

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

Date: April 7, 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
Mary Anne Sadowski, District Counsel

Todd Cronin called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Motion by M. Santos, second by N. Castrogiovanni, to enter into executive session at 6:01 P.M. to discuss matters of negotiations. Motion by R. Dando, second by M. Santos, to claim out of executive session at 7:00 P.M. to enter into an Audit Committee Meeting. Motion by R. Dando, second by M. Santos, to claim out of the Audit Committee Meeting at 7:38 P.M.

Todd Cronin opened the work session meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Dr. Seinfeld thanked everyone, the Board, teachers, staff, students and families for their hard work and efforts to get through this tough time.

Mr. Cipriani spoke on the state aid numbers from the governor that were received last week he stated they were better than expected. He indicated that Oyster Bay has a pandemic adjustment of 88,000 for overall state aid. The Comptroller's office has to present a balanced budget. Based on current revenue projections we would have lost approximately 88,000 of state aid if there was not a federal cares restoration which is a stimulus package that the Federal government put through. Foundation aid for all districts was kept the same. Oyster Bay gets about 1.7/1.8 million dollars of foundation aid while other districts get much more. He stated this is actually a good time to not have to rely heavily on state aid. Although we don't know what the future will bring and we have to be conservative about what is coming, if the governor is adjusting foundation aid going forward that is a smaller number for Oyster Bay and based on the fact that Oyster Bay was being reduced by \$88,000 we are fairing better than most districts. Mr. Cipriani stated that they have a budget presented tonight and some enhancements that he would like to discuss and also discuss any other questions that the Board has regarding state aid. Robin Dando asked a question on state aid asking if the 3.3 was realistic. Mr. Cipriani stated that was the number as of April 1st. Revenue adjustments could be made throughout the year, however, there is also going to be additional stimulus money as well. He stated that although it is difficult to say what the state budget is going to ultimately at least Oyster Bay is not overly reliant on state aid. Six percent of the over all budget is based on state aid of which half of that is foundation aid which is what is being adjusted. Although expense-based aid could be adjusted in most cases that would require a change in the law and legislative action. Maryann Santos stated her concern about not knowing what the District would receive, if anything and

the possibility of further reductions. Mr. Cipriani it is possible, and we don't know exactly know what those numbers are going to be right now. However, again based on the numbers on hand Oyster Bay it is definitely more positive than thought. Maryann Santos stated that they would have to think about the enhancements. Dr. Seinfeld asked that as they are going through to remember that there is some uncertainty about TRS and ERS employment contributions just to name two expenses down the road. Mr. Cipriani asked the Board if they would like to talk about the considerations at this point. Dr. Seinfeld indicated at the last meeting the Board was ready to adopt, however, they wanted to give the Board the opportunity to revisit these one more time before adopting.

The Board reviewed the program enhancements: Cameras on buses, mandarin as a HS elective for a .2 FTE, additional 4th grade teacher, string program supplies and science teacher. Total proposed enhancements was \$213,000. Robin Dando stated she thought the additional 4th grade and science teacher were necessary. She felt it might not be best time to start new programs not knowing what the beginning of the school year will look like. She stated it was not about the money, however, not a time to start something new. Laurie Kowalsky stated that she would agree in most cases, however, she felt the string program was a low amount and the mandarin program was starting not as a complete course. Dr. Seinfeld reminded the Board that although this year the strings program was 12,000 for this year, that was only for supplies, there would be a staffing increase in year three. Mrs. Kowalsky stated that Oyster Bay was one out of two districts in all of Nassau County without a strings program. Mr. Cronin asked the Board to vote on whether to keep the strings program in the budget.

LK – Yes

JM – Yes

NC – Yes

AR – Yes

MS – No

RD – Yes

TC -Yes –

The Board voted to keep the strings program with a vote of 6-1

Dr. Seinfeld asked if there was anything else on the list the Board would like to discuss. Mrs. Santos stated that she felt she did not think it was prudent to add any staff at this time, even though she was one who advocated strongly to add the 4th grade teacher. Dr. Ross and Robin Dando disagreed Ms. Dando said she was worried about the fourth grade. Laurie and Kowalsky also stated she wanted to see the fourth-grade teacher kept. Dr. Seinfeld indicated that if the Board kept it at the same number of teachers as this year, they would still be within board guidelines. However, it is the upper end of the guidelines and that group of students would benefit by lower class size. Also understanding that this is the time to be as cautious as possible, however, it is a Board decision.

Robin Dando spoke on the possibility of forthcoming retirements which would help the budget. Dr. Seinfeld stated that there was no public announcement of any retirements at this time.

Dr. Mulhall gave a little bit of information regarding the science FTE. Indicating that currently there is a .4 overage in science in order to build the science research program. Last year there were 28 students in science research causing three different levels to work in one classroom during one period. By adding the additional .6 they would be able to break that class into multiple sections. Laurie Kowalsky asked if there would be a saving by hiring a teacher as they would not have to pay for an overage. Dr. Ross said that she felt was important to grow a program.

Todd Cronin asked for a revote on the 4th grade teacher. The vote was the same 6-1 Yes

Nancy Castrogiovanni asked to look at the cameras on the busses as this was a big expense and she felt not totally necessary at this time. She would rather have a teacher than cameras. Dr. Seinfeld indicated that we already have cameras that are rotated, and the District would continue to do that for one more year.

The Board agreed unanimously to remove the cameras from the enhancement list.

The Board discussed the mandarin elective. Dr. Seinfeld indicated it would require hiring a .2 teacher. She stated that there were some ideas of being able to share with another district, however, nothing has been done until the Board makes a decision and the budget is adopted. Dr. Mulhall indicated that this would turn into a .4 in future years and stated that this is based on enrollment.

Todd Cronin took a vote on mandarin:

LK - Yes

JM - Yes

NC - Yes

AR - No

MS - Yes

RD - No

TC - Yes

The Board voted to keep mandarin elective by a vote of 5-2

The Board voted on the science teacher position.

LK - Yes

JM - Yes

NC - Yes

AR - Yes

MS - No

RD - Yes

TC - Yes

The Board voted to keep the science teacher position by a vote of 6-1

Robin Dando asked a question regarding the budget line for the science teacher and if the overage amount was in the current budget. Mr. Cipriani indicated that it would be the difference between the 1.0 FTE and the overages. Dr. Seinfeld asked Mr. Cipriani and Mr. Butler if they could run the numbers and adjust this amount. Mr. Cipriani stated that the total for the enhancements would then be \$168,000. This would be everything on the list, except the cameras and minus the \$20,000 difference.

Maryann Santos asked where the board was on the Capital projects. Mr. Cipriani stated that the Board agreed, however, it could be revisited if the Board chose to do so. The Board discussed the funding the capital reserve fund this year as compared to following years. Dr. Seinfeld and Mr. Cipriani indicated that due to significant reduction in expenditures this year, there will be enough money to fund the capital reserve. The Board discussed the Capital reserve expenditures currently on the resolution for adoption by the community which are:

The canopy at Roosevelt

Air Conditioning for the HS gymnasium

Vernon replacement of playground surfaces

Expanding 1:1 initiative

The Board discussed at length whether to keep all of these items in these uncertain times. It was stated that this year was not the issue, it would be 2021-2022 that might be uncertain as to the amount of money

to fund the capital reserve. Robin Dando asked how much was the resurfacing of the playground which was \$225,000. The Board agreed that his was as safety issue. Dr. Seinfeld stated that all of the current capital projects, except for maybe the canopy project, were safety issues. The canopy project also \$225,000.

Todd Cronin took a vote if the Board wanted to remove the canopy project from the current Capital Reserve proposition:

LK – Yes

JM – Yes

NC – Yes

AR – Yes

MS – Yes

RD – Yes

TC – Yes

The Board agreed unanimously to remove the canopy project.

Dr. Seinfeld stated that there would be a resolution on the next agenda since the Board had already approved the proposition with the canopy included.

Motion by R. Dando, second by A. Ross, to approve the following:

IV PERSONNEL ACTIONS

A) 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* Resolution as listed:

B. Non-Teaching

1. APPOINTMENT

1.10	SUBSTITUTE MONITOR	Effective:	2019-2020 School Year
		Assigned to:	On-call as needed
		Salary:	\$13.00 per hour
			*See Attached

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by R. Dando, second by A. Ross, 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

03/16/2020	1	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting
03/25/2020	1	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting
04/02/2020	1	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting

CSE

03/23/2020	1	Requested Review
03/24/2020	1	Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting
03/26/2020	1	Requested Review

Discussion: The Board asked how these are taking place. Dr. Seinfeld stated they are meeting remotely to be in compliance with state and federal law.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by R. Dando, second by J. McEvoy, 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) ADOPTION OF 2020-2021 SCHOOL BUDGET

RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District adopts the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$60,128,038.

B) REAL PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD approves the Real Tax Report Card prepared by the Business Office for the 2020 Annual District Meeting and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of said Report Card will be submitted to the State Education Department on April 8, 2020; which is 24 hours after Board of Education adoption of the 2020-2021 school budget.

C) AGREEMENT WITH SCOPE EDUCATION SERVICES

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into an agreement with SCOPE Education Services for Emergency Child Care Program for children of first responders and medical personnel residing in the District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the President or the Superintendent of Schools of the Board of Education to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

D) INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the District to enter into an inter- municipal agreement(s) with any school district(s) located in Nassau County that are hosting

Emergency Child Care Programs for children of first responders and medical personnel through SCOPE Education Services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the President of the Board of Education or the Superintendent of Schools to execute the inter-municipal agreement(s) on behalf of the Board of Education.

E) AWARD OF BID – OYSTER BAY HIGH SCHOOL WEST-SIDE BOILER

WHEREAS, the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District has solicited and received bids in conjunction with the Oyster Bay High School West-side Boiler Upgrade project, and

BE IT RESOLVED therefore that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District hereby accepts the following bid proposal and awards the respective purchase contract to the following bidder:

KG Mechanical, Inc.
162 Milbar Boulevard
Farmingdale, NY 11735
Base Bid No. MC-1: Boiler Upgrades OBHS \$288,400

Total Award **\$288,400**

F) BOARD ENROLLMENT IN NEW YORK STATE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

WHEREAS, the Oyster Bay East Norwich Central School District is a participating employer in the New York State Health Insurance Plan ("Plan"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Plan, eligible school board members may enroll in the Plan, but are required to make payment of both the employer and employee contribution for coverage under the Plan and General Municipal Law section 92(a)(4), subject to approval by the Board of Education by a duly adopted resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education wishes to extend participation in the Plan to eligible Board of Education members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the enrollment of eligible Board of Education members in the Plan with the requirement that the Board Member shall make payment of both the employer and employee contribution for coverage under the Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Board of Education members participating in the NYSHIP Plan shall be entitled to continue participation in the Plan upon retirement from service as a Board of Education member as long as the Board of Education member is eligible to continue participation in the Plan, at his/her expense, as long as he/she is eligible to continue participation in the Plan in accordance with the rules of the Plan.

Discussion: Todd Cronin asked if this bid was the last one to be done. Mr. Cipriani and Mr. Butler indicated that this was.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by R. Dando, second by J. McEvoy, to adjourn at 8:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Nolan
District Clerk