

Fort Edward Union Free School District
Meeting of the Board of Education
July 11, 2022

DATE: July 11, 2022

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT Amanda Durkee, Christina Durkee, Ella Collins, James Donahue, Timothy Clark, John Guglielmo, Thomas Roche, Taylor Boucher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christopher Miles

OTHERS PRESENT Richard DeMallie, Tobie Bessette, Charles Perkins, Joyce Long, Erin Russo, Jill Boucher

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance Time: 6:30 p.m.

II. Presentations:

- a. Cliff Moses was unable to attend the meeting,. Mr. Roche has information to discuss in Executive Session.

III. 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.

IV. Recognition of Successes:

- a. Graduates-Dr. DeMallie informed the Board that 23 out of 26 students were able to graduate. The Graduation was held on the front lawn and there were many scholarship awards given out and was attended by many. This was very well done and they should be very proud of themselves
- b. Retirees-The retirees received a plaque and a wooden school bell. Mr. Roche thanked them for their service.
- c. New Board Training-Tim Clark and Tylor Boucher attended the Governance workshop and in the Fall they will attend the Fiduciary Training.

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V. Reports:

a. Board Committee Reports (9 Board Committees)

- i. Finance Committee (Met tonight, next meeting is Monday, July 11 @ 5:30) Looked at extra-classroom activity accounts, talked about how balances from previous classes that have to be dispersed in the future. Cafeteria cash flow is fantastic. Will get a final report in August after the audit. Amanda Durkee gave a report. regarding the cafeteria pieces that Capital Region Boces received a grant and they are purchasing equipment. BOCES is looking into a possibility of getting a new freezer, this is a work in progress. Mr. Roches stated that the Cafeteria report looks great.
- ii. Grievance and Negotiations Committee (next meeting TBD)
- iii. Curriculum Committee (next meeting TBD)
- iv. Policy Committee (next meeting, TBD)
- v. Athletic Committee (next meeting TBD)
Met and talked about the merger with Argyle.
- vi. Strategic Planning Committee (next meeting TBD)
- vii. Personnel Committee (next meeting TBD)
Met and discussed some employees and tenure.
- viii. Building and Grounds Committee for Health & Safety (next meeting TBD)
- ix. Building Project Committee (next meeting TBD)

Mr. Roche informed the Board that now is the time to think about what Committee they would like to be on for next year.

b. Superintendent Report:

Dr. DeMallie stated that it is his 6th official day at Fort Edward. We had a missing Fort Edward Student and has been found and Thank you Erin Russo and Joanna Scotch for their help with this.

We had a payroll issue but thanks to Charles Perkins and our Business Office, Michele Sherwood a huge shout out for all her help with this.

Dr. DeMallie thanked Mark Bessen for the time he spent with him in the transition prior to the July 1 start, he had pretty good things in place for Dr. DeMallie. Working with Charles and Gregg on the five year plan, this is a work in progress. Hope to have this finalized in the next few weeks.

Dr. DeMallie has moved his office to the down stairs, thanks to Charles and Michele. Wanted to be closer to the kids. Also talking with teachers everyday getting to understand some of the culture but he can honestly say there is an outstanding staff here who care about kids and looking forward to not being in survival mode. Hoping that is what Erin Russo, Joyce Long and himself bring to the table. Looking forward to where we are getting at the FETA Contract. Hoping that the 9 of the Board members can get together to do a Retreat.

Met with Patrick Kenneally, he is all about giving kids choice, bringing kids together to see what they want. We will get together to do this when we get back into the school year with superintendent liaison committee, which Patrick wants to be a part of. Patrick has taken some money he has to give us more options to run a more sufficient cafeteria.

We started the summer enrichment program K-8 and want to say there is a gem and a wonderful person,

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Mrs. Jessica Smatko, who is running this program and doing an excellent job. Erin Russo will report on this.

Amanda Durkee asked if Dr. DeMallie was reaching out to groups for instance, the clerical, support staff etc. Dr. DeMallie stated that his door is always open and he has put it out there that he would like to meet with everyone. His door is constantly open to come in and meet for about a half- hour. He has had his first Leadership Team meeting with Administration, Business Office, Cafeteria. Would like to also see the TA staff.

c. **Treasurer Report (Reports in BOE Packets)**

d. **K-12 Principal Report**

Errin Russo gave a report: Summer Academy started, there are 84 kids enrolled. Shout out to Jessica Smatko, she is running a well oiled machine and very enthusiastic teachers who are participating. Students were greeted by teachers On the first day, it was very welcoming, kids were super excited and they got to eat in the cafeteria. Some have never been there before. Grab and Go lunches at the end of the day. Only 2nd day but had Mystery Readers come in it was two characters from the Great Escape. Erin rode the bus with Coachie and Rick to go see some out of district students and to see how that bus run goes and provided some modeling on how to interact with those students. Working with Joanna Scotch streamlining the master schedule. Meeting with Joanna Scotch and Debbie LeBarron to work collaboratively with them to create the most effective student schedule. Have posted for an Earth Science vacancy, posted on OLAS. Started some parent meetings, sent out faculty surveys, one for wishes for superintendent conference day, We want to make sure we are getting what the teachers want us to be able to offer. The survey was about reviving the School Safety Committee looking for members who would like to serve on that committee. Summer School we have 1 student in grade 12 attending school in Hudson Falls and 3 students in grades 9 and 10 attending summer school in Granville. Both programs started on July 6th. Joyce Long and Erin are planning a reception for teachers to come and visit and get to know each other, this is in the works in early August.

e. **Director of Pupil Services, Joyce Long** gave a report: She stated she hit the ground running trying to organize everything and to make sure our database is up to date. Cleaning IEP, we had 54 that had not seen the Board yet and are now down to 6. Helping Lecia organize her office, many old files sitting around. We have 4 students remaining with us and will not go out of district placement, this is in part that we will be having a social worker and a psychologist 3 days a week to help support the social emotional needs. As of this morning we have had 6 psychologist applicants and 9 social worker applicants, a great turn around. We will interview Thursday and Friday and hope to have someone to the Board at next meeting. Joyce also rode the bus with Craig and gave some needed backpacks with crayons and this will help keep them occupied and was also modeled on some de escalation skills. Shared Decision making - reached out to Marianne Stark and she explained the shared decision making process for interviewing and are having it set up for Thursday and Friday. Lastly Joyce is getting contractual services with a local mental health unit to be in our building. Conference on Wednesday to hopefully get someone in the building for one day a week.

f. **Buildings and Grounds Report(report in packet)**

Talked about possibly having Craig Masten come quarterly, and do a walkthrough before school starts.

VI. Discussion Items:

Annex- last the Board met talked about giving Annex to village, there is a process school has to file a subdivision application with the village, goes in front of the planning board and it will create a plot number

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for just the annex building and then the Board has to vote as to if they want to put this to a public vote, if the Board does vote for it to go to a public vote can either have a special election. If it passes a Board then that plot belongs to the village. We need guidance from the Board now, do we want the subdivision? Taylor Boucher asked the question, do we want to put it out to the public to purchase the building? Thomas Roche stated he does not even know what the worth of the building would be to anyone. Christina Durkee stated that either way we need to have the subdivision. Thomas Roche stated that by putting it on the market we may be responsible for the asbestos and making repairs. It can be sold that way but it has to be addressed. James Donahue asked if the garage is part of the subdivision, Mr. Roche stated that the garage has a hole in the roof. Mr. Roche stated that they are going to direct our Attorneys to look into the subdivision.

Board Retreat- Amanda Durkee stated that a Board Retreat is 1 evening at the school. It is something that we talk about the goals of the school. Maybe bringing in a guest speaker. Email Mr. Roche if there is something that needs to be talked about. Mr. Roche is sending out an email with suggested dates. Dr. DeMallie suggested that they have a facilitator to come to the retreat. Amanda Durkee suggested that the first meeting be just the Board then maybe the facilitator. Get topics together with the Board members.

VIII. 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. Motion made by Timothy Clark, second by Christina Durkee to approve items A-D with the exception of 6/13 minutes to reflect vote to be 7-0 on Item J.
Vote on organizational meeting 7/1 minutes for Nomination 1, by James Donahue and Timothy Clark and Nomination 2 for John Guglielmo by Timothy Clark
Amanda Durkee stated that on 6/13 consent agenda item A. to be 7-0.
- b. approval of Treasurer Report
- c. approval of Budget Transfers
- d. approval of the Warrants and Claims
Motion carried 8-0.

IX. Action:

- a. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to approve action items A-B: the CSE/CPSE Recommendations as included in the Board Packets. There were a few questions asked by the Board.
- b. The disposal of the fixed assets as listed in the Board packets.
Motion carried 8-0.
- c. Motion made by Taylor Boucher, second by Timothy Clark to adopt the District-Wide Safety Plan that was posted on the school website for the required 30 day comment period.
Motion carried 8-0.
- d. Motion made by Ella Collins, second by Timothy Clark to approve the contract for Teacher of the Visually Impaired Services between Fort Edward UFSD and Aimee Martin, Certified TVI and Special Education Teacher for one of Fort Edward UFSD students. Taylor Boucher asked questions and Mrs. Long answered.
Motion carried 7-0-1, Amanda Durkee abstained and stated that Aimee Martin is fantastic.

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- X. 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. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by James Donahue to appoint Constance Hoag as Teacher Assistance effective September 1, 2022 at a rate per FESS Contract.
Motion carried 8-0.
 - b. Motion made by Timothy Clark, second by Taylor Boucher to appoint Keaysie Ferguson as Clerk - Superintendent Secretary (Management Confidential) effective July 11, 2022 at a rate of \$43,000 per year.
Motion carried 8-0. Ella Collins had a few questions regarding the contract.
 - c. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to appoint Melissa McFarland-Consultant Psychologist effective July 11, 2022 through June 30, 2023 at a rate per contract.
Motion carried 8-0.
 - d. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to appoint Barbara Fribourg as Consultant Psychologist effective July 11, 2022 through June 30, 2023 at a rate per contract.
Motion carried 8-0.
 - e. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Timothy Clark to appoint Heather Havens as mentor for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate of pay per the FETA Contract.
Motion carried 8-0.
 - f. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Amanda Durkee to appoint Michael Smith as co-Advisor for the Freshman Class for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of pay per the FETA Contract.
Motion carried 8-0.
 - g. Motion made by Taylor Boucher, second by James Donahue to approve the notice of resignation from Madeline Godfrey as teacher assistant effective June 24, 2022. Thanked by the Board for her service to the students.
Motion carried 8-0.

XI. Coaching: None

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.

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XII. Second Public Comment Period (if needed)-none

XIII. Executive Session: Time: 7:24

Motion made by Christaina Durkee, second by Timothy Clark to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters referring to negotiations with a specific entity, as well as the employment of specific individuals. Motion carried 8-0.

Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Taylor Boucher to go back into regular session Carried 8-0.

A. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Christina Durkee to approve the agreement for the regular school year between the Fort Edward Union Free School District and the Center for Disabilities Services (Prospect Center) Motion carried 8-0.

B. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Christina Durkee to direct Girvin and Ferlazzo, District Attorneys, to prepare a subdivision application for the Annex Building and Garage. Motion carried 8-0.

Executive Session: Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Ella Collins to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters referring to negotiations with a specific entity, as well as the employment of special individuals. Motion carried 8-0.

XIV. Return to Public Session AT8:07

Motion by James Donahue second, by John Guglielmo to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters referring to legal matters. Motion carried 8-0.

XV. Adjournment AT 8:08

Motion by James Donahue 2nd by John Guglielmo

All in favor 8, All Opposed 0, Any abstentions 0