he has made some changes with his staff to accommodate his July retirement. Jim Wintermute and Lonny Seeley have moved into different office spaces, allowing day-to-day operations more flexibility and efficiency as the District moves forward.

Mr. Smith stated that the District fire inspections were concluded, deficiencies corrected, and Kathy Hinkle has entered the inspection data into the State portal for acceptance and renewal of the Districts' Certificate of Occupancy.

Network Administrator's Log for December 2020 was submitted.

Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Kisloski informed the Board that the status of vaccines for educators has been changing rapidly. At 11:30 a.m. on Friday, January 8th, NY State was told not to expect vaccines for educators sooner than one month. That afternoon, the Governor announced vaccinations would be available to category 1b, which includes educators. Candor has signed on to be a POD (Point of Distribution) for the County but was told that would not happen for several months.

Mr. Kisloski stated that conversations around school finance and State Aid have been changing rapidly. Some people seem to be much more optimistic about school funding since the elections. But until the District sees the State Aid runs produced by the Governor, Mr. Kisloski is still working on removing approximately \$1m from the budget as insurance against future uncertainty. The first look at the budget in February will include these changes as a starting point for the 2021-2022 budget conversations.

Mr. Kisloski informed the Board that the District is participating in an in-depth conversation regarding the sharing of instructional staff with several TST BOCES schools. Partly as an exercise in saving money, but more so due to a shortage in certain areas of instruction, sharing staff may be more of a necessity than ever before.

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Shortage areas, including Science, Math, and Foreign Language, coupled with the improved ability to provide remote and Virtual Learning, make this the appropriate time to consider sharing between districts.

Mr. Kisloski stated that while the pandemic and resulting financial stresses have put capital projects on hold, the District has been pursuing the possibility of building upgrades through an EPC – Energy Performance Contract.

The benefits of an EPC are many:

- The project is funded by energy savings, so there is no cost to the District and often can result in positive cash flow.
- An EPC utilizes Request for Proposals (RFP), and because there is a guaranteed balance between expenditures and revenues, there is no voter approval.
- An EPC would address our aging HVAC units and lighting that was left out of the last project.
- An EPC would not address any roofing issues or general maintenance improvements, but it would lessen the overall price tag of a future capital project.

But while working with Campus Construction to get some preliminary projections, Mr. Kisloski learned that an EPC would not cover additional costs endured while putting in a new HVAC system or lighting. The EPC would only cover the costs of the actual HVAC system or light fixtures. It would not cover repairs to the ceilings that would need to be done while installing new light fixtures or repairs to the roof that would need to be done while installing an HVAC system. Mr. Kisloski is exploring other options.

Board Comments:

Josh Soper stated that it is great that we have open gym. He thanked everyone for making that happen safely. Michael Blake agreed with Mr. Soper. He is glad that the school has been able to do Bowling.

Adjournment:

President Parmarter announced the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathlyn M. Hinkle, Clerk of the Board