



# Mohonasen Central School District

*Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Education  
Monday, March 14, 2022  
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, Stacy MacTurk, Chad McFarland, Ericka Montagino, Julie Power*

**Board Members Absent:** *Lisa Gaglioti and Deborah Escobar*

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

## **Executive Session**

MOTION made by Mrs. MacTurk, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that an Executive Session be convened for the purpose of tenure review. The motion was passed unanimously, five members present and voting.

MOTION made by Mrs. MacTurk, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that the Executive Session be adjourned at 6:32. The motion was passed unanimously, five members present and voting.

## **Return to Public Session**

The Board meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. Abbott, at 6:38 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, Stacy MacTurk, Chad McFarland, Ericka Montagino, Julie Power

Board Members Absent: Lisa Gaglioti and Deborah Escobar

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

Others in Attendance: Sara Lewis, Criag Chandler, Tom O'Connor, Daniella De Luca, Rick Arket, Jason Thompson, Leslie Smith, Matt Hubble, Katie Lossi, Alyssa Zito, Deborah Kavanaugh, Bill Vacca, David Bertram, Christina Patterson, seven student bowlers and Coach Meg Fountain and 8 parents

In-attendance virtually – six members of the community

## **Personnel**

Mr. Abbott suggested that the personnel section of the meeting be moved to the beginning of the meeting.

MOTION was made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Montagino that the Board of Education approve the following personnel recommendations. Mr. Shine and the Board congratulated Michelle Fraser on receiving tenure. The motion was passed unanimously with five members present and voting.

*Tenure*

Michelle Fraser  
Appointment: Speech-Language Pathology  
Effective Date: September 1, 2022

*Appointments*

Evan Denning  
Appointment: Long Term Substitute  
Assignment: Social Studies  
Date of Commencement: March 14, 2022  
Expiration Date: June 24, 2022  
Certification Status: Social Studies 7-12 Initial Certificate  
Salary: Step 1

Jeffrey Laudenschlager  
Appointment: Probationary  
Position: Social Studies  
Tenure Area: Social Studies  
Date of Commencement: April 11, 2022  
Expiration Date: April 10, 2025  
Certification Status: Social Studies 7-12 Professional Certificate, Social  
Studies 5-6, Initial Extension Annotation  
Step/Salary: Step 5 plus Graduate Credits

Gloria Squeglia  
Appointment: Cleaner  
Effective Date: March 3, 2022  
Salary: \$27,562

Tracie Crouse  
Appointment: Cleaner  
Effective Date: March 28, 2022  
Salary: \$27,562

Joann Vinciguera  
Appointment: Bus Aide  
Effective Date: March 14, 2022  
Salary: \$13.20/hour

Kierra Schager  
Appointment: Lifeguard/Water Safety Instructor  
Effective Date: March 15, 2022  
Salary: \$13.20/\$14.00 an hour

Elizabeth Sweet  
Appointment: Substitute Food Service Helper  
Effective Date: March 14, 2022  
Salary: \$13.20 an hour

Jack Levin

Appointment: Lifeguard/Water Safety Instructor

Effective Date: March 3, 2022

Salary: \$13.20/\$14.00 an hour

Tracy Timberman

Appointment: Substitute Bus Aide (amended from February 28, 2022)

Effective Date: February 7, 2022

Hourly Rate: \$13.20

Louisa Dalton

Appointment: Special Education Program Assistant

Effective Date: March 15, 2022

Salary: \$38,438

Shannon Herholz

Appointment: Special Education Program Assistant

Effective Date: March 15, 2022

Salary: \$36,000

Antonio Ascolese

Appointment: Cleaner

Effective Date: February 22, 2022

Salary: \$27,562 (amended from February 28, 2022)

Antonella Ricco

Appointment: Teaching Assistant (6 hours)

Effective Date: March 15, 2022

Salary: Step 2

#### **2021-2022 High School PM School Tutoring (\$50.00/Hour)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Rochelle Obie	Tutor

#### **Spring Coaches 2022**

<b>Team/Level</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Track and Field	Emily Burns	-	Volunteer
JV Softball Head Coach	Lindsay Steenland	7	
Unified Basketball Coach	Graham Macbeth	3	
Modified Baseball	Matthew Sheremeta	-	Volunteer

*Resignations*

Kay Masick

Appointment: Substitute Food Service Helper

Effective Dates: March 4, 2022

Rhonda Kyger

Appointment: Substitute Food Service Helper

Effective Dates: March 4, 2022

Carrie Parker

Appointment: Substitute Food Service Helper

Effective Dates: March 4, 2022

Louisa Dalton

Appointment: Information Processing Specialist 1

Effective Date: March 14, 2022

Shannon Herholz

Appointment: Teacher Assistant

Effective Date: March 14, 2022

**Communications -  
Superintendent**

Mr. Bertam welcomed the Mohonasen Girls' Varsity Bowling Team and their families to the meeting. He announced that Amy Parody received the NYSPHAA award for sportsmanship. He then invited Coach Meg Fountain up to the podium and congratulated the team on their highly successful season. Coach Fountain gave an overview of the season including their undefeated regular season, their Colonial Council League title and their Sectional Championship and ultimately placing 5th in the State Championships. Mr. Bertram then gave the Board an update on other athletes who competed in state competitions. He informed the Board that student representative, Zionne Perez-Tucker, placed 1st in both the 55 meter and 300 meter in the NYS Championship, Ben Fusco placed 14th in the breaststroke in the NYS Championships and received the Sportsmanship award. Finally, Mr. Bertram commended the Unified Bowling team for getting 3rd place in their council.

Students representative Olivia Tedford updated the Board on several activities taking place in Mohonasen schools. Olivia told the Board that at the High School the Acapella group "For Good Measure" placed in the semi-finals in a competition and went on to compete in Worcester, Massachusetts; Draper welcomed Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Ambassadors who shared their enthusiasm for STEM programs; Bradt students have been taking part in "One School-One Book" program where the entire school reads the same book and have special readers visit; at Pinewood students held their third dance party to celebrate 10 days of 95% attendance; 130 Pinewood and Bradt students participated in the annual science fair.

Building principals and administrators provided the Board with current assessments and data on grades kindergarten through 12th. Mrs. Smith provided data for the current school year for Bradt Elementary. She said despite the challenge of COVID for the first part of the year Bradt was able to get back on a path to normalcy. The need for support for AIS reading and math has increased over previous years and is being provided on tiers based on need. Student attendance has declined some and chronic absenteeism is now 26.6%, compared to 17% previously.

Mr. Thompson announced that Pinewood has made some academic gains despite the disruption in learning with COVID quarantines. Pinewood has been offering students tutoring and after school help to assist students as needed. He added that attendance has decreased by 3% and he is working to change that with attendance incentives and reengaging students and families. Mr. Thompson said that many students who needed additional support earlier in the year have progressed beyond needing the assistance. Students are currently preparing for state testing by doing word problems everyday. Current goals for Pinewood are making revisions to the math benchmarks, establishing a literacy profile, and utilizing Schooltool resources to collect additional data.

Mr. Arket informed the Board that Draper Middle School was above their average for state testing last year, report cards have improved and discipline incidents have decreased. Absenteeism is an ongoing issue, however, they have seen an improvement since the beginning of the year. Mr. Arket noted that they saw this improvement when Dean Erin Degnan began calling parents when students were absent. For students who are disruptive in class Draper continues to utilize the Student Turn Around Room (STAR) where students call their parents to let them know they had a behavioral issue, they are counseled on their behavior and are able to return to class within the same period.

Administrators Matt Hubbell and Katie Lossi, spoke about individualized assessments and how they can provide teachers and students with a snapshot of where the student may need additional support. Mrs. Lossi added that it is impressive for the students to be at the level they are currently at. They hope to increase the rigor of the testing and to see even more significant progress in the future.

Mr. Chandler told the Board that absenteeism was an issue in the High School, however, they have been able to decrease the rate from 93.72% to 87.17%. Discipline incidents in the High School have decreased as a whole yet, physical altercations have increased. The Board had a few questions for Mr. Chandler regarding physical altercations and social media.

Mrs. Lossi and Mr. Hubbell returned to the podium to speak about academics for the high school. Mr. Hubbell explained that with the ACT and SAT tests becoming less relevant, even more emphasis will be placed

on a student's transcripts. Mrs. Lossi said the District is looking at the whole child picture and attempting to reach any student who may be academically misplaced or struggling in a class that may be too challenging for them. She added it would be beneficial for more labs to be accessible to all students.

Mr. Ruberti presented an update on the budget, including addressing the specific components related to General Support, BOCES expenses and Employee Benefits. He began by identifying the staffing which is covered within the General Support category, indicating that it included the Superintendent of Schools, the business office and several other contractual services and insurance coverages.

Mr. Ruberti then discussed the various BOCES services used by the District and indicated that these result in receiving state aid for a portion of the costs the following year. He indicated that this makes some of the cost increases less impactful in the long run. The most significant cost increase had to do with potential special education placements. These costs were projected to increase \$450,000 in 2022-23 to a total of \$1,350,000.

Mr. Ruberti finally addressed the category of Employee Benefits indicating that it was approximately 25% of the total budget. He discussed that the projected increases in staffing also impacted benefit costs related to the retirement systems, Social Security and health insurance. The total projected increase for 2022-23 is \$765,000.

Mr. Ruberti reminded the Board that there would be two BOE vacancies which would be filled this year at the Budget Vote. He also specified the upcoming meeting dates and topics, culminating with the Budget Vote on May 17, 2022.

**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. No one chose to address the Board.

**Communications - Board of Education**

Mr. Abbott questioned if Public Privilege of the Floor should remain on the agenda before the Board of Education Communications. Mrs. Montagino said she would be in favor of that. Mr. Abbott agreed to have Public Privilege of the Floor stay where it is on the current agenda until further notice.

Mr. Abbott said it was a privilege to read to Bratt students and encouraged the rest of the Board to do it as well. He added that he had a lot of fun.

**Old Business**

*Approval of Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policies- Therapy Dogs*

**Request for Approval of Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policies- Therapy Dogs**

MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that the Board of Education approve the second reading and adoption of Board Policy - Therapy Dogs.

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

**New Business - Instructional**

*Approval and Arrangement for the Committee on Special Education Recommendations and Student Placements and Committee on Pre-School Special Education and Section 504 Committee*

**Request for Approval of Recommendations of the Committees on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education**

MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mr. McFarland that the Board of Education approve and arrange for the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and the Preschool Special Education and Section 504 Committee for meetings held on 02/08/2022, 02/16/2022, 02/28/2022, 03/01/2022, 03/02/2022, 03/03/2022, 03/07/2022, 03/08/2022, 03/09/2022, 03/10/2022.

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

**New Business - Business/Personnel**

*Approval of the 2022-2023 School Year One-Page Calendar*

**Request Approval of the 2022-2023 School Year One-Page Calendar**

MOTION made by Mrs. Power, seconded by Mrs. Montagino, that the Board of Education approve the 2022-2023 School Year One-Page Calendar.

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

*Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Mohonasen Teachers' Association and the Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District*

**Request for Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with Mohonasen Teachers' Association and the Rotterdam-Mohonasen Central School District**

MOTION made by Mr. McFarland, seconded by Mrs. Montagino, that the Board of Education approve the memorandum of Agreement with Mohonasen Teachers' Association and the District.

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

*Approval of First Reading of Board Policies*

**Request for Approval of First Reading of Board Policies**

MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve the first reading of board policies. Mr. Shine noted that he has asked BOCES to review the current Code of Conduct which will then be presented to the Policy Committee.

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

*Request for Approval of the Establishment of the Service Above Self Scholarship*

**Request for Approval of the Establishment of the Service Above Self Scholarship**

MOTION made by Mrs. Montagino, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education approve the establishment of the Service Above Self Scholarship. Mr. Shine added the specifications for the scholarship and said he appreciated how the local Rotary Club was so inclusive of a variety of students.

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

**Approved Minutes**

MOTION made by Mrs. MacTurk, seconded by Mr. McFarland, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of February 28, 2022.  
The motion was passed unanimously, five members present and voting.

**Adjournment**

MOTION made by Mrs. MacTurk, seconded by Mrs. Power, that the Board of Education meeting be adjourned at 9:40 PM.  
The motion passed unanimously, five members present and voting.

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Christopher Ruberti

Clerk - Board of Education

Assistant Superintendent for Business