

Fort Edward Union Free School District
Meeting of the Board of Education
220 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828

DATE: April 11, 2022

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting

PLACE OF MEETING: In person and YouTube Channel Link for Public :
<https://youtu.be/DEkCV01ozYu>

MEMBERS PRESENT Thomas Roche, Amanda Durkee, John Guglielmo, Christina Durkee, James Donahue, Ella Collins, Patricia Suprenenat and Christopher Miles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Carroll

OTHERS PRESENT via the above mentioned ways:
Interim Superintendent Mark Bessen, John Godfrey, Tobie Bessette, Charles Perkins, Jill Boucher, Jessica Smatko and Maggie Torra, Gregory Diefenbach, Sharlene Petro-Durgan

President of the Board, Thomas Roche, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

I. Pledge of Allegiance - Mr. Thomas Roche asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Community Comments: None

A public comment period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes each shall be provided at each business meeting. In an effort to provide an opportunity for all interested speakers, all speakers shall be limited to three (3) minutes during the public comment period. Community members, who wish to address the Board, are requested to complete the speaker request form and submit it to the Clerk of the Board prior to the meeting. Comments regarding agenda items will be taken first. Speakers are reminded of the three-minute time limit. Should the 30 minute time limit expire additional written comments may be taken prior to the meeting's adjournment. A member of the Board or the Superintendent will respond that the BOE received and reviewed the comments.

When members of the public speak to the Board, they shall state their name and address, the name of the organization (if any) which they represent, and the agenda item they wish to comment on. Please be aware that by law individual student information or particular personnel issues cannot be discussed at public sessions of the board. The Board will not permit interruptions, slanderous remarks or "name-calling" by speakers or the audience. We take public comment very seriously and careful notes will be taken. However, the board generally does not respond while the meeting is in public session.

III. Recognition of Success:

Mr. Godfrey recognized Jaiden Mosher who placed 2nd in the SkillsUSA carpentry competition through BOCES! He now moves on to the state competition in Syracuse in April! If you see Jaiden, be sure to congratulate him. This is a very prestigious accomplishment and one that is not easily attained.

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Mr. Godfrey also recognized Theo Clark for being published in the Chronicle Newspaper. Theo wrote about Robots with my Dad.

Also being recognized is Kallie Ann Vaughn. Kallie came in first place in the Fidelis Care National Children's Dental Health Month Coloring contest.

On April 1st and 2nd five of our Fort Edward Band students joined other Washington County Schools in the Washington County Area Music Teachers Association (WCAMTA) Band Festival. This was a great opportunity for our students. Congratulations to Kayden Carter, Lynelle Colvin, Ashton LeGodais, Ollie Cutler, and Gabrielle Durkee!

Mr. Godfrey also informed the Board that the 2nd graders had a successful month working on the writing skills. Mrs. Morey's class researched rabbits and non-fiction science units and added some fun fact stories about rabbits. Students used a variety of critical thinking skills to complete their tasks. The culminating activity was to publish a rabbit project and display it in the hallway. This was a fun and meaningful project for all students. Mrs. Peck's class was working diligently on writing piece along with some art work. All school year her students have been working on building up their writing standard. The first piece was for the students to listen to a story called Spring, next they did a pre-write they also created a picture on blossoming cherry trees and created a mixed media piece and it is displayed in the hallways.

Mr. Godfrey congratulated Kallie Vaughn for winning the Fidelis Care dental health coloring contest where she won a trophy and a set of coloring markers to share in her classroom. Mr. Godfrey also congratulated Theo Clark for being published in the Chronicle newspaper his submission was "what is something that you are good at" and Theo wrote about working on robots and working on them with his dad.

IV. Presentation:

Jessica Smatko and Jill Boucher gave a presentation of the Enrichment Classes, which are funded by the COVID funds. There were 144 students registered for the classes. Mr. Bessen reported that he and Mr. Godfrey walk around after school and observe the amazing things that these kids do in their sessions, they both enjoyed watching the enthusiasm and the teachers are enthusiastic. Mrs. Smatko thanked all the people that made our after school Enrichment Program such a success.

V. Reports:

Board Committee Reports (9 Board Committees)

- i. Finance Committee met tonight prior to this meeting
James Donahue went over what the finance committee worked on at the meeting prior to this meeting.
- ii. Grievance and Negotiations Committee (next meeting 4/12)
- iii. Curriculum Committee (next meeting TBD)

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- iv. Policy Committee
- v. Athletic Committee (next meeting TBD)
- vi. Strategic Planning Committee (next meeting TBD)
- vii. Personnel Committee (next meeting TBD)
- viii. Building and Grounds Committee for Health & Safety (next meeting TBD)
- ix. Building Project Committee (next meeting TBD)

VI. Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Bessen reviewed with the Board the recommended adoption of the \$11,779,348 2022-2023 budget to present to the public to be voted on May 17th.

Mr. Bessen also reviewed with the Board the Reassessment and the Tax Levy and how it will affect the 2022-2023 Budget.

VII. Treasurer Report: Report was in packet

VIII. Principal's Report- Mr. Godfrey reported that last week the students finished up the NYS Test in English Language Arts and that was grades 3-8 and tests were administered 1st, 2nd and 3rd periods over two days and next up is our Math tests.

Mr. Godfrey also reported that he is excited to have the National Honor Society Inductions, back to in person this year, the induction ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 5th and parents and family members are invited to join in.

Mr. Godfrey reported that our students participated in the All County Band festival on April 1st and 2nd and Mr. Smith and Ms. Taylor brought our students to this two day event. Our students were well prepared and did a great job to represent our school and some notable highlights were Gabrielle Durkee was chosen to read a poem before performing one of the band pieces. Kayden Carter was honored as a Senior and Ashton LeGodais had a solo performance. The students did a great job.

IX. Buildings and Grounds Report: There is a report in the drive and the Board packets

X. Discussion Items: Mr. Bessen discussed with the Board that we have one unused snow day and we are going to use it the Friday before Memorial Day, May 27th.

XI. Consent Agenda:

- Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Ella Collins to approve items a-d
- (a) the Board Minutes of March 14, 2022, March 17, 2022, March 24, 2022 and April 5, 2022.
- (b) Approval of Warrants and Claims for April 2022
- (c) Approval of Treasurer Report for February 2022
- (d) Approve of the Budget Transfers

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Motion carried 8-0.

XII. Action:

- (a) Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Patricia Suprenant to adopt the Districts 2022-2023 Budget in the Amount of \$11,779,348.00 as stated on the Budget Notice & Property Tax Report Card.
Motion carried 8-0

- (b) Motion made by Ella Collins, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the 2nd and final reading of revised Policy #3220 Use of Assistance Animals and revised Policy #7552 Student Gender Identity and Revised Policy #1510 Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure.)
Motion carried 8-0.

- (c) Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve the following items:
 - C. Approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations as included in the Board Packets and
 - D. Approve the disposal of the fixed assets as listed in the Board packets.Motion carried 8-0.

- (e) Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Ella Collins to approve the (DCIP) 2021-2022 District Comprehensive Improvement Plan.
Motion carried 8-0.

- (f) Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to approve the following **RESOLUTION** to establish a Transportation & Maintenance Equipment Reserve (A878) with approval from the public May 17, 2022

WHERE AS THE

Creation-It was recommended to create this reserve via resolution at the Board of Education meeting on April 11, 2022.

Purpose - This reserve may be used to fund the cost of any object or purpose for which bonds may be issued. Specifically, transportation and maintenance Equipment

Funding Methods-Voter is required to establish and fund this reserve. In accordance with the approved proposition, this reserve is funded from surplus dollars available to the School District when it closes their books every June 30th , and/or other legally available funds of the School District to fund such reserve fund.

Use of Reserve - Use of this reserve requires voter approval. The proposition to use the funds indicates it is established for financing, in whole or in part, the acquisition of school buses, vans, other transportation vehicles and maintenance equipment including incidental equipment and expenses.

Monitoring of Reserve - This reserve is monitored by the District Treasurer.

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Funding Level - As stated in the approved proposition, this reserve was created with a maximum limit of \$2,000,000.00.

Motion carried 8-0.

- g Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by Christina Durkee to approve the following
RESOLUTION: Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education of the Fort Edward Union Free School District, Village of Fort Edward, in the county of Washington, is seeking authorization to lease one (1) 66 passenger school bus not to exceed \$19,500 per year for a term of (5) Five years at the May 17, 2022 public vote. Motion carried 8-0.
- h. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the following RESOLUTION, Be it Resolved, that the Board of Education to consider for public vote the Board member size from 9 members to 7 members

A few Board Members discussed the reasons each were for or against the move to downsizing Board Members. Motion carried 8-0.

XIII. Personnel:

- a. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by James Donahue to appoint Charles Perkins as individual as the Assistant Central Treasurer for Extra-Classroom accounts. Motion carried 8-0
- b. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by John Guglielmo to appoint Charles Perkins as the following:
(b) District Treasurer to execute banking transactions;
(c) District Treasurer to execute banking transactions for all operating bank accounts; and
(d) as Central Treasurer to execute banking transactions for student fund accounts. Motion carried 8-0
- e. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to appoint Amanda Yanes as full time Teacher Aide at a rate of pay per the FESS Contract effective March 2, 2022. Motion carried 8-0.

XIV. Coaching: 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 Amanda Durkee, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve the appointment of Russell Wade as Girls Varsity Softball Coach for the 2021-2022 season. Motion carried 8-0.

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Second Community Comments: None

XV. Executive Session:

At 8:15 p.m. motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by John Guglielmo to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters referring to employment of specific individuals. Motion carried 8-0.

At 8:40 p.m. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Patricia Suprenant to return to public session. Motion carried 8-0.

XVI Adjournment: There being no further business, motion was made by Christopher Miles, second Ella Collins adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Motion carried 8-0.