



# Mohonasen Central School District

*Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Education  
Monday, January 9, 2017, Farnsworth Technology Center*

## **Call to Order**

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Piccirillo, at 6:00 PM. Mr. Piccirillo requested those present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** *Nancy del Prado, Deborah Escobar, Lisa Gaglioti, Chad McFarland, Robert Piccirillo, and Pamela Young*

**Board Members Absent:** *Patrick Ryan*

**Administrators Present:** *Dr. Kathleen Spring, Chris Ruberti, and Lisa Cutting*

## **Executive Session**

MOTION made by Mrs. Gaglioti, seconded by Mrs. del Prado, that an executive session be convened to discuss contract negotiations. The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

MOTION made by Ms. Young, seconded by Mrs. del Prado, that the executive session be adjourned at 6:59 PM. The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

## **Return to Public Session**

The public session was called to order by the President, Mr. Piccirillo, at 7:00 PM. Mr. Piccirillo requested those present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

## **Roll Call**

**Board Members Present:** *Nancy del Prado, Deborah Escobar, Lisa Gaglioti, Chad McFarland, Robert Piccirillo, and Pamela Young*

**Board Members Absent:** *Patrick Ryan*

**Administrators Present:** *Dr. Kathleen Spring, Chris Ruberti, Lisa Cutting, Lisa Carnibucci, Karla Empie, Lisa Patierne, Kevin Warren, Richard Arket, Kristy Goergen, Deborah Kavanaugh, Thomas O'Connor, Leslie Smith, Jennifer Russo, Makensie Bullinger, Kathryn McTiernan, Matthew Stein, and Loretta Cozza*

**Others in Attendance:** *Gianna DiGregorio and Jonathan Adamec (Student Representatives), and approximately 24 faculty members.*

## **Communications – Superintendent**

Dr. Spring started out by welcoming two new administrators to the district – Kristy Goergen, the new Assistant Principal at Draper Middle School and Loretta Cozza, a Long-Term Substitute at the High School.

Dr. Spring then introduced Mr. Ruberti to review the budget timeline and talk about tax certioraris.

## *Presentation on the 2017-18 School Budget Timeline*

Mr. Ruberti gave an update on the 2017-18 school budget timeline. He went through internal monthly deadlines, as well as State deadlines in order to meet all the budget process demands. He noted that along the way there will be many Board presentations to update any changes and final decisions.

## *Presentation on Contesting Assessments*

Mr. Ruberti then reviewed contesting assessments and how the process works when home owners, as well as businesses, grieve their assessments. He went

through the differences of home owner assessments (known as small claims assessment reviews or SCAR) and commercial property assessments (known as tax certioraris or Article 7). He explained how liability is determined and how decisions are made for both small claims and tax certioraris.

Mrs. del Prado asked that we put up a reminder to residents regarding the deadline for home-owners for tax reductions and exemptions.

**Student  
Representatives -**

Jonathan Adamec reported on the winter concert that was held before break. He said there was a theme section dedicated to Star Wars making it light-hearted and fun. He also reported on the Kirvin Cup and although Mohonasen lost, it was still a lot of fun. He welcomed everyone back from winter break.

Gianna DiGregorio reported on upcoming events, one being course selections for next year as well as regents exams, which will be held January 24-27. The Winterguard Competition at Shenendehowa will be January 21, the Acapella Group will be performing on January 28<sup>th</sup> at Guilderland High School, and on January 18, the High School Information Night will be at 6:30 for 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents.

**Communications -  
Board of Education**

The Board of Education briefly discussed the update on goals, keeping the core topics mostly the same and refining some specifics.

Mr. Piccirillo announced that the Board will be visiting the schools and transportation within the next few months for coffee and conversation. Mention was made of the Art show this Wednesday, the spelling bee this week, and the middle school musical, "The Lion King", to be held this Friday and Saturday.

**Public Privilege of the  
Floor**

Christina Mathieu, an Art Teacher at the High School, who resides on Natick Street, in Albany, gave an update on some of the upcoming Art projects. She reported on the following art shows being held:

January 11- Middle school students - high school art gallery (4:30-6:30)

February - Charlton School for Girls (5 girls)

February 28 - 3-D Regional Show - (Jury) (Mike York) High School

March 17 - Media Arts Festival - Niskayuna

April - Norman Rockwell Show - (9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Grade) - Norman Rockwell Museum - Mass. (4 freedoms)

May - BOCES Art Show K-12

Olympics of Visual Arts for Fashion - 10-12 Students Nov-April work to create a dress completely out of paper - model and do a skit. Entire NY State compete in Saratoga Springs.

Ms. Mathieu noted the Art Department will have the Mohonasen website updated as these events become closer.

**New Business -  
Instructional**  
*Special Education  
Recommendations and  
Student Placements*

**Request for Approval and Arrangement for the Committee on Special Education Recommendations and Student Placements and Committee on Pre-School Special Education**

MOTION made by Mrs. del Prado, seconded by Mrs. Gaglioti, that the Board of Education approve and arrange for the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education on

10/17/16, 12/6/16, 12/14/16, 12/16/16, 12/19/16, 12/20/16, 12/21/16, and 12/23/16.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

*Approval for Science students to attend Six Flags New England*

**Request for Approval for Science Students to Attend Field Trip to Six Flags New England on May 12, 2017**

MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Escobar, that the Board of Education approve the request for science students to attend a field trip to Six Flags New England on May 12, 2017.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

*Approval for Winter Color Guard to participate in a competition in Bethlehem, PA.*

**Request Approval for Mohonasen/Draper Winter Color Guard to Participate in a Color Guard Competition in Bethlehem, PA. on March 17-19, 2017**

MOTION made by Ms. Young, seconded by Mrs. Gaglioti, that the Board of Education approve the Mohonasen Winter Color Guard participation in the competition in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on March 17-19, 2017.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

*Approval for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to WonderWorks in Syracuse, New York*

**Request Approval for Grade 5 Field Trip to WonderWorks in Syracuse, New York on Monday, June 19, 2017**

MOTION made by Mrs. del Prado, seconded by Mrs. Escobar, that the Board of Education approve the request for a Grade 5 field trip to WonderWorks in Syracuse, New York on Monday, June 19, 2017.

After a brief discussion, the motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

**New Business – Business/Personnel**

*Approval of Applications for Corrected Tax Roll for the Year 2015*

**Request for Approval of Applications for Corrected Tax Roll for the Year 2015, Pursuant to Sect. 550, Real Property Tax Law**

MOTION made by Mrs. del Prado, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that the Board of Education approve the Application for Corrected Tax Roll Pursuant to the below mentioned error Sec. 550(2)(b), RPTL from the following property tax owners in the stated amounts:

Owner S/B/L	Amt. of Taxes Billed/Paid	Corrected Tax/Reason	Amount of Refund
Geraldine & James Kennedy, Applicants 59.14-3-1	\$499.97 Paid	\$163.51 Correct Amount (Clerical Error)	\$336.46

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

*Approval of Health and Welfare Contract with Saratoga Springs City School District*

**Request for Approval of Health and Welfare Contract with Saratoga Springs City School District**

MOTION made by Ms. Young, seconded by Mrs. Gaglioti, that the Board of Education approve a health and welfare contract with the Saratoga Springs City School district, in the total amount of \$543.77 for the 2016-2017 school year.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

*Approval for Tax Refund – Trustco Bank*

**Request for Approval for Tax Refund – Trustco Bank**

MOTION made by Mrs. del Prado, seconded by Mrs. Escobar, that the Board of Education authorize the change in assessment for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016

to \$665,000.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

*Approval – Agreement  
with The Nurse  
Connection Staffing, Inc.*

**Request for Approval of Agreement with The Nurse Connection Staffing, Inc.**

MOTION made by Mrs. Gaglioti, seconded by Ms. Young, that the Board of Education approve this agreement with The Nurse Connection Staffing, Inc. to provide nursing services to the Mohonasen Central School District.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

*Approval of Graduation  
Requirements for the  
Class of 2022*

**Request for Approval of Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2022**

MOTION made by Ms. Young, seconded by Mrs. del Prado, that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution on graduation requirements for the class of 2022:

**WHEREAS**, the future of our nation and our state relies on an educated citizenry that is able to successfully complete their K-12 education and receive a high school diploma that will allow them to advance to college and/or career;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Regents requires that all students who first enter grade 9 in the 2018-19 school year pass Common Core Regents Exams (ELA and one exam in Math) at the aspirational college and career-readiness level 4 (which is comparable to the existing 75/80) indicating they have met Common Core course-level expectations;

**WHEREAS**, in 2015 only 22.9% of students achieved the passing rate of 4 or above in algebra 1, and only 24% achieved the passing rate of 4 or above in Geometry;

**WHEREAS**, the difficulty of achieving a level 4 in 2015 was most burdensome on Black and Latino students, whose pass rates dropped by more than 20 points; English Language Learners whose pass rates dropped by 28 points; students with disabilities whose pass rates dropped by 18 points; and economically disadvantaged students whose pass rates dropped by 16 points;

**WHEREAS**, New York State responded to the precipitous drop in the 2015 passing rates by conducting “scale maintenance” that artificially elevated the passing rates on 2016 Algebra Regents tests by lowering the number of raw points needed to achieve a passing score;

**WHEREAS**, many students try and fail the Algebra Regents exam several times, a phenomenon that has been dubbed the “algebra whirlpool”;

**WHEREAS**, continued lack of success can lead to failure-acceptance and may increase high school drop-out rates;

**WHEREAS**, multiple pathways to a high school diploma is in the best interest of all students, including the 40,000 students who choose to directly enter the military or workforce.

**WHEREAS**, multiple pathways to a high school diploma is of utmost importance to students with disabilities, who are three times more likely to directly enter the workforce and four times more likely to pursue alternative post-secondary education;

**WHEREAS**, the pass rates of Common Core Regents exams in 2015 and 2016 indicate that up to 50% (up to 110,000 students) of the class of 2022 is in danger of not receiving a high school diploma under the Level 4 pass rate expectation;

**RESOLVED** that the Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District calls on Governor Cuomo, Commissioner Elia, the State Legislature, and the Board of Regents to reassess the requirement of a Level 4 pass rate needed to receive a Regents diploma, and to develop reasonable and achievable graduation requirements that recognize multiple pathways to post-secondary success

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

**Approved Minutes**

MOTION made by Mrs. Gaglioti, seconded by Mrs. Escobar, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of December 19, 2016.

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

**Approved Personnel Recommendations**

MOTION made by Mrs. del Prado, seconded by Mrs. Gaglioti, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel recommendations:

The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

**Appointments**

Emily Carayiannis, 342 Reynolds Road, Fort Edward, NY 12828

Appointment: Long-Term Substitute  
Assignment: Elementary Education  
Date of Commencement: January 3, 2017  
Expiration Date: Close of business April 3, 2017  
Certification Status: Childhood Education Gr. 1-6, Initial; Early Childhood Education B-2, initial  
Salary: Step 1 plus graduate credits, pro-rated

Loretta Cozza, 226 Shereen Court, Schenectady, NY 12304

Appointment: Long-Term Substitute  
Assignment: K-12 Assistant Principal  
Date of Commencement: December 5, 2016 *(amended from the December 19, 2016 agenda)*  
Expiration Date: Close of business March 15, 2017 *(amended from the December 19, 2016 agenda)*  
Certification Status: School District Administrator, Permanent  
Salary: \$350/day (per diem)

Diane McIver, 679 New Salem Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

Assignment: Administrator on Special Assignment – Retired/Per Diem  
Effective Dates: January 5, 2017 – June 30, 2017  
Salary: \$73.00/per hour up to 6 hours per day

Michael Schoppe, 1083 Wendell Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308

Assignment: P/T Motor Vehicle Operator  
Effective Date: January 10, 2017  
Salary: \$10.91/hour

Danielle Cross, 1020 Fairlane Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

Assignment: Home Tutor  
Effective Date: October 6, 2016  
Salary: \$25.00/hour

Mark Hitchcock, 1132 Outer Drive, Schenectady, NY 12303

Assignment: Substitute Teacher Aide  
Effective Date: January 4, 2017  
Salary: \$10.25/hour

Sheila Richardson, 6506 Vosburgh Road, Apt. C, Altamont, NY 12009

Assignment: Substitute Bus Driver  
Effective Date: January 9, 2017  
Salary: \$15.75/hour

Audrey St. Denis, 4 Lenann Drive, Altamont, NY 12009

Assignment: Substitute Food Service Helper  
Effective Date: December 20, 2016  
Salary: \$10.00/hour

**2016-2017 Student Teachers**

Name	Assignment/Bldg.	Dates
Aislinn Elmore	Pinewood	3/27/17-5/19/17
Morgan Bachus	Pinewood	1/9/17-3/10/17

**Pinewood After School HW/AIS 2016-17 (\$34.27/hour)**

Name	Position	Stipend
<i>The following was approved on the September 26, 2016 BOE As TBD:</i>		
Elizabeth Breaznell	Substitute AIS Math/ELA	2 hours/week

**2016-2017 PM School Tutoring (\$34.27/hour)**

Name	
Greg Massaroni	Tutor

***Resignations***

Brittany Houck, 1105 North Westcott Road, Schenectady, NY 12306

Assignment: P/T Teaching Assistant (6 hours)  
Effective Date: Close of business January 20, 2017

David Keenan, 12 Elliott Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12304

Assignment: P/T Motor Equipment Operator  
Effective Date: Close of business January 5, 2017

**Executive Session**

Motion made by Ms. Young, seconded by Mrs. del Prado, that an executive session be convened at 7:45 PM to discuss contract negotiations. The

motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Gaglioti, that the executive session be adjourned at 8:20 PM. The motion was passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

**Adjournment**

MOTION made by Mrs. del Prado, seconded by Ms. Young, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 8:20 PM. The motion passed unanimously, six members present and voting.

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Christopher J. Ruberti, District Clerk