

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**DIANE LYONS
STEVE JENKINS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
JACLYN SAVOLAINEN
JACKIE RACCUA
MATTHEW VAN WORMER
MEGAN BARBERA**

OTHERS PRESENT:

ALBERT COUSINS IV, THOMAS BURNELL

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

President Lyons called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 pm on Zoom.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 Regular Meeting.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Barbera, Raccuia, Van Wormer); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

3.0 Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Cousins discussed:

- Vaccinations levels – the state is going to require reporting of vaccination levels within the district. Mr. Cousins has been keeping track while scheduling appointments. They are not requiring vaccinations, they are just requiring each District to report it. At this point, we have 175 employees that are vaccinated or have started getting vaccinated. Mr. Cousins has been reaching out to substitute teachers and coaches as we come down to the end of those regular employees that are requesting an appointment.
- Students returning to school – it is a theme in discussions throughout the county.
- Athletics – Middle school activities starting tomorrow.
- Survey Data – review
- Budget Presentation – part two of presentation. Mr. Cousins is meeting with administrators going over their programs to assemble the complete budget.

4.0 Public Comment

None.

5.0 Reports and Discussion

5.1 Board Committee Report: Performance Monitoring

Steve Jenkins reviewed the minutes from February 18, 2021. They invited Dr. Davenport and Isobel Usawicz to explain a little more about Naviance. They discussed various policies; Graduation Policy, Homebound Instruction Policy and a new facilities policy. The committee also discussed the Capital Project. There are no leftover funds from the project as originally thought.

**5.2 Winter Survey Summary
(Superintendent and Principals)**

Superintendent Cousins shared a presentation that compared the Fall survey results with the recent Winter Survey that students assisted in creating. The Principals from each building reviewed the results sharing the pros/cons, patterns and questions that they received from respondents. The Principals will return at the March 9th board meeting to present on teaching and learning during this school year. The Board asked the Principals to give feedback to parents/students to make sure they know someone is listening to their concerns/comments. Superintendent Cousins discussed returning to school full time. Mark Fleischhauer will bring the concerns of the District to DCSBA and Lower Hudson Coalition Group and ask for their support. Superintendent Cousins stated the district needs to know what the rules are in order to bring all the students back into the schools, especially for next school year. We are planning for next year, but with incomplete guidance from state authorities. The districts are receiving indications that more information will be provided in the springtime.

5.2 Budget Development Presentation #2: Revenues; Facilities, Operations and Maintenance; Technology; Athletics; General Support

Superintendent Cousins began with what will be presented in the second budget presentation. He reminded anyone that missed the first presentation that they are available on the website. Next board meeting they will focus on the instructional programs, curriculum and instructional support. He reviewed the guiding principles of developing the budget again.

Christine Natoli, Treasurer, presented the Revenue section of the budget. She reviewed the Tax Levy, Tax Levy Limit Summary, and all the revenues grouped together.

Tom Burnell, Assistant Superintendent, discussed the New York State Aid and Federal Aid. He then reviewed the Facilities, Operations and Maintenance budget.

Superintendent Cousins explained that the biggest shift they have with Technology is having a plan now for replacement. Having a one-to-one is great, to get it started is one thing, but to maintain it is another. They are working with Steve and are presenting what the replacement plan will look like for those devices, so that we are in a continual rotation of bringing in new devices every year and filling in the gaps. The benefit of doing this is it will allow everyone to know where they are in the replacement schedule. Mr. Cousins then explained the schedule for computer replacement. The span is about five years to get everything replaced. Mr. Burnell then reviewed the budget for Technology.

Superintendent Cousins and Mr. Burnell both indicated the Athletics budget is stable year to year. Superintendent Cousins shared that they discussed with the Athletic Director about having a plan for replacing team uniforms so there isn't a big spike every time they need to be replaced.

Assistant Superintendent, Thomas Burnell, then reviewed General Support which included the budget for the Board of Education, District Clerk, Superintendent, District Meeting, Business Office, Auditing, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Purchasing, Personnel, Legal, Central Printing & Mailing, Central Data Processing, and Special

Items.

6.0 Comments

6.1 Good News

Matt Van Wormer shared that the Book Fair would be continuing through the end of the week. There was one more story time session scheduled for Wednesday.

Albert Cousins shared that it was fun reading a story for the Book Fair.

Jaclyn Savolainen complimented the students' artwork that was featured in the presentations. It is nice to be able to share the artwork virtually.

Diane Lyons shared good news that was collected from around the District. The JV Basketball Coach congratulated the boys' team on their win. It is wonderful watching all the basketball teams getting out to play and thanking everyone for making this happen.

Congratulations to 9th grade student, Laila Alam, for winning the Rhinebeck Responds Art Contest for her high school digital art entry.

A staff member wanted to share how grateful she is to work with such warm and supportive people. When she had surgery recently staff members brought meals, checked in on her, sent flowers, and even took out her garbage.

On a day with snow, a class brought in their snow gear and headed outside to make snow cones and created their own science experiments making snowball volcanoes. Even some remote students were able to join in the fun as well.

Two virtual field trips were set up. One with children's author, Tara Lazar that read a story aloud to the students and talked about her life as an author. Another virtual field trip was with a reptile expert. The presenter showed an iguana, lizards, geckos, tortoises and an eight-foot boa. They turned this into a nonfiction-writing unit. It was an exciting experience for the whole class.

The 8th grade ELA class finished their project working with the ENTA artist while reading Orwell's Animal Farm while discussing the theme of equality. They used the process called visual thinking strategies and video platform flip grid. They presented their interpretation of equality in art to their classmates. This is a project that students engage in critical thinking, thematic study, setting evidence and speaking and listening skills. It was an excellent project for the whole 8th grade.

6.2 Old Business

None.

6.3 Public Comment

None.

6.4 Other

Mark Fleischhauer shared information from the DCSBA meeting on February 4th. They had an excellent presentation by three staff members from Wappingers School District discussing communications strategies with the community and within the District. He will share the slides when he gets them. Dr. Hooley gave a

presentation regarding the capital project delay. The delay is due to one of the contractors, which means the BETA sight might need to be rented longer. Each of the BOCES Board candidates spoke briefly about their candidacy. He said the board should discuss soon in order to nominate a candidate. The next meeting is on March 4th and NYSSBA representative is scheduled to be there to discuss the state budget.

7.0 Action Items

7.1 **Motion** by Lyons, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the following consent items:

7.1.1 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the CSE and CPSE recommendations.

7.1.2 **Motion** upon the recommendation to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2020: General Fund and Extra Classroom Fund.

7.1.3 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to declare the included list of RHS/BMS library and textbooks as excess for disposal and/or recycling in accordance RCSD board policy #6900.

7.1.4 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the following resolution to authorize agreement for Health/Welfare Services 2020-21 School Year

WHEREAS, by Section 912 of the Education Law, a school district which is the district of residence for a particular student may enter into agreement with another school district for the purpose of providing health and welfare services for said student(s) who attend a non-public school, and

WHEREAS, during the 2020-21 school year, Rhinebeck Central School District is eligible to provide said health and welfare services to pupils who attend a non-public school situated within the boundary of Rhinebeck Central School District, namely Primrose Hill School, Rhinebeck, New York, and

WHEREAS, said health and welfare services include those provided under Section 912 of Education law, as appropriate, and

WHEREAS, it has been calculated that the cost of such services would be \$1,246.25 per pupil, based upon the calculations set forth in commissioners decisions and the NYSED guidance document

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of Rhinebeck Central School District does hereby authorize a health and welfare service agreement with each District of Residency

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 23, 2021
Regular Meeting

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board President, Superintendent of Schools, and Clerk of the Board are duly authorized to sign and execute such agreement on behalf of the Rhinebeck Central School District.

7.1.5 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve revised non-unit salaries for substitutes for the 2020-2021 school year.

7.1.6 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to appoint **Carol Dysard** as a short-term substitute in the position of BMS/RHS Spanish teacher, effective February 26, 2021 - April 16, 2021, at the pleasure of the Board, with a salary of \$325 per diem, in accordance with the 2020-2021 RCSD non-unit salary schedule. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by Nicole Sandoval.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Barbera, Raccuia, Van Wormer); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

7.2 ***Tabled*****Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve a request from **Daniel Lavazzo**, RHS Social Studies teacher, for an unpaid leave for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion by Van Wormer, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to table Item # 7.2.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Barbera, Raccuia, Van Wormer); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

8.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by Lyons, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining negotiations at 9:01 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Raccuia, Barbera, Van Wormer); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Lyons, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to designate Albert L. Cousins IV as clerk pro tempore at 9:02 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Raccuia, Barbera, Van Wormer); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Lyons, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to return to Regular session at 9:53 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Raccuia, Barbera, Van Wormer); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

7.2 Motion by Lyons, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve a request from **Daniel Lavazzo**, RHS Social Studies teacher, for an unpaid leave for the 2021-2022 school year.

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 23, 2021
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VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Raccuia, Barbera, Van Wormer); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

9.0 Adjournment

Motion by Lyons, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:54 pm.
VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Van Wormer, Raccuia, Barbera); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Druker
District Clerk

Albert L. Cousins
Clerk Pro Tempore