

**Fort Edward Union Free School District
Meeting of the Board of Education
September 12, 2022**

DATE: September 12, 2022

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Christopher Miles, Christina Durkee

OTHERS PRESENT Dr. Richard DeMallie, Joyce Long, Erin Russo, Charles Perkins, Jessica Smatko, Marianne Stark, Joanna Scotch, Nelson Chase, Amanda Lucas, Page Toomey, Heather Havens, Jodi-Ann Brewer, Lorinda Neddo, Kristen Morey, Stephanie Iuliucci, Ann Schechter, Chris Terry, Michael Smith, Sarah Taylor, Shannon Smith, Eric Becker, Tiffany Vaughn, Kallie Vaughn and Kristina Bump

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance Time: 6:35 p.m.

II. Recognition of Success: Kallie Vaughn for being published in the Chronicle Journal. Kallie was given a certificate for her work. She wrote about “The Golden Rule” that she learned while being a student of Mrs. Smatko.

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.

V. Reports: Mr. Roche asked for each committee to have a chairperson that can report out to the rest of the Board.

a. Board Committee Reports (8 Board Committees)

- i. **Budget, Finance and Audit Committee** (met 9/12)-Chairperson: *Ella Collins*
- ii. **Personnel, Grievance and Negotiations Committee** (next meeting 9/20/22): Chairperson: *Tom Roche*
- iii. **Curriculum and Instruction Committee:** Chairperson: *Taylor Boucher*
- iv. **Policy Review Committee** (next meeting-9/26/22 at 5:30 p.m.) Chairperson: *Amanda Durkee*
- v. **Athletic Committee** (next meeting 9/28/22 at 5:30 p.m.) Chairperson: *John Guglielmo*

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- vi. **Strategic Planning Committee** (next meeting TBD) Chairperson: *Tim Clark*
- vii. **Building and Grounds Committee for Health & Safety** (next meeting TBD) Chairperson: *Tom Roche*
- viii. **Capital Project Committee** (next meeting 10/17/22 at 5:30 p.m.) Chairperson: *John Guglielmo*

IV. Presentations: Jessica Smatko gave a presentation to the BOE: Wrap Up Report for the Summer Academy July 2022. They came up with a mission statement: “The Fort Edward School District will design a summer enrichment opportunity that ensures students K-8 have access to high-quality enrichment experiences that will spark curiosity, nurture social emotional needs, and review grade level concepts to ensure academic success”. Ms. Smatko reported an 83% daily attendance rate and 35 students had perfect attendance, more than double from last year.

Mr. Roche thanked Mrs. Smatko and for the great start of the year.

a. Superintendent Report:

Dr. DeMallie thanked everyone that came out to have a great Summer Academy.

We have had a great start to the school year, the energy in the school is absolutely pappable. Dr. Turina Parker came to our school to take a tour of the school and met some staff members and she stated that she loved the energy of our staff. Our attendance rate is 95% K-12 fantastic. Kids are happy to be back, and are happy to be in the cafeteria again.

Morning and afternoon drop off, would like to thank our village crossing guards for keeping our kids safe. That is a one way, three lanes and John Malvuccio directing traffic, it is a nightmare. We have made a few adjustments, especially with the Pre-K the drop off will be at the end of the building by the baseball field. This should help a little bit. We have made announcements to the students to abide by John in the crosswalk.

Dr. DeMallie gave a huge thank you to Nicole Beecher for her donation of school supplies in memory of her daughter Etta, who would have turned 5 this year.

Dr. DeMallie reported that Football- we are 0-2 we have 5 students in Fort Edward going over to the three way merger with Corinth and Hadley. Modified we have 12 and those numbers are promising. Volleyball is 1-1 and Cross Country we have no athletes participating. Soccer is 1-1, Cheerleading squad 6-8 athletes and have represented our teams very well. Golf 5-7 athletes and has had only one loss.

Dr. DeMallie also reported that he continues to work with Gregg Diefenbach, Chuck Perkins and Michele Sherwood on grants and expenditures, Mrs. Long has been working with the Business Office. There is movement of people from the ESSER to the General Fund, this is a work in progress. Any transition of families in need, this could change things. There is a large audit coming up and as Chuck Perkins stated that his office is getting ready for that and working on submitting our documents to the portal and the Comptroller's Office.

Buildings and Grounds: In personal contact with Trojan Energy in regards to the parts to our Boilers and we will need to get them up and running soon as October is right around the corner. They assure they will be in soon and Craig Masten has to get them up and running the first two weeks of October.

Saturday's Football game is home, that has not happened in a very long time. Expecting a great crowd. We are setting up the volleyball home game.

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Dr. DeMallie thanked the Booster Club - the concession stand. Dr. DeMallie does feel that having too many adults there, is not safe. The Booster Club is donating funds so we can get a couple scissor lifts for the coaches and they are also donating the team dinner. Thank you to the Booster Club and Laurie Desourdy for taking the time today to come and speak to Dr. DeMallie.

Upcoming events: Our Soccer team will be taking on North Warren and Granville Friday. Golf is at Bolton tomorrow and will be taking on North Warren on Thursday. Volleyball has a home match Wednesday and away match on Friday. Boy's Modified will take on Whitehall and Corinth on Thursday.

There will be a change in the calendar - the Open House that was scheduled for Thursday, Mrs. Russo asked for it to be changed to Tuesday, October 4th.

Girls Modified Volleyball is 5:00 Friday, Boys Varsity Football is on Saturday.

New Teacher orientation we had in late August and it went very well. Thank you to Marianne Stark for meeting to do the agenda.

August we did look at a presentation for an e-hall pass system. Some schools in the area are looking at this.

We are fully staffed, we are looking at applications for part time bus driver and a cleaner.

UPK is off to a wonderful start, Going pretty good and thank you to Erin Russo and Mrs. DeLisle for all their efforts in this.

Walk in freezer is moving forward. We are working on our records management and the basement is being cleaned up. Thank our cleaning crew because we took a lot of desks and other stuff out of the second floor storage. Thank you to IT because we had a lot of old chrome books and old smart boards and it has decreased the clutter.

c. Treasurer Report- reports in packets

d. K-12 Principal Report

Erin Russo reported that today was really great, lots of excited faces, kids were happy to be back in the cafeteria. We tweaked the teacher and the teacher assistant schedules to make sure everything is covered. Pre-K is now a full day, lots of tears. More and more smiles everyday.

Erin Russo also reported that Open House may be changed as teachers would like more student work to be seen. Mrs. Russo will send out a survey. On the first day of school Mrs. Russo had class meetings with grades 6-12 where Mrs. Russo introduced herself and went over the code of conduct, handed out chrome books.

On September 23rd we will have a half day of kindergarten, where we can screen those not previously screened. Pre-K screening will be done by the psychologist and this is going to be incorporated into their stations so we do not have to adjust the schedule at all.

IReady, all K-12 grades are giving BOCES provided training. Amanda Bergan from Boces will be coming back on how to use the data to improve our instruction.

Sports Transportation is all set, Craig Masten is being very flexible and working with AD Lorinda Neddo and I to make sure all the player needs are met. We are meeting weekly to make sure we have enough drivers.

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Thank you to the PTO for the great welcome back signs that were displayed in the front of the school, nice surprise.

One of our students that was unable to graduate in June went to summer school and received his diploma the end of August.

Now doing discipline that was on triplicate paper work, teachers can now input it directly into eschool. Erin then gets an email and then she can respond immediately.

Joyce Long, reported that our High School Life Skills program we had to embellish it this year as BOCES shut down their school to work program a week before school opened back up. A couple of our students had no place to go so Mrs. Schechter is helping us to build our school to work at the high school level so now we have 4 kids that we will be built into a work ready, career ready program and we are already making steps toward that with cooking projects. Mrs. Long donated seeds from her garden so we can have a spring plant sale. The kids can learn how to make things and sell them and do the budgeting, all the life things behind them that could lead to a job, maybe a florist. Our plan is to try to make it where other schools could come here and we could be a funded program because Saratoga is the only school to work as SAEC is now gone. Mr. Roche stated that they maybe could have a table at the Marketplace.

e. Buildings and Grounds Report

VI. Discussion Items:

- a. AASBA Meeting, Please let Tobie know if you are going to be able to attend
- b. Selection of Committee's Chairperson-Thomas Roche asked the Board Members what committees they would like to chair. Mr. Roche appointed a few chairpersons to committees.
- c. Future Committee Dates and Times- discussed dates and time for a few committee meetings.
- d. Live Streaming, Mr. Roche asked what Board Members thought about this. Taylor Boucher felt it is a good idea. Timothy Clark felt we should live stream and record the meetings. Amanda Durkee felt either way is acceptable as long as it is going to be live streamed and recorded it needs to be overseen by BOCES tech people so it can run well as the superintendent had to break from the meeting to fix the problems, they need to set it up and get it going and be there in case a problem arises. John Guglielmo felt we should also live stream it also.
- e. Recording Board Meeting
- f. Board Workshop Date and Time - Should there be a follow up meeting? The meeting was set for 10/19 at 5:30 p.m. Amanda Durkee stated that Dr. Harry Brooks was a phenomenal person, felt he was a great person to talk to them and she feels anyone could use more time with him.
- g. Student Board Member - It was brought up at the Board Retreat that it would be a good idea to to have a student Board Member. It is the practice of some schools. Have the student nominated by Teachers, Principal. Is this something the Board would be interested in having? John Guglielmo stated he thinks it is important for students to get involved with this process, it gives them another view of how school works and why policies are there and how the internal organization runs. Some schools require it.

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Amanda Durkee asked what we would be expecting from the student, maybe give a monthly update? Feels it should be outlined. John Guglielmo stated what type of input or feedback they would want to give the Board.

James Donahue entered at 7:43p.m.

h. **eSports**-Timothy Clark spoke about the club, kids get together and maybe have an invitational. Amanda Durkee does not agree with having eSports, too much screen time for anyone is not healthy and she looks at eSports as a great leisure activity outside of school but she does not know the educational value with eSports. If we are going to be putting any club into the school we should know what is the educational purpose and educational value.

Taylor Boucher stated that eSports today is becoming the sport for kids of yesterday. Taylor Boucher stated that the same thing about football it builds teamwork talking to each other and communicating the same as any other sport program would have. Today we have to look at the teachers have those programs on their computer for reading skills, math skills and games for the kids. This is a legitimate career that is happening today, playing video games and streaming it is a whole new world outside that we can't shelter the kids from. It's a club and it is not something that you have to do, its to enjoy and do after school. She doesn't feel it could be detrimental.

John Guglielmo stated that he would like to screen the games being conducted. Set parameters on this. The benefits he feels technology is not only a career field but if you look at the military they are training people now, submarines drones and different items with xbox controllers because the kids can use these things without even looking, they have grown up with them. We have to look at things in different ways. Proposed the correct way, taught the correct way and monitored the correct way this does have benefits.

Tom Roche explained that a few years ago when the Trap Club had a presentation to start the club there was a few board members that said no way, but after the presentation which was so informative and anyone can do it, a kid with a disability can shoot trap, kids that wouldn't participate in something else found that the trap club was something they wanted to participate in. Once they got more information about the club and saw the benefits. We were totally on board with it. He feels this is great, Mr. Roche asked for a presentation at next month's meeting.

i. Unified Sports

Dr. DeMallie was able to work collaboratively with staff and bring Unified Sports to that organization. It was a phenomenal thing for the culture of the building and what it did for those kids with disabilities. They became heroes of the school. Started out with Bowling and then Basketball. Then brought in a local team stopped instruction and the entire school watched the game. Best part is if you are a first year member you get money from the Special Olympics to fund the 2 mandatory positions you need. You get \$2,000 and one goes to the coach and Youth Activation Committee Advisor - YAC. The role of the coach is to coach and the YAC would help the students, Welcome walk in and broke through a banner, the students make banners, provide snacks to the opposing team. Dr. DeMallie needs permission to sign the commitment letter and he or YAC advisor and Coach would go to the first meeting. The ultimate goal would be to have basketball and bowling here. At some point those monies go away and we have to fund the program. A Unified Sports is a Section II, sanctioned league, so there are refs, there are tournaments. You get a plaque. First part is to send a representative. Timothy Clark asked if there was a season and the seasons don't line up with our seasons. Bowling happens now and Basketball season is in the spring. James Donahue stated that he is all for this.

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j. Annex

In order to move forward with any process we need to close the building then resolve the subdivision from the village planning board committee. We will do this at our next meeting.

k. NYSSBA

Tom Roche stated that we were members of the NYSSBA but when we had to tighten the belt we sent two members and just paid the convention fee. The member paid the rest. Do we want a member of NYSSBA come to the next meeting? Taylor Boucher asked if anyone from this Board ever go to the convention and Mr. Roches stated he did and Taylor Boucher asked if he gained value from it and Tom Roche stated absolutely. Taylor Boucher asked if it is a missing piece from us and Tom Roche stated that he went to three conventions and he brought back something from each one. Tom Roche thought it was worthwhile. BOCES does offer similar things that NYSSBA offers. Amanda Durkee stated that we are also part of the AASBA and when they meet with Dr. Brooks maybe they could ask his opinion.

VII. 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 Amanda Durkee, second by John Guglielmo to approve the Board minutes from August 15, 2022 and August 18, 2022 with minor changes.
Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Ella Collins second by Amanda Durkee to approve the following items:

- b. Approval of Treasurer Report
- c. Approval of Budget Transfers

Motion carried 7-0.

VIII. Action:

- a. Motion made by Timothy Clark, second by Amanda Durkee to approve the CSE/CPSE Recommendations as included in the Board Packets. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Timothy Clark to approve the Agreement between Bernard P. Donegan, Inc. and the Fort Edward Union Free School District for Municipal Advisor Services in connection with the School District's Capital Project financing and other financial matters. Motion carried 7-0.
- c. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Ella Collins to approve the second reading and adoption of the revised Policy #5410-Purchasing: Competitive Bidding and offering. Motion carried 7-0

IX. 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

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

- a. Motion made by James Donahue, second by John Guglielmo to appoint Kristina Bump as Mentor for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate per FETA Contract of \$1,000.00. Motion carried 7-0.
- b. Motion made by Timothy Clark, second by James Donahue to appoint Peyton Paquette as Teacher Assistant effective September 1, 2022 at a rate per the FESSper contract of \$14.54 per hour. Motion carried 7-0
- c. Motion made by John Guglielmo, second by Timothy Clark to appoint Lisa Corlew as Mentor for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate per FETA Contract, \$1,000.00. Motion carried 7-0
- d. Motion made by Timothy Clark, second by Amanda Durkee to appoint Kilee Westad as full time Special Education Teacher, at a rate per FETA Contract, Step 6, Masters \$50,964, effective September 1, 2022. Motion carried 7-0
- e. Motion made by Timothy Clark, second by James Donahue to appoint Meredith Hazelton as Long Term Substitute Library Media Specialist at a rate per FETA Contract, Step 1, \$44,685.00, effective September 1, 2022. Motion carried 7-0
- f. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Timothy Clark to appoint April Chadwick as Full Time Teacher Assistant, at a rate per FESS Contract, 14.54, effective September 1, 2022. Motion carried 7-0
- g. Motion made by Timothy Clark, second by James Donahue to appoint Katlyn Singleton as Full Time Aid, at a rate per the FESS Contract \$13.20, effective September 1, 2022. Motion carried 7-0
- h. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Timothy Clark to appoint Rebecca Goguen as tutor for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate per the FETA Contract, \$25 per hour effective September 1, 2022. Motion carried 7-0. James Donahue asked who was going to be tutored, and Joyce Long explained that when we have students waiting for a placement, we have to tutor them.
- i. Motion made by Amanda Durkee, second by Timothy Clark to appoint Sharon Flexon as substitute per the SASTA Contract for the 2022-2023 school year at a rate of pay \$116 per day. Motion carried 7-0.

X. 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.

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

XII. Executive Session: Time:8:22 p.m.

Motion made by Timothy Clark, second by John Guglielmo 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 7-0.

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XIII. Return to Public Session at 8:54 p.m.

Motion by James Donahue, second by John Guglielmo to return to Public Session. Motion carried 7-0.

XIV. Adjournment at 8:54 a.m.

Motion by John Guglielmo, second by Taylor Boucher to adjourn the meeting at 8:54.

All in favor 7, All Opposed 0, Any abstentions 0