

**Board of Education, Regular Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held in the high school library media center 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., Holly Carling, Director of Special Education, entered executive session to discuss the CSE/CPSE reports. Mrs. Carling exited executive session at 6:51 p.m.

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:**

At 7:00 p.m., Michael Blake made a motion, seconded by Brent Doane, 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, Director of Special Education Holly Carling, Elementary Principal Katie Volpicelli, Director of Curriculum and Director of Operations Bern Smith and Board Clerk Kathlyn Hinkle.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said to begin regular session.

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Kimberleigh Nichols entered the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

**CSE/CPSE REPORT APPROVED:**

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

**MINUTES APPROVED:**

A motion was made by Michael Blake, seconded by Nate Brace, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 28, 2019, 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 presented the Board with the February Budget transfers, the Treasurer's Cash Reports from July 2018-January 2019, and the financials.

Mrs. Wade informed the Board that earlier this month she had a conference call with Moody's, supported by the fiscal advisors, and updated them on the finances, property growth, and general health of the District. Moody's was specifically interested in how the District has maintained stable financial conditions for the past several years, without mass layoffs or program cuts, as there has been in other districts due to State Aid cuts. This was a very favorable conversation, and Moody's rated the District A1 for the bond issuance for the new capital project debt. The A1 rating is consistent with the prior year's ratings. A1 indicates the highest of the "A" ratings, which are given to Investment Grade bonds subject to low credit risk.

Mrs. Wade stated that the District has sold the bonds for the new capital project debt, which converts the BANs into bonds. There were nine bidders for the \$18,525m bond. The fiscal advisors had to revise the bond debt amount, as there were such favorable results from the bidders. The bidders included a \$1,000,000 premium to the District on the sale of the bonds. Therefore the fiscal advisors revised the bond amount to \$17,520,000, which is \$1,005,000 lower than what it was expected to bond for. The winning bidder, Fidelity, offered a rate of 2.54%.

**TREASURER'S REPORTS ACCEPTED:**

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

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**APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS ACCEPTED:**

A motion was made by Michael Blake, seconded by Rebecca Lyon, to accept the Appropriation Transfers report for February 2019, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**WARRANTS ACCEPTED:**

A motion was made by Hannah Murray, seconded by Nate Brace, to accept the following Warrants for February 2019, as presented: General Fund #47, School Lunch Fund #19, and Federal Fund #20. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Vice-President Brent Doane exited the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:**

President Parmarter acknowledged the visitors present at this time. Several High School students were present, taking notes for a Participation in Government class assignment. Also in attendance were Dave Parsons, Nicole Eschler and Dave Pitcher from TST BOCES, TST BOCES Board Member Hope VanScoy, Candor Chronicle reporter Jaime Cone, and High School Nurse Karen Oakley. No comments were made at this time. Dave Parsons from TST BOCES presented the 2019-2020 TST BOCES Budget for the Board.

**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\*:

**Recommended Appointments:**

Approved the appointment of **Olivia Fletcher**, as a Long-Term Music Substitute Teacher (BM Music Education), effective April 11, 2019 (tentative) through the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year, with salary and benefits in accordance with the 2018-2019 Substitute Teacher Pay Schedule.

Approved the appointment of **Larry Blinn** as a Full-Time Bus Driver, with salary and benefits in accordance with the 2018-2019 Candor Employees Unit Contract.

*Substitute Teacher List* for the 2018-2019 school year, with salary and benefits in accordance with the 2018-2019 Substitute Teacher Pay Schedule.

- 1.) **Olivia Fletcher**: BM Music Education (EL Only), effective March 12, 2019 (retroactive).
- 2.) **Shauna Belokur**: AAS Human Service; BS Social Work (EL & HS)
- 3.) **Tara Birkmeyer**: AAS Early Childhood/Childhood Education; BS Early Childhood/Childhood Education (in progress) (EL Only)

*Non-Instructional Substitutes* for the 2018-2019 school year, with salary in accordance with the 2018-2019 Non-Instructional Pay Schedule.

- 1.) **Amanda Ferris**: Substitute Food Service Worker

*Extra-Curricular Activities* for the 2018-2019 school year, with salary in accordance with the 2018-2019 Extra-Curricular Pay Schedule.

- 1.) Volunteers:
  - **Brent Doane**: Softball
  - **Cyndy Hynes**: Softball
  - **Mike Weinmann**: Track
  - **Dan Ayres**: Softball
  - **Wyatt Whitmore**: Track
  - **Rick Neild**: Baseball
  - **Mike Swartz**: Softball
  - **Matthew Hicks**: Track

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### Donation:

Accept the donation of wood stain from *Home Central*, located at 151 Central Avenue, Owego, NY. The value of this donation is \$2,624.03 (Two Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four Dollars and Three Cents).

### 2019-2020 Paper Bid:

Paper bids were opened on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 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., Uniontown, O.H. - \$3,121.01
  - includes delivery
  - samples provided
  
- 2.) W.B. Mason, Syracuse, N.Y. - \$3,091.50
  - includes delivery
  - samples provided

Upon the recommendation of Jeffrey Kisloski, the Board of Education awarded the bid to **W.B. Mason.**, in the amount of **\$3,091.50** for the 2019-2020 school year.

### 2019 Notice of Budget Hearing and Vote:

Approved the 2019-2020 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 as well as two propositions. Proposition I is for the purchase of two (2) sixty-five passenger school buses, and one (1) twenty-four passenger/wheelchair accessible bus. Proposition II is for the creation of the Capital Fund Reserve. The Candor Free Library has not requested additional funding for this year.

The first publications will be on Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> in the *Owego Pennysaver* and Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, in the *Ithaca Journal*.

### Equipment Disposal:

Approved the list of various equipment items to be disposed of, as presented. These items have been deemed to have \$0 value and no further useful life to the District.

### Administrator Reports:

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

Mr. Aman spoke of the *SchoolMessenger* email that he recently sent out which contained a letter addressing school attendance. As the letter expressed, not only is regular school attendance essential for academic success, it also teaches students responsibility and discipline, which helps them later in life. The High School staff has determined that lunch detentions and ISS do not necessarily make a significant difference in getting chronically tardy and absent students to school. Therefore, they rely on parents to make sure their kids get up and to school on time each day. This email reinforces the importance of this. Mr. Aman is also working with faculty, staff and administration to positively reinforce school attendance rather than focus primarily on punitive measures. It takes a collaborative approach between the school, students, and parents to improve school attendance. Mr. Aman hopes to see progress from these efforts. Mr. Aman will be having a meeting with the faculty to address student attendance and how they can improve it.

Hannah Murray asked Mr. Aman if he has spoken with the other principals in the region and if they have any suggestions. Mr. Aman said they have had several conversations during the principal meetings and all of the districts are having the same issues.

Mr. Aman informed the Board that the SADD Club has begun a new school-wide initiative called *Post-It Positivity*. On the walls, windows, and mirrors around the school, students are encouraged to take a post-it note to share a kind word or thought with other students.

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Not knowing how this would be received, the responses have been overwhelmingly positive. Mr. Aman stated that he appreciates the effort put into this initiative by Ms. French and the SADD Club.

Mr. Aman stated that spring sports are underway. Other than golf (boys), there are no merged spring sports; therefore, the Steering Committee has not met since January. They will be having a Steering Committee meeting in the near future to start focusing on fall sports, and Mr. Aman will share the notes with the Board from that meeting.

### Elementary Principal Katie Volpicelli summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Volpicelli stated that the Pre-K program is off to a great start. The team has created a report card to share 10-week progress with parents and scheduled parent-teacher conferences during the month of April. The Pre-K students attended their first whole school assembly, *The Seussical*, performed by the Drama Club. Mrs. Volpicelli said the students did very well. Mrs. Volpicelli informed the Board that Rebecca Stahl from The New York State Education Department will visit the Pre-K program on April 24th. The team reviewed the Technical Assistance Protocol that will be used during the visit. The Elementary views this as an opportunity to receive some feedback on the program.

Mrs. Volpicelli stated that the Elementary School is so pleased with the success of the Student Support Team process that they have decided to expand it to grades K-4. The creation of the Student Support Team has been extremely helpful in addressing social, emotional, behavioral and attendance concerns of the 5th and 6th-grade students. The SST team meets every Monday to develop plans to provide individual support for students. As with 5th and 6th-grade students, K-4 teachers can refer students based on their concerns. Mrs. Volpicelli would like to give credit to the 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Guidance Counselor Beth Gance-Virkler for all of her work with this program. She has been very helpful in supporting the teachers with any concerns.

Mrs. Volpicelli informed the Board that the 3rd and 4th-grade students were given the opportunity to participate in the Indoor Recess Cardboard Challenge. During January and February, when temperatures were too cold to go outside, students used their design skills and teamwork to create a game out of cardboard. Mrs. Volpicelli thanked Matt Gelder and Wendy Bruttomesso for providing this opportunity during the cold winter months.

Mrs. Volpicelli spoke of a recent parent volunteer visit. She stated that Heather Huson, a parent of a 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade student and a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade student, has a very interesting career at Cornell University in the Department of Animal Science. She has done extensive research on sled dogs and even raced them in Alaska. When Ms. Huson visited the 5th-grade team, she brought several props (sleds, harnesses, and clothing) to present the history of sled dogs and the equipment used in modern racing. The presentation took place just before the actual Iditarod race, so the students enjoyed watching the race and tracking the mushers' progress using a GPS tracking device. The 5th-grade students had the opportunity to create some projects following the Iditarod. Ms. Huson is also the Director of the Cornell Raptor Program. She will visit the 2nd-grade classes in April and bring along a few of the college students she works with. She and her team of college students will also bring hawks, owls and falcons. The students will learn about the different birds and have the opportunity to touch several props Ms. Huson brings. The Elementary is excited for this opportunity and grateful that Ms. Huson has provided these great learning experiences for the students.

### Director of Special Education Holly Carling summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Carling presented the Board with the recent numbers for committee meetings, parent presence, classified students, and out of district placements.

Mrs. Carling informed the Board that Danielle Banks, the District's Occupational Therapist, will be hosting her second college student starting March 25<sup>th</sup>. The student is an Ithaca College Occupational Therapy student originally from the Binghamton area. She will be with Mrs. Banks until June 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Carling added that Mrs. Banks's first college student created a "movement pathway" in one of the primary hallways for a sensory break for students.

Mrs. Carling provided the Board with the New York State diploma requirements applicable to all students enrolled in grades 9-12.

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

Mrs. Nichols stated that this is the second year that she has attended the NYS Council of School Superintendent's Cabinet Institute and Women's Initiative events. Sessions at the Winter Institute, which was held March 2 - 5, included a presentation on Community-Based Schools by the Rural Schools Association of NYS, a workshop on organizational change through the lens of instructional leadership, and a variety of sessions focused on social and emotional learning, curriculum and instruction. Mrs. Nichols stated that she was curious to hear about the community-based school approach and was pleased to know that Candor Schools offers and implements many of the services that were identified (i.e., dental van access, social worker support, Southern Tier food pantry backpack program, Camp Candor, family engagement opportunities, Family Night, etc.). Mrs. Nichols informed the Board that during the March Early Release Day they reviewed Tenet #5 of Whole Child, which is *Challenged- Each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in college or further study and for employment and participation in a global environment*. The instructional staff met in small groups. Each focused on one of the ten indicators. Groups were tasked with describing what the indicator means for Candor schools and to share their explanation to the whole group. Non-instructional staff meetings were held the day after ERD to share this month's tenet as well. This month Mr. Kisloski explained that the non-instructional departments support the *challenged* tenet by eliminating the challenges/barriers. The students are provided transportation, food, clean classrooms, and well-maintained facilities in order to attend engaging, supportive and challenging classes. Mrs. Nichols stated that non-instructional staff will take the online survey in April. Mrs. Nichols thanked the administrative team and teacher leaders for helping facilitate the small group activity.

### **Technology Integration Coordinator 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 informed the Board of the Teknologia Grant. He stated that TST BOCES received a 3-year \$600,000 technology grant in late January. The grant's focus is to provide learning opportunities for all TST BOCES regional teachers who are interested in exploring an innovative project that directly engages teachers in Creation, Learning, and Joy. TST BOCES currently has several projects started including drones, trail cameras, and digital storytelling, but they are looking for teacher-designed projects that will create regional interest. Paul Weich presented the grant to the Candor teachers on March 15th. Mr. Gelder has been discussing ideas with some teachers in the district to brainstorm ways that they can utilize some of these funds to continue expanding opportunities to students.

Mr. Gelder informed the Board of the 6th Grade Robotics Club. He stated that the 6th-grade teaching team approached him to brainstorm some ideas for a way to engage a group of 6th graders during recess with something new and exciting. He instantly thought that this was an excellent opportunity to expand the computer science offerings with an introduction to robotics. The first project will be to build Sumo Bots using Lego EV3 robot kits that Mr. Gelder borrowed from the high school makerspace. Students will build a robot and program it to get feedback from the environment to compete in a Sumo ring. Two robots will run their programs until one of the robots pushes the other out of the ring or flips it over to be declared the winner. This is an engaging, practical way to introduce a variety of Computer Science topics. Mr. Gelder would like to thank Neil Farley and the 6th-grade team for their flexibility in allowing this new club to happen.

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

Mr. Smith stated that transportation has been getting ready for spring sports and field trips to begin. The grounds department has started to push back snow piles left from winter and will begin to assess any damage caused by snow plowing and salting during the winter months.

### **Network Administrator's Log for February 2019 was submitted.**

### **Superintendent Jeffrey Kisloski summarized his report to the Board.**

Mr. Kisloski stated that he and Wayne Aman have met with both Lourdes and UHS regarding their ability to support Candor Schools with an Athletic Trainer and a Strength and Conditioning Coach. They both feel, as do many of the coaches he has spoken to, that this is too good of a proposal to pass up. They hope both programs can begin in May before students leave for the summer, so there is limited "startup" time at the beginning of the Fall Sports season.

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Mr. Kisloski informed the Board that the closing for the old Bus Garage at 54 Delray Ave was on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. He feels very fortunate to remove the facility from the District's care and responsibility, and he is very happy with the price that was received. Mr. Kisloski thanked Bern Smith and his staff for all the work they have done to make the sale and closing possible.

Mr. Kisloski stated that Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> was rescheduled as a Superintendent's Conference Day instead of a student day of attendance. A team from TST BOCES visited the District and held a "Poverty Simulation" for the entire staff. Katie Volpicelli and Holly Carling attended a simulation earlier in the year, and they were excited to bring this event to the staff. Mr. Kisloski thanked the staff at TST BOCES, Katie Volpicelli, and the Administrative Team for all of the work that was put into this event.

Mr. Kisloski informed the Board that the District Office has welcomed Taylor Green as Koleen Jastremsky's replacement as Accounts Payable Clerk. Mrs. Jastremsky was his secretary when he started as High School Principal in 1996. He stated that Mrs. Jastremsky has been an invaluable asset to the District for 33 years, and the District is sad to see her retire, but happy for her personally, as she enters another phase of her life.

Mr. Kisloski stated that the District continues to grow and learn as safety procedures are practiced following the upgrades made in the last building project. He stated that there are so many people to thank for all their efforts to keep students safe and cared for. The climate and culture of the District, combined with the dedication of the staff, make him confident in the District's ability to meet any challenge.

Mr. Kisloski informed the Board that the projected costs for the Pre-K program decreased from \$750,000 to \$350,000 by re-designing and re-engineering the rooms. As Candor's allotment of the Smart School Bond Act is approximately \$950,000, this will leave approximately \$600,000 for technology and security upgrades.

**Board Comments:**

Michael Blake thanked the students present for attending and informed them that he would be sending a quiz to their teacher Mr. Meigs.

Raymond Parmarter stated that he attended the Drama Club play last weekend and thought it was outstanding. He thanked Hope VanScoy for her service on the TST BOCES Board.

**Recognition of Visitors:**

President Raymond Parmarter acknowledged the visitors present at this time. Mrs. Hope VanScoy spoke of the recently published book "Goodbye Sara Jane" and suggested that the Board reads it. She stated that she has loved being on the TST BOCES Board.

**Adjournment:**

President Parmarter announced the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathlyn M. Hinkle, Clerk of the Board