

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

Via Livestream

DRAFT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – February 9, 2021

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; Jill Schafer, BE Principal; Kristy McGrath, Director of Technology, Curriculum & Instruction; Brian Maneen, Trans. Supervisor; Cameron Teachout, Director of Facilities
<u>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</u>	

At 7:03 p.m. Mr. Kramer called the meeting to order and recited the pledge of allegiance.

PRESIDENT’S MOMENT:

Those in the Adirondack Central sports world lost one of the biggest supporters that has crossed our paths in decades. Gerald Babcock passed away and he will be sorely missed. It didn’t matter what level of activity was taking place and he traveled to many of the away games. Between myself and him we would fight to get the first bowl of my wife’s chili at the Booster stand. On a happier note, one of Adirondack’s own, Belle Kranbuhl who is currently a freshman at Manmouth College playing varsity girls basketball which is in the Metro Atlantic Conference, she was recognized as the MAC Rookie of the Week this past week. The team itself is not doing that great, I happened to look at their record, but that is not what the award is about, it is about her effort. You all would recognize many of the schools Maris, Quinniapac, Manhattan, Iona, Sienna, Niagara, and Canisius. It is a very competitive league and she is doing well.

BUDGET:

(Livestream audio was difficult to hear for full transcription)

Mrs. Cihocki went over Draft 2 of the Revenues looking at the significant decrease in state aid and also an increase at this time for next year of more than a million dollars that is dependent on the stimulus package. She discussed STAR payments. She will have another revenue as we get closer.

Mr. Brach asked about workman’s compensation (audio not clear).

Mrs. Cihocki went over Draft 2 of the 2021-2022 Budget. You will notice a math series is in the budget to be purchased as well as an ELA series. Administrators would like to bring on another social worker to help with struggling students K-12. She explained the Director of Special Education expense code has been moved to 2250 to account for grants (audio not clear). Administrators are still formulating a plan for summer school hoping to fill the gaps (audio not clear). Other than that no significant changes to this budget. Still finalizing salaries.

Mr. Brach asked if draft 2 (audio not clear).

Mrs. Cihocki went over the historical enrollment which shows enrollment from 2003-2004 projected out to 2026-2027. As shown enrollment is declining. (audio not clear).

Mr. Kramer asked what we are going to see at the 2nd meeting. Mr. Cihocki stated the BOCES request, Technology and Draft 3.

PUBLIC FORUM:

No submissions for public forum.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS:**Mrs. Smith** – High School Principal:

- Going over data, 80.5% passing for all courses for the second marking period, 19.5% failure/incomplete, of that 42% are remote students.
- Showcase competition will be judged on March 1st.
- We will be opening the library soon, more details to follow.
- We are continuing with the 3-5 program 10th period.

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

- Just started today with basketball skills and drills, pretty decent turnout.
- Sports plan was submitted to county, hope to hear soon on that.
- Fall 2 sports update, meeting tomorrow to discuss fall 2. For soccer 6-8 different schools, imagine same for cross country. Football will be different because Section III will handle that.
- Trying to find a school to let us use their pool, not really willing during the pandemic.

Mrs. Foye – Director of Special Education:

- Policy Committee reviewed three policies at their meeting this month. One is on the agenda tonight.
- CSE/CPSE board action sheet activity may look a little light, one of the meeting days had to be rescheduled due to snow day last week. So those will be on the March board action sheet.
- Making wonderful progress in our efforts to offer students with disabilities increased in-person learning time. Have been meeting with building principals and special education teachers to prioritize those students to attend school every day. Beginning on Monday, February 22nd when we return from February break the students in our (audio not clear) will be attending in person every day.

Ms. Rowlands-Will – Middle School Principal:

- 2nd marking period data MS 85% pass rate, 15% failing one or more classes. Of the 15% failures, 28% are students with disabilities.
- Student Council is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Coloring contest.
- Justin Wiedrick, MS math teacher has been selected as a 2021 Sphero Hero. It is an ambassador program with the Sphero Company.

Mrs. McGrath – Director of Technology, Curriculum and Instruction:

- Update on NYS recently released their Extended School Days School Violence Prevention which is a competitive grant. This grant comes out every 5 years and we expected it in the fall, but because budgets were on hold, it was delayed. This grant was just released the end of January so the deadline to apply is March 10th which is a very quick turnaround, but one of the big projects she is working on in the month of February is to coordinate with the other administrators. We know we want to put in at least one application in and possibly even two. A school district can apply for up to \$350,000 per year and then it would be for the next 5 years. A school district can make more than one application so that is why we can potentially put in two. Items that can be included in this grant is anything that is extended school day, so anything after school tutoring, after school support, summer school, some schools do weekend school, school vacation, but anything outside the normal school day to provide extra academic support and services to your students. So we are brainstorming and putting together possible options for that. It can include things like intramural programs, robotic competition clubs or extracurricular. Biggest catch is it can't supplant items we already have in place, it has to be new items, but we are in a good spot because we currently don't have a summer school program. We do have 3-5 at the MS/HS, but we could expand and do 3-5 at elementary. We could potentially look at after school programming for our elementary students like after school daycare services. So there are a lot of great options and the school violence prevention portion can include any activities to keep students safe. It can include security cameras, updates to intercom systems, could include SPO's, again you are not supposed to supplant if you already have them, but if it is a potential budget cut you can consider it. It can include even things like extra counseling services, mental health services, programs to

deal with social/emotional learning of our students. We all know right now we need all of these services more than ever with the issues brought on by the pandemic. So she is working hard with the other administrators brainstorming different ideas and will have one application for up to \$350,000 by March 10th, maybe two. It is a competitive grant so we would find out later in the spring if we are awarded this and it would be in effect starting July 1st and it would be annually for the next 5 years.

Mrs. Schafer – BE Principal:

- Have some moving and shaking going on at the elementary level and one of those includes kindergarten coming back after February break. We are super excited about this. We have notified parents. We have reached out to remote and homeschool students to see if they are interested in coming back to the 5-day a week program so we are very excited for this. Specials will stay intact, PE will stay intact. It is just wonderful we are able to do this and also welcome back the next cohort of students with disabilities, so looking forward to that. My own little kindergartner is very excited because he misses his friends who are in the other cohort so they will get to reunite. Kindergartner teachers will have their hands full the first couple days back keeping the kids from getting too excited from seeing their friends they haven't seen since, some of them since March 13th. So they are all very excited for that.
- Some data to share, because of the snow days and interruption to schedules last week we have pushed back our report cards to tomorrow and Thursday. Mrs. Weber and I are still compiling the exact number of failures and incompletes. We did an attendance rubric with the elementary teachers and had them score their students based on in person and remote instruction and work completion and happy to report that of the 363 students scored at Boonville Elementary of that only 16% generated an attendance or failure to meet learning expectations letter which is wonderful and that means 83% roughly earned the teacher or principal special recognition. As principal, I alone signed 165 awards for our students for the second marking period. In order to get a principal's award they had to get a perfect score, out of the 15 they had to earn all 15 points. Though my hand was tired, I was very excited I to have to sign 165 of those and only 50'ish of the attendance letters. So very happy with the data that we pulled from that. We were so pleased with that we will be doing it again for the 3rd marking period at least because it has helped us have some conversations with teachers, AIS providers and parents, so we look forward to continuing with that. If you've seen us wear some whacky outfits this week, it is spirit week at Boonville Elementary and it has been tacky tourist day for the last two days. Mrs. Gallo is rocking it, she has had some interesting outfits. We have had some fun with it. Tomorrow is Staycation Day so it is pajama day and Thursday and Friday will be red, white and pink day. We are calling it have a heart day. We are challenging the students this month to do random acts of kindness for kindness month which is our character trait for bucket filler.

Mr. Brach asked for kindergarten, are the teachers still going to be responsible for the students who are full remote.

Mrs. Schafer said that's a great question and that was one that Mrs. Weber, Mrs. McGrath and I have had long conversations about. We have chosen to actually have a different teacher pick up the fully remote kindergarten students. We feel it is important for the kindergarten teachers to focus on the 16-18 children that they are going to have in front of them on a daily basis and then also have a different teacher who has taught kindergarten before pick up the remote kindergartners. We will be working with that remote teacher tomorrow to have her reach out to the parents and establish more details as far as what their learning times are going to look like for fully remote, but the fully remote kindergartners will begin to have live daily instruction now that we can devote one person to them.

Ms. Weber – WL Elementary Principal:

- Basically have a lot of the same information that Mrs. Schafer shared because elementary has been working on these projects together. West Leyden also has all of our kindergarten students with the exception of 2 who are choosing to stay remote for the time being, but otherwise we will have all of our kindergarten students returning for full time in person instruction after break. We also have a few special education students returning, we are preparing for that and will also work on a phased-in approach as Mrs. Foye mentioned to bring back more.
- As for the West Leyden data that reflects the same attendance and participation, our numbers were also quite pleasing. If we combined the yellow and red, basically warning as yellow and we are really worried about you in red, there are a total of 27 students, only 5 of them are red and so really at about 107 students that is about a percentage point per student. So only about 5% of students or 5 individual students who are of great concern to us at this time. For the blue students who as Mrs. Schafer mentioned needed to receive perfect scores in attendance and participation whether they are remote or hybrid and participating in their at home learning days, 52 students earned principal awards. That is 49% so almost half of our students achieving with perfect scores. So

overall we are looking at about 27 students at West Leyden who we have our eye on, who we have reached out to, who we are encouraging for greater participation and looking at the data most of those students who are struggling are 100% remote students. Our hybrid students seem to be keeping the pace with us, which we are pleased with. We have already started a plan for this next marking period to get those students back on board, make sure they are fully supported in every way possible and try to guarantee their success. As Mrs. Schafer mentioned, when report cards are done we will be compiling some comparative data on Star reading levels, report card data and then that will be aligned with students participating in AIS so we will have some more information for you next time around.

Mr. Kramer asked for the two elementary will the fully remote in Boonville be taught by the same teacher as the fully remote in West Leyden, we are going to combine them.

Mrs. Weber said yes because she only has 2 so we figured it would be better to make sure all of those kindergartners were receiving the same instruction.

Mr. Teachout – Director of Facilities III:

- At the high school the library is all moved back in. The last little bit of furniture is scheduled to show up on Thursday with a crew to assemble that. After that they will be ready to rock and roll in there. They are finishing up some final punch list items and have been working diligently in there while the librarians have been unpacking and organizing.
- We were able to repurpose some of the book shelves that came out of the library, obviously we saved everything not knowing if we would have things in time to put things back together, so we have been repurposing some of the taller book shelves down to the K-5 building. We are going to send down a couple more stacks next week during break as well as the desks for the kids.
- At West Leyden, NYS kind of through a new regulation for public water systems. WL school being on a well is a public water system, so they hit anyone with a public water system for dioxin testing so we are looking at doing that next Tuesday. Forewarned it is a very strict water test down to what clothing I'm wearing and how I wash my hands so it is going to be a nice little test. Have been talking with the Department of Health to make sure we are doing that properly so we don't have any issues.
- As you are aware we have a public posting out there for a 6-hour Groundsworke/Cleaner position at West Leyden Elementary. That comes back the 19th of February.
- We are officially done with our 2020-21 \$35k security project so what we have done is all of the existing analog cameras in the district are now all digital, so we have high quality and more control and don't have to worry about analog cameras dying like they were in a lot of the areas. We are now all digital and were able to purchase a couple spares through that project so we should be set for a while.

Mr. Brach asked Mr. Teachout if it would be possible to get another tour of the high school at his convenience. Mr. Teachout stated to let him know when.

Mr. Maneen – Transportation Supervisor:

- Thanked the principals and Mr. Roberts for their patience the last couple of weeks while they were lining up the 3:30 and 5:30 shuttle runs. It is all working well.
- Winter is upon us, lots of snow lately. Drivers have been doing a great job getting our students to and from school safely. I have been talking to them about all the ways we can help with that and I have posted the top safety tips about driving in winter.
- One thing that will be interesting is right now when I am down at Boonville Elementary usually have to wake a student up 2-3 days a week to bring them off the bus, so it will be interesting when we bring the kindergarten students back 5 days a week how they are going to handle that.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

Minutes:

January 26, 2021 2nd Regular Meeting

REGULAR AGENDA:

Groundswoker/Cleaner Permanent Appointments:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Muha moved and Mr. Emery seconded, carried 7-0; the Board appointed the following to permanent positions after successful completion of their Civil Service probationary periods:

- >> David Egnew, Groundswoker/Cleaner, effective February 15, 2021
- >> Todd Backer, Groundswoker/Cleaner, effective February 22, 2021

Committee on Special Education:

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

Budget Transfers:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. Muha moved and Mrs. Ingersoll seconded, carried 7-0; the Board approved the Budget Transfers for January 2021.

High Risk Winter Sports Coaches:

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and consistent with the terms and conditions enumerated in the Resolution to Conditionally Appoint Athletic Coaches during the 2020-2021 School Year, which resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Education prior hereto on January 21, 2021, the Adirondack Central School District Board of Education hereby conditionally appoints the following coach:

- >> Americo Ventiquattro – Girls JV Basketball

Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Gallo seconded.

Mr. Kramer asked if there was any discussion.

Mr. Emery stated he has the same opposition as last time. We are still in the middle of an intense COVID crisis with the outside strains doubling every week and he doesn't want to jeopardize the kids at school and the academic side to have sports on the inside and it will be the same for the next agenda item.

Mr. Kramer stated he doesn't think anyone disagrees with that comment and asked if there other questions. All in favor, carried 6-1; the Board approved.

High Risk Winter Sports:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approve the following high risk winter sports:

- >> Varsity & JV Boys Basketball
- >> Varsity & JV Girls Basketball
- >> Varsity & JV Volleyball

Mr. Kramer stated at the last meeting, if you recall we approved coaches, per Oneida County and probably the State they want us to officially approve the sports that we approved the coaches for.

Mr. Bruce moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 6-1, the Board approved the high risk winter sports.

Mr. Niznik stated just like Mr. Kramer said, when we were doing the plans the Board has to specifically approve each sport for the county and the plan so that is the reason, it is part of the plan.

Mr. Kramer stated for our purposes the winter season is going from January 21st – March 13th though fall 2 sports begin March 1st.

Mr. Roberts stated spring sports is April 19th. All sports will overlap. There are no sectionals or tournaments at this time.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION: {Enclosures}

- **Policies:** *1st Reading*
 - **Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Emery seconded, carried 7-0; the Board adopted the policy update.**
 - Annual Organizational Meeting - 1620
- **Warrants:**
 - TE Warrant #5
 - TA Warrant #7
 - Capital Fund Warrant #6
 - Special Aid Fund Warrant #4
 - Lunch Fund Warrant #7
 - General Fund Warrant #8
- **Receipts:**
 - TE Receipts #7
 - TA Receipts #7
 - Capital Fund Receipts #4
 - Special Aid Fund Receipts #4
 - Lunch Fund Receipts #7
 - General Fund Receipts #7
- Treasurer's Report – December 31, 2020
- Jeff-Lewis BOCES notification of (3) vacancies on the BOCES Board for the term 2021-2024, BOCES Budget Development Calendar and BOCES Board members expiration of terms.
- The terms of the following Adirondack School Board Members expire on June 30, 2021:
 - >> Almanda Sturtevant
 - >> Richard Gallo
- Board of Education petitions will be available from the District Clerk on Monday, March 1, 2021, and must be returned by Monday, April 19, 2021. The number of signatures required on the petition is 25.
- Jefferson-Lewis School Boards Association – Virtual Legislative Discussion – Friday, March 5, 2021
 - ** Reservations needed by March 1, 2021**

HANDOUTS:

- District Calendar for month of February 2021.
- Enrollment Figures as of February 1, 2021.
- Claims Auditor Report – January 2021

Mr. Brach thanked Mr. Niznik and the administrative team for bringing back special education students. Sure there are going to be bumps in the road, but just keep moving on.

Mr. Gallo thanked all the administrators for working on this.

Mr. Niznik thanked everyone. This is very positive. Has taken awhile to get here, but hopefully we can move forward and continue to see more of our students in our buildings, its awesome.

Mrs. Ingersoll asked how many students will be coming back between kindergarteners and special ed. students. It will be nice to hear little voices again.

Mr. Niznik stated all 69 kindergartners and 30+ CSE students who are in the first phase.

At 8:00 p.m. Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Muha seconded, carried 7-0 to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. Kramer thanked the administrators and wished them a great vacation week and great first day back with more bodies in the school.

Board members returned from executive session at 9:17 p.m. Mr. Muha moved and Mr. Emery seconded; carried 7-0; to go into regular session.

At 9:18 p.m. Mrs. Sturtevant moved and Mrs. Ingersoll seconded, carried 7-0; to adjourn to the 2nd Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.