

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

**DRAFT**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – March 16, 2023**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
Michael Kramer – President Almanda Sturtevant – Vice-President Robert Healt Keith Redhead Abby Podkowka	Kristy McGrath, Superintendent, Sharon Cihocki, Business Administrator, Michelle Freeman, District Clerk, Heidi Smith, HS Principal; Dan Roberts, Asst. Secondary Principal; Jill Schafer, BE Principal; Michael Faustino, Director of Technology, Instr. & Curriculum; Wendy Foye, CSE Director; Jennifer Badaracco, Transportation Supervisor; Cameron Teachout, Director of Facilities III; Patrick Fiorenza, Interim AD Marie Yager, Cora Hinsdill, Rob Hinsdill, Jennifer Giardino, Michael Giardino, Charles Rogan, Heather Sweeney, Richard Chrisman – ATA, Darlene DeFazio, Elizabeth Ritter, Chris Jeanotte, Julie Jeanotte, Miranda Youngs
<b><u>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</u></b> Bruce Brach Joan Ingersoll	

Due to inclement weather, the regularly scheduled Tuesday, March 14, 2023 meeting was postponed to this evening, March 16, 2023.

At 7:00 p.m. Board President, Mr. Kramer, called the Regular meeting to order and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PRESIDENT’S MOMENT:**

Mr. Kramer wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick’s Day and wished Ms. Cihocki a Happy Birthday. Busy time of the year with the high school musical coming up, spring sports starting and April break in a couple of weeks. Hopefully we will see the track and field clearing off soon.

**RECOGNITION:**

Mr. Fiorenza introduced and spoke about Cora Hinsdill being Adirondack’s first Girl’s Nordic Ski Champion. Mr. Kramer and Mrs. McGrath presented Cora with a certificate and Adirondack goodie bag. Congratulations Cora!!

**PRESENTATION:**

Heather Sweeney, Miranda Youngs, Elizabeth Ritter and Rebecca Houser gave a presentation on having therapy dogs in the school district. Mrs. Sweeney explained how the committee has been meeting to coordinate things. Mrs. Youngs explained how kids are very responsive to dogs and the benefits of social-emotional learning. Mrs. Houser explained how kids will learn life skills needing to feed, walk and clean up after the dogs. Mrs. Ritter explained how having a therapy dog lowers stress levels in not just kids, but adults as well. There is a 6-8 week long training for the dogs and their handlers. Howard and Janice LaFave are graciously donating their time as the trainers. There is a 2-part certification, 1- Basic Obedience & Handling and 2- Observations in public and school settings. Mrs. Sweeney, Mrs. Youngs, Mrs. Ritter and Mrs. Houser each introduced their dogs (pictures on the slide show) and told why they will make a good therapy dog. Mrs. McGrath added that Toni Trifeletti is also part of the committee, but couldn’t be there tonight and also introduced her dog. Mrs. McGrath also explained she and the committee met with other local school districts who have therapy dogs already. Staff members across the district are on board with having therapy dogs.

Marie Yager stated this is a great opportunity to help our children especially those with disabilities.

Mrs. Sturtevant stated she thinks this is a great idea. Are there any concerns about the fear that some children may have or about this service being counterintuitive? Mrs. McGrath stated once ready to implement, there will be a proposal with each building principal to work on this on a case by case basis.

Mr. Healt asked who does the dog work with? Mrs. Houser stated with our model, specifically with their handler, if the dog is needed in another part of the building, she would have someone else stay with her class so she can go with the dog to handle the need at that time.

### **BUDGET:**

Mrs. Cihocki talked to the Board about the following 2023-2024 Budget items:

- >> Draft 3 – Reductions of BOCES expense – CFLR which was added to replace counselor on leave, counselor returning.
  - Reduction of BOCES nurse practitioner and school doctor services which will be covered by school-based health center.
  - Elimination of district nurse
  - Elimination of English as Second Language at BOCES
  - Increased budget for all fuel expenses
  - Special Ed. out of district placements at BOCES increased. Out of district placement at private placement decreased by 1 for 2023-24.
  - Cornell Cooperative Extension After School Program may not be continued for 2023-24.
  - Decision on CEP Program, if continued, paid for out of stimulus or general fund.
- >> Revenue Draft 2 – Tax cap at 4.8% with a tax levy of \$11,156,691, assuming a 2% tax increase.
  - State aid increased by \$910,724, coming from building, transportation, BOCES and foundation aid
- >> Debt Service – Mortgage payments on capital projects, BOCES debt.
  - Mr. Healt asked if the \$100,000 projects have been increased to \$250,000
- >> State Aid – Varies greatly from Governor’s aid projection in January to actual aid received a year later.
- >> Community Eligibility Program (CEP) – 2022-23 school year district opted to participate in CEP allowing students to receive breakfast and lunch free of charge. Eligibility is based on free and reduced percentage and we receive additional reimbursement with participation. Thus far for 22-23 school year we have served 46,236 breakfast and 74,151 lunches.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Marie Yager – asked about the electric buses.

Mrs. McGrath explained we have asked for an extension in order to understand our electrical needs, such as new transformers and upgrades with the Municipal Commission. For this year we have 3 gas buses coming

Public Forum ended at 7:53 p.m.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Mr. Redhead moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education approved the following Consent Agenda:**

#### **Minutes:**

- February 14, 2023 Regular Meeting

#### **Substitutes:**

##### Non-Teaching:

- >> Wendi Croniser – Sub-School Bus Attendant
- >> Frank Tanner – Sub-Laborer
- >> Jennifer Helmer – Sub-Food Service Helper

##### Teaching:

Michael Ferris – Sub-Teacher

\*\* pending background clearance\*\*

**Field Trips:**

REQUESTOR:	DESTINATION:	DATE(S):
Tech Class	MVCC in Utica & Rome	3/24/23
BE and WL 1 <sup>st</sup> graders	Strand Theatre in Old Forge	3/31/23
WL kindergartners	The Wild	5/12/23
HS students	Fort Drum	5/16/23
BE 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders	Clinton Central School	5/19/23
BE Kindergartners	Fort Rickey Discovery Zoo	5/23/23
BE 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders	MOST Museum in Syracuse	5/24/23
WL 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders	Skate-A-While Longer and Franklyn Field Public Playground	5/24/23
BE Pre K 3 & 4	Finndale Farms in Holland Patent	6/6/23
WL Pre K 3 & 4	Watertown Zoo	6/8/23
BE 4 <sup>th</sup> graders	Beaver Camp in Lowville	6/8/23

**REGULAR AGENDA:****Audit Corrective Action Plan:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Podkowka moved and Mr. Redhead seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education approved the correction timeline for the Audit Corrective Action Plan.

**Permanent Positions:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Podkowka moved and Mr. Redhead seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education appointed the following to permanent positions after successful completion of their probationary periods:

- >> Denise Ventiquattro- Teacher Aide
- >> Kasidy Rogers – Teacher Aide
- >> Nastassia Alger – Teacher Aide
- >> Lauren Johnson – Teacher Aide
- >> Ian Klingbail – Bus Driver
- >> Daniel Webber – Bus Driver
- >> Michael Dano – Bus Driver
- >> William Deiter – Bus Attendant
- >> Paula Guay – Food Service Helper
- >> Robert Fruin – GW/Cleaner

**Professional Staff:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education appointed the following professional staff:

Name	Area	Type of Appointment	Certification Status	Effective Date	Rate of Pay
Jeremy Youngs	Special Education	3-year Probationary	Permanent	09/01/2023	D6, Step 9 +Masters
Matthew Sprowell	Business & Marketing	Long-Term Substitute	Pending	09/01/2023	B1, Step 2

**School Bus Driver Retirement:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education accept the resignation, for the purpose of retirement, of Mr. Gene Peck effective June 24, 2023.

**Spring Volunteer Assistant Coaches:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education appoint the following for the spring 2023 season:

- >> Elizabeth Horan – Volunteer Asst. for MOD Softball
- >> Jason Reppard – Volunteer Asst. for MOD Baseball

**Committee on Special Education:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, Mr. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education granted approval for placement of students.

**Budget Transfers:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education approved the Budget Transfers for January 2023.

**INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**➤ **Policies -**▪ **Review of UPK 4 Enrollment for 2023-24:**

Mrs. McGrath explained it was advertised and quite a few came in by March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Boonville Elementary has more applicants than spots. West Leyden Elementary has open spots. Those who are wait-listed at Boonville Elem have been offered spots at West Leyden. She asked if Board would consider an aide at Boonville Elem or wait and see how many more come in.

Mr. Redhead said he wouldn't consider aide when there are open spots in West Leyden. Mrs. Sturtevant asked if someone lives closer to West Leyden (but Boonville Elem is their resident building) be asked if they want to go to West Leyden? Mr. Healt said he is willing to wait to see if we get more money through the UPK grant.

▪ **UPK 3 Policy – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading:**

Mrs. McGrath stated the policy committee met about the UPK 3 Policy, the deadline for those applications will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Healt moved and Mr. Redhead seconded, carried 5-0; the Board adopted the UPK 3 Policy.

➤ **Warrants & Receipts:**

<b>Warrants – January 2023</b>	
Federal Fund Warrant	Cafeteria Fund Warrant
Scholarship Fund Warrant	General Fund Warrant
Capital Fund Warrant	

## ➤ Treasurer's Report – January 31, 2022

## ➤ Budget Analysis

## ➤ School Bus Stop Arm Solution – Program is through Oneida County – motion sensor, picture is taken of license plate, reviewed, law enforcement issuance, citation mailed.

## ➤ Capital Project Timeline – Waiting feedback from State Ed.

## ➤ Jeff-Lewis BOCES Programs of Study

## ➤ Board of Education petitions are now available from the District Clerk and must be returned by Monday, April 17, 2023. The number of signatures required on the petition is 25. There are two seats up for this election: Mrs. Ingersoll and Mr. Kramer.

➤ Jeff-Lewis BOCES Annual Dinner Meeting – Weds, April 5, 2023 – Bohlen Technical Center Watertown  
Tour at 5 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m.  
Budget presentation at 7:15 p.m.**HANDOUTS:**

- ACS Enrollment as of March 1, 2023
- District Calendar – March 2023
- Claims Auditor Report – February 2023

At 8:20 p.m. Mr. Healt moved and Ms. Podkowka seconded, carried 5-0 to go into Executive Session to discuss Administrator negotiations and the employment history of particular personnel.

Board members returned from executive session at 9:37 p.m. Mr. Healt moved and Ms. Podkowka seconded; carried 5-0; to go into regular session.

At 9:38 p.m. Mr. Healt moved and Mr. Redhead seconded, carried 5-0; to adjourn to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting to be held in the in the LGI room at the high school on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.