

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

Date: February 9, 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
Darlene Dolan, District Clerk
Mary Anne Sadowski, District Counsel (attended remotely)

Laurie Kowalsky called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Motion by John McEvoy, second by N. Castrogiovanni, to enter into executive session for the purpose of Negotiations and Personnel.

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

Maryann Santos reported on correspondence.

Laurie Kowalsky turned the meeting over to Dr. Ianni for his update:

Dr. Ianni thanked Linda Ninesling, custodial staff and entire buildings/grounds crew for their hard work preparing buildings for students & staff with recent snowstorms. Two snow days have been used at this point and as of now schools will be closed on May 28. If another snow day is needed then May 28th would become a regular school day.

At the lower grade level, there was a virtual Mad Science presentation that turned out to be a very successful family event. Dr. Ianni thanked all involved in making it happen.

The Senior Class is back full-time and Dr. Ianni recognized how difficult a year it has been for them. He encouraged Seniors to remember to follow all safety rules in place and he will continue to keep the community informed as to how this is working. Additionally, with regard to Seniors, Virtual Enterprise students have advanced to the 2nd round of the National Business Competition. Dr. Ianni expressed that the OBEN community is very proud of their hard work and he wished them the very best of luck in this impressive competition. Furthermore, many Seniors have committed to play sports in college this coming Fall. Dr. Ianni congratulated them all.

High-risk sports have been re-instated and Dr. Ianni commented how nice it was to watch his first game (under safety protocols) in over a year and to witness the enthusiasm and determination exemplified by

the students. High risk sports athletic testing will begin at no cost to students and staff. The OBEN community also has the opportunity to get tested.

With regard to recent weather related issues, Dr. Ianni thanked parents and OBEN community for their patience with going back and forth to remote learning. To the community listening – 524 twitter followers at present – still would like to get to 1000. Dr. Ianni wished all a restful upcoming winter break and then turned the meeting over to Dr. Mulhall.

Dr. Mulhall stated that over the past few years the Board has been discussing the possibility of expanding the district's world language program at the elementary level. She introduced Dr. Bel and indicated that although at this point it is unclear if the year ahead will return to being a typical school year, the district does have a plan in place to begin taking steps towards meeting the goal of foreign language expansion at the elementary level.

Dr. Bel shared that the goals of the FLES (foreign language in elementary schools) program include the ability for students to communicate at an emergent language level, develop positive attitudes toward cultural differences and awareness of student's own culture. First year recommendation would be for all 6th grade students to study Mandarin Chinese. Thereafter, students choose a sequence of study when they advance to grades 7&8. At second year of FLES program rollout students would be given Mandarin a year earlier, at 5th grade and sequence of study would be chosen in 6th grade (Mandarin, French or Spanish) and so on. There will be additional costs to allow for additional personnel.

Discussion: Laurie Kowalsky asked if students at grade 5 will get the chance to rotate through all 3 languages. Dr. Mulhall agreed that exposure to many languages is certainly viable. While research backs current FLES plan in place, the recommendation is to move forward allowing for evaluation each year. Laurie Kowalsky asked a question about language teacher prospects. John McEvoy asked how the district can promote language. Dr. Bel replied workshops were given last year and after winter break this year, students will choose from virtual formats and enrollment will begin. Darren Gerbosi asked a question about other foreign languages offered down the road in the event the Mandarin program does not kick off and what the ultimate goal is of FLES. Dr. Bel replied that if the goal is to graduate bi-lingual seniors then a FLES program with immersion as early as Kindergarten would be necessary. Dr. Mulhall stated that the Board has been generous in their support of FLES and that efforts are being made to search for a full-time teacher to make FLES program more attractive to potential candidates. Administration will continue to provide updates on candidate search and enrollment. Dr. Bel thanked everyone for the opportunity to present and the goal is for next year to have a Mandarin Chinese program in place.

Motion by Todd Cronin, second by John McEvoy to approve minutes of:

- Workshop Meeting, 1/5/21
- Business Meeting, 1/19/21

Motion unanimously carried. The minutes were approved.

Dr. Ianni shared his 2nd budget presentation in more detail and encouraged the community to call his office with any questions. The vision of the budget is to empower ALL students to achieve excellence and provide students of Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD with the best possible educational opportunities. Mission is to create a budget that will effectively & efficiently 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. Focus is to stay within the tax cap, anticipate effects of state aid reduction for 2021-22 and into the future, building in COVID expense.

Long term and short-term analysis of reserves. Keep reserves in compliance with regulations. Revenue must equal expense. Tax levy 89-90% from community. State aid – OBEN only receives 5.4% - other revenue reserves – 5.6%.

The tax levy is arrived at by looking at the tax levy from previous year and adding several variables (CPI, PILOT, Property Growth Factor, Capital Exclusions) together which is the allowable tax levy. Unknown every year is the growth factor, CPI which fluctuates every year. It is set by comptroller and it has an impact on the district’s allowable levy. Consumer price index is different than the allowable tax levy. The CPI is one variable that is part of the calculation. The allowable tax levy, based on the consumer price index and certain exclusions is the amount a school district is able to propose. At this point in time, the allowable tax levy is 1.40%. Analysis of revenue – there is a reduction of \$100,000 in state aid that district received from the 1st run of the Governor’s budget. This number can change based on federal funding received. District meets with Legislators to continue to advocate for the school district. The only flexibility is the amount of fund balance in reserves that is used. All other figures are set by legislators. If the amount of state aid that the district receives changes then the fund balance/fund use will be adjusted to make sure revenues are equal to expenses. More detail will be provided in next budget presentation on March 16th.

Discussion: Todd Cronin asked a question about capital projects that will be unveiled over the next couple of budget meetings. Dr. Ianni replied that he will continue to update the community on capital projects that were approved, what was done and what is planned for future. Mr. Cronin stated there were some projects the Board put on hold due to Covid. Dr. Ianni replied that this summer the AC in the gymnasium upgrade will take place. Board decided against moving forward with parking lot on side of TR School however, a bathroom project at TR will go forward this summer. A boiler project in HS is currently being completed. Further updates will be provided next business meeting. Maryann Santos asked a question regarding expenditures. Dr. Ianni replied that next presentation will provide further detail in terms of expenses. Ms. Santos asked a question about Cares Act Funding and whether or not any Covid expenses will be covered. Ms. Freeman replied that we cannot expect any Covid expenses to be covered at this point.

Motion by Todd Cronin, second by Nancy Castrogiovanni 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. **RETIREMENT**

1.1	NICHOLAS ROTOLO	Position:	Teacher
		Assigned to:	Oyster Bay High School
		Effective:	02/19/2021

2. **TENURE APPOINTMENT**

2.1	MARIA NICULESCU	Position:	Teaching Assistant
		Tenure Area:	Teaching Assistant
		Effective:	02/15/2021
		Certification:	Level 3 – Teaching Assistant

3. **RESIGNATIONS**

3.1	RAKIYA FRANCE	Position:	Teaching Assistant
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		Assigned to:	James H. Vernon School
		Effective:	02/13/2021
3.2	KERRY STEVENSON	Position:	Teaching Assistant
		Assigned to:	Theodore Roosevelt School
		Effective:	02/06/2021
4.	<u>LEAVES OF ABSENCE</u>		
4.1	ERIN DUBON	Position:	Teacher
		Status:	Unpaid Child Care Leave
		Period Date:	11/25/2020 – 08/30/2021 *revised
		Return to Work:	08/31/2021
		Assigned to:	James H. Vernon School
4.2	DR. MEAGAN DISSINGER	Position:	Teacher
		Status:	Unpaid F.M.L.A.
		Effective:	04/06/2021
		Period Date:	04/06/2021 – 05/21/2021
		Return to Work:	05/24/2021 *revised
		Assigned to:	Oyster Bay High School
4.3	MICHAEL CIPRIANI	Position:	Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations
		Status:	Unpaid Leave
		Effective:	02/13/2021
		Period Date:	02/13/2021 – 04/09/2021
		Return:	04/12/2021
		Assigned to:	District
4.4	LAUREN MILLER	Position:	ENL Teaching Assistant
		Status:	Unpaid Leave
		Effective:	03/26/2021
		Period Date:	03/26/2021 – 08/31/2021
		Return to Work:	09/01/2021
		Assigned to:	Oyster Bay High School
4.5	MELISSA KOZEE	Position:	Teacher
		Status:	Intermittent F.M.L.A.
		Effective:	12/10/2020
		Period Date:	12/10/2020 – 06/10/2021
		Assigned to:	Oyster Bay High School
4.6	BRITTANY CAHILL	Position:	Teacher
		Status:	Unpaid F.M.L.A.
		Effective:	03/21/2021
		Period Date:	03/21/2021 – 05/31/2021
		Return to Work:	06/01/2021
		Assigned to:	Oyster Bay High School

AP Computer Science	Suprabha Malhar-Jain
AP English Language	Karen DiMaggio
AP English Literature	Lydia Brady
AP World History	Brian Soper
AP Physics 1	Colleen Annicelli; Andrew Schlendorf
AP Physics 2	Ting Pang
AP Psychology	Lauren Harnick
AP Statistics	Andrea Breun
AP Studio Art	Scott Boris
AP U.S. Government	Lauren Harnick
AP U.S. History	David Pontillo

5.6 ANGELA WAGNER

Position: Home Services –
Teaching Assistant
Status: Per I.E.P mandate
Effective: 02/10/2021
Period Date: 02/10/2021 - 06/25/2021
Salary: \$45.00 per hour
Replacing: Rachel Alford

Student #: 101590000 5 times per week, not to exceed 140 hours per year

5.7 COACHES

Effective: 2020–2021 School Year
Period Date: Winter
(pending student enrollment)

Assignment	Season	Span/ Time	Name	Cont. /New	Sch.	Year /Step	Salary
Fencing Var. H.C.	Winter	1/4–1/9	John Bruckner	Cont.	III	25	\$523.40
Fencing Asst.	Winter	1/4–1/9	Virginia Kemp	Cont.	II	4	\$300.20
Fencing Var. H.C.	Winter	1/11–2/27	Virginia Kemp	Cont.	I	1	\$3,780
Basketball Boys Var. H.C.	Winter	2/1 – 2/27	Brian Boyle	Cont.	III	11	\$9,781
Basketball Boys Assistant Var.	Winter	2/1 – 2/27	Dustin Abbate	Cont.	III	14	\$7,585
Basketball Boys J.V.	Winter	2/1 – 2/27	Daniel Ruskowski	Cont.	II	4	\$6,932
Basketball Girls Var. H.C.	Winter	2/1 – 2/27	Erin Murcott	Cont.	III	10	\$9,781

2. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

2.1 CONNIE VIRONE-MAHONEY Position: Senior Typist Clerk
Status: Unpaid Leave
Period Date: 04/22/2021 – 04/28/2021
Return to Work: 04/29/2021
Assigned to: Oyster Bay High School

3. **APPOINTMENTS/REVISED APPOINTMENTS**

3.1 INA POCHTAR Position: Senior Account Clerk
Effective: January 25, 2021
Status: Probationary 8 weeks *revised
Salary: \$56,187 (prorated) According to the Agreement between OBENCSD and CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCE, AFL-CIO
Assigned to: Administration – Business Office

3.2 VERONICA LYONS Replacing: S. Walsh (promoted)
Position: Substitute Clerical *pending Civil Service approval
Effective: 2020-2021 School year
Assigned to: On-Call – as needed
Salary: \$14.00 per hour

3.3 SUSAN NEKOTA Position: Substitute Clerical
Effective: 2020-2021 School year
Assigned to: On-Call – as needed
Salary: \$14.00 per hour

Discussion: John McEvoy asked if we ever granted tenure to a teaching assistant. Dr. Ianni confirmed that the District has previously done so through the teacher's union.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Todd Cronin, second by Nancy 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** Resolution as listed:

A) TRANSFER OF FUNDS

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the following budget transfers: Transactions #3539-3541.

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Maryann Santos, second by John McEvoy 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

1/19/2021	1	Reevaluation/Annual Review
1/27/2021	2	Initial Eligibility

CSE

1/15/2021	2	Requested Review
1/25/2021	2	Requested Review
1/27/2021	1	Initial Eligibility
1/28/2021	1	Requested Review

Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by M. Santos, Second by J. McEvoy 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) APPOINTMENTS TO ASSISTANT BUSINESS OFFICIAL

Resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the appointments as listed to the Assistant Business Official effective February 1, 2021:

- Purchasing Agent
- Records Management Officer
- Data Protection Officer
- District-wide Wellness Committee (Chairperson)
- District-wide Safety Team
- Legal Advertisements/Bids
- Authorization for Opening of Bids

B) POLICIES FOR REVIEW AND 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 and adopts the following policies:

Revised & Re-Numbered

5510	Accounting of Funds
9100	Computer Resources and Data Management

9150	Use of School District Email
9200	Privacy and Security for Student, Teacher and Principal Data
9450	Acceptable Use – Remote Learning
9500	Information Security Breach and Notification

C) PIT MUSICIANS FOR THE OBHS MUSICAL

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the President of the Board of Education approves the following pit musicians at a rate of \$100 per day for approximately 8 days to accompany the OBHS musical being performed on 3/12-3/14/2021:

Alex Gallina
Michael Rodgers

D) SEQRA RESOLUTION – OBHS: PROPOSED PURCHASE OF CAFETERIA FURNITURE

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Central School District Board of Education approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to embark upon the Proposed Purchase of Furniture, Fixtures and/or Seating for the Cafeteria at the Oyster Bay High School through Nassau County Grant Funds (Project), hereto; and

WHEREAS, said Project is subject to classification under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby declares itself lead agency in connection with the requirements of SEQRA; and the Board of Education, as the lead agency, has examined all information related to the Project and has determined that the Project as a whole is classified as a Type II Action as defined by Section 617.5(c)(31) of the SEQRA Regulations and therefore requires no further review.

Discussion: Maryann Santos asked a question about the play and the orchestra pit. Dr. Mulhall replied that at this point it will be virtual.

Motion unanimously carried.

X DISCUSSION

- Board of Education 2021-22 Meeting Dates
- New Policies for First Reading
 - 2500 - District Complaint Procedures for Federal Programs
 - 3240 - Staff Complaints and Grievances
 - 7600 - Equivalence in Instructional Staff and Materials
 - 9300 - Internet Safety
 - 9400 - Computer, Network and Internet Acceptable Use

Dr. Ianni provided the Board with meeting dates for next year which are consistent with previous years planning. New Policies for the First Reading will be on Agenda for Adoption at next meeting.

Friday Packet:

Laurie Kowalsky asked a question about where testing will take place for high-risk athletes, community members. Dr. Ianni explained notification will go out on website and he envisions the testing will take place outside.

Maryann Santos asked if community members want to get tested if an appointment is required. Further detail will follow and athletes will get first priority. Nancy Castrogiovanni asked if testing will be offered every Saturday while sports are in session. Dr. Ianni confirmed yes and that further details will follow. Darren Gerbosi asked what happens if an athlete tests positive on a Friday after team practices together all week. Would whole team be quarantined? Dr. Ianni stated protocols will be followed if a student tests positive and contact tracing protocols will be put in place. Laurie Kowalsky asked if students need to wear masks during wrestling and basketball. Dr. Ianni explained that they do and as much as they can tolerate. Students are complying and they are strong resilient.

Maryann Santos asked if spectators are allowed at games. Dr. Ianni replied not at this time but he is working with the Director of Athletics so that Senior parents will have an opportunity to see their children play. Laurie Kowalsky asked whether games are being videotaped. Dr. Ianni replied yes that video was streamed.

John McEvoy stated the grounds crew for excellent job on snow removal.

Motion by Todd Cronin, second by Maryann Santos to enter into executive session for purposes of personnel and negotiation at 8:35 P.M.

Motion by N. Castrogiovanni, second by J. McEvoy, to claim out of executive session and adjourn at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Dolan
District Clerk