

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

**DATE:** December 13, 2021

**TYPE OF MEETING:** Regular Meeting

**PLACE OF MEETING:** YouTube Channel Link for Public :  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v+NzOS30xIMk4>

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Thomas Roche, Ella Collins, Amanda Durkee, John Guglielmo, Christina Durkee, James Donahue and Patricia Suprenant

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Joseph Carroll and Christopher Miles

**OTHERS PRESENT** via the above mentioned ways:  
Interim Superintendent Mark Bessen, John Godfrey, Tobie Bessette, Doreen Rabine, Megan Munoz, Tara Ryther, Jill Boucher, Christopher Boucher and Joshua Plude

**President of the Board**, Thomas Roche, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

**Roll Call was made by Mrs. Bessette:**

Tom Roche, Ella Collins, Christina Durkee, Amanda Durkee, John Guglielmo, James Donahue and Patricia Suprenant

**Absent:** Christopher Miles and Joseph Carroll

**II. Community Comments: Mr. Roche read the following:**

*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.*

# **Fort Edward Union Free School District**

## **Meeting of the Board of Education**

### **220 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828**

**Megan Munoz-** spoke to the Board regarding wanting to receive transcripts and an explanation of how her daughter passed the 5th grade. Ms. Munoz has not received this information as of today's date. Mr. Bessen informed Ms. Munoz will be sent out immediately.

**III. Presentations:** Mr. Bessen reported that Mike Glass from Waste Management came to our school with boxes of food that was collected by Waste Management employees right here in Fort Edward, and was given to our backpack program. Thank you to Mike Glass and Waste Management for their donation. Our Backpack coordinators did what they could to get it distributed in a nice way.

Mr. Godfrey reported that in the Elementary School kindergarten students are practicing the holiday songs with help of our music department.. They will invite parents in through google meet.

Ms. Taylor and her fourth grade students in the music department have been working on musical compositions this is where they use a number of musical instruments to represent various animals. A lot of fun and a job well done.

**IV. Recognition of Success:** Mr. Godfrey informed the Board that the Scholar Athlete NYS public high school athletic association has informed us that our schools Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Golf teams have been recognized as Scholar Athlete Teams. We have 11 students that have been recognized: Ella Aul, Felicity Columbetti, Lynelle Colvin, Ollie Cutler, Natalie Durkee, Eva Stewart, Andrew Fish, Gabriel Glass, Michael Glass, Preston Gulick, and Spencer Smith. Congratulations to them

In our technology class students are making wooden signs. Designed first on computer then use a machine to carve them out and sand and polish. 8th graders are designing a key chain FEHS\_tech if you would like to see more pictures on their instagram account.

Mr. Guglielmo would like to recognize the Football team that played in South Glens Falls this year. His nephew, Anthony Torra played varsity - first team defensive line for a class A. Outstanding having our students come from a small school to play first team, class A. Zachary Bartholomeau, Joseph Ignazio also played for the team.

#### **V. Reports:**

##### **Board Committee Reports (9 Board Committees)**

- i. Finance Committee met tonight prior to this meeting and James Donahue gave a brief report.
- ii. Grievance and Negotiations Committee (next meeting TBD)
- iii. Curriculum Committee (next meeting TBD)
- iv. Policy Committee met on 11/16 and Amanda Durkee gave a brief report stating that later in the agenda there will be 3 policies for 1st reading of revised policies #6160 Professional Growth/Staff Development, #5640 Smoking, Tobacco and Cannabis

# Fort Edward Union Free School District

## Meeting of the Board of Education

### 220 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828

(Marijuana) Use and #1510 Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure). We have previously updated some terminology in the #1510 policy Mrs. Durkee recommends that we should table the policy #1510 until we can look at it better.

- v. Athletic Committee (met on 12/7/21) John Guglielmo reported that a big part of the discussion was 8 man football or trying to field a 11 person team or merging with another school district. Mr. Guglielmo is looking into communicating with three different coaches, one from Western NY, one from Oklahoma and one from Minnesota that his son gave him the names. They have been doing a 8 man team for years. He feels there are no disadvantages to an 8 man football team and the advantage that they all would be able to play. We had 5 or 6 kids overall that played at a different school. Advantages are more participating. If a kid can play, they can play. Rules and practices are the same. If the Coaches are promoting our young people to small or larger colleges they will come and these kids will get noticed. Mr. Guglielmo feels that the earlier we get the students to play a sport, getting the fundamentals is going to breed better students, better participation and better grades. This will give a hometown feel. As Mr. Guglielmo looks better into this; he will present this hopefully before March. As he gets the information he will forward it on.

Mr. Bessen stated that Section II is looking at this and hopefully giving the go ahead. They are given until April to participate in a merger if needed.

- 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:

**Budget Calendar:** Mr. Bessen reported on the Budget Calendar. Will be voting on this later on.

**Update on Chaplain Power Connector Pipeline:** Mr. Bessen reported that the State has done all of their bids. Hopefully breaking ground this spring. Looks like the value went up about 40% and possibly \$100,000 will be added to our general fund.

**COVID Update:** State went back to full blown masking. We are going to go ahead with the concert. Students will be separated accordingly. We are limited in the amount of the students that can participate. 2 parents separated by seats. We will do everything we can to social distance. Amanda Durkee asked if this will be recorded and Mr. Bessen stated it will be live streamed and recorded.

#### VII. Treasurer Report: Report was in packet. The Finance Committee met prior to this meeting.

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

**VIII. Principal's Report- Mr. Godfrey reported that the Elementary School** the 4th and 5th grade students are decorating and selling Make A Wish Stars throughout the holidays to benefit the Make A Wish Foundation. Our holiday concerts are next week, High School is on Monday and Elementary is on Tuesday. Limited seating but will be broadcasting it.

**Middle School/High School Level** - National Honor Society applications have been out to eligible students and are due back December 15th. Interviews will be held and induction in January.

Club survey 120 responses, wonderful ideas. Students responses cooking, STEM, Art, technology club crafts and photography club, a variety of responses.

Winter sports are up and running. Bowling and Basketball teams.

**IX. Buildings and Grounds Report:** There is a report in the drive. The Boilers we are getting an estimate to get them running up to speed. Currently we are running on two boilers, which is ok at this time but should have at least 4 out of the 7 working. The builders are 15 years old and are German made. Mr. Bessen reported that we do not shut down the two boilers at this time because we do not know how long it will take to warm the school back up so we are running them as if the building is occupied. Mr. Masten also reported that he is having staffing issue as losing one substitute cleaner and a full time maintenance worker/bus driver. That leaves Mr. Masten and two full time cleaners and one substitute. Amanda Durkee asked how this is being advertised and Mr. Bessen stated that it is on our website continually and social media and word of mouth.

Mr. Bessen informed the Board that there is a shortage of bus drivers and in February 1st some highway act goes into effect for commercial drivers including bus drivers will have to go to a commercial driving school. This is for any new bus drivers. Mr. Joshua Plude asked if you have to be a bus driver in order to be a custodial person? He has failed as he is color blind and can not pass the bus driver test.

**X. Discussion Items:**

**Superintendent Search:** Last two weeks there has been a postcard out there with an open survey and Mr. Muller stated that there has been 100+ responses. Mr. Muller will get this information together and will present it next Tuesday, prior to the concert. From there we will lock down the information that we need to do for our final posting, the portfolio. At that point we will finalize the portfolio and will be advertised in the On Board magazine in mid January and will go live in other places. James Dexter will go through and meet with the Board and share all the names that applied. Then the process goes from there. After John Godfrey and Mr. Bessen will start doing the posting for a Principal and have the finalist one month from the day they select the Superintendent so that person will be involved in hiring the Principal.

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

**XI. Consent Agenda:**

- (a) Motion made by Amanda Durkee second by John Guglielmo to approve the Board Minutes of December 13, 2021. Motion carried 7-0.
  
- (b) Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Ella Collins to approve consent items:
  - (i) Approval of Warrants and Claims for November 2021
  - (ii) Approval of Treasurer Report for October 2021
  - (iii) Approval of the Budget Transfers.Motion carried 7-0.
  
- (c) Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve the December Warrants and Claims 2021. Motion carried 7-0.

**XII. Action:**

- (a) Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the first reading of the revised policies:
  - #6160 Professional Growth/Staff Development
  - #5640 Smoking, Tobacco, and Cannabis (Marijuana) UseMotion carried 7-0
  
- (b) Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Ella Collins to table the policy #1510 Regular Board Meetings and Rules (Quorum and Parliamentary Procedure)  
Motion carried 7-0
  
- (c) Motion made by Ella Collins, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations as included in the Board Packets.  
Motion carried 7-0
  
- (d) Motion made by Ella Collins, second by Christina Durkee to approve the Transfer, Relocation, Disposal of Fixed Assets (see attached)  
Motion carried 7-0.
  
- (e) Motion made by James Donahue, second by John Guglielmo to accept the \$2,000.00 as a donation on behalf of Chapter 461 WoodmenLife to be used for general school supplies.  
Motion carried 7-0.
  
- (f) Motion made by James Donahue, second By Patricia Suprenant to accept the \$2,500.00 as a donation on behalf of Noranne Mulcahy for the Noranne Mulcahy Science Scholarship.  
Motion carried 7-0.
  
- (g) Motion made by Amanda Durkee second by John Guglielmo to approve the following resolution regarding the Board of Education's 2022 Advocacy Priorities:

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

**RESOLUTION DATED** December 13, 2021

**FORT EDWARD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**REGARDING ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Fort Edward Union Free School District strives to provide an outstanding education and post-secondary pathway for each and every student; and

**WHEREAS**; the district recognizes the deep commitment shown by the legislature and the Executive to fully fund the foundation formula; and

**WHEREAS**, the District works diligently to meet the needs of all students while still fulfilling its core mission, even while in our third year of a pandemic, and

**WHEREAS**, the District is facing significant increased costs due to inflationary factors for labor, fuel and goods; and

**WHEREAS**, property tax levy legislation at the state level has provided an increased need for State Aid to maintain quality programs; and

**WHEREAS**, public schools are being asked to do more for students than ever before, so they are prepared for college, military or a career; and

**WHEREAS**, each child in Fort Edward Union Free School District only has one opportunity to go through the full elementary and secondary educational experience;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Edward Union Free School District Board of Education calls on the New York State Legislature and Governor Kathy Hochul to act upon the following priorities:

- 1. Fund and Adjust the Foundation Formula**
  - A. Include a due minimum increase for all districts, regardless of Foundation Aid phase-in level.**
  - B. Maintain the “SAVE Harmless” provision.**
  - C. Fully fund expense based aids.**
- 2. Increase the \$30,000 threshold on BOCES Aid for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs by providing 100% aidability for the salaries of CTE teachers.**
- 3. Building Aid for Small Capital Projects**

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

**A. Increase the threshold for base year capital outlay expenses from the current amount, established in 2002 from \$100,000 to \$250,000 to assist districts in making critical capital improvements.**

Mr. Bessen explained that we are doing this jointly with the other school district in the WSWHE BOCES district and it is also going outside the region. Foundation Aid, remember we are fully funded, we are trying to as a whole harmless school that the legislature does not forget about us.

Motion carried 7-0.

- (h) Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve the following:  
**BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approve a 2020-21 budget amendment in the amount of \$5,911.20 in order to recognize the remaining balance of the CARES ACT “grant in aid” carried over from 2019-20.**

**Increase Estimated Revenue:**

**A4286 State Aid CARES ACT Federal Flow Thru “Grant in Aid”      \$5,911.20**

**Increase Appropriations:**

**A2250.150-01-ESSE ESSER-CARES ACT Instructional Salaries      \$1,114.60**

**A1620.160-01-GEER GEER-CARES ACT Salaries      \$4,796.60**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of the Board of Education be authorized to appropriate funds as specified by this resolution.**

Motion carried 7-0.

- (i) Motion made by James Donahue, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the 2022-2023 Budget/Vote Calendar

Motion carried 7-0.

**I. Personnel:**

- a. Motion made by Ella Collins, second by Amanda Durkee to accept the letter of resignation from Stephen Neron effective Friday, December 10, 2021.  
Motion carried 7-0. Thank you for your service to the district.
- b. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by Amanda Durkee to accept the letter of resignation from Kendra Capone effective December 17, 2021.  
Motion carried 7-0. Amanda Durkee said Thank you especially during the pandemic. Trying to learn the district in the middle of the pandemic. Mr. Donahue also stated that Kendra Capone was a lot of help during the summer also.

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

- c. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve the appointment of Ashley Godfrey as non-certified Long Term Substitute Teacher effective December 6, 2021, per the SASTA Contract.  
Motion carried 7-0.
- d. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the appointment of Ronald Fuss as Full-Time Cleaner pending completion and verification of all required credentials at a rate per contractual rate.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**XIII. Coaching:** Mr. Roche read: 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.

- e. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by Christina Durkee to approve the appointment of Amelia Taylor as Modified Volleyball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of \$3,472.00.  
Motion carried 7-0.
- f. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Amada Durkee to approve the appointment of Steven Alheim as JV Boys Basketball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of pay per contractual rate.  
Motion carried 7-0.
- g. Motion made by James Donahue, second by John Guglielmo to approve the appointment of Daniel Durkee as Modified Girls Basketball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of pay per contractual rate.  
Motion carried 5-0-2, Christina Durkee and Amanda Durkee abstained.
- h. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve the appointment of Debi Delisle as per diem substitute at a rate per SASTA Contract, effective December 2, 2021.  
Motion carried 7-0.

**Second Community Comments: None**

**XIV. Executive Session:**

**At 7:34 p.m.** motion made by James Donahue, second by Amanda Durkee to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters referring to employment of specific individuals. Motion carried 7-0.



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

At **8:02** p.m. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Patricia Suprenant to return to public session. Motion carried 7-0.

- XV.** **Adjournment:** There being no further business, motion was made by John Guglielmo, second Christopher Miles adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p..m. Motion carried 7-0.