

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

DATE: February 14, 2022

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting

PLACE OF MEETING: YouTube Channel Link for Public : <https://youtu.be/Zg88j-ElFR8>

MEMBERS PRESENT Thomas Roche, Amanda Durkee, John Guglielmo, Christina Durkee, James Donahue

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Carroll, Ella Collins, Patricia Suprenant and Christopher Miles

OTHERS PRESENT via the above mentioned ways:
Interim Superintendent Mark Bessen, John Godfrey, Tobie Bessette, Christopher Boucher, Jill Boucher, Jessica Smatko, Maggie Torra, Chloe Smith, Kayden Carter, Amber Bement

President of the Board, Thomas Roche, called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 informed the Board that Kindergarten celebrated 100 days of school!! The day began with a parade of all their 100 days projects, 100 pompoms in the shape of a caterpillar and candy dish with 100 fish, a dress with 100 rhinestones on it, followed by making a 100's chart and snacks with 100 goodies. Kindergarten students also completed writing projects about what

Fort Edward Union Free School District

Meeting of the Board of Education

220 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828

they would do with \$100, what they will do when they are 100 years old?, and what they learned in 100 days of school?

Afterschool Enrichment Program is running Tuesdays and Thursdays 3-6 grades Just Dance-different kinds of dance- exploring different kinds of dance focus on improving coordination rhythm and strength, Also Pin Pales with Mr. Chase - learning the skills of the bowling game, beyond monopoly-explores different board games which encourages critical thinking, decision making and problem solving. This is well attended.

One of our third graders was published in the Chronical-Caleb Elliott - He answered the question 'what are you most looking forward to?' Mr. Godfrey stated that Caleb is an expert in all things firefighter. He can't wait to become a Jr. Firefighter He had his picture in the chronicle which he states "I have been wanting to be a firefighter for a long time"

The following students, on the Bowling Team, are the **Adirondack League Champions**: Andrew Fish, Connor Currie, Mark Humphreys, Edward Amell, Tori Anderson (Argyle), Dillon Perkins, Preston Gulick and Gabriel Glass, led by Mr. Chase. The team had another successful season this year with Mr. Chase as their coach 42-0 (**48-0**-correction) winning the league championship and took 2nd place in the Class C. Junior Varsity includes Jaydah Hockford (Argyle), Bethany Carroll, Stella Mullen and Mackenzie Keeley. Congratulations to the team.

IV. Presentation:

Prom Committee - Anthony Torra, Class President, Treasurer - Kayden Carter and Chloe Smith - Treasurer. Presented an outline of what they would like to do for their Senior Prom. Everyone will be able to get on google classroom to see what is going on. If someone thought they couldn't attend the prom the class would pay for their fee. Mr. Roche stated that it was a great outline they presented. Mr. Bessen stated that they have a major fundraiser coming up which is Krispy Kreme donuts. Last year they sold 380 boxes of donuts and this year they would like to sell 400.

V. Reports:

Board Committee Reports (9 Board Committees)

- i. Finance Committee met tonight prior to this meeting
Amanda Durkee went over the finance committee notes that were taken from the meeting with the Committee prior to this meeting.
- ii. Grievance and Negotiations Committee (next meeting TBD)
- iii. Curriculum Committee (next meeting TBD)
- iv. Policy Committee (**Meeting date was set for March 7, 2022 6:00 p.m.**)
- 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)

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

VI. Superintendent's Report: Mr. Bessen stated that one main issue we have been dealing with is COVID. We have a lot of test kits on hand and will send a letter home Tuesday informing parents that we will be sending home, on Friday, a test kit for parents to test on Sunday before they come back from vacation - not mandatory. The mask mandate is another thing we are dealing with. Quarantine is not going away. We have not had to identify a student in our school because they are masked and 3 feet away. The minute the children are unmasked and under 6 feet they will fall under the quarantine protocols. You have 2 kinds of protocols, the kids in sports and if you are vaccinated and boosted you are good to go. The second protocol is if you have an unvaccinated child without a mask under the 3 feet they will be subject to quarantine. The 100 day celebration today and Mr. Bessen felt that it was terrible they had to have their picture taken with the masks on. Mr. Roche asked what are the consequences of a school going against the State guidance. Mr. Bessen stated that we would lose State aid, financial penalties. The Governor stated she wants the test kits to go out by Friday. It is not mandatory for parents to test their kids, and if they want to share the results then they can. We will keep the data and wait for the state to require us to report the data. Amanda Durkee asked about our lab license, and Mr. Bessen stated we received our lab license and are testing in house under our medical director. Christina Durkee asked if we have any plans to change the gym/cafeteria. Mr. Bessen stated we are waiting on the reduction of the requirement of 6 foot unmasked then we will make that ruling.

Mr. Bessen reported that the Budget is another big focus we have been working on. Workshop on the 22nd and by then we will have more fine tuning on some of our special ed information and the BOCES and what projections are nationally with the cost of energy, food and whether we need to raise prices or not. Budget is getting closer.

Negotiations with FETA and Staff Association. FETA set date for April 1st. If we are in negotiations with both at the same time the Board might want to have two negotiation teams.

Superintendent search is another biggie on our plate, Mr. Bessen reported. Community Advisory Committee, Tobie is working hard getting names, getting lists to Jackie White at BOCES. The first meeting will be on March 15th and will go over what their rolls are and what questions they will ask. The 16th is an all day meeting then the 17th is in the evening. Tobie and Mark will do all they can to show them the best side of Fort Edward. The evening of the 17th the Board will need to get together to meet with the teams to go over their impression of the candidates.

VII. Treasurer Report: Report was in packet. The Finance Committee met prior to this meeting. Mr. Bessen requested from Sharlene Petro-Durgan that the reports that were discussed today be made available to the Board.

VIII. Principal's Report- Mr. Godfrey reported that he is proud to announce this year's Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Valedictorian is Bryce Tyler and Salutatorian is Miranda Sardina. This is an extraordinary honor and speaks highly of the students aptitude and achievement. They will be giving a speech at this year's graduation. Mr. Godfrey wanted to acknowledge them and let them know that we are proud of their accomplishments.

Fort Edward Union Free School District

Meeting of the Board of Education

220 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828

Mr. Godfrey also reported that Baseball and Softball sign ups started today.

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

X. Discussion Items:

Sports Meger: Football right now we are recommending we go to 8 man football but unfortunately we are one team short of forming a league in section II. Because of that we are going to go forward with our merger with Corinth. Hopefully next year we will be able to go to an 8 man football league. Mr. Guglielmo asked when they meet with the kids, ask the kids to meet with the team to let them know how it was to play with another school. Christina Durkee asked if it is just Varsity or JV. Also, Mr. Bessen stated that it was just Varsity.

Superintendent Search: Amanda Durkee wanted to make a few comments about the Superintendent Search. We had 10 applicants which narrowed to 4 candidates and last week we interviewed two then another two. We have narrowed to 3 applicants. She was very pleased with the process and the experience and was nice to see people with a lot of energy and positive attitude and a lot of passion for education. The process has been very good. Jim Dexter and Tony Muller have been great with this process.

Composition of School Board: If you were to reduce the Board a few seats and Mr. Bessen gave the information to our attorney. The public has to vote on reducing the number of seats on the Board. It is a simple one vote of 50% or more to reduce the number of seats. Then you have to put the information out and it wouldn't take effect for another year or more. We would have to recommend that if you are running for a seat it may only be one year. It is a multi year process. Kristine Lanchantin is getting the information on where it would be. She will do scenarios of different amounts of seats. Mr. Bessen will get the information hopefully by the next meeting. Amanda Durkee stated that she was the one who asked Mr. Bessen to look into the amount of Board seats as we have difficulties trying to fill the vacant seats. We will know around April how many seats will be vacant.

XI. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the Board Minutes of January 10, 2022, Special Meetings of February 8, 2022 and February 10, 2022. Motion carried 5-0
- (b) Approval of Warrants and Claims for January 2022 and February 2022
- (c) Approval of Treasurer Report for December 2021 and January 2022
- (d) Approve of the Budget Transfers
Motion carried 5-0.

XII. Action:

- (a) Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations as included in the Board Packets.
Motion carried 5-0
- (b) Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Christina Durkee to approve to approve the contract

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

for Health Services provided to children that reside in Fort Edward and attend Saratoga Springs City Schools

Motion carried 5-0

- (c) Motion made by John Guglielmo , second Christina Durkee by to approve a letter of intent for a 66 passenger bus lease.

Motion carried 5-0.

XIII. Personnel:

- a. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Christina Durkee to appoint Jessica Smatko as after school teacher for Session 1 Enrichment:Grades 3-4 Board Game Club, at a rate of pay per CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant

Motion carried 5-0.

- b. Motion made by, Christina Durkee, second by James Donahue appoint Sherry Genier as after school Instructor for Session 1 Enrichment: Grades 3-4 Winter Creative Crafts & More, at a rate of pay per CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant

Motion carried 5-0.

- c. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Christina Durkee to appoint Madelyn Godfrey as after school teacher for Session 1 Enrichment: Grades 3-4 Just Dance! & Yoga, at a rate of pay per CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant.

Motion carried 5-0.

- d. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to appoint Ashley Godfrey as after school Instructor for Session 1 Enrichment: Grades 3-4 Readers Theater, at a rate of pay per CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant.

Motion carried 5-0.

- e. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by James Donahue to appoint Ann Marie Bilodeau as after school teacher for Session 1 Enrichment: Grades 5-6 Board Game Club, at a rate of pay per CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant

Motion carried 5-0.

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

- f. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Christina Durkee to appoint Kristina Bump as after school teacher for Session 1 Enrichment: Grades 5-6 The Bob Ross Experience (Creative Drawing), at a rate of pay per CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant

Motion carried:5-0.

- g. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee appoint Samantha Markham as after school teacher for Session 1 Enrichment: Grades 5-6 Lego Mania, at a rate of pay per the CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant

Motion carried 5-0.

- h. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Christina Durkee to appoint Marianne Stark as after school teacher for Session 1 Enrichment: Grades 5-6 Intro to Theater, at a rate of pay per the CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant.

Motion carried 5-0.

- i. Motion made by Chrstina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to appoint Nelson Chase as after school teacher for Session 1 Enrichment: Grades 3-6 Bowling, at a rate of pay per the CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 grant

Motion carried 5-0.

- j. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Christina Durkee to appoint Susan Holzschuh as after school teacher assistant for Enrichment classes at a rate of pay per the CRRSA ACT ESSER 2 Grant.

Motion carried 5-0.

- k. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the contract between Fort Edward UFSD and Melissa McFarland - Consultant Psychologist effective February 15, 2022 through June 30, 2022

Motion carried 5-0.

- l. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by James Donahue to table the letter of intent to retire from Marian Robert effective June 30, 2022.

Motion carried 5-0

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

- m. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to accept the letter of resignation from Lynn Mykins, RN effective March 1, 2022.

Motion carried 5-0. Thank you for your service.

IX. 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.

Legally Amanda Durkee and Christina Durkee can vote on the following motion:

- a. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by James Donahue to appoint Jeffery Durkee as Boys Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of pay per the FETA Contract.

Discussion: Amanda Durkee stated that generally she does not vote on anything related to family, but if it is legal for the two of them to vote she will vote. When you only have 5 members showing up for the Board meeting then sometimes you have to do what you have to move things along.

Motion carried 5-0.

- b. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to appoint Jeffery Tully as Boys JV Baseball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of pay per the FETA contract.

Motion carried 5-0.

- c. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to appoint Page Toomey as Girls Modified Softball Coach for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of pay per the FETA Contract. Motion carried 5-0.

- d. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the following athletic merger for the 2022-2023 school year as follows:

Football - 11 man with Corinth Central School District and Hadley-Luzerne Central School District for the 2022-23 season.

Motion carried 5-0.

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

- e. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to approve the following athletic merger for the 2022-2023 school year as follows:
Cross-Country with Argyle Central School District for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried 5-0.

- f. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to approve the following athletic merger for the 2022-2023 school year as follows:
Soccer with Argyle Central School District for the 2022-2023 school year

Motion carried 5-0.

- g. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the following athletic merger for the 2022-2023 school year as follows:
Golf with Argyle Central School District for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried 5-0.

Second Community Comments: None

XIV. Executive Session:

At 7:50 p.m. motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Christina Durkee to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters referring to employment of specific individuals. Motion carried 5-0.

At 8:31 p.m. Motion made by John Gugliemoe, second by Amanda Durkee to return to public session. Motion carried 5-0.

- XV. Adjournment:** There being no further business, motion was made by James Donahue, second John Guglielmo adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.