

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

DATE: May 9, 2022

TYPE OF MEETING: Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting

PLACE OF MEETING: In person and YouTube

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joseph Carroll

OTHERS PRESENT via the above mentioned ways:

Interim Superintendent Mark Bessen, John Godfrey, Tobie Bessette, Charles Perkins, Christopher Boucher, Taylor Boucher, Stuart Alheim, John Boucher and Stanley Maziejka Sr., Sharlene Petro-Durgan, Bernard Donegan and Greg Diefenbach

President of the Board, Thomas Roche, called the Budget Hearing to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

II. Budget Hearing called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Bessen opened the Budget Hearing with a presentation slideshow of the proposed 2022-2023 school year budget with total expenditures at \$11,778,348.00. Mr. Bessen also reviewed the 4 propositions with the community members and explained that there are three open Board Member seats - 2 five year seats, presently held by Ella Collins and Joseph Carroll and one seat that was temporarily held by Patricia Suprenant with that term expires June 30, 2022.

Community members ask questions (1) why the size of a 66 passenger bus seeing we will not be transporting Pre-K-3 students? Also why and who wanted to go from 9 Board Members to 7 Board Members? Mr. Bessen and Mr. Roche and Amanda Durkee answered those questions.

Budget Hearing closed at 6:54 p.m.

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.

Fort Edward Union Free School District

Meeting of the Board of Education

220 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828

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.

Anthony Torra- Sr. Class President and Kayden Carter - Sr. Class Treasurer spoke to the Board about their upcoming events they wish to partake in such as their Sr. Class trip to New Jersey and Anthony reviewed their itinerary for this trip. Also Anthony spoke about Cap and Gown handout and Graduation. Board members asked questions about the trip and who would be going. Anthony Torra also informed the Board that Irving Tissue granted them with a \$500 donation and they will use this money to purchase flowers from Mr. Becker's wife for Graduation.

Mr. Bessen stated that he and Mr. Godfrey thoroughly enjoyed the Sr. Class Prom and they enjoyed watching the students interact with each other with respect and that he felt it was one of the best Proms he has attended.

IV. **Recognition of Success:**

Mr. Godfrey reviewed with the Board, that on April 1st he was invited by Mrs. Smatko to a Book Celebration party. The students read the book "The One and Only" about a gorilla that was in captivity and also had a guest speaker, James Donahue, who traveled to Uganda and took pictures of gorillas.

Mr. Godfrey also informed the Board that the PTO provided to all staff Breakfast and lunch and also gifted a plant to each staff member. Thank you to the PTO

Mr. Godfrey informed the Board that he attended the Senior Prom and the students met at school and were bussed to Hudson Falls to the "Barn". All students had a great time having a grand march on a red carpet and had dinner then went to the Sky Zone for a great time.

Mr. Bessen and the Board of Education Congratulated the Class of 2022 Valedictorian ~ Bryce Tyler. Also congratulations go to the Class of 2022 Salutatorian ~ Miranda Sardina.

Mr. Bessen and the Board of Education congratulated Anthony Torra for being selected to receive the Community Service award from the Adirondack Area School Boards Association.

The following students were recognized for being named the Scholar Athletes for the Spring Sports season by attaining an average of 90 or above while participating in High School Athletics. They also received pins from the NYSPHSAA: **Softball:** Ollie Cutler, Natalie Durkee, Maya LaBarge and Baylee Otero and for **Baseball:** Michael Glass, Ayden Swears and Bryce Tyler

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

V. Presentation:

Sarah from Bernard Donegan's office attempted to review Summary of Existing and Future Building Debt Services but due to technical difficulties Bernard Donegan's office will present next month in person. Mr. Bessen reviewed the timeline for the project. Board members asked a few questions.

VI. Reports:

Board Committee Reports (9 Board Committees)

- i. Finance Committee met tonight prior to this meeting
- 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 Christina Durkee would like to schedule a meeting)
- 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)

VII. Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Bessen stated that on May 17, 2022 will be the Budget/Board Member vote Noon to 8:00 p.m. also; There will be an Art Show and a Concert. The Absentee Ballots are available contact Mrs. Bessette. Principal Search, John and Richard have been working on this. First Round of interviews will be this Thursday. James Donahue asked how many will be interviewed. Mr. Bessen stated that there were about 15 that applied and then it was dropped down to about 9 or 10. Mr. Bessen stated that we will need to have a special board meeting to appoint someone.

VIII. Treasurer Report: Report was in packet

IX. Principal's Report- Mr. Godfrey informed the Board that the elementary book fair is underway; it is in the old Computer Lab. a great space and PTO is monitoring this.

Saturday May 14th will be Family Fun Day put on PTO.

Kindergarten round up will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the library. Give staff time to be introduced to the parents and incoming students.

In the High School last week 4 Juniors took the AP US History exam as part of their Distance Learning through Hartford school. This is a rigorous exam and tests their knowledge. This gives the student that receives a level 3 or 4 a potential to earn college credit. Still have to take the History regents exam.

Fort Edward Union Free School District

Meeting of the Board of Education

220 Broadway, Fort Edward, NY 12828

On June 1st our US History Regents exam will be held, this is the first regents we have taken since 2019. Brand new regents, multiple choice questions have been reduced. Mr. Prindle attended a workshop and discussed strategies for taking the test. Mr. Prindle will review with the students.

Mr. Guglielmo had Taylor Boucher stand and she was congratulated for passing the Bar on her first time. Congratulations to Taylor.

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

XI. Discussion Items: Mr. Bessen discussed the re-organizational meeting. July 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.. This should only take about 15 to 20 minutes. We will have another meeting around the 11th for the rest of the July meeting items.

Annex Building and Garage, Mr. Roche discussed the shape of the building and that the Village wants to purchase this building and the garage. Mr. Roche read a letter from the Historical Society explaining their reason for wanting to purchase the buildings. We need to ask for a subdivision before we can do anything with it. This is the first step and once approved then we would put it to a public vote.

Sports merger will be later on in the agenda. We need to try to get kids back involved. By merging with Argyle we will be able to offer all levels of the sport. Board members asked questions about uniforms.

XII. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Motion made by Amanda Durkee second by Christina Durkee to approve item a. Minutes for Board Meeting held April 11, 2022 (with correction), April 14, 2022, April 26, 2022 and April 27, 2022. Motion carried 8-0.
- (b) Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve items b-d:
 - (b) Warrants and Claims for April and May 2022
 - (c) Approval of Treasurer Report for April 2022
 - (d) Approve of the Budget TransfersMotion carried 8-0.

XIII. 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 8-0.
- (b) Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Ella Collins to set the date of the 2022-2023 ReOrganizational Meeting for 5:30 p.m. on July 1, 2022, with the regular meeting to take place on July 11, 2022. Motion carried 8-0.
- (c) Motion made by James Donahue, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve a refund of real property tax in the amount of \$1,072.00 to Virginia Henry, per the application received from the Washington County

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

Office of Real Property for parcel #163.17-2-23. (The refund is owed due to a clerical error in the town assessor's office.) Motion carried 8-0.

(d) Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Christina Durkee to approve athletic mergers with the Argyle CSD for the 2022-2023 school year for Girls Basketball-All levels and Bowling-All levels. Motion carried 8-0.

(e) Motion made by James Donahue, second by John Guglielmo to approve seeking the subdivision of the school plot with the Village of Fort Edward and Washington County. Motion carried 8-0.

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. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Christina Durkee to approve the appointment of Lynn Mykins as substitute Nurse per the SASTA Contract. Motion carried 8-0
- b. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Patricia Suprenant to approve the appointment of Amanda Lucas as Summer Program Middle School Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract Motion carried 8-0
- c. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by Christina Durkee to approve the appointment of Nelson Chase as Summer Program Middle School Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- d. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by James Donahue to approve the appointment of Amber Bement as Summer Program Middle School Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- e. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Christopher Miles to approve the appointment of Marianne Stark as Summer Program 6th Grade Middle School Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- f. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the appointment of Stephanie Bruce as Summer Program Elementary Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- g. Motion made by James Donahue, second Christina Durkee to approve the appointment of Kristina Bump as Summer Program Elementary Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- h. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the appointment of Angelique Peck as Summer Program Elementary Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.

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

- i. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Ella Collins to approve the appointment of Shannon Smith as Summer Program Elementary Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- j. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Ella Collins to approve the appointment of Jodi-Ann Brewer as Summer Program Elementary Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- k. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Christopher Miles to approve the appointment of Jessica Smatko as Summer Program Coordinator at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- l. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by Ella Collins to appoint Jill Boucher as Floating Substitute Teacher as needed for Summer Program (July 6 -July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- m. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by Christopher Miles to appoint Debbie LeBarron as Summer Program Counselor Team Member for Summer Program (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- n. Motion made by James Donahue, second by Amanda Durkee to appoint Noah Rogers as full time cleaner at a rate of pay per the FESS Contract. Motion carried 8-0.
- o. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by John Guglielmo to appoint Jeff Durkee as Summer Program Substitute Teacher for grades K-6. Motion carried 6-0-2-Amanda Durkee and Christina Durkee abstained.
- p. Motion made by Christina Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to appoint John Boucher as Summer Program Social Studies Teacher (July 6-July 28, 2022) at a rate per FETA Contract. Motion carried 8-0.

XV. Second Community Comments: None

XVI. Executive Session:

At 8:10 p.m. motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Christopher Miles to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters referring to employment of specific individuals. Motion carried 8-0.

At 8:53 p.m. Motion made by Patricia Suprenant, second by James Donahue to return to public session. Motion carried 8-0.

XVII. Adjournment: There being no further business, motion was made by Patricia Suprenant, second John Guglielmo to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p..m. Motion carried 8-0.