



Mohonasen Central School District

*Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, December 6, 2021
Farnsworth Technology Center/Mohonasen High School*

Call to Order

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Abbott, at 5:30 PM. Mr. Abbott requested those present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: *Wade Abbott, Chad McFarland, Deborah Escobar (virtually), Ericka Montagino, and Julie Power*

Board Members Absent: *Lisa Gaglioti and Stacy MacTurk*

Administrators Present: *Shannon Shine, Chris Ruberti, and Laurel Logan-King*

Others in Attendance: *Jeff Honeywell of Honeywell LLC*

Executive Session

MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that an Executive Session be convened for the purpose of consulting with District legal counsel regarding student displays of the Battle Flag of the Republic (aka Confederate Flag). The motion was passed unanimously, five members present and voting.

MOTION made by Mrs. Power, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that the Executive Session be adjourned at 6:30. The motion was passed unanimously, five members present and voting.

Public Hearing

A public hearing for input regarding proposed amendments to district policy #7370 the Student Code of Conduct was called to order at 6:33PM by Mr. Abbott. He reminded the attendees that the Board expected them to act with respect and civility.

Diane Blinn and students, Sophia Brown, Lizzie Lewis, and Elaina Garmer of the organization No Place for Hate each spoke about how the Flag of the Confederacy affects them. They explained to the Board that the flag was a symbol of hate that made students feel uncomfortable and unsafe at school and should be banned from campus. Karen McMillen of the Schenectady National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) told a story of her ancestor who escaped from slavery and commended the Board for acting on this important issue. Rev. Nicolle Harris, Schenectady NAACP President, urged the Board to take the opportunity to educate students on what the flag represents. She added that it scares students to see it and she cannot think of a good reason to not adopt the policy. Rachel DeTeso-Mathis, who is a district parent, said this issue is very concerning and was dismayed that students would want to wear a symbol of hate. She said it is disruptive, negatively impacts students, and hinders a positive school environment.

Mr. Abbott asked three times if anyone else would like to speak on the matter and no one indicated they would. The hearing was closed at 7:12PM.

Return to Public Session

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Abbott, at 7:20PM. Mr. Abbott requested those present to stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Board Members Present: *Wade Abbott, Chad McFarland, Deborah Escobar (virtually, left meeting at 8:55pm), Ericka Montagino, and Julie Power*

Board Members Absent: *Lisa Gaglioti and Stacy MacTurk*

Administrators Present: *Shannon Shine, Chris Ruberti, and Laurel Logan-King*

Others-in-Attendance: *Christina Patterson, Sara Lewis, Katie Lossi, Bill Vacca, Matthew Hubbell, and Deborah Kavanaugh, 16 faculty/staff members, 6 students, and 11 members of the community.*

In-attendance virtually – Alyssa Zito, Craig Chandler, Dave Bertram, Daniella DeLuca, Jason Thompson, Leslie Smith, Rick Arket, Tom O'Connor, and eleven members of the community.

Approved Personnel Recommendations

Mr. Abbott made a motion to move the personnel section to the beginning of the meeting, Mr. McFarland seconded the motion.

MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel recommendations.

The motion was passed, five members present and voting.

Tenure

Bob Stranahan

Appointment: Health Education

Effective Date: January 28, 2022

Kate Daggett

Appointment: Special Education

Effective Date: January 2, 2022

Emily Felter

Appointment: Special Education

Effective Date: February 5, 2022

Retirements

Lorene Gallo

Assignment: Computer Technician

Effective Date: November 26, 2021 (*amended from November 8, 2021*)

Appointments

Kristina Clarke

Appointment: Long Term Substitute

Assignment: Speech Pathologist

Date of Commencement: December 23, 2021

Expiration Date: June 24, 2022

Certification Status: Speech and Language Disabilities Initial Certificate

Salary: Step 3 plus Graduate Credits

Alexa Thompson

Assignment: Substitute Teacher Aide

Effective Date: December 6, 2021

Hourly rate: \$12.60

Alexa Thompson

Assignment: Substitute Teacher Assistant

Effective Date: December 6, 2021

Hourly rate: \$12.75

Shane Albertin

Appointment: Computer Technician

Effective Dates: November 24, 2021

Salary: \$49,002

Randy Tompkins

Appointment: Bus Driver

Effective Dates: November 23, 2021

Salary: \$19.29 per hour

Gary Lorenz

Appointment: Bus Driver

Effective Dates: November 23, 2021

Salary: \$19.29 per hour

Carol Crea

Appointment: Bus Aide

Effective Dates: December 6, 2021

Salary: \$12.75 per hour

Raymond Slingerlands

Appointment: Bus Driver

Effective Dates: November 23, 2021

Salary: \$19.29 per hour

Bonnie Prescott

Appointment: Substitute Food Service Helper

Effective Dates: December 6, 2021

Salary: \$12.60 per hour

Toni Galluzo

Appointment: Substitute Food Service Helper

Effective Dates: December 8, 2021

Salary: \$12.60 per hour

Toni Galluzo

Appointment: Substitute Teacher Aide

Effective Dates: December 8, 2021

Salary: \$12.60 per hour

Toni Galluzo

Appointment: Substitute Teacher Assistant

Effective Dates: December 8, 2021

Salary: \$12.75 per hour

Lindsay Steenland
Assignment: Additional Class
Effective Date: September 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
Salary: 6% of contract salary

2021-2022 - Instructional Leaders

Name	Position	Stipend
Autumn Wallace	Food Pantry	\$1227
Diane Blinn	Food Pantry	\$1227

Fall/Winter Sports 2021-2022 (amended from August 16, 2021)

Sport	Name	Step/Salary
Varsity Cross-Country Assistant Coach	Tom Howley	7
Program Director Cross-Country	Bill Sherman	\$1,350
Program Director Indoor Track	Bill Sherman	\$1,350

Resignations

Halley Sutherland
Appointment: Library Media Specialist
Effective Date: Close of business January 5, 2022

Leaves of Absence

Kristen Lund
Appointment: Speech and Language Pathologist
Effective Dates: December 24, 2021 – June 24, 2022
Reason: Leave of Absence

Communications - Superintendent

Student representatives, Emily Tedford and Benedetto Fusco, updated the Board on various activities taking place in the schools. Emily informed them that Bradt celebrated Veterans Day by sending local Vets cards, including Bradt teacher Ms. DeVito; at Pinewood a school-wide spelling bee was held and the winner is going to compete against other schools at Proctors. Ben told the Board about Draper students having a pumpkin chukin contest which was judged on how far the pumpkin was launched, accuracy and the design. At the High School, an academic letter ceremony was held to congratulate students who have had long term academic success.

Ms. Kavanaugh and Mrs. Lewis illustrated how the District has been reacting to significant mental health challenges of students who have faced relearning how to be in school again. The Student Support Team have established appropriate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) playbooks, developed virtual classrooms to incorporate SEL into classes and instruction, and trained 87 faculty and staff on how to identify students may need assistance. Mrs. Lewis announced that the District partnered with the Brookline Center’s Bridge to Resilient Youth program to help hospitalized students transition back to school and assist with bridging the gaps between mental health, medical barriers with clinical and academic support. Mr. Abbott asked if there were

any mental health training resources available to coaches. Ms. Kavanaugh said it would be a great target group to train.

Mr. Hubbell presented on the Financial Literacy Committee and progress they have made. He noted that being financially literate was part of the Mohonasen Portrait of a Graduate and was essential to becoming a successful adult. The committee has enhanced current course offerings with an increased focus on basic budgeting, careers, and salaries.

**Communications -
Board of Education**

Mrs. Power asked how the vaccine pod went and Mrs. Logan-King told her 75 out of 75 appointments were booked, some staff even got their boosters. Mrs. Power also asked the status of the Wilson program training, Mrs. Logan-King responded they are moving forward with the scheduling. Mr. McFarland asked about vaccinated students and quarantining. Mr. Shine answered that there is a flow chart outlining who should quarantine on the website and that nurses have access to a vaccine database to verify students' status. Mr. Shine added that our teachers are doing an incredible job tutoring but it does not replace school. Mr. Abbott said he and the Board would like to recognize Kate Barry who works in the background providing them with the documents and information for their meetings then presented her with a gift.

**Public Privilege of the
Floor**

Mr. Abbott read the expectations that the Board has for the public comment period and asked if anyone would like to speak. Mr. Bill Sherman thanked Ms. Kavanaugh and Mrs. Lewis for the work they do and the support provided to students and added that coaches should be trained in student mental health awareness. Mr. Vacca commended Mrs. Sherman for her work on getting the Pinewood Scoop TV ready to launch. He said she is the "lifeblood" of Pinewood.

Old Business

Mr. Ruberti updated the Board on transportation issues including the ongoing driver shortage. He said there are a few interviews for drivers coming up and they have been communicating with the Department of Labor about reaching out to veterans who may want to become bus drivers. Mrs. Power asked if the state would be dropping the CDL license age requirement to 18. Mr. Shine responded that the state is thinking about it and he would follow up with local elected officials. It was determined that Transportation Updates could be removed from the Old Business portion of the agenda moving forward.

Mr. Abbott reported that he and Mrs. Montagino attended the Rotterdam Town Board with an interest in hearing about the Town's stance on marijuana dispensaries. The Board decided to send a letter to the Town Board urging a cautious approach to allowing marijuana dispensaries in Rotterdam. Mrs. Montagino pointed out that the state needs to provide more clarity before an informed decision can be made. Mr. Shine said he would be happy to sign the letter along side the Board members.

**New Business -
Instructional**

*Approval of
Recommendations of the
Committees on Special*

Request for Approval of Recommendations of the Committees on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education
MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve and arrange for the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and the Preschool Special Education for meetings held

<i>Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education</i>	on 10/5/21, 10/6/21, 10/7/21, 11/19/2021, 11/22/21, 11/23/21, 11/29/21, 11/30/2021. The motion was passed unanimously, five members present and voting.
<u>New Business - Business/Personnel</u> <i>Approval for Tax Refund – 2727 Hamburg Street Plaza Inc</i>	Request Approval for Tax Refund – 2727 Hamburg Street Plaza Inc MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve a tax refund for 2727 Hamburg Street Plaza, Inc. The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.
<i>Approval of Contract with St. Colman’s Home Inc. for the 2021-2022 School Year</i>	Request Approval of Contract with St. Colman’s Home Inc. for the 2021-2022 School Year MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve the contract with St. Colman’s Home Inc. for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.
<i>Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Mohonasen Teachers’ Association and the Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District</i>	Request for Approval of Classroom Rental and Ancillary Service Agreements with Capital Region BOCES for 2021-22 MOTION made by Mrs. Escobar, seconded by Mrs. Montagino, that the Board of Education approve the Classroom Rental and Ancillary Service Agreements with Capital Region BOCES for 2021-22. The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.
<i>Approval of Increase in Minimum Wage</i>	Request for Approval of Increase in Minimum Wage MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve an increase in minimum wage. The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.
<i>Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Rise High Inc for the Rental of the Center for Advanced Technology</i>	Request for Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Rise High Inc for the Rental of the Center for Advanced Technology MOTION made by Mrs. Power, seconded by Mrs. Montagino, that the Board of Education approve Memorandum of Understanding with Rise High Inc for the Rental of the Center for Advanced Technology. The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.
<i>Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health (BRYT Program)</i>	Request for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health (BRYT Program) MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve Memorandum of Agreement with The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health (BRYT Program). The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.
<u>Approved Minutes</u>	MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Montagino that the Board of Education approve the minutes of November 22, 2021. The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.
<u>Bids</u> <i>Approval to Enter into Transportation Contracts with Northland</i>	Request for Approval to Enter into Transportation Contracts with Northland Transportation for School Year 2021-22 – Special Education MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve entering into transportation contracts with Northland

Transportation for School Year 2021-22 – Special Education Transportation for school year 2021-2022 -special education.
The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.

Approval to Enter into Transportation Contracts with Northland Transportation for School Year 2021-22 – Private/Parochial **Request for Approval to Enter into Transportation Contracts with Northland Transportation for School Year 2021-22 – Private/Parochial**
MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve entering into transportation contracts with Northland Transportation for school year 2021-2022 - Private/Parochial.
The motion was passed unanimously, four members present and voting.

Adjournment MOTION made by Mrs. Power, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 9:15 PM.
The motion passed unanimously, four members present and voting.

Christopher Ruberti

Clerk - Board of Education

Assistant Superintendent for Business