

**SCHENEVUS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Minutes for Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
6:30 p.m.**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom

Board President, Stacie Haynes, called the Board of Education meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Members present: Stacie Haynes, Jay Deitchman, Liz Reed, Tim Walke

Members absent: Tom Snyder

Also present: Theresa Carlin, Superintendent  
Nicole Couse, District Clerk  
Kimberly Matthews, District Administrator  
Greg Beall, Treasurer  
Deb Geci, Deputy Treasurer

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the December 15, 2020 Board of Education Meeting Minutes.

**Motion: Jay Deitchman; second, Liz Reed, vote 4-0**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None at this time

**REPORTS**

Kimberly Matthews, Building Administrator, updated the Board on the Discipline and DASA training for middle school and high school students conducted Thursday, 1/7 and Friday, 1/8. Students were very involved in the training presented by Guidance Counselor, Taylor Diffley, and students who serve on the Discipline Committee. When all students have completed this training, a letter will be sent home. Since students have returned to the building, we are experiencing an increase in referrals especially in the middle school area.

A call was made to make parents aware of the safety issues we are experiencing such as mask wearing. It was determined that the first offense would be a conversation with the student and parents; the second offense would result in an in-school suspension and the third offense would require the student return to virtual learning for a period of time.

At this time (6:42 p.m.), the Board took a short break because of issues with the analog program. At 6:50 p.m., the board resumed with all analog issues resolved.

Ms. Matthews continued with her report which consisted of an update on RTI data which Board members received for review prior to the meeting. She began with the RTI Benchmarks for priority standards only in Math and ELA as reported by Elementary teachers and RTI teachers. This data consisted of the percentage of students in each grade level who required some intervention after returning to in-person learning.

The goal was to complete the second round of evaluations this week, however this process is very difficult while students are virtual learners. Some teachers are at a point in their curriculum where they may be able to pause their lessons to begin evaluations so as not to fall too far behind in the process. We continue to invite Dr. Ostrander and Diane Gizowski to work with the teachers on professional development.

Deb Geci, Deputy Treasurer, reviewed a summary of the November Treasurer's report, status report, warrants, reconciliations, revenues and internal transfers. She reported that in the month of November expenditures were

slightly over last year. However, overall year-to-date we have experienced significant savings due to reduced costs of health insurance. Ms. Carlin took this opportunity to thank all the staff for taking a leap of faith with this new insurance as it is very beneficial to the District.

Ms. Geci continued by stating that Federal reimbursements might help to reduce the deficit, and hence the amount subsidized by the General Fund. It is difficult to weigh the loss in cafeteria sales due to the intermittent closings. Per NYSED, all students are now eligible for free breakfasts and lunches for the remainder of the school year. However, the District can only seek reimbursement for the number of meals accepted/consumed by students and currently, only 60% (on average) of the student population are taking advantage of these free meals. The District would benefit from a higher number of students taking breakfast and lunch each day, as we would be able to claim for a higher number of meals provided. Nobody is required to apply. This is a NYS mandate through the end of the school year.

The Board questioned if there has been any chatter about lack of State Aid. Ms. Geci said she has not heard anything and Mr. Greg Beall, District Treasurer, commented that everyone is waiting on the transition at the Federal level to see what is going to happen.

Superintendent Carlin reported that the administration and other staff members have just completed contact tracing after 3 days for five recent positive COVID cases. We have been notified that some individuals who were in contact with those who've tested positive, will be tested. At this time, we are unsure if these individuals have contracted the virus from those who tested positive last week...or from other sources...but, we must take this into consideration. This could change the date when students can return to the building.

Ms. Carlin continued to update the Board and the community on the completed Merger Study with a presentation. She thanked all Committee members for putting forth the time and effort to help put this together. She began by explaining the differences and similarities between a centralization and annexation merger. She then presented the shared values both Boards created nearly a year ago when the study began. These include the addition of two more members of a new school board; saving the jobs of all employees in both districts, and increasing the programs and extracurricular activities offered to students within the District. This continued to the enrollment projections for Schenevus CSD and then the enrollment projections for a combined district between Schenevus and Worcester. She also included the BEDS Day Enrollment information which shows a significant decrease in enrollment over the last 5 years.

Ms. Carlin will continue to update everyone on the program overview at the February meeting. Dr. Jay Deitchman encouraged everyone to read or review the final report as it is very interesting and factual based on the current situation in both districts. Ms. Carlin reminded everyone of the upcoming meeting on January 19th which will be a panel discussion via Zoom at 6:00 p.m. The panel will consist of members of the Merger Committee and both Superintendents.

On January 26th, the Board will resume the Finance Committee meetings. This is an open meeting on the 2021-22 school budget. On February 9, Dr. Rick Timbs, our financial consultant, will discuss the future of Schenevus C.S. and options available if our District does not merge with Worcester.

Board President, Stacie Haynes, stated that she has the final copy of the proposed Teachers contract. She would like the Board to review and discuss the Faculty Advisory Committee. Ms. Carlin added that the Committee has not met during her tenure and that other meetings have been put on hold due to COVID restrictions and quarantines. The Board agreed to review and discuss this item before final agreement.

## **APPROVE NOVEMBER 2020 TREASURER'S REPORTS**

**Motion: Jay Deitchman; second, Liz Reed, vote 4-0**

## **REVIEW**

The Board had nothing to review.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

## NEW BUSINESS

### Business Items:

On the recommendation of the superintendent, RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following:

1. Special Education program service recommendations from the Committee on Special Education.
2. Appoint Richard Timbs as Schenevus Central School Financial Advisor effective 1/1/2021 per agreed upon contract.
3. Discontinue Fiscal Advisors as Schenevus Central School Financial Advisor effective 12/31/2020

**Motion: Jay Deitchman; second, Tim Walke, vote 4-0**

### Personnel Items:

On the recommendation of the superintendent, RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following:

1. Appoint Diana Brady to a 4 year probationary position of Special Education Teacher effective 9/1/2020 with a tenure track position effective 12/18/20, ending on 6/30/24
2. Accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from Annette Bomba as Elementary Teacher effective June 30, 2021.
3. Accept, with regret, the letter of retirement from Cherie Gulotty as Elementary Teacher effective June 30, 2021.

**Motion: Jay Deitchman; second, Liz Reed, vote 4-0**

### Administrative Items:

On the recommendation of the superintendent, RESOLVED that the Board of Education approve the following:

1. Approve the second reading of policy # 1925 - INTERPRETERS FOR HEARING-IMPAIRED PARENTS/GUARDIANS

**Motion: Jay Deitchman; second, Liz Reed, vote 4-0**

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Shana Ritton, SUT President, stated the Labor Management Committee consists of members of the Board of Education, the District Superintendent and members of the Schenevus United Teachers union. This committee is supposed to meet quarterly (September, December, March and June) as described on page 24 of the Teachers contract. Members of SUT are willing to meet any time at 3:00 p.m.

A.J. Hamill made a statement that, due to personal and medical reasons, he is no longer interested in serving as a community member for the CSE meetings and would like to recommend Mrs Kathryn Fredette to serve as a community member for the CSE meetings.

## BOARD INFORMATION

There was discussion about the update of the new website and the posting of meeting agendas and minutes.

Jay Deitchman made a motion at 8:09 p.m. to move to executive session to discuss a specific personnel matter after a 5 minute break. Second, Tom Snyder; vote 4-0.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:10 p.m.

Having no further business before the Board, Liz Reed made a motion to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. second, Jay Deitchman; vote 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted



Nicole Couse, District Clerk