

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Oyster Bay – East Norwich Central School District**

**Date:** March 3, 2020  
**Kind of Meeting:** Workshop Meeting  
**Location:** Oyster Bay High School, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County NY  
**Members Present:** Todd Cronin-President  
Laurie Kowalsky-Vice President  
Nancy Castrogiovanni  
Robin Dando  
John McEvoy  
Dr. Aliex Ross  
Maryann Santos

**Members Not Present:**

**Others Present:** Dr. Laura Seinfeld, Superintendent  
Michael Cipriani, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations  
Dr. Lisa Mulhall, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment  
Margaret Nolan, District Clerk

Todd Cronin called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.  
Motion by M. Santos, second by N. Castrogiovanni, to enter into executive session at 7:00 P.M.  
Motion by R. Dando, second by M. Santos, to claim out of executive session at 7:35 P.M.

Dr. Seinfeld introduced Valerie Vacchio and Joe Pesqueira who would be acknowledging a student who was unable to be present at the last meeting. Dr. Vacchio spoke on the National Geography GeoBee and thanked the Board for their support. She explained a little about the Geography Bee and thanked Mr. Pesqueira for introducing the National Geography GeoBee to the Vernon School. They introduced Patty Duran who was the first-place winner and presented her with a certificate for this accomplishment.

Dr. Seinfeld introduced Anthony Femino who introduced students who would be giving a preview of this year's performance of "Into the Woods".

After the performance, the Board indicated that there was one community member who signed in to speak on a non-agenda item which is at the end of the meeting. Todd Cronin indicated they would be going a little out of order and allowing them to speak now.

Anthony Femino gave a presentation on a potential strings program. Mr. Femino reviewed the items for consideration which included helping students with challenges related to embouchure, music for all (chorus, band and orchestra), and all but three districts in Nassau have a strings/orchestra program. Mr. Femino reviewed the different types of instruments used in orchestra. He reviewed some of the possible hurdles, which included the possibility of reduced numbers in band, space and part-time teacher or shuffling of positions. He showed his recommendation for beginning the program which would be starting in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and phasing in over time. First year could include 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> graders not in band and he reviewed the potential costs related to this program. Both first year cost and over a nine-year period.

The Board asked Mr. Femino questions relative to this presentation. After some discussion, the Board indicated they would be interested in the possibility of supporting it into the budget process. They would like to see it start with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mr. Cipriani gave a presentation on the expenditure portion of the budget as well as the finalization of capital reserve projects. He gave an overview of what is known; tax base growth factor, no pension exclusions, Teacher Retirement System rate will increase, health insurance rate will increase and Consumer price index. He stated the unknowns are final state aid figures and payment in lieu of tax figures. Mr. Cipriani reviewed expenditure types comparing the 2019-20 adopted budget to the 2020-21 proposed budget. He gave an overview of the revenue and expenses and indicated it was below the tax levy limit by \$440,000. Mr. Cipriani reviewed the estimated cost of the transportation proposition and indicated it will be added to the budget if the proposition passes. The estimated cost, although not in the budget, must be considered in the tax cap amount. Mr. Cipriani reviewed some considerations to be included in the 2020-21 budget. The Board discussed these considerations at length as to which ones they would like to add and which could possibly be taken out of this year's budget. Mr. Cipriani reviewed the capital reserve projects that will be on the ballot which total \$1,155,000. He showed the budget process timeline.

Dr. Seinfeld thanked the Board for their input and help and stated since the Board had come to a decision the budget adoption could be moved up to give more time to get information to the community. The budget adoption will be on the next agenda.

Dr. Seinfeld read a statement regarding Grade 3-8 State assessments. She indicated that the District is required to administer these exams. She spoke on some changes, including the reduction of test sessions from three to two, tests being untimed and more teacher involvement in the review and construction of these exams. Dr. Seinfeld spoke on Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the changes the state has made in the calculation of District and school ratings so that students who refuse to take the test count against the school. She reviewed how schools are classified and how schools are impacted if they fail to meet the 95% participation requirement. Dr. Seinfeld stated that the District has communicated the facts about these assessments in various ways; District website, letters from principals, Superintendent's monthly video and at all PTA meetings. She stated there will be an additional meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> in the high school library at 7:00 P.M. She stated that Dr. O'Hara, K-12 Supervisor of English Language Arts has been in contact with parents and/or guardians of students who have not participated in the past to get a better understanding of their feelings regarding these exams and to discuss some of these facts.

The Board reviewed samples of the logo to be placed on the Turf field.

The Board accepted questions and comments from the community, on agenda items, at this time.

Motion by J. McEvoy, second by L. Kowalsky, to approve the following:

#### **IV PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

##### Professional Personnel

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District hereby approves the following *Professional Personnel and Civil Service Personnel* Resolutions as listed:

1. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE/EXTENSION**

1.1 LIDIA SIRACUSANO

Position:

Elementary Teacher

Status:

Extension of Unpaid FMLA

Effective Date:

03/02/2020

Period Date: 03/02/20 – 04/03/2020  
Return to Work: 04/06/2020  
Assigned to: Theodore Roosevelt School

2. **RETIREMENT RESIGNATION**

2.1 LISA BRALA

Position: Teacher  
Effective Date: 03/16/2020  
Assigned to: James H. Vernon School

3. **RESIGNATION**

3.1 DIANE CONWAY

Position: Teaching Assistant  
Effective Date: 02/26/2020  
Assigned to: Theodore Roosevelt School

4. **APPOINTMENTS**

4.1 VIRGINIA KEMP

Position: Elementary Teacher  
Status: Leave Replacement Extension  
Effective: 02/07/2020  
Period Date: 02/07/2020 – date to be determined  
Certification: Elementary  
Assigned to: James H. Vernon School  
Salary: BA, Step 1 – \$306.12 per day  
+ holidays  
Replacing: L. Brala (Medical LOA)

4.2 CHRISTINE DESIMONE

Position: Elementary Teacher  
Status: Leave Replacement Extension  
Effective: 03/02/2020  
Period Date: 03/02/2020 – 03/13/2020  
Certification: Permanent – Childhood Education  
(Pre-K - 6)  
Assigned to: Theodore Roosevelt School  
Salary: BA, Step 1 – \$306.12 per day  
+ holidays  
Replacing: L. Siracusano (FMLA)

4.3 HOLLY ROSELLE

Position: Elementary Teacher  
Status: Leave Replacement  
Effective: 03/16/2020  
Period Date: 03/16/2020 – 04/03/2020  
Certification: Initial – Childhood Education (Grades  
1-6)  
Assigned to: Theodore Roosevelt School  
Salary: BA, Step 1 – \$306.12 per day  
+ holidays  
Replacing: L. Siracusano (FMLA)

4.4 ANDREA BERGAGLIO

Position: Teaching Assistant  
Status: Up to an additional 80 minutes per  
week.  
Effective: 03/03/2020

		Period Date:	03/03/2020 – 06/23/2020
		Assigned to:	James H. Vernon School
4.5	ANN CUTAJAR	Position:	Teaching Assistant
		Status:	Additional 90 minutes per week
		Effective:	02/10/2020
		Period Date:	02/10/2020 – 06/23/2020
		Assigned to:	James H. Vernon School
4.6	JEANMARIE FURMAN	Position:	Teaching Assistant
		Status:	Up to an additional 90 minutes per week at TA salary. 5 hrs. at Supervisory salary.
		Effective:	03/04/2020
		Period Date:	03/04/2020 – 03/23/2020 (TA) 03/25/2020 and 03/27/2020 (Supervisory)
		Assigned to:	James H. Vernon School
4.7	SUBSTITUTE TEACHING ASSISTANT	Position:	Per-Diem Teaching Assistant
		Effective:	2019-2020 School Year
		Assigned to:	On-call as needed
		Salary:	\$125/day *See Attached
4.8	JEREMY COHEN	Status:	Leave Replacement
		Position:	P.E. Teacher
		Effective:	03/16/2020
		Period Date:	2019-2020 School Year
		Certification:	Initial – P.E.
		Assigned to:	High School
		Salary:	BA, Step 1 – \$306.12 per day + holidays
		Replacing:	J. Brush (Resignation)
4.9	ERIKA B. ARGUETA MARQUEZ	Position:	Teaching Assistant
		Status:	6 hours per day
		Effective:	03/11/2020
		Period Date:	2019-2020 School Year
		Certification:	Social Studies 7-12 (Initial)
		Assigned to:	High School
		Salary:	\$26.25 per hour
4.10	SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS	Effective:	2019-2020 School Year
		Assigned to:	On-call as needed
		Salary:	\$125/day *See Attached

B. Non-Teaching

1. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EXTENDED ILLNESS**

1.1	DIANE SEK	Position:	Senior Typist Clerk
		Status:	Extended Sick Leave
		Effective Date:	03/06/2020
		Period Date:	03/06/2020 - TBD
		Return to Work:	TBD
		Salary:	As per contract between the OBENCSD and the OBEN Clerical Unit
		Assigned to:	High School

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by R. Dando, second by J. McEvoy, to approve the following:

**V SPECIAL SERVICES**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District hereby approves the following *Special Services* Resolution as listed:

**A) CPSE/CSE MINUTES**

RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District has arranged that the following appropriate special education programs and/or services be provided as recommended by the Committee on Special Education:

**CPSE**

01/28/2020	1	Amendment – Agreement No Meeting
02/12/2020	1	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting
02/25/2020	2	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting
02/25/2020	1	Amendment – Agreement No Meeting
02/26/2020	1	Requested Review Meeting

**CSE**

01/28/2020	1	Amendment – Agreement No Meeting
02/07/2020	1	Requested Review
02/10/2020	1	Requested Review
02/11/2020	3	Requested Review
02/28/2020	1	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by R. Dando, second by N. Castrogiovanni, to approve the following:

**VI NEW BUSINESS**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District hereby approves the following *New Business* Resolutions as listed:

**A) POLICY REVIEW/ADOPTION**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District hereby reviews/adopts the following policies:

**Adopt**

7415	Athletic Placement Process for Interscholastic Athletic Teams
7425	Student Organizations

**B) SEQRA RESOLUTION - PROPOSED CAPITAL RESERVE PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay East Norwich Central School District desires to embark upon the following capital improvement projects:

- Overhead canopy at Roosevelt Elementary School;
- Gymnasium air conditioning at Oyster Bay High School;
- Replacement of playground surfaces at Vernon Elementary School; (hereinafter the “Projects”)

WHEREAS, the Projects are subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

WHEREAS, replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or a facility, in kind, in the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in section 617.4 are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c) (2)); and

WHEREAS, routine activities of educational institutions, including expansion of existing facilities are classified as Type II Actions under the current Department of Environmental Conservation SEQRA Regulations (Section 6 NYCRR 617.5 (c) (8));

WHEREAS, the SEQRA Regulations declare Type II Actions to be actions that have no significant impact on the environment and require no further review under SEQRA: and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, as the only involved agency, has examined all information related to the Projects and has determined that the Projects are classified as Type II Actions pursuant to Section 617.5(c) (2) of the SEQRA Regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares that the above-described capital improvements projects are Type II Actions, which require no further review under SEQRA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby shall forward an official copy of this Resolution to the New York State Education Department together with a copy of the correspondence from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic

Preservation in connection with its request for approval of the project from the New York State Education Department.

**C) PROPOSITIONS FOR EXPENDITURE OF MONEY FROM CAPITAL RESERVE**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education shall present to the qualified voters of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District at the annual meeting to be held on May 19, 2020 the following propositions in substantially the following form:

**PROPOSITION #2**

SHALL the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay East Norwich Central School District be authorized to expend: \$265,000 from the Technology Capital Reserve Fund established on May 15, 2018 for the purpose of performing the following projects: District-wide 1:1 initiative (grades 6, 7, 11, and 12), all of

the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto; as well as preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Projects and Purchases as set forth in the report may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and no material change shall be made in the scope of the Projects and Purchases.

### **PROPOSITION #3**

SHALL the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay East Norwich Central School District be authorized to expend: (a) \$890,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund established on May 16, 2006 and amended on May 17, 2011 and May 21, 2013 and May 16, 2017 for the purpose of performing the following projects: overhead canopy at Roosevelt Elementary School; gymnasium air conditioning at Oyster Bay High School; replacement of playground surfaces at Vernon Elementary School; all of the foregoing to include all labor, materials, equipment, apparatus and incidental costs related thereto; as well as preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Projects and Purchases as set forth in the report may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and no material change shall be made in the scope of the Projects and Purchases.

### **PROPOSITION #4**

SHALL the Board of Education modify its public school transportation eligibility effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year for (a) Kindergarten pupils through Grade 6 from the existing one and one quarter (1.25) mile limit to no limit for students in Grades Kindergarten through 6 and (b) Grades 7-12 pupils from the existing one and one quarter (1.25) mile limit to a half mile (.5) limit, at an estimated cost of \$160,063 to the District for the 2020-2021 School Year.

#### **D) AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCES**

RESOLVED, Dr. Laura Seinfeld is authorized to attend the New York State Council of School Superintendents Spring Leadership Event to be held on April 23-24, 2020 in Saratoga Springs, New York and the New York State Council of School Superintendents Summer Retreat being held on June 30-July 1, 2020 in Cooperstown, New York and that necessary expenses will be paid by the District.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by R. Dando, second by J. McEvoy, to enter into executive session at 9:00 P.M. to discuss legal matters.

Motion by R. Dando, second by M. Santos, to claim out of executive session at adjourn at 10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Nolan  
District Clerk