



**Fort Edward Union Free School District  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education  
December 11, 2023 6:00pm**

updated 12/7/23

- I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. Roll Call Attendance:** Thomas Roche, Ella Collins, John Guglielmo, Timothy Clark, Taylor Boucher, Audra Aul, Sarah Buschynski
- III. Acceptance of the Agenda**
  - A. Accept the agenda as presented.
- IV. Executive Session**

*I need a motion to enter into an Executive Session to discuss the results of the special education investigation.*

*Any Discussion?*

*Board of Education Members and other individuals invited into executive session are reminded that all matters discussed during executive session must be kept in the strictest confidence.*

*As I see that there is no further discussion we will vote.*

- V. Return to Public Session**
- VI. Special Recognition**
  - A. Irving Tissue: Donation of 80 cases of paper towels
  - B. Burgoyne Quality Hardware and Lumber: Donation of building materials to the technology classroom who will be constructing a bed for a student in need

- VII. Community Comments:**

*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*



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*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.*

**VIII. Presentations**

- A. Special Education Audit - Colleen Ulrich

**IX. Reports:**

**A. Board Committee Reports**

- 1. Budget, Finance and Audit Committee
  - a) Met tonight
- 2. Personnel, Grievance and Negotiations Committee
  - a) Need to schedule a meeting
- 3. Policy Review Committee
  - a) Need to schedule a meeting
- 4. Athletic Committee
  - a) Met 12/6/23 - notes included in board packets
- 5. Capital Project Committee
  - a) Scheduled for 12/20

**B. Superintendent Report**

**C. Building Principal Report**

**D. Pupil Services Report**

**E. Building Maintenance Report**

**X. Discussion Items**

- A. Tax Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers

**XI. 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. Approve the minutes for the Board Meeting held November 13, 2023.
- B. Approve the minutes for the Special Board Meeting held November 17, 2023.
- C. Approve the minutes for the Athletic Committee Meeting held December 6, 2023.
- D. Approve the Treasurer Reports for November as included in the Board packets.
- E. Approve the Budget Transfers for November as included in the Board packets.
- F. Approve the Warrants and Claims for November as included in the Board packets.
- G. Approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations for November as included in the Board packets

**XII. Action:**



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- A. Approve the football merger for all levels between the Fort Edward UFSD and Hudson Falls CSD for the 2024-2025 school year.
- B. Approve the soccer merger for all levels between the Fort Edward UFSD and Argyle CSD for the 2024-2025 school year.
- C. Approve the golf merger for all levels between the Fort Edward UFSD and Argyle CSD for the 2024-2025 school year.
- D. Approve the cross country merger for all levels between the Fort Edward UFSD and Argyle CSD for the 2024-2025 school year.
- E. Approve the contract with Standard Medical Testing Services, a division of Mountain Medical, to provide required medical screenings for specific employees effective January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.
- F. Approve the disposal of the fixed assets as listed in the board packets.
- G. Approve the following resolution:  
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Fort Edward Union Free School District desires to authorize the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES to enter into a three (3) year lease in order to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: CoSer 504 Instructional Technology Services.  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Fort Edward Union Free School District authorizes the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES to lease 80 Chromebooks, on the District's behalf, for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$34,358.67 with three (3) payments of \$11,452.89 (subject to a 2% increase in interest rates) plus related borrowing fees, plus yearly support and coordination fees during the term of this lease, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period of three (3) years; 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26.
- H. Approve the following resolution:  
**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Fort Edward Union Free School District desires to authorize the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES to enter into a four (4) year lease in order to furnish certain services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950(4)(jj), those services being: CoSer 504 Instructional Technology Services.  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education of the Fort Edward Union Free School District authorizes the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES to lease 65 Desktop Computer, on the District's behalf, for the provision of said services to the District not to exceed \$55,087.36 with four (4) payments of \$13,771.84 (subject to a 2% increase in interest rates) (Disposition is \$1 buyout) plus related borrowing fees, plus yearly support and coordination fees during the term of this lease, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Education, for a period of four (4) years; 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27.
- I. Approve the following resolution:

**FORT EDWARD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGARDING ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**



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**WHEREAS**, the Fort Edward 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 School District only has one opportunity to go through the full elementary and secondary educational experience;  
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fort Edward Board of Education calls on the New York State Legislature and Governor Kathy Hochul to act upon the following priorities:

1. Increase the \$30,000 threshold on BOCES Aid for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers to \$60,000.
2. Workforce Development
  - a. Increase flexibility in teacher certification requirements to allow districts to more effectively utilize those teachers that they are able to hire.
  - b. Make adjustments to Tier 6 of the retirement system to help districts retain staff by making longevity more valuable.
3. Increase the spending limit for capital outlays to \$250,000 annually beginning in the 2024-25 school year.
4. 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.
  - d. Support for an initial evaluation of the current cost to educate a successful student.
5. Zero-Emission Buses
  - a. Evaluate all existing programs around transportation, capital and planning.
  - b. Make updates to all planning and funding streams to include costs related to planning and executing this transition.

**XIII. Designations**

- A. Appoint Bradley West as CSE/CPSE Chairperson.



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**XIV. 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. Approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Scoreboard Operators for the 2023-24 school year were previously appointed at a rate of \$50 per event.

**WHEREAS**, the rate of pay for Scoreboard Operators has been changed to \$50 for one game and \$75 for two games in the same night.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that any person previously appointed as a Scoreboard Operator for the 2023-24 school year be paid at the rate of \$50 for one game and \$75 for two games in the same night.

B. Approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Shot Clock Operators for the 2023-24 school year were previously appointed at a rate of \$50 per event.

**WHEREAS**, the rate of pay for Shot Clock Operators has been changed to at a rate of \$40 for one game and \$60 for two games in the same night.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that any person previously appointed as a Shot Clock Operator for the 2023-24 school year be paid at the rate of at a rate of \$40 for one game and \$60 for two games in the same night.

C. Approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Bradley West was appointed at the November 6, 2023 Special Board of Education Meeting as .4 School Psychologist, effective November 7, 2023, at a rate of pay of \$61,620 (prorated), Step 12 MA+30, as per the FETA contract.

**WHEREAS**, there was a clerical error in the rate of pay for this appointment.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bradley West shall be appointed as .4 School Psychologist, effective November 7, 2023, at the corrected rate of pay of \$61,428 (prorated), Step 12 MA+30, as per the FETA contract.

D. Accept the letter of resignation from Katherine Murphy, as Speech and Language Pathologist, effective December 14, 2023.

E. Accept the letter of resignation from Joyce Long, as Director of Pupil Services, effective December 21, 2023.

F. Appoint Heather Neron as Substitute Cleaner, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$15.81 per hour, as per the FESS Contract, pending fingerprinting clearance.

G. Appoint Mia Seeley as Chaperone, effective December 8, 2023, at a rate of \$47 per event, as per the FETA Contract.

H. Appoint Joanne Eggleston as Chaperone, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$47 per event, as per the FETA Contract.



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- I. Appoint Abigail Erchak as Chaperone, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$47 per event, as per the FETA Contract.
- J. Appoint Jade Zagorski as Chaperone, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$47 per event, as per the FETA Contract.
- K. Appoint Sherry Genier as Chaperone, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$47 per event, as per the FETA Contract.
- L. Appoint Jason Carden as Substitute Bus Driver, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$22.00 per hour, as per the FESS Contract.
- M. Appoint Ryan Herman as Scoreboard Operator, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$50 for one game and \$75 for two games in the same night.
- N. Appoint James Eggleston as Scoreboard Operator, effective December 8, 2023, at a rate of \$50 for one game and \$75 for two games in the same night.
- O. Appoint Kristina Bump as Scoreboard Operator, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$50 for one game and \$75 for two games in the same night.
- P. Appoint Gabrielle Durkee as Shot Clock Operator, effective December 8, 2023, at a rate of \$40 for one game and \$60 for two games in the same night.
- Q. Appoint Hillary Potter as Tutor, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$25.50 per hour, as per the FETA Contract.
- R. Appoint Susan MacKenzie as Tutor, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$25.50 per hour, as per the FETA Contract.
- S. Appoint Shauna Brown as Tutor, effective December 8, 2023, at a rate of \$25.50 per hour, as per the FETA Contract.
- T. Appoint Gary Basle as Tutor, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$25.50 per hour, as per the FETA Contract.
- U. Appoint Peter Duveen as Tutor, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$25.50 per hour, as per the FETA Contract.
- V. Appoint Stephanie Sheldrick as Tutor, effective December 12, 2023, at a rate of \$25.50 per hour, as per the FETA Contract.

**XV. Coaching**

- A. Accept the letter of resignation from Catherine Briscoe, as Co-JV Softball Coach, effective December 6, 2023.

**XVI. Second Public Comment Period (if needed)**

**XVII. Adjournment**