

**ADIRONDACK CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOONVILLE ELEMENTARY
BOONVILLE, NY 13309**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – November 10, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Michael Kramer – President Almanda Sturtevant – Vice-President Bruce Brach Mark Emery Richard Gallo Joan Ingersoll Doug Muha	Edward Niznik, Superintendent, Sharon Cihocki, Business Administrator, Michelle Freeman, District Clerk, Heidi Smith, HS Principal; Dan Roberts, Asst. HS Principal/Interim AD; Jill Rowlands-Will, MS Principal; Linda Weber, WL Principal/Curriculum, Assess, Instruction & Data; Wendy Foye, Director of CSE; Brian Maneen, Trans. Supervisor; Cameron Teachout, Director of Facilities III Heather Perry, Tina Weiler, Christina Muha, Charisma Weiler, Lisa Pominville, Angela Martin, Brenda Shaffer, Jessica Sweredoski, Jennifer Gallo, Eric Freeman, Amy Griffin, Rebecca Gleasman
<u>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</u>	

At 7:02 p.m. Mr. Kramer called the meeting to order and recited the pledge of allegiance.

PRESIDENT’S MOMENT:

Mr. Kramer stated with no school tomorrow being Veteran’s Day, if you are out and about please acknowledge a Veteran.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Mrs. Lisa Pominville – 5th grade ELA teacher at Boonville Elementary spoke to the Board on behalf of herself and her colleagues. She wanted to shed light on one of the struggles teachers are currently facing and asked for some much needed assistance. At this time, most teachers in the Adirondack School District are responsible for teaching more than one lesson a day. Middle and high school teachers are assigned multiple classes in a given content area while elementary teachers are responsible for teaching each subject for the grade level they are assigned. There is not enough time in the day to satisfactorily complete all of the tasks. Teachers were not prepared for this. While the training provided in September was in their best interest, by no means did it provide the knowledge and experience required to effectively use new technology and applications purchased by the district. Many of Adirondack’s teachers are now poster children for “Learning from their mistakes” as many have had to teach themselves about Google classroom, Google meets, Google forms, Parent Square, etc. These self-taught experiences have further robbed teachers of valuable time needed to prepare quality lessons. This leaves little to no time to tackle the tasks of taking attendance, grading papers, review work in order to plan for differentiation or remediation, conduct Google meets, check emails, contact parents, or simply breathe. Mrs. Pominville asked the Board to consider the other end of the instructional spectrum. Many students doing the hybrid model of instruction have yet to receive the in-person instruction they were promised for all of their assigned classes. Google meets do not satisfy, nor are they effective in providing adequate instruction on the remote learning days. Our middle and high school students are missing out on science labs, math and reading, AIS, PE, writing, chorus and band while some elementary students don’t get all of their special area classes. Frankly, the current hybrid model the district has adopted is failing our students and killing our teachers. Your teachers come to you tonight as they are in dire need of more planning time. Two half-days a month are not enough. It is also imperative teachers be able to provide in-person instruction when students are actually in-person. We ask that the re-opening plan be reconsidered. The every-other-day instructional hybrid model must be revised. Teachers are more than willing and eager to collaborate with the administration/Board to design a plan that better suits the needs of our students. Faculty and staff are experts, we work daily in this environment. Together we can make this right.

Public Forum ended at 7:28 p.m.

ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS:

Ms. Weber – WL Elementary Principal/Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Data:

- STAR testing closes on November 13th which had been extended. Meeting with AIS to analyze that data.
- Grade level meetings were held. We were able to talk across both elementary buildings.
- Thank you to AIS teachers who offered support to remote and hybrid learners, amazing job.
- Thank you to West Leyden for promoting spirit days to keep things fun, celebrating Veteran’s Day, Don’t Sweat It Days.

Ms. Rowlands-Will – MS Principal:

- Middle School has 54 fully remote students.
- Since the last meeting in October, extracurricular groups are up and running. National Junior Honor Society is working on inductees and their induction ceremony.
- Will be having sweat shirt days. Faculty/staff will donate \$5 to wear their favorite sweatshirt.
- Have been having academic assistance for HS/MS students, 3-5 p.m.
- Thank you to our secretaries and nurses for working together during the COVID cases we have had.

Mrs. Foye – Director of Special Education:

- Out of 30 CSE meetings, 12 were evaluations and 4 were new referrals. Outstanding effort of the Special Education Department.
- Since the last meeting in October, did amend the location of services to be accurately reflected on the CSE reports.
- A BOCES virtual training on creating IEP's was held, wonderful overview.
- NYSED is developing a parent dashboard for schools receiving Title I, it is very user friendly, very informative.

Mrs. Smith – HS Principal:

- Academic assistance at the MS/HS from 3-5 p.m., very good turnout.
- Thank you to the school nurses, aides, secretaries for helping with contact tracing. Thank you to Mr. Roberts. This is all very time consuming.
- Extracurricular groups are meeting, planning fundraisers. A handout was provided to Board members showing training, meetings and fundraisers occurring since extracurricular's were approved last month. FFA has created a website with a lot of information and our Bookstore is offering a new line of apparel on our website.
- Art Department has posted a virtual art show. Please check it out. We have very talented students.

Mr. Roberts – Asst. HS Principal/Interim AD:

- Earlier in the school year fall sports were postponed. Section III is postponing winter sports to Dec. 14th and this date will be reviewed as needed.
- Athletic Association has approved bowling and skiing, these are considered low to moderate sports.

Mr. Kramer stated the Board will meet whenever needed for sports.

Mrs. Schafer – BE Principal/Director of Technology:

No Report.

Mr. Maneen – Transportation Supervisor:

- Thank you to bus drivers and monitors for rising to the challenge. At one point had 9 runs to and from school.
- There will be a luncheon in their honor.

Mr. Teachout – Director of Facilities III:

- Since last meeting – painting being done, ceiling and flooring in main office at the HS, a lot of work on the pool.
- Contractors are getting 2/3 more work done than a lot of City School Districts.
- Construction class will be doing another walk-through of the renovations.
- Water testing results – there are areas of non-potable water marked off – will re-flush, retest those areas. Mostly lead-free faucets.
- Just closed auction on surplus items amounting to \$4,000.
- New water coolers from No Kids Hungry grant.

Board Recognition Week: Mr. Niznik explained this recognition week always falls when we don't have a Board meeting so we end up doing it after. Thank you to Board members for their time and dedication, some have been on the board for many years. Board members were given a token of appreciation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Gallo moved and Mr. Mr. Emery seconded, carried 7-0; the Board approved the following by a consensus motion:

Minutes:

- October 13, 2020 Audit Committee Meeting & Regular Meeting
- October 29, 2020 Special Meeting

Mr. Kramer referred to the October 29th minutes where Mr. Brach gave reasons he didn't support the new administrator position, stating that the district ended the 2019-2020 school year with a fund balance of -\$1,410,817. That amount is the net position, not be confused with the fund balance.

Non-Teaching Substitutes:

- >> Keith Mooney – Sub-Grounds Worker/Cleaner
- >> Andrea Reppard – Sub-School Monitor, Office Specialist I, Library Aide, Teacher Aide
- >> Charlotte Zeigler – Sub-Teacher Aide

** Pending Background Clearance**

REGULAR AGENDA:**Art Club Co-Advisors:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Muha moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education approved Mrs. Joan Sturtevant and Mrs. Meg Brown as Art Club co-advisors for the 2020-2021 school year.

Custodian Permanent Appointment:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Muha moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education appointed Mr. Joel Clark to the permanent position of Custodian following the successful completion of his probationary period effective November 17, 2020.

Pratt Foundation Donation:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Gallo moved and Mr. Emery seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education accepted a donation of \$12,800 from the Pratt Northam Foundation to purchase 50 hotspots.

Committee on Special Education:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, Mr. Gallo moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0; the Board granted approval for placement of students.

Surplus Equipment/Books:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Muha seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education declared textbooks and/or equipment from the District as surplus and be disposed of in the most expedient manner.

Substitute Custodian position:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Gallo seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education approved to create a Civil Service Substitute Custodian position at \$16.60 an hour.

Budget Transfers:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Brach moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0; the Board approved the Budget Transfers for October 2020.

Cooperative Energy Purchasing Service (NYSMEC) for natural gas:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Emery seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education tabled the following resolution authorizing participation in Cooperative Energy Purchasing Service (NYSMEC) for natural gas:

WHEREAS, Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law authorizes municipal corporations to enter into cooperative agreements for the performance or exercise of services, functions, powers or activities on a cooperative or contract basis among themselves or one for the other, and

WHEREAS, Section 119-n of the General Municipal Law defines the term "municipal corporation" for the purposes of Article 5-G as a county outside the city of New York, a city, a town, a village, a board of cooperative educational services, a fire district or a school district; and

WHEREAS, the *Adirondack Central School District* (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Participant") is a "municipal corporation" as defined above; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes for this municipal corporation to become or remain a Participant pursuant to the Municipal Cooperation Agreement For Energy Purchasing Services dated the 1st day of May, 2005 (the "Agreement"), among municipal corporations collectively identified as the New York School and Municipal Energy Consortium ("NYSMEC") upon the terms of the Agreement and further wishes to authorize participation as an energy consumer as specified below.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board hereby determines that it is in the interests of the *Adirondack Central School District* to participate in the NYSMEC, and authorizes and directs *Edward Niznik Superintendent, (Participant Representative)* to sign the Agreement/and or the Billing Schedule and Agreement for natural gas on its behalf; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board authorizes the Administrative Participant (as defined in the Agreement) to prepare, advertise, disseminate and open bids pursuant to the General Municipal Law and to award, execute and deliver binding contracts on behalf of this Board for the purchase of natural gas delivered to the city gate of the local utility distribution company for the Participant’s facility or facilities, on a firm basis, for this Participant to the lowest responsible bidder as is determined by the Administrative Participant at a price for such commodity natural gas not to exceed \$0.583 cents per therm for a term of at least one year and no more than three years commencing May 1, 2021, and other terms and conditions, all as may be determined by the Administrative Participant, or to reject any or all such bids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Participant agrees to advertise said bid as may be directed by the Administrative Participant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the officers and employees of this Participant are authorized to execute such other confirming agreements, certificates and other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Office Specialist I – Provisional Appointment:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Emery seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education appointed the following support staff:

Name	Position	Civil Service Classification	Type of Appointment	Effective Date	Rate of Pay
Karen Philbrick	Office Specialist I	Competitive	Provisional	11/16/2020	Grade 13, Step 10+

Leave of Absence Request:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Emery moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education approved the request from Mrs. Karen Philbrick to take a leave of absence from her position as Teacher Aide effective November 16, 2020 after being appointed to the position of Office Specialist I pending results of the Office Specialist I Civil Service Exam.

Building Use Request:

Mr. Kramer asked for a motion for a building request submitted by the Class of 2022 to use the A-wing parking lot on Saturday, November 28, 2020 for a Can & Bottle Drive. People will stay in their cars while members of the Class of 2022 will take the cans/bottles out while wearing masks, gloves and observing social distancing guidelines. Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Muha seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education approved.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

➤ **Policies:** Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Emery seconded, carried 7-0; the Board adopted the following:

1st Readings:

- Patriotism, Citizenship, and Human Rights Education, 8241
- Appointment & Duties of the Internal Claims Auditor, 1335
- Leaves of Absence, 6550

➤ **Warrants:**

- TE Fund Warrant #3
- TA Warrant #4
- Capital Fund Warrant #3
- Special Aid Fund Warrant #1
- Lunch Fund Warrant #4
- General Fund Warrant #4
- General Fund Warrant #5

➤ **Receipts:**

- General Fund Receipts #3
- TE Fund Cast Receipts #4
- TA Receipts #4
- Capital Fund Receipts #4
- Special Aid Fund Receipts #1

➤ Treasurer's Reports – August & September 2020

HANDOUTS:

- ACS Enrollment as of November 1, 2020
- District Calendar – November 2020
- Claims Auditor Report for October 2020

Mr. Niznik updated the Board on COVID cases. He stated not just one factor goes into closing a building. There is a lot done behind the scenes, i.e. contact tracing, determining who has to quarantine, number of faculty/staff effected. As we see cases going up all around us, the governor has come up with zones – another barrier put on schools -, Red Zones – schools would close, Orange Zones – gyms, salons, movie theatres would be closed down, schools would be 100% remote, Yellow Zones – schools will have to test 20% of their students and staff.

At 8:33 p.m. Mr. Muha moved and Mr. Gallo seconded, carried 7-0; to go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular personnel.

Board members returned from executive session at 10:37 p.m. Mr. Emery moved and Mr. Emery seconded; carried 7-0; to go into regular session.

At 10:38 p.m. Mr. Muha moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0; to adjourn to the Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Boonville Elementary.

Michelle Freeman, District Clerk