



Fort Edward Union Free School District
Meeting of the Board of Education
February 13, 2023
Board Minutes

Members Present: Thomas Roche, Ella Collins, James Donahue, Amanda Durkee, Christina Durkee, Timothy Clark, Taylor Boucher

Members Absent: John Guglielmo

Others Present: Richard DeMallie, Ella Aul, Joyce Long, Keaysie Ferguson, Christopher Rayder, Charles Perkins, Kris Lanchantin, Shannon Faughnan, Lindsay Decker, Sandy Wagner, Greg Weeks
Sarah Bradshaw (virtual)

- I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** - Time: 6:35 pm

- II. Oath of Office for Student Board Member:** Ella Aul
Dr. DeMallie thanked Ella for joining the board and volunteering to be the voice of the student body. He noted that she will be using her own social circles and social media to gather information from her fellow students to bring to the board.

- III. Recognition of Successes:**
 - A. Gymnasium Cleanup:** Madelynn LaPelle for going above and beyond with Fort Edward pride and cleaning up the gymnasium
 - B. Forts First Responders:** Catherine Briscoe for organizing Fort Edward Rescue Squad, Inc. to visit our After School Enrichment Program
 - C. Forts First Responders:** Ken Mitchell, Mikenzie Willard and Keith Hanna for visiting our After School Enrichment Program and allowing students to tour the Fort Edward EMS rescue vehicle

- IV. Community Comments** - None

- V. Presentations:**
 - A. Update on the 5-year long range plan/pilots** - Sarah Bradshaw (fiscal advisor)
 - 1. Tabled for next board meeting as looking at the report and discussing with her via telephone virtual meet was not viable

- VI. Reports:**
 - A. Board Committee Reports (9 Board Committees)**
 - 1. Budget, Finance and Audit Committee
 - a) Met 2/13/23
 - (1) Budget Workshop #2
 - 2. Policy Review Committee
 - a) Scheduled 3/1/23 at 6:30pm
 - 3. Athletic Committee
 - a) Met 1/23/23
 - (1) Merger Discussions



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- (2) Basketball Updates
- (3) Coaching Evaluations
- (4) Strategies for building programs
- b) Scheduled for 3/8/23 at 6:00pm

B. Superintendent Report

1. Winter sports are done; bowling sectionals were 2/13/23 and we placed 9th out of 24 schools
2. Richard DeMallie, Erin Russo and Catherine Briscoe attended a Narcan Training
3. IDA = looking into these issues with Washington County Superintendents and Attorney Erin Morris
4. 1st Meeting with Hudson Falls football merger was successful
5. Boiler parts that came in were incorrect but we are looking at moving forward with the replacement
6. AFT Innovation Grant - we were 1 of 12 school in the nation to be awarded this grant; the \$45,000 will be used to get a CNC milling machine to expand technology and CTE offerings to students
7. Unified Sports start Monday after winter break (2/20 - 2/24)
8. Looking into bringing a lounge area to cafeteria
9. Safety Committee is thriving and there is representation from all over the school, B&G, Transportation, New Meadow, High School, Nurse, Needham Risk Management; will be reaching out to Washington County Sheriff's as FEPD is disbanding and may want to bring in BOCES Safety Specialist
10. Fort Edward Drama Club presents Addams Family School Edition March 10th 7:00pm and March 11th 2:00pm
11. Working on summer school being running through BOCES this year as we are not going to be a targeted school next year and will not be awarded grant monies for being a targeted school. Going through BOCES will allow us to use COSER and get aid.
12. Thank you to Glens Falls School District and Ken Chester for the use of a van.
13. State of Fort Edward School District Presentation
 - a) Graduation Trends = if held today, would 68.9%
 - (1) One student makes a big difference
 - (2) Students on a 5-year track are included the cohort but not the percentage
 - (3) Special Education students on a 5 or 6 year track are included in the cohort but not the percentage
 - b) Chronic Absenteeism = 10% or more missed
 - (1) Grades 1-8 = 32.5%
 - (2) Grades 9-12 = 34.9%
 - (3) NYS does not count appointments, etc. as excused absences, we still track them in this way though
 - c) Academic Performance
 - (1) Overall average high school regents performance proficiency = 69%
 - (2) Overall average 3-8 math performance proficiency = 31%
 - (3) Overall average 3-8 ELA performance proficiency = 43%



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- d) Budget Info
- e) Pupil Services
- f) Principal's Report
 - (1) Discipline
 - (a) 501 referrals to date, some for documentation purposes only
 - (b) 106 students responsible for referrals, 10 no longer attend Fort Edward
 - (c) 15 students with 10 or more referrals, 2 no longer attend Fort Edward
 - (2) Jr./Sr. High PLCs
 - (3) Elementary grade level/department meetings
- g) Information Technology
 - (1) Staffing
 - (2) Approximately 600 help desk tickets addressed this school year
 - (3) Wi-fi upgrades underway
 - (4) Classroom chromebook monitoring will be piloted in spring
 - (5) Phones upgraded
 - (6) eRate - pays for 70-80% of cost of equipment
 - (a) 23-24 New internal switches to replace End of Life switches planned
 - (b) 23-24 Firewall replacement planned
 - (7) Internet filter will be replaced this summer
 - (8) A backup power system is needed for the Network Center
 - (9) Camera server to be rebuilt and more storage added
 - (10) Multi Factor Authentication
 - (a) Implemented with administration
 - (b) Teacher accounts are in planning stage

C. Treasurer Report (Reports in BOE Packets)

VII. Discussion Items:

A. Annex sale/donation

1. Kris Lanchantin explained options for sale versus donation; stating that if we sold, it would have to be appraised and if we gift, it would have to go to a vote. Thomas Roche stated that the only possible benefit of selling being of revenue, he is in favor of gifting to the Village. He further noted that we had to be careful who ended up with the building if they moved forward with selling as at one point he believed that a drug rehabilitation center was looking at going into that space. Amanda Durkee questioned what would happen if it was put to vote and voted down and it was determined that we could then move forward with selling or just choosing to keep the property if that happens. James Donahue noted that the Village is in dire need of storage space and that the annex would provide that space for them, so he is on board with gifting. Timothy Clark noted that no entity would want to buy the building without parking and we are wanting to keep as much of that parking lot as possible. Christina Durkee questioned if the Village would be



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using the space as a public meeting area. Thomas Roche responded that he believed that the Village wanted the space for storage and stated that conversations with them indicated that just a parking space or two would suffice for their purposes. Discussions on the red shed lead to including it in the gifting of the annex.

B. Healthy Kids Before and After School Program

1. Shannon Faughnan and Lindsay Decker presented on the program, which would be an after school, parent paid, daycare. Some details are that there is no minimum student number, the program would not affect the Enrichment Program or sports, they provide the staff, the fee schedule is based on 6:00pm pick up but rate would be adjusted if different pick up time is needed, families can also use childcare subsidies to pay for this service. Shannon also noted that the state just increased the household income limit for child care subsidies.

VIII. Consent Agenda:

Although Board action is required, it is generally unnecessary to hold discussion on these items. With the consent of all members, they are therefore grouped and approval is given in one motion. In the event a Board member wants to discuss any item, it is moved to an appropriate place on the agenda.

- A. Approval of Minutes for Board Meeting held January 9, 2023.
- B. Approval of Minutes for Special Board Meeting held January 23, 2023.
- C. Approval of Minutes for Special Board Meeting held February 6, 2023.
- D. Approval of Treasurer Reports for January as included in the Board packets.
- E. Approval of Budget Transfers for January as included in the Board packets.
- F. Approval of the Warrants and Claims as included in the Board packets.

Motion made by Christina Durkee, seconded by Timothy Clark to approve items A-F. Motion carried 7-0.

IX. Action:

- A. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, seconded by Christina Durkee to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations as included in the Board packets. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Motion made by Ella Collins, seconded by James Donahue to approve the resolution to appoint Jessica Smatko as Administrative Intern, effective January 30, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.
- C. Motion made by Christina Durkee, seconded by James Donahue to approve the resolution to appoint Stephen Neron as Building Maintenance Mechanic, effective March 6, 2023, pursuant to the provisions of the Employment Agreement, dated February 9, 2023. Motion carried 7-0. James Donahue asked about the provisions on transportation within the contract. Richard DeMallie clarified that he would be utilized as a back-up but that these duties were now included



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in roles under the FESS Contract and FEAA Contract,

- D. Motion made by Taylor Boucher, seconded by Timothy Clark to approve the contract renewal for health services provided to children that reside in Fort Edward and attend Saratoga Springs City Schools. James Donahue noted that the contract stated “the Fort Edward Union Free School District, Town/City of Fort Edward” and felt that it should be adjusted to reflect that the school is in the Village of Fort Edward. Motion carried 7-0.

X. Personnel:

All appointments are subject to change and compensation proration, pending emergency school closing and required reductions in force. All coaching appointments are made pending completion and verification of all required coaching credentials, with the stipend per FETA contract commensurate with experience and no other salary or benefits. All coaching, extracurricular appointments are subject to reduction and compensation proration, pending final student enrollment numbers, and pending the outcome of any potential mergers and emergency school closings.

- A. Motion made by Taylor Boucher, seconded by Amanda Durkee to appoint Jim Eggleston as Scoreboard Operator effective January 9, 2023 at a rate of pay of \$50 per event. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Motion made by Christina Durkee, seconded by James Donahue to appoint Amber Bement as Academic Intervention Services Instructor (English Regents Review Teacher), effective January 12, 2023, at a rate of pay of \$37.00 per hour, as per the FETA contract. Motion carried 7-0.
- C. Motion made by Timothy Clark, seconded by Amanda Durkee to appoint Kilee Westad as YAC Advisor, effective February 13, 2023, at a rate of pay of \$800 per season, as per the FETA Contract. Motion carried 7-0.
- D. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, seconded by Christina Durkee to accept the letter of resignation from Mitchell Suprenant, effective January 27, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.
- E. Motion made by Taylor Boucher, seconded by Christina Durkee to accept the letter of resignation with the intent to retire from Eric Becker, effective December 1, 2023. Motion carried 7-0.
- F. Motion made by Taylor Boucher, seconded by Christina Durkee to appoint Hillary Potter as Chemical Hygiene Officer. Motion carried 7-0.

XI. Coaching:

All coaching appointments are made pending completion and verification of all required coaching credentials, with the stipend per FETA contract commensurate with experience and no other salary or benefits. All coaching and extracurricular appointments are subject to reduction pending final



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student enrollment numbers, and pending the outcome of any potential mergers and emergency school closings.

- A. Motion made by Taylor Boucher, seconded by Christina Durkee to appoint Nelson Chase as Unified Bowling Coach, effective February 13, 2023, at a rate of pay of \$2295, as per the FETA contract. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Motion made by Christina Durkee, seconded by Timothy Clark to appoint Catherine Briscoe as JV Softball Coach, effective February 13, 2023, at a rate of pay of \$3472, as per the FETA contract. Motion carried 7-0.
- C. Motion made by Christina Durkee, seconded by Taylor Boucher to appoint Charles Perkins as Assistant Varsity Softball Coach, effective February 13, 2023, at a rate of pay of \$3849, as per the FETA contract. Motion carried 7-0.
- D. Motion made by Taylor Boucher, seconded by Amanda Durkee to appoint Jason Brayman as Modified Baseball Coach, effective February 13, 2023, at a rate of pay of \$2700, as per the FETA contract. Motion carried 7-0.

XII. Second Public Comment Period (if needed) - None

XIII. Executive Session

Motion made by Taylor Boucher, seconded by Timothy Clark to enter into Executive Session at 8:43 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

XIV. Return to Public Session

Motion made by Amanda Durkee, seconded by Timothy Clark to return to Public Session at 10:21 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

XV. Adjournment

Motion made by Taylor Boucher, seconded by Ella Collins to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 pm. Motion carried 7-0.