

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

DRAFT

2nd REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES – March 28, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Michael Kramer – President Bruce Brach Robert Healt Joan Ingersoll Keith Redhead	Kristy McGrath, Superintendent, Sharon Cihocki, Business Administrator, Michelle Freeman, District Clerk, Marie Yager, Darlene DeFazio, Leo Moshier, Phil Squadrito, Dom Ventiquattro, Lynne Ventiquattro, James Alger, Brittany Alger, Mike Gluck, Ed Zagurski
<u>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</u> Abby Podkowka Almanda Sturtevant-Vice President	

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

PRESIDENT’S MOMENT:

Mr. Kramer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Winter sports are behind us, spring sports coming up, another productive musical and looking forward to spring break.

RECOGNITION:

Mrs. McGrath asked Mr. Puleo (high school PE teacher) to come to the front of the room. Mrs. McGrath explained that Mr. Puleo and Mr. Dom Ventiquattro were on vacation in Arizona with their family over February break and turned down a street where they saw a man in distress. Mr. Puleo performed CPR on him until the ambulance arrived and later learned that the man recovered from his medical emergency. Mrs. McGrath wanted to recognize and thank Mr. Puleo for his heroic action and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition and Adirondack goodie bag.

PRESENTATIONS:

Juul Labs – Mrs. Katherine Gavett from the Ferrara Firm (School Attorney) explained that the class action lawsuit against Juul Labs is a way for school districts around the country to hold them accountable for creating a product that entices children. Adirondack has been awarded \$25,000 to be used however the district chooses. Juul is compensating districts for money they had to use to purchase education material or vaping detecting equipment to educate students about the dangers of vaping and detect when vapes are being used. This money does not have to be earmarked.

Mrs. Yager stated she feels the money should be used to help students get clean from vaping.

Boyd Dam – Mrs. Gavett gave the Board an update on the Boyd Dam tax certiorari proceedings which have been going on since 2012. The district has paid real property tax refunds for 2013 through 2017 of approximately \$550,000 plus interest. Now looking at years 2018-2023 settlement. Trying to find a long term solution, key to settlement discussions. If unable to reach an agreement by June 1, 2023 a trial has been scheduled for September 2023.

Building Conditions Survey – King & King Architects – Leo Moshier and Phil Squadrito went over the highlights of the 2020 Building Conditions Survey which is done every 5 years. The highlights were of what needs to be done at each building, HS/MS \$9,612,000 worth of work, Boonville Elementary \$21,751,650 worth of work, West Leyden Elementary \$13,601,700 worth of work and Bus Garage \$2,972,200 worth of work. Mrs. McGrath stated she is in continued contact with State Ed. regarding the capital project proposal submitted back in July, still have not heard anything from them.

BUDGET:

Mrs. Cihocki –went over the final draft of the 2023-2024 Budget. No bottom-line changes in overall budget from last meeting.

Stimulus Overview – Mrs. Cihocki stated the district received \$4.6 million dollars back in July of 2021. At that time the state did say what districts had to use the money for. Now they want a breakdown on how and where the money was used, and what we are doing with the remainder of the money. Options were discussed of what to do with the remainder of the money, weight room upgrades, MS scoreboard and shot clocks, MS gym and aud sound upgrades, baseball and softball practice upgrades. Mrs. McGrath explained to the Board that Cornell Cooperative Extension has increased their cost to run the after school program. The Board agreed to the options for the remainder of the money and if the money for Cornell Cooperative Extension can be utilized elsewhere to go ahead.

PUBLIC FORUM:

James Alger – asked about the recent musical and if the superintendent reviews the material itself before it is decided on. Elementary students were sent to watch it. Permission slips are required for field trips, but not for the musical? This is not acceptable.

Mike Gluck – stated students in the musical did a phenomenal job, material got his blood boiling though. Students rehearsed for a couple of months, as a parent, he is very upset students were allowed to be acting that kind of material out.

Superintendent McGrath stated on Friday of the performance a determination was made to put PG-13 at the door and inserts in the programs. Typically the musical director and principal review and choose the musical. In the past, neither the Board nor the superintendent have been a part of the selection process, but moving forward she will be involved.

Brittany Alger – stated even though West Leyden Elementary is falling apart, she would be so hurt if it closed. As for the Cornell Cooperative Extension After-School Program, a lot of families count on it, kids may need that extra attention.

Public forum ended at 8:35 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Healt moved and Mr. Redhead seconded, carried 4-1 (abstention Mrs. Ingersoll); the Board of Education approved the following:

Minutes:

- March 16, 2023 Regular Meeting

Substitutes:

Non-Teaching:

- >> Wendi Croniser – Sub-Teacher Aide, Sub-Bus Attendant
- >> Terri Thorna – Sub-Teacher Aide

Teaching:

- Evelyn Simanowski – Sub-Teacher
- Jordan Langland – Sub-Teacher

** Pending Background Clearance**

Field Trips:

REQUESTOR:	DESTINATION:	DATE:
Junior Class	MVCC for Open House	3/31/23
Seniors	Griffiss Tech Park for 911 Mobile Exhibit	4/21/23
Juniors/Seniors	Riverhawk in Clinton	4/26 /23
Skills USA	Syracuse for State Conference	4/26, 4/27, 4/28/23
National Jr. Honor Society	Destiny in Syracuse - Get Air & Regal Theatre	5/19/23

REGULAR AGENDA:**2023-2024 Budget:**

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Ingersoll moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education approved the proposed 2023-24 Budget in the amount of \$32,746,019 and agreed the following proposition be presented to the taxpayers of the Adirondack Central School District for their consideration on Tuesday, May 16, 2023:

“Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Adirondack Central School District, Oneida County, New York is hereby authorized to levy the necessary tax for and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$32,746,019 for the purpose of the General Fund Budget for the 2023-2024 school year.”

Professional Staff:

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

Name	Area	Type/Duration of Appointment	Effective Date	Rate of Pay
Jacqueline Mann	Mathematics	4-year Probationary Pending Transitional B Certification	September 1, 2023	B2, Step 1
Brittany Vinette	Mathematics	4-year Probationary Pending Transitional B Certification	September 1, 2023	D2, Step 2

Support Staff:

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

Name	Position	Civil Service Classification	Type/Duration of Appointment	Effective Date	Rate of Pay
Terry Marolf	Cook	Non- Competitive	8-week probationary	4/17/23	Grade 11, Step 10

Long-Term Substitute for Kindergarten:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Healt moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education appointed Mrs. Jennifer Bowman as a Long-Term Substitute for Kindergarten effective 3/6/23 – 6/30/23.

Instructional Calendar 2023-24:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Healt moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education approved the 2023-2024 Instructional Calendar.

External Auditors:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brach moved and Mr. Redhead seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education appointed D’Arcangelo & Co, LLP, CPA, of Utica as external auditors for the district for the years ending June 30, 2023 (\$24,500), June 30, 2024 (\$25,225), June 30, 2025 (\$25,975).

Juul Labs Resolution:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Ingersoll moved and Mr. Healt seconded, carried 5-0; the Board of Education adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, in recent years the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices increased dramatically among high school and middle school students, leading to significant risks of addiction and potentially life-threatening respiratory ailments; and

WHEREAS, students attending the Adirondack Central School District (the "School District") have not been immune to this phenomenon with the School District observing students using e-cigarettes and vaping devices in school and on school grounds; and

WHEREAS, the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices by students has caused the School District to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops; and

WHEREAS, the School District authorized the law firms of Ferrara Fiorenza PC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC, to initiate litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and other parties by board resolution relating to the production, marketing, sale, and distribution of e-cigarettes and vaping devices; and

WHEREAS, the litigation involved more than 1400 U.S. public school districts across more than 25 states; and

WHEREAS, a tentative settlement has been reached with Defendant Juul Labs, Inc. and certain individual board members, directors, executives and parties with whom Juul Labs, Inc. has indemnity agreements; and

WHEREAS, litigation against Altria and remaining defendants will continue; and

WHEREAS, partial settlement means the School District would forever release all claims against Juul Labs and the other released entities; and

WHEREAS, in return, the School District would receive certain cash payments; and

WHEREAS, the amount that the School District receives will be based on a final allocation framework recommended by the court-appointed Special Master Thomas Perrelli with the allocation framework for all governmental entities including factors such as population and litigation risk and be no less than \$23,224 for the School District; and

WHEREAS, an initial payment of approximately 54% of the settlement amount is anticipated to be paid by late 2023; and

WHEREAS, the remaining payments will be made in four installments anticipated in late 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the "Board") has determined it is necessary, advantageous, desirable, and in the public interest and the best interests of the School District that it settle this litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and continue the litigation against remaining other parties involved with e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the School District, as follows:

1. The Board authorizes the partial settlement of the vaping lawsuit against defendant Juul Labs, Inc. and certain individual board members, directors, executives and parties with whom Juul Labs, Inc. has indemnity agreements.
2. A Settlement with the substantive terms contained herein is hereby approved in substantially the form reviewed by the Board and together with such minor modifications as are deemed necessary by the School District's attorneys and administrators to protect the best interests of the School District.

3. The Board President, Superintendent and their designee(s) are hereby authorized to finalize, sign and enter into the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the School District and take all actions and execute all documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

INFO & DISCUSSION:

- Rate of pay for bus driver testing – Mr. Healt moved and Mr. Brach seconded, carried 5-0; the Board agreed on a \$10 differential for SBDI and 19A testers.
- Clean Green Schools Initiative – Mr. Teachout explained this initiative is to reduce energy load in buildings. Energy audit is done to make suggestions on how to save money. No cost to the district, funded through NYSERDA
- Jeff-Lewis BOCES Annual Dinner Meeting – Wednesday, April 5, 2023 – Tour at 5 p.m. Dinner at 6 p.m. Budget presentation at 7:15 p.m. Location: BOCES in Watertown. *Reservations by March 29, 2023.*

HANDOUTS:

- School Board Evaluation – Give feedback at April meeting.
- Building Use Chart
- Conference Reports:
 - Linda Weber, Mike Faustino – *DATAG Spring Meeting*
 - Americo Ventiquattro - *A Study of the Four Middle Level Investigations*
 - Wendy Foye – *37th Annual Committee on Special Education Chairpersons' Conference*
 - Kim Corrigan – *Engaging, Managing & Motivating Hard to Reach & Disruptive Students*

At 9:10 p.m. Mr. Healt moved and Mrs. Ingersoll seconded, carried 5-0; to go into executive session to discuss the contract negotiations.

Mr. Brach left the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Board members returned from executive session at 9:37 p.m. Mr. Healt moved and Mr. Redhead seconded; carried 4-0; to go into regular session.

At 9:38 p.m. Mrs. Ingersoll moved and Mr. Healt seconded, carried 4-0; to adjourn to the Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at the high school.