

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

DATE: August 16, 2021
TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting
PLACE OF MEETING: YouTube Channel Link for Public
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9LpTdvnlq>

MEMBERS PRESENT Christopher Miles (via google meet), Thomas Roche, Ella Collins, James Donahue, Christina Durkee, Joseph Carroll, Amanda Durkee and John Guglielmo

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT via the above mentioned ways:

Interim Superintendent Mark Bessen, Tobie Bessette, Robin Taylor, Stuart Alheim, Debi Alheim, Mary Joy Mosher, Stacie Brown, Robin Rabine, Sherry Genier, Brittany Schroock, Michele Nevins, Sue Gilbert, Jennifer Jenks, Erin Anderson, Antoinette Toomey, Liz Dragon, Colleen Fisher, Morgan Fish, Megan Munoz, Shauna Brown, Shannon Smith, Lorrie Etu, Jeffrey Etu, Stephanie Gulick, Doreen Rabine, Michelle D'angelico Taylor, Elaine Aiken, Richard Aiken, Brandon Andrews, Catherine Kegan, Robin Amell, Elizabeth Tholl, Eloise Tholl, April LaMoy, Rachel Taylor, Mary Denton, Marie Carter, Marge Durkee, Jeremy Carter, Jody DeLong, Danika Periard, Amanda Rabine, Spencer Phillips, Phil Swears, Nancy Winch, Michelle Swears, Maggie Torra, Dave Archambault, Jill Plude, Joseph Penello, Jessica Colvin, Maddy Boucher, Taylor Boucher, Theresa Gitto, Audra Aul, Jill Boucher, Chris Boucher, Theresa Gitto, Audra Aul, Jill Boucher, Chris Boucher, Paige Rabine, Kristin Taylor, Erica Adams, Cheryl Fisher, Jeanette Kamburelis, Mason Kamburelis, Dalton Kamburelis, Autumn Kamburelis, Bradley Kamburelis, Kendrick Kamburelis, Ben Singleton, Paige Rabine, Helena Boucher, Dan Boucher, Jodie Boucher, Mary Rabine

President of the Board, Thomas Roche, called the meeting to order at 6:30 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, Christopher Miles, Joseph Carroll, Ella Collins, Christina Durkee, Amanda Durkee and John Guglielmo, James Donahue - all were present.

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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.

Megan Munoz- spoke to the Board regarding issues she has with the curriculum and her children. Mr. Roche instructed Ms. Munoz to call Mrs. Bessette and set up an appointment to meet with Mr. Bessen to discuss this further.

Kristin Taylor- spoke to the Board regarding how her husband grew up and attended the Fort Edward School, as did his parents. She unfortunately went to 9 different schools and she feels that he has had the advantage by going to a smaller school. The bigger schools may have more opportunities but our Town needs a school, we are Fort Edward.

Christopher Boucher- spoke to the Board about taxes and tax rates. The Fort Edward village homes have not been revalued in 15 years. Most of the homes will be reassessed to 100% this year. Mr. Boucher stated that we will be dismantling the district with over a century of tradition for over \$2 per thousand.

Daniel Boucher stated that there is a conflict of interest-one board member has a conflict of interest and should not be allowed to vote on any annexation vote.

Taylor Boucher stated that she has bought land in Fort Edward and that she plans on staying. Wants our school district to be a history of solutions instead of dissolutions.

Audra Aul spoke to the Board about how her daughter went through something traumatic and with the staff and students here at the school are amazing, they supported her and she would not have that at the South Glens Falls School. "It takes a village to raise a these kids and she can not do it alone, the teachers gave her grades with compassion and it means the world to her family. How is this vote going to affect our kids?"

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Jill Collins had a few questions about how the transportation of the students will affect them? How is this annexation is in the best interest of these students?

Amanda Rabine, We live in a poor district and when we send our students to one of the schools that have the highest suicide rate in the state and the bullying that goes on in the South Glens Falls School District. She feels that one of our Board Members is doing everything he can to shut this school down and she feels that he should step down.

Daniel Boucher- Mr. Boucher has been a Board Member in the past and he stated that at times it is not fun, not rewarding but he feels that when someone is speaking to the Board that the Board Members need to accept the comments. You are individually elected Board members and your comments are individual say what you feel because the community put you in your seats. Stand up to what you believe in, say what you think and be done with it. Stand up and tell people what you think.

III. Recognition of Successes:

Summer Academy - Very successful summer academy.

Building prep for school year 2021-2022 - Mr. Bessen thanked all the custodial staff for making the building look great.

IV. Presentations: None

V. Reports

A. Board Committee Reports (9 Board Committees)

- i. Finance Committee (next meeting TBD)Met tonight at 6:00
- ii. Grievance and Negotiations Committee (Need mtg, next meeting TBD)
- iii. Curriculum Committee (next meeting TBD)
- iv. Policy Committee (need meeting TBD)
- 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)

- B. i.** Mr. Bessen shared with the Board the reopening plan- Purpose is to bring all the children back into the school and have in person instruction. This plan is in effect now and is subject to change. In order to do so there will be a number of safety protocols that we must adhere to. Mr. Bessen went over the safety protocols with the Board and Community.

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ii. Merger Study Update- The Merger Study was presented to the Commissioner and the Commissioner sent it back to the Consultants and the Consultants did their updates and will be presenting to the joint meeting of the School Boards Thursday night at WSWHE Boces

iii. Staffing Update- Mr. Bessen stated that there are a number of hires but we also have a number of vacancies such as psychologist/CSE Chairperson, and we haven't been able to fill the Earth Science position. Mr. Bessen has reached out to several people including retired persons.

iv. Grant Update- Mr. Bessen stated that the Grants have been filed with Sharlene Petro -Durgan and the rest of the staff with BOCES and on time.

v. Informational - Tax Rate vs Tax Levy Mr. Bessen went over the differences in the tax rate and tax levy.

Tax rate - The amount taxed on the true value per \$1000 of value

Tax Levy- The total amount the taxing entity is requesting from all the taxpayers to conduct the peoples business

Assessment- The amount a property is valued at by the assessor

The Bottom Line

Tax Rates fluctuate during reassessments

Depending on how far off the mark assessments are from true value in relationship to prior assessment there can be marginal to large readjustments for specific property owners plus or minus.

Even as tax rates rise or fall the Levy amount the entity budgeted to do the people's business does not change

When voting on a school budget you are voting on the local contribution to provide the programs, services and facility upkeep the community wants for their children.

Treasurer Report:

Reports are in packets. Finance committee met at 6:00 p.m.

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Principal Report:

Summer Enrichment/Summer School - Thank you to all staff that made the summer learning opportunities possible for the students of Fort Edward. The students that participated in the program have shown evidence of learning and earned credit/knowledge that will help keep them on track to graduate in the near future.

Thank you to our parents and community for providing support to your children to attend summer learning opportunities. The continued partnership between the school and community will best serve the students of Fort Edward.

2021-22 School Year Prep -

The school building is being prepared for the upcoming school year. The rooms/hallways/gymnasium/cafeteria are being cleaned and prepped for students this fall. The staff is already organizing their learning spaces to prepare for our students. Thank you to all staff involved.

Fall 2021 - Athletics

Please visit the main office; or print the documents for Fall Athletics on the school website as soon as possible. Fall sports will be starting on Monday August 23rd, all athletic paperwork and updated physical will be required to participate.

New Staff Orientation

We will be holding a new staff orientation later this month to onboard our new teachers and welcome back some teachers. The event will include meet and greet, tour of the school building, and bus tour of Fort Edward. We are excited to welcome the new staff.

Mr. Galarneau thanked the Board, the students and staff and the community for their support while he was here as Principal.

Buildings and Grounds Report:

The 2021/2022 School year is upon us and we have been in the process of getting the school cleaned and ready for opening day. With summer school being at Fort Edward this year and being very short staffed has put us a little behind, but the staff that I do have are doing the best they can. We will get it done as always.

Mr. Masten has been trying to get the Building Maintenance position filled that has been posted and he is not having very good luck. Mr. Masten will need at least one more full time employee besides that one to staff his night crew. Mr. Masten only has substitute cleaners at this point on nights as one staff member

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will be leaving due to medical issues. Lastly Mr. Masten has discovered some issues with the new floors that were done in the capital project. The issue is that the VAT floor tiles are coming up with very little effort. Mr Beesen, SchoolHouse, Tetra Tech, and myself have met with the Armstrong reps, as well as the floor installer to come up with an answer to why this is happening and it is still in the works. Mr. Masten will be sending staples of the floor tile as well as information from the floor adhesive used in our attic stock. Mr. Masten will keep the board updated of the findings and the procedure of fixing the situation.

V. Discussion Items:

- A. Open Board Seat** Mr. Roche stated that a special election would cost the district a lot of money, therefore, the open seat will be by sending a letter of interest to Tobie Bessette, District Clerk by September 7, 2021

VI. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Motion made by Joseph Carroll second by John Guglielmo to approve Minutes for the Board Meeting held on July 1, 2021 reorganizational and regular meeting. Motion carried 8-0.
- (b) Motion made by Ella Collins, second by Joseph Carroll to approve the Warrants and Claims for July and August 2021. Motion carried 8-0.
- (c) Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the Treasurer Report for June 2021. Motion carried 8-0.
- (d) Motion made by Joseph Carroll, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the Budget Transfers. Motion carried 8-0.

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

- (a) Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Joseph Carroll to appoint Jeffery Tully as Fort Edward Varsity Football Coach to serve with the South Glens Falls merged football program at a rate a pay per the FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- (b) Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Joseph Carroll to appoint Jeffrey Durkee as Modified (Club Developmental) Football Coach at a rate of pay per the FETA contract. Motion carried 6-0-2 Amanda Durkee and Christina Durkee abstained.
- (c) Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to appoint Nichole Schilling as Fall Cheerleading Coach (Football). Motion carried 8-0.
- (d) Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Joseph Carroll to appoint John Boucher as Golf Coach at a rate of pay per the FETA contract. Motion carried 8-0.

VII. Action:

- a. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Christina Durkee to accept the resignation of Anita Tripp, as Board Member of the Fort Edward UFSD, effective July 7, 2021. Motion carried 8-0.

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- b. Motion made by Ella Collins, second by Christina Durkee to approve the following
Resolution: So long as allowed by public health officials, schools should be open for in-person teaching and learning, and students should be in school. Therefore, we will only offer only in-person instruction as the primary method of instruction during the 2021/2022 school year. Only In the case of school closures due to a declared emergency, FEUFSD will be prepared to provide remote instruction. Therefore, Remote learning as an educational choice will not be offered as a modality except in instances of student quarantine and or necessitated on days in which a school building cannot be physically open for illness, damage, or weather conditions or as REQUIRED by law. Motion carried 8-0.
- c. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Ella Collins to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations as included in the Board Packets. Motion carried 8-0.
- d. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Joseph Carroll to confirm 2021 School Tax Rolls and Authorize the Tax Levy \$3,392,089.00 Motion carried 8-0.
- e. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Christina Durkee to approve the following:
Resolution A-1 Pilot/Host Community Approval Resolution Fort Edward Union Free District CHPE LLC Project:(included in packet)
 - (A) The payment terms and conditions of a certain pilot agreement to be entered into between counties of Warren and Washington Industrial Development Agency and CHPE LLC in connection with the CHPE LLC Project and
 - (B) The payment terms and conditions of certain host community benefit agreements to be entered into between Counties of Warren and Washington Civic Development Corporation and CHPE Motion carried 8-0.
- f. Motion made by James Carroll, second by John Guglielmo, to set the base non-resident individual tuition rates as follows, additional charges for additional services as allowed and or required by law will affect the final non-resident tuition billed on a case by case basis. K-6 \$6425, 7-12 \$6874. Motion carried 8-0.
- g. Motion made by Joseph Carroll, second by Christopher Miles to utilize the process of Interview Process to fill the vacant Board of Education seat for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried 5-3.
- h. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Joseph Carroll to table the resolution to turn over the Annex to the Village of Fort Edward. Motion carried 8-0.
- i. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the Contract for Teacher of the Visually Impaired Services by and Between Aimee Martin, Certified TVI and the Fort Edward School District for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried 8-0.

VIII. Personnel:

- a. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Ella Collins to accept the resignation of Jocelyn Nolan, as School Psychologist, effective August 15, 2021. Motion carried 8-0.

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- b. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by James Donahue to accept the resignation of . John Galarneau, K-12 Principal, effective September 5, 2021. Mr. Bessen stated that although it was a short period of time he worked with John, he worked great with the teachers and it was a pleasure working with him. Motion carried 8-0.
- c. Motion made by John Guglielmo second by Christina Durkee to approve the appointment of Sara Krahnke as Health Teacher, at a rate of pay - MA Step 1 \$46,844 effective September 1, 2021. Motion carried 8-0
- d. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the appointment of Sarah Taylor as Full-Time, Tenure Track, Music Teacher, at a rate of pay AB2 \$45,008 effective September 1, 2021. Motion carried 8-0.
- e. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Christina Durkee to approve the appointment of Michael Smith as Full-Time, Tenure Track, Music Teacher, at a rate of pay - BA Step 1 \$44,685, effective September 1, 2021. Motion carried 8-0.
- f. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Joseph Carroll, to approve the appointment of Melissa Rosenthal, Full-Time, Tenure Track, Social Studies Teacher at step 1 MA at a rate of pay \$46,844. Motion carried 8-0.
- g. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the appointment of Samantha Markham a Full-Time Tenure Track, Math Teacher effective September 1, 2021 at a rate of pay \$44,685 BA, Step 1 of the FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- h. Motion made by Christiina Durkee, second by Joseph Carroll to approve the appointment of Marianne Stark as Mentor Coordinator at a rate of pay per contractual rate. Motion carried 8-0.
- i. Motion made by Christopher Miles, second by Joseph Carroll to approve the appointment of Nelson Chase as Mentor at a rate of pay per contractual rate. Motion carried 8-0.
- j. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Joseph Carroll to approve the appointment of Nicole Schilling as Mentor at a rate of pay per contractual rate. Motion carried 8-0.
- k. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to appoint Angelique Peck as Outing Club Advisor for the 2020-2021 school year at a rate of pay per contractual rate. Motion carried 8-0.
- l. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Amanda Durkee, to appoint Marian Roberts as Mentor at a rate of pay per contractual rate. Motion carried 8-0.

Second Community Comments: None

IX. Executive Session:

At 8:57 p.m. motion made by Ella Collins, second by Joseph Carroll to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters referring to employment of specific individuals. Motion carried 8-0.

At p.m. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to return to public session. Motion carried 8-0.

XI Adjournment: There being no further business, motion made by Ella Collins second by Joseph Carroll to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried 8-0.