

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 23, 2021

Regular Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT:

DIANE LYONS
STEVE JENKINS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
JACLYN SAVOLAINEN
JACKIE RACCUIA
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 7:04 pm in the Joseph L. Phelan Auditorium.

2.1 Approval of Minutes

2.2 Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen to approve the minutes of the March 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 introduced Sam Fleming who shared his timpani solo he prepared for the NYSSMA solo festival performance. Due to COVID restrictions, this year each student will record and submit a video of their performance. Sam has been making music for 13 years. His solo is called "Grand Teton", composed by John H. Beck, who was inspired by the magnificent Grand Teton Mountains of Wyoming.

Superintendent Cousins thanked all the music teachers in the district and Sam for his performance.

Superintendent Cousins gave a follow-up on the increases to in-person learning. The livestreaming will be launched for 6 -12 started yesterday. Superintendent Cousins recognized the teachers, administrators, and technology department for their collaboration and success in making this possible. Seniors were welcomed back to four days a week starting Monday. This is being done while maintaining the 6 feet in all directions.

Superintendent Cousins stated that the district will need to adjust social distancing requirements in order to have all students back on April 19th. In rooms where capacity levels are higher, we may need to use some barriers. The larger shifts at the middle school have been the main focus this week. The next area of focus is the CLS schedule and physical education. Surveillance kits have been received at the district. The District is continuing to develop a plan to increase in-person time. Districts are expected to use caution when they are increasing in-student learning especially in areas that transmission rates are at an elevated level. The District is currently in, based on the CDC, a high level of community transmission.

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The Board asked questions about the ventilation report, in-person student numbers and livestreaming, CDC guidance. Superintendent Cousins explained that they will not do an official air audit because they do it with the doors and windows closed. They can only assess the integrity of the system in a closed environment. You can not get an air exchange number with the windows and doors open.

4.0 Public Comment

Christine Kozma spoke to the Board asking for full in-person days.

Lilliana Barillas spoke to the Board about students losing academically and their mental health.

5.0 Reports and Discussion

5.1 Community Partner: Rhinebeck Science Foundation

Andrew Schulkind reviewed the many grants that the RSF has provided to the District. The grant for the laptops was the largest grant RSF ever supported.

Mr. Schulkind shared upcoming events, such as the Discovery Festival on October 23rd. Right now they are planning for it to be in-person, but will have a backup plan if they have to be virtual.

Andrew Schulkind stated they are actively looking for new members. RSF needs the next generation of Rhinebeck families. COVID has impacted their ability to recruit people to join RSF.

Fundraising has been challenging with the RSF Gala, their one big fundraiser, being cancelled twice because of COVID. They have smaller events that they are looking at. If there is anyone with this type of expertise, they would love if they would reach out to the RSF.

The Board and the Superintendent thanked the RSF for their partnership with the District.

5.2 Budget Development Presentation #4

Superintendent Cousins stated the all budget presentations are on the website. The proposal is showing a reduction of a little over \$200,000. The year to year budget is showing at -0.32%.

Assistant Superintendent Thomas Burnell explained the reductions. The four areas where the budget was reduced were:

- DEHIC health insurance came in at 0% with no increase
- Reduction in the CLS guidance position from a 1.0 to a .6 FTE
- The teacher aide retirement accepted at last meeting
- Grade 7/8 error, there was someone listed incorrectly

The proposed budget is coming in at the lowest tax levy in the past four years. Jaclyn Savolainen asked if the budget has gone down a 1/3 of a percent why the take levy is still going up. Mr. Burnell explained it relates to the revenue side. The loss of revenues in many different areas. Mr. Burnell reminded the board members that they will be approving a dollar amount; they are approving the bottom line. The plan can change throughout the year based on the needs of the district. The state aid figures haven't been finalized yet. Diane Lyons wanted to know what would happen if they wanted to reduce the tax levy. Mr. Burnell explained that if you go back too far then the district could have a tough time to move forward. Diane Lyons

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would like to consider lowering the tax levy more. She asked what it would look like for taxpayers for the lower percentage. Steve Jenkins wanted to remind the board to be cautious about spending down our fund balance. In the past, the district did it before the tax cap was initiated and it ended up hurting us.

The board acknowledged that this year has been tough on the community and would like to reduce the tax cap. Diane Lyons asked if Mr. Burnell could give a recommendation if they went below the 2.37%. Mr. Burnell said he would provide some scenarios to show the effect of the budget if they went below 2.37%. Mark Fleischhauer stated he would be a little concerned if they added any more of the fund balance to reduce the fund balance anymore because of past experiences.

Mr. Burnell explained all the factors that caused the district to have problems in the past with the fund balance.

5.3 Federal Aid Planning: American Rescue Plan (ARP)

The ARP is K-12 funds that are being distributed to states based on the share of funding they receive under Title I of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Once the states receive the money, they must distribute at least 90% of the funds to districts based on how much the district receives from Title I of ESSA.

Due to the nature of the ARP, there will be a portion that is reserved for Astor Services. Superintendent Cousins stated we have to provide a plan as to how we will use the funds and shared a list of how funds can be used. At least 20% or more need to address learning recovery through implementation of evidence based interventions. Mr. Burnell explained the difference between supplement vs. supplant (SNS). In the past school districts would use the money to reduce taxes instead of intended population. It is not for the overall running of the school district. It is to assist the sub-groups that need help. This has to be a documented plan that supplements our current offerings. It is not meant to fill in a gap, it is meant to be thoughtful and purposeful.

5.4 Board Committee Report: Governance

Diane Lyons reviewed the March 10, 2021 committee meeting minutes. The committee discussed the Board Retreat, Principal Presentations next year, and celebrating student achievements. The Board didn't have any questions or comments.

5.5 Board Committee Report: Stakeholder Relations

Jackie Raccuia reviewed the March 11, 2021 committee meeting minutes. Ms. Raccuia shared the topics that the committee were asking for input from the board. The board discussed communication with a board communication report, board members attending the April Town Hall meeting (possibly on April 19th) and student representation.

5.6 Board Committee Report: Performance Monitoring

Jackie Raccuia reviewed the March 18, 2021 committee meeting minutes. The board discussed Title IX policy revisions, board trainings, live-streaming, increased in-person learning and new federal stimulus package.

6.1 Comments

6.2 Good News

Megan Barbera was happy live-streaming has started for students. Thanks to the teachers and Albert. This is a huge step in making a difference.

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Tom Burnell stated Liz VanKeuren is retiring at the end of the month from the District Office. Kudos to her!

Diane Lyons said it was great to see athletes are out. It is also great news to see the seniors back in school.

6.3 Old Business

Superintendent Cousins reminded that the DC BOCES budget vote will be coming up. He will be sharing the information that he receives from them. The voting for the DC BOCES discussed and Albert stated he would make sure the board is fully prepared.

6.4 Public Comment

None.

6.5 Other

None.

7.0 Action Items

7.1 **Motion** by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the following consent items, **with the exception of item # 7.1.4** which was removed for discussion:

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 February 2021: General Fund and Extra Classroom Fund.

7.1.3 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to Approve the list of additional substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year:

Instructional

Kaitlyn Coss Wappingers Falls, NY

Non-Instructional

Sheila Lewis Germantown, NY

7.1.4 **Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept a 2021 Exxon Mobil Fuels Educational Alliance grants in the amount of \$500 for Rhinebeck High School for the maintenance and support in the area of Math and/or Science, through the sponsorship of Mr. Richard Matthies and Rhinebeck Mobil.**

7.1.5 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the following permanent Civil Service Appointment of the following employees:

Nicole Harris Food Service Helper

LeAnn Nichols Teacher Aide

Teresa Sikula Teacher Aide

7.1.6 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to adopt the proposed Rhinebeck Central School District 2021-22 school calendar. (attached)

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- 7.1.7 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to amend the leave of absence granted to **Matthew Grande**, to be taken as unpaid child care leave, originally through March 26, 2021, now through Friday, June 25, 2021.
- 7.1.8 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to extend the appointment of **David Uridia** as a leave replacement in the position of BMS Social Studies teacher, originally through March 26, 2021, now through Friday, June 25, 2021 at a salary of Step 1 MA+3 (\$62,880, prorated), in accordance with the RTA salary schedule for 2020-2021. This appointment fills the temporary vacancy of Matthew Grande.
- 7.1.9 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to amend the appointment of **Kristen Koegel** as a New Teacher Mentor, prorated, for David Uridia, now through June 25, 2021.
- 7.1.10 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the appointment of **Kathleen Peterson** to serve as a New Teacher Mentor, prorated, for Carol Dysard, Spanish Teacher short-term substitute effective February 25, 2021 through *April 16, 2021*.
- 7.1.11 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the following change orders for the \$12,089,160 project:

Change Order: AB-02;

Company: Aktor Corp.

Reason: Reduction of remaining allowance access

Amount:-\$8,545.33

- 7.1.12 **Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to declare the following items as excess for disposal and/or auction:

Computers

Dell Optiplex 9010	Qty.: 27
Dell Optiplex 980	Qty.: 26

Interactive Projectors

Mitsubishi XL5U	Qty.: 2
NEC VT580	Qty.: 1
NEC NP510	Qty.: 12
NEC VT470	Qty.: 1
NEC VT580	Qty.: 3
NEC VT595	Qty.: 3
NEC VT670	Qty.: 3
NEC VT695	Qty.: 3
Smart 2000i	Qty.: 6
SMART SB580	Qty.: 8
SMART SB650	Qty.: 33
SMART UF55	Qty.: 7

VOTE: 7 AYE (Lyons, Jenkins, Fleischhauer, Savolainen, Barbera, Raccuia,

Van Wormer); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

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- 7.2 Motion** by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve as a final reading and adoption of Board Policy # 5633- Gender Neutral Single-Occupancy Bathrooms.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 7.3 Motion** by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept the resignation of **Paula DeMarco**, Teacher Aide at Rhinebeck High School, for the purposes of retirement, effective at the close of business on June 28, 2021.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 7.4 Motion** by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the appointment of **Margaret DeVivo** as full-time (1.0 FTE) Senior Account Clerk (7.0 hours per diem), with a 26 week probationary period, effective April 5, 2021, at an annual salary at the rate of \$48,600, prorated.

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 7.1.4 Motion** by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to accept a 2021 Exxon Mobil Fuels Educational Alliance grants in the amount of \$500 for Rhinebeck High School for the maintenance and support in the area of Math and/or Science, through the sponsorship of Mr. Richard Mathies and Rhinebeck Mobil.

The Board thanked Rhinebeck Mobil for this grant and doing this every year, even this year when it has been more difficult. We really appreciate that they are supporting Rhinebeck School District.

8.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the contract negotiations at 8:42 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to designate Albert L. Cousins IV as clerk pro tempore at 8:43 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to return to Regular session at 10:49 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

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9.0 Adjournment

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Savolainen, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:49 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 IV
Clerk Pro Tempore