

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

Date: January 19, 2021
Kind of Meeting: Business Meeting
Location: Oyster Bay High School, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County NY
Members Present: Laurie Kowalsky-President
Nancy Castrogiovanni-Vice President
Todd Cronin
Darren Gerbosi
John McEvoy
Maryann Santos

Members Not Present:

Others Present: Dr. Francesco Ianni, Superintendent
Kate Freeman, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations
Dr. Lisa Mulhall, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment
Mary Anne Sadowski, District Counsel
Darlene Dolan, District Clerk

Laurie Kowalsky called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Motion by M. Santos, second by T. Cronin, to enter into executive session for the purpose of Auditor's Report, Negotiations and Personnel.

Motion by T. Cronin, second by N. Castrogiovanni to claim out of executive session at 7:34 P.M.

Laurie Kowalsky opened the meeting. There was no correspondence to report on since the last business meeting.

Dr. Ianni welcomed Legislator Lafazan and expressed his interest in working together to benefit the community. He acknowledged that a ceremony is planned in the future for the grants provided to the district.

On behalf of Nassau county's residents Legislator Lafazan presented Dr. Ianni with a proclamation of citation welcoming Dr. Ianni to Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD. He also congratulated the school board in making an excellent decision in hiring Dr. Ianni and commended him for his history of consistently putting students first which will greatly benefit the OBEN community.

Maryanne Sadowski administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Francesco Ianni, Superintendent of Schools.

The Oath of Office was administered to District Clerk, Darlene Dolan.

Dr. Ianni thanked Legislator Lafazan and commented that during his time in the district so far he is very impressed with the level of maturity, kindness and cooperation expressed by the students. He has observed that they are settling into a routine again after the holiday break and are excited about sports returning. Upon visiting classrooms, he noticed how well they work together in groups and cooperate with each other. With regard to the re-opening plan, Dr. Ianni shared that he continues to recommend the current district safety procedures that are in place. He will continue to evaluate the district safety plan with his team and prior to the end of the 3rd quarter he will update the community.

District Academic Committee Update – Graduation statistics and college acceptance continues to be a top priority. Nine students have been accepted into early decision programs at top schools including Vassar, NYU, Duke and SUNY Geneseo. Dr. Ianni thanked the guidance department for their effort in helping to assist these students.

Also, Dr. Ianni encouraged parents to view the OBEN website and follow OBEN schools on social media for latest updates so that the community and parents stay in touch. Also discussed, world language program update to be given next month by Dr. Bel.

Laurie Kowalsky gave an update on the District Academic Committee. The committee continues to work towards updating/separating MS & HS BEDS codes so the district's rankings for AP courses can improve. She deferred to Dr. Mulhall who explained that the Board will take action on establishing Oyster Bay MS as a school within a school. Paperwork can then be submitted to the New York State Education Department for request to be reviewed at their upcoming March meeting. In addition, Laurie Kowalsky mentioned the committee discussed the number of students going to 4 year colleges and the college choices for students. Dr. Ianni explained he has been working with the guidance department to ensure plans are in place so that students can attend colleges that best fit their need and that all students are empowered to achieve excellence.

Dr. Ianni stated that technology has an impact in the classroom in terms of the way we teach and it also has an effect on the infrastructure. He is pleased with progress the district is making and that Ms. Ostroff will give a detailed update on Instructional Technology.

Dr. Ianni expressed that in terms of finance and the 2021/2022 budget, he would present his first meeting on the subject tonight and it will be posted on the website. He encouraged the community to view it and to also follow OBENSchools on twitter. Right now there are 457 twitter followers and he would appreciate if the community can spread the word so that the number of followers increases to at least 1000.

Dr. Ianni turned the meeting over to Ms. Ostroff for her update in Instructional Technology.

Ms. Ostroff shared that the vision for OBENS' instructional technology is that teachers & students are encouraged to find and incorporate technology to benefit instruction so student learning can be engaging, exciting and personalized. In terms of Cybersecurity, the goal is to provide information, training & continuity so focus can remain on students and instructional technology. Additional cybersecurity measures have been implemented to decrease the district's vulnerability since Ms. Ostroff's last technology presentation in December 2019.

Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Mulhall, a technology advisory committee made up of administrators and instructional staff was formed to advise district technology decisions. Ms. Ostroff credits all involved in supporting teachers use of technology in the district. They were able to identify both short and long term district needs including necessary infrastructure upgrades. Additionally, because of the support and leadership of the board, community and collaboration & hard work of teachers, the district was able to support synchronous and asynchronous learning during the covid-19 pandemic. Now, district-wide all pre-k to 12th grade students have 1:1 device access for in-school and home use. All students have access to high speed home internet in coordination with classroom teachers. Instructional software is available throughout the district to help personalize learning. There are also subject specific learning tools available to students and teachers. Professional development is encouraged for teachers and provided throughout the district in addition to bi-annual tech camps run by each building principal. There are different systems functioning at each school that are appropriate to age & development. Learning has been re-defined. Hybrid teaching & learning demands constant revision. However, despite the many challenges for all, many diverse instructional tools are used to engage students to provide meaningful learning on a daily basis. Ms. Ostroff showed a video of teachers and students in various grade levels in which they explained how technology is being used every day during this time. Ms. Ostroff thanked all of the instructional staff, computer technicians, administration and Board for their support and stated that we should be proud for what OBEN is accomplishing.

Dr. Ianni thanked Ms. Ostroff for the presentation and asked the Board if they have questions.

Laurie Kowalsky asked about Canvas, a college level software and Piazza, a component of Canvas and stated that the Board is interested in having students learn and use college level software in high school so that when it comes time to transition to college, students will have no difficulty. Ms. Ostroff replied that the advisory committee shares the same interest and that although there were some technical setbacks with the Canvas pilot program, it is being rolled out slowly as it is a robust software program. In addition, she stated they will continue to monitor feedback of the Canvas pilot program.

D. Gerbosi asked if the technology grants were teacher initiated. Ms. Ostroff indicated that they are. Funds are set aside just for teachers to apply for.

D. Gerbosi asked about inventory control of devices and if the district has a way of tracking devices that are handed out to students. Ms. Ostroff indicated that inventory is updated on an annual basis. All devices are coded, scanned and repairs go through library media centers in each school and distributions involve collections as well. If a student leaves the district there are systems in place to retrieve devices.

Mr. McEvoy asked about migrating to e-books away from hardcopy books. Ms. Ostroff replied that research indicates certain subjects and grades should remain in hard copy format such as mathematics workbooks & early readers, however the vast majority of courses are moving toward on-line resources.

Ms. Kowalsky asked what is being done to prevent ransomware attacks. Ms. Ostroff replied that student data system, e-school, operates on a separate portal with separate log-in credentials. Additionally, she stated that software companies provide a degree of data support protection via permissions and legal protection requirements.

Ms. Kowalsky asked if there have been ransomware attacks on e-school in other districts and Ms. Ostroff replied not to her knowledge. Ms. Kowalsky asked if there are other schools that duplicate their data and store it in the cloud.

Ms. Ostroff replied that to her knowledge e school duplicates the data and stores it in the cloud. She will check and advise.

Motion by J. McEvoy, second by T. Cronin to approve the minutes from the meetings of 12/1/20 and 12/15/20. Motion unanimously carried. The minutes were approved.

Dr. Ianni shared his first budget presentation to the Board and community and reiterated the district's mission which is to empower all students to achieve excellence. He stressed that when developing a budget, many components are reviewed to make sure the students have what they need to be successful. The district's goals, set by the Board over the summer, are a starting point for review as are the many points of pride (see presentation on website).

Dr. Ianni stated that an effective way to build a budget is to make sure there is an understanding and analysis of how the budget works. The process begins July 1st and is analyzed month by month. Furthermore, he stated that revenue and expenses need to equal each other and that ways to expand programs will be considered without additional cost by focusing on re-allocation of resources. Dr. Ianni also shared that some variables more predictable than others. Less predictable is CPI, Consumer Price Index, which is 1.23 percent compared to 1.83 percent last year. This is a major component in the tax levy.

The Budget mission, as Dr. Ianni indicated, is to create a budget that will effectively support and promote district goals. The district will allocate resources to continue to develop an outstanding school district that meets the needs of all students, and remains fiscally responsible, especially during challenging times. In looking back at the 2020/2021 budget figures, Dr. Ianni pointed out that the bulk of the revenue comes from the community which is why he encourages all community members to be part of the budget process. Dr. Ianni's presentation and budget timeline/mission will be uploaded to the website so that all community members can be informed of the process. Dr. Ianni stated that OBEN has strong fiscal health. An Aa1 Moody's rating and positive audit reports are a strong reflection of the outstanding work that the Board has done over the years. Next budget presentation on February 9th.

Dr. Ianni asked if the Board has any questions. Maryann Santos thanked Dr. Ianni for his informative presentation and asked when it would be known if there is a budget gap as a result of projected reduction in state aid.

Dr. Ianni explained that CPI & tax growth factors will decrease budget slightly. Furthermore, he explained that staffing projections for July 1st are being reviewed now as well as course selections which will help to determine a rough draft of the expense & revenue portions of the budget. Dr. Ianni will support the Board with different scenarios based on state aid that may be received at the next budget meeting in February.

N. Castrogiovanni thanked Dr. Ianni for his thorough presentation and asked about the drop in enrollment by 57 students. Dr. Ianni is looking into the detail as to this drop and will further comment at the next Board meeting.

Motion by J. McEvoy, second by T. Cronin to approve the following:

VI 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*** Resolutions as listed:

1. **RESIGNATIONS**

- 1.1 MARGARET EL CHAMI Position: Teaching Assistant
Assigned to: James H. Vernon School
Effective: 01/25/2021
- 1.2 ANNE DODGE Position: Teaching Assistant
Assigned to: Theodore Roosevelt School
Effective: 01/29/2021

2. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

- 2.1 KELLY HILT Position: Teacher
Status: F.M.L.A.
Effective: 05/03/2021 *anticipated
Period Date: 05/03/2021 – 06/11/2021
Return to Work: 06/14/2021
Assigned to: James H. Vernon School

3. **APPOINTMENTS**

- 3.1 MEGAN WAGENHAUSER Position: Leave Replacement
Effective: 01/13/2021
Period Date: 01/13/2021 – 02/02/2021
Certification: Early Childhood (Birth-2), Childhood (1-6), Stud. With Disabilities (Birth-2), Stud. With Disabilities (1-6), Initial
Salary: \$309.95 per day + holidays
Assigned to: Theodore Roosevelt School
Replacing: S. Alvizures (Unpaid FMLA)
- 3.2 EXTRACURRICULAR ADVISORS Effective: 2020-2021 School Year
Assigned to: James H. Vernon School
Salary: As per Agreement between the OBENCSD and the OBENTA.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Schedule</i>	<i>Year/Step</i>	<i>1/2 Year Salary</i>	
Environmental Club	Lindsey Oliva	I	1	\$181.00	½ salary, sharing
Environmental Club	Heather Russell	I	1	\$181.00	½ salary sharing

- 3.3 CARRIE SCHMERMUND Position: Substitute Teacher
Effective: 2020-2021 School year

Assigned to: On-Call – as needed
 Salary: \$150.00 per day

3.4 ASHLEY KOWALCZYK

Position: Substitute Teacher
 Effective: 2020-2021 School year
 Assigned to: On-Call – as needed
 Salary: \$150.00 per day

3.5 ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Dates</u>	<u>Assigned to:</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Lydia Brady	Additional Class	01/25/2021-06/25/2021	O.B.H.S.	0.10	\$5,000
Kerri Higgins	Pre-Vocational Training	01/25/2021-06/25/2021	O.B.H.S.	0.10	\$5,000
Augustus Devassey	Beginner Band	01/25/2021-06-25-2021	Vernon	0.02	\$1,000

3.6 RACHEL ALFORD

Position: Home Services – Teaching Assistant
 Status: Per I.E.P mandate
 Effective: 01/20/2021
 Period Date: 01/20/2021 - 06/25/2021
 Salary: \$45.00 per hour

Student #: 101590000 not to exceed 140 hours per year

3.7 JAMIE STAINKAMP

Position: Leave Replacement
 Effective: TBD *revised
 Period Date: TBD
 Certification: Students with Disabilities 1-6
 Childhood Education 1-6, Initial
 Salary: \$309.95 per day + holidays
 Assigned to: Vernon
 Replacing: S. Gentile (FMLA)

3.8 MEGAN WAGENHAUSER

Position: Resident Substitute
 Effective: 02/03/2021 *anticipated
 Certification: Early Childhood (Birth-2), Childhood (1-6), Stud. With Disabilities (Birth-2), Stud. With Disabilities (1-6), Initial
 Salary: \$150 per day
 Assigned to: Theodore Roosevelt School
 Replacing: New

3.9 DAN GATTO

Position: Home Services – Behaviorist
 Status: Per I.E.P mandate

Effective: 01/22/2021
Period Date: 01/22/2021 - 06/25/2021
Salary: \$78.56 per hour

Student #: 081070002 not to exceed 20 hours for behavior consultation

3.10 CATHERINE FREEMAN

Position: Assistant Superintendent for
Finance and Operations
Status: Interim
Period Date: 11/02/2020-02/15/2021*revised
Assigned to: District
Salary: \$875 per day

3.11 CHRISTINE KIM

Position: Assistant Business Official
Status: Probationary
Effective: 1st Year of a 4-Year Probationary Period
Certification: Professional SDBL
Salary: \$127,000
Prorated – 2/01/21 – 6/30/21
Assigned to: Administration Office
Replacing: R. Butler (resigned)

B) Non-Teaching

1. **APPOINTMENTS/REVISED APPOINTMENTS**

1.1 INA POCHTAR

Position: Senior Account Clerk
Effective: January 25, 2021
Status: Probationary 26 weeks
Salary: \$56,187 (prorated) According to
the Agreement between OBENCSD
and CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCE, AFL-CIO
Assigned to: Administration – Business Office
Replacing: S. Walsh (promoted)

1.2 SULE BURNAZ INAN

Position: Monitor
Effective: 01/19/2021
Assigned to: Theodore Roosevelt School
Period Date: 2020-2021 School Year
Status: up to 2.75 hours per day *revised

1.3 GEORGE SANTIAGO

Position: Security Aide F/T
Status: Probationary
Effective: January 20, 2021
Salary: \$22.83 per hour (pending
N.C. Civil Service approval).
Assigned to: District
Replacing: Nelson Pagan (resigned)

1.4 MARGARET NOLAN

Position: Training/C&I and District Clerk
Effective: January 25, 2021
Status: Not to exceed 50 hours
Rate of Pay: Hourly Rate of Pay

Discussion: Laurie Kowalsky asked a question regarding the environmental club and whether or not it is meeting remotely. Dr. Mulhall confirmed that it is.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by T. Cronin, second by N. Castrogiovanni to approve the following:

VII BUSINESS ACTIONS

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 *Business* Resolutions as listed:

A) ACCEPTANCE OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board of Education hereby accepts the Treasurer's Report as presented by the District Treasurer for the months of December 2020.

B) ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTS

The Board of Education hereby accepts the Warrant of Schedules and Claims as presented by the Internal Claims Auditor to the Treasurer for the month of December 2020.

C) TRANSFER OF FUNDS

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers: Transactions #3530-3535.

D) EXTRA CLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the reports of the Extra Classroom Activity Funds as submitted for December 2020.

Discussion: N. Castrogiovanni asked a question about the extra classroom activity fund and if the class of 2020 still had a balance in that fund. Ms. Freeman confirmed there is currently a balance and that she will further advise on what to do with the balance.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by N. Castrogiovanni, second by T. Cronin to approve the following:

VIII 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* Resolutions 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:

504

12/18/2020	2	Initial Eligibility
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CPSE

12/16/2020	1	Initial Eligibility
12/18/2020	1	Requested Review
12/22/2020	1	Amendment – No Meeting
01/06/2021	1	Requested Review

CSE

12/08/2020	1	Requested Review – Transfer Student
12/09/2020	1	Transition Plan Review
12/09/2020	1	Initial Eligibility
12/10/2020	1	Program Review
12/10/2020	1	Requested Review
12/16/2020	1	Reevaluation Review
12/16/2020	1	Requested Review
12/18/2020	1	Requested Review
01/06/2021	1	Requested Review
01/06/2021	1	Program Review

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by T. Cronin, second by N. Castrogiovanni to approve the following:

IX 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) HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES AGREEMENT CONTRACT – NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDEES

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District is authorized to sign a Health and Welfare Services agreement with the Uniondale Union Free School District for the purpose of having the Uniondale Union Free School District provide the Health and Welfare services to students residing in Oyster Bay-East Norwich and attending a non-public school located in Uniondale, as per Section 912 of the Education Law, for the 2020-21 school year.

Kellenberg MHS \$24,523.29 (27 @ \$908.27)

B) HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES AGREEMENT CONTRACT – NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDEES

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District is authorized to sign a Health and

Welfare Services agreement with the Jericho Union Free School District for the purpose of having the Jericho Union Free School District provide the Health and Welfare services to students residing in Oyster Bay-East Norwich and attending a non-public school located in Jericho, as per Section 912 of the Education Law, for the 2020-21 school year.

Long Island Lutheran \$9,248.75 (7 @ \$1,321.25)

C) HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES AGREEMENT CONTRACT – NONPUBLIC SCHOOL ATTENDEES

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Board of Education of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District is authorized to sign a Health and Welfare Services agreement with the Huntington Union Free School District for the purpose of having the Huntington Union Free School District provide the Health and Welfare services to students residing in Oyster Bay-East Norwich and attending a non-public school located in Huntington, as per Section 912 of the Education Law, for the 2020-21 school year.

St. Patrick's \$4,860.31 (7 @ \$694.33)

D) CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN – 2019-2020 FINANCIAL AUDIT

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education accepts the revised Corrective Action Plan in response to the External Audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 pursuant to NYCRR Section 170.3.

E) BEDS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Education created an Academic Committee to study current enrollment trends in the School District; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Committee reviewed the current configuration of grades 7-12; and

WHEREAS, the District currently reports data concerning enrollment and academic performance for grades 7-12 together; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Committee has determined that the data concerning students in grades 7 and 8 should be reported independently from students in grades 9-12;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby establishes Oyster Bay Middle School for the purpose of reporting enrollment and academic performance data for grades 7-8; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to take all steps necessary to submit an application to the New York State Education Department to modify the registration of Oyster Bay High School as follows:

- Grades 7 and 8 will be registered to Oyster Bay Middle School
- Grades 9-12 will be registered to Oyster Bay High School

F) DISTRICT-WIDE SAFETY PLAN UPDATE

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopts the updated 2020-2021 District-wide Safety Plan as required by Project SAVE (Students Against Violence in Education).

Discussion: Todd Cronin asked a question about BEDS resolution and whether or not it needs to be realigned or stay the same. Dr. Mulhall answered on behalf of Ms. Menuzzo, middle school Principal, that nothing needs to be realigned.

Motion unanimously carried.

Friday packet was discussed.

Motion by N. Castrogiovanni, second by J. McEvoy to enter into executive session at 9:06 P.M. for the purpose of legal discussion.

Motion by J. McEvoy, second by D. Gerbosi to claim out of executive session and adjourn at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Dolan
District Clerk