

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

DRAFT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES – August 29, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Michael Kramer – President Almanda Sturtevant – Vice-President Bruce Brach Maureen Healt Robert Healt Abby Podkowka Keith Redhead	Kristy McGrath, Superintendent, Sharon Cihocki, Business Administrator, Michelle Freeman, District Clerk, Marie Yager
<u>MEMBERS EXCUSED:</u>	

At 7:01 p.m. Mr. Kramer, Board President called the meeting to order and led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESIDENT’S MOMENT:

Thank you to Board members and Marie for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Marie Yager – She stated to the Board she still thinks that a previous graduate who has subbed for the district deserves a chance at a full-time position. She also stated the Board knows how she feels about the electric buses.

Public Forum ended at 7:04 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda following:

Minutes:

>> August 8, 2023 Regular Meeting

Teaching & Non-Teaching Substitutes:

>> Rebekah Leuenberger – Sub-School Nurse

>> Kayla Gager –Sub-Teacher

pending background clearance

REGULAR AGENDA:

Termination of Bus Driver:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education terminated Ms. Teya Pope, Bus Driver effective August 29, 2023.

Food Service Helper Resignation:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mrs. Shari Reed, Food Service Helper effective September 1, 2023. Mrs. Reed was appointed to the position of Cook at the last Board meeting.

Support Staff:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Healt moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education appointed the following support staff:

Name	Position	Civil Service Classification	Type/Duration of Appointment	Effective Date	Rate of Pay
Erin Dragan	Office Specialist I	Competitive	8-week probationary	8/25/23	Grade 13, Step 4
Ryan Salmon	Bus Driver	Non-Competitive	26-week probationary	9/1/2023	Grade 20, Step 1
Donna MacIntire	Bus Attendant	Non-Competitive	26-week probationary	9/1/2023	Grade 6, Step 1
Maureen Dobransky	Food Service Helper	Non-Competitive	26-week probationary	9/1/2023	Grade 7, Step 1

Surplus Equipment and/or Textbooks:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Healt moved and Ms. Podkowka seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education declared equipment and/or text books from the District as surplus and be disposed of in the most expedient manner as per the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

Bus Wash Agreement for Ambulance:

Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Brach moved and Ms. Healt seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education entered into an Agreement with the Boonville Ambulance Inc. for their use of the school bus wash to wash the Boonville Fire Department’s ambulances.

INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

- EPA Grant – Electric Buses – Mrs. McGrath went over handouts containing information on the electronic buses as a review from previous meetings. Mr. Brach stated this gives the district the opportunity to understand the strengths and weaknesses of electric buses by trying it out, learn what we don’t know. In the end, voters make the final decision. Mr. Kramer stated he would like to see a couple of presentations to the voters, on the radio, in the papers, talk to the fire departments. Ms. Podkowka stated to make it simple for voters to understand what we pay now for three compared to down the road when it will be more expensive. Ms. Healt stated financially we should go with three buses. Make sure to put the information out there for voters. Mr. Healt stated to get all three, we need to be ready for what is going to be required down the road.

Mr. Brach moved and Ms. Healt seconded, carried 6-1, the Board of Education adopted the following resolution to bring the proposition before district voters:

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Central School District (the “District”), is a local agency pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), Environmental Conservation Law Section 8-0101, et seq., and implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the “Regulations”); and

WHEREAS, the District is considering the acquisition of three (3) electric student transport vehicles (the “Vehicles”), related charging equipment and the reconstruction of the bus garage to accommodate electric charging stations (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the classifications of actions contained in the Regulations; and

BE IT RESOLVED by this Board of Education as follows:

Section 1. The District hereby determines that the acquisition of the Vehicles, related charging equipment and the reconstruction of the bus garage to accommodate electric charging stations constitutes a Type II Action pursuant to Parts 617.5(c)(10) and 617.5(c)(31) of the Regulations and as such is not subject to review under SEQRA.

Section 2. A Special Meeting of the qualified voters of the Adirondack Central School District, County of Oneida, State of New York, will be held at the Adirondack Central School District HS/MS Multipurpose Room in Boonville, New York, on October 24, 2023 from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., prevailing time, for the purpose of voting on the proposition described in the Notice of Special District Meeting hereinafter set forth.

Section 3. The business to be acted upon at said Special District Meeting shall be as stated in the Notice thereof, and the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause the Notice of said Special District Meeting to be published in the Boonville Herald and Rome Daily Sentinel, newspapers having a general circulation within the District, such publications to be made four (4) times each in such newspapers within the seven (7) weeks next preceding such Special District Meeting, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of said Special District Meeting.

Section 4. Said Special District Meeting shall be called by giving the following notice thereof:

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING
OF THE VOTERS OF THE
ADIRONDACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ADIRONDACK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HEREBY GIVES NOTICE that pursuant to a Resolution adopted by the Board of Education of the District on August 29, 2023, a special meeting of the qualified voters of said School District, County of Oneida, State of New York, will be held at the Adirondack Central School District HS/MS Multipurpose Room, in Boonville, New York, in said District, on October 24, 2023, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. prevailing time, for the purpose of voting upon the following proposition:

PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education of the Adirondack Central School District be authorized to (i) purchase and finance three (3) electric student transport vehicles including related charging equipment and (ii) reconstruct the bus garage to accommodate electric charging stations, including, for both, necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$1,329,738, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary after applying \$1,185,000 of expected EPA Grant monies and \$27,500 from the sale of three retired buses, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District in the principal amount not to exceed \$117,238 shall be issued.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that voting upon the foregoing Proposition will be by voting machine or paper ballot and will take place on October 24, 2023 at the Adirondack Central School District HS/MS Multipurpose Room in Boonville, New York, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m. prevailing time.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot from the office of the Clerk of the District. Completed applications must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 23, 2023 [one day prior to the vote] and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 13, 2023 [seven days prior to the vote] if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after 4:00 p.m. on October 13, 2023 [seven days prior to the vote] will require the voter to personally appear at the office of the Clerk of the District to receive an absentee ballot. A listing of all persons to whom an absentee ballot is issued will be available for inspection by any qualified voter in the office of the Clerk of the District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during each of the 5 business days prior to the election.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that military ballots may be applied for by qualified voters by requesting an application from the District Clerk at 315-942-9200 or mfreeman@adirondackcsd.org. Completed applications for military ballots must be received by the Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 29, 2023 [twenty-four days prior to the vote]. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Section 5. The Clerk of the School District is hereby authorized and directed in the name and on behalf of the District to do all acts and things necessary, following the advice and counsel of the District’s Attorney and the District’s Bond Counsel, to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and executive orders relating to the Special Meeting to be held on October 24, 2023, and to do all other acts as may be necessary, or in the opinion of the District’s Attorney and the District’s Bond Counsel, desirable or proper to effectuate the purposes of the foregoing Resolution and to cause compliance by the District with all applicable laws, regulations and executive orders relating to the notice of, and procedural steps to be taken in connection with such Special Meeting.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Poll Vote: Yes (6) – Mr. Brach, Ms. Healt, Mr. Kramer, Ms. Podkowka, Mrs. Sturtevant, Mr. Healt.
No (1) – Mr. Redhead.

- Board of Education Retreat – November 7, 2023 – 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. - Facilitated by Mr. Jason Andrews
Mr. Brach stated Board members learn in their initial training about how to govern. The Board needs to devote time to talk about a plan on consolidation and do an analysis of salaries.
- Social Media Lawsuit – Mrs. McGrath explained to the Board about the lawsuit

Mr. Brach moved and Ms. Podkowka seconded, carried 7-0; the Board of Education adopted the following resolution authorizing litigation against social media companies:

- WHEREAS**, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health which:
- “calls attention to the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health;”
 - emphasized that “now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;”
 - “[t]he onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;” and

- “[t]echnology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has further concluded that:

- “Social media use by youth is nearly universal. Up to 95% of youth ages 13-17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media ‘almost constantly.’”
- “nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media;”
- “in early adolescence ... brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison;”
- “[s]ocial media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;”
- “[i]n a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel ‘addicted’ to a social media platform;”
- “[o]ver half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;” and
- [t]here is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use “depression among youth.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is “urgent that we take action.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, “[m]ore than ever, were glued to [their cellphones] during class.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that “a growing number of educators ... find themselves on the front lines of a fight to change how students use social media” and “there was been a push for more schools to ... develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media.”

WHEREAS, the Adirondack Central School District (the “School District”) has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of social media, which use, among other things: (i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and such use and its results harms; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District is a leader in education excellence whose faculty and administrators care deeply about the education and well-being of its students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

That the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP and Ferrara PC to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek compensation to the School District for damages suffered by the School District and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The School District hereby authorizes its Superintendent of Schools or their designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the School District.

- October 10th Board meeting changed to October 11th - 7:00 p.m. at West Leyden Elementary
- Reminder – September Board meeting will be held in the Boonville Elementary cafeteria at 7:00 p.m.

HANDOUTS:

- Superintendent’s Conference Day cover letter and schedule.

At 8:12 p.m. Ms. Healt moved and Ms. Podkowka seconded, carried 7-0; to go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular personnel.

Board members returned from executive session at 8:36 p.m. Ms. Podkowka moved and Mr. Brach seconded; carried 7-0; to go into regular session.

At 8:37 p.m. Ms. Pokdowka moved and Mrs. Sturtevant seconded, carried 7-0; to adjourn to the Regular Meeting to be held Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Boonville Elementary cafeteria.