

**PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Plattsburgh, New York**

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 23, 2020 – 6:00 p.m. – Virtual
to participate go to: <https://bit.ly/34nYpL9> or
phone 1-408-418-9388 (note: this is a toll call)

ROLL

Board of Education

Leisa Boise (President) – present
Amelia Goerlitz – present
Robert Hall, Jr. – present
Steve Krieg – present
Ronald Marino – present
Clayton Morris – present
Tracy Rotz – (Vice-president) – present
Roderick Sherman – present
Fred Wachtmeister – present

Others

Jay C. Lebrun (Superintendent of Schools) – present
Carrie Harvey-Zales – (Ass't. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction) – present
David Baroody (Ass't. Supt. for Business) – present
Fortune Ellison – (Director of Special Education) - excused
Dawn Stetz (District Clerk - Host) – present
Lucas Wisniewski (Alt. Host) - present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Leisa Boise led the pledge of allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER/EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 5:57 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Rotz to call the meeting to order. **Motion Carried: 9-0**

Consent Agenda Items

It was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mrs. Goerlitz to recommend the Board approve the following consent agenda items.

Minutes

Recommend the Board of Education approve the minutes for the meeting held on April 9, 2020.

Adoption of the Agenda

Recommend the Board of Education adopt the agenda for the meeting being held today.

CSE, CPSE and 504 Plan Recommendations

Recommend the Board of Education approve the Committee on Preschool Special Education, Committee on Special Education and Committee on 504 Plan recommendations as presented in *Appendix I*.

Business

Reports for Board of Education Information

The following are presented for Board of Education information:

- 1) Middle School Extraclassroom Activity Reports (March 2020)
- 2) High School Extraclassroom Activity Fund Reports (March 2020)
- 3) Summary of Budget Transfers for the month ending March, 2020 under \$25,000
- 4) Summary of Monthly Wire Transfers (March 31, 2020)
- 5) Budget Status Reports (March 31, 2020)
- 6) Revenue Status Report (March 31, 2020)

Treasurer's Report

Recommend the Board of Education accept the March 31, 2020 Treasurer's Reports as presented in *Appendix II*.

Motion Carried: 9-0

New Business

Business

CVES Board of Cooperative Educational Services Board Election

The following four candidates are running for the five vacant seats: Thomas McCabe (Keene), Ed Marin (Beekmantown), Leisa Boise (Plattsburgh City), and Bruce Murdock (Schroon Lake).

It was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Hall to recommend the Board of Education of the Plattsburgh City School District cast one vote for Thomas McCabe for one of the five seats vacant on the Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Champlain Valley Educational Services) Board. **Motion Carried: 9-0**

It was moved by Mrs. Goerlitz, seconded by Mr. Morris to recommend the Board of Education of the Plattsburgh City School District cast one vote for Ed Marin for one of the five seats vacant on the Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Champlain Valley Educational Services) Board.

Motion Carried: 9-0

It was moved by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Mrs. Goerlitz to recommend the Board of Education of the Plattsburgh City School District cast one vote for Leisa Boise for one of the five seats vacant on the Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Champlain Valley Educational Services) Board.

Motion Carried: 9-0

It was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Hall to recommend the Board of Education of the Plattsburgh City School District cast one vote for Bruce Murdock for one of the five seats vacant on the Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington Board of Cooperative Educational Services (Champlain Valley Educational Services) Board.

Motion Carried: 9-0

CVES Board of Cooperative Educational Services Administrative Budget Vote

It was moved by Mr. Rotz, seconded by Mr. Hall to recommend that the Board of Education of the Plattsburgh City School District vote to approve the tentative Administrative Budget of the Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the 2020-2021 school year.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mrs. Goerlitz.....no
Mr. Hall.....yes
Mr. Krieg.....no
Mr. Marino.....no
Mr. Morris.....no
Mr. Rotz.....yes
Mr. Sherman.....yes
Mr. Wathmeister...yes
Mrs. Boise.....yes

Motion Carried: 5-4

Resolution - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (IDA) – PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT)

It was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Hall to recommend the Board of Education adopt the following Resolution regarding Industrial Development Agency (IDA) – Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT):

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association seek legislative and/or policy changes that would mandate local Industrial Development Agencies to include affected school districts in the development of any Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement(s). This inclusion must be initiated at the earliest stages of any PILOT consideration.

Motion Carried: 9-0

Concluding Reports and Remarks
Superintendent's Reports/Remarks

- Footbridge – Mr. Baroody stated there is no change since the last meeting. The footbridge is essentially complete and we are waiting until after the unfortunate pandemic to put on the finishing touches. That involves the 6 foot fencing on either side of the bridge and the handrails. Funding for the bridge is flowing from Assemblyman Jones and Senator Littles' offices and everything has gone very well – no issues.
- Reopening Planning – Superintendent stated that we do not know whether our students will be returning to regular school session this school year. In the absence of that knowledge, we are working on a continuation of remote instruction and on a return to school in person instruction. On the latter topic, he shared with the Board his grave concern about how education in person and in the school setting might look under the constraints on assembly and social distancing, which would be a very different look in our buildings for education. Mrs. Zales referenced the remote instruction plan stating it has been in play since March 30th and discussed the details of implementation of Phase I and II. She also discussed that socially/emotionally was provided to students over break. She also discussed the technology training that was provided to faculty and parents. Mrs. Zales said based on the feedback they have received from teachers, parents and administrators, updates to the remote instruction (Phase II) have been put into place, which focused on a pass/fail system, credit recovery program and expanding job assignments of our teaching assistants. She is said they will continue to offer weekly trainings. Mrs. Zales spoke to returning to school stating the focus needs to be on the social/emotional need and need to know where each student is at instructionally. Superintendent Lebrun also added we need to also consider the operational and logistical considerations which pose the greatest challenges. Mr. Krieg and Mr. Hall had questions and were very complimentary of the administrators and teachers for their hard work.
- 2020-2021 School Budget - Budget Update – Superintendent Lebrun stated given the fiscal stress on the State, this will have a terrible effect on the school budget. As of this moment, we do not know when and how budget voting nor budget election will take place. We do know it will take place after June 1st. We don't know if it will be by absentee ballot or some other format nor do we know the date. He stated that the list of what we do not know is long which makes it frustrating and very challenging. He shared a document of the current year and next year's revenue fund balance and budget projection. Next year's state aid projection is very bad and I fear that the unknown could be even worse. More specifically, on its face, the approved state budget had a decrease in state aid of 1.8 % for our district. Deficit of \$361,000, which isn't unusual, but in context of significant state aid reduction, makes for a very big gap and challenge. If we were to continue with the same programming and staffing, it would yield a 46.2 million dollar spending plan which would normally would be typical and reasonably in line with inflation. He also stated if we were to remain within the tax cap, which is the District's objective, the 2.14% increase in the tax levy would be routine. The difference between revenues and expenditures, otherwise stated as the budget gap. The gap for next year is almost 2.1 million dollars - there is always a budget gap each year. The district tries to supplement the gap with appropriated funds. Superintendent Lebrun pointed out that the district builds the budget to allow for the unforeseen, but tries not to spend all of the approved spending plan and at the end of year will not consume much if any of the appropriated fund balance. Using the appropriated fund balance (1.29 million) as a way to balance the budget and trying hard not to use it has been the norm. So, based upon the "current" state budget we are dealing with approximately an \$800,000 budget gap. There may be additional state aid reductions and we will not know until the lookbacks occur and they are set to occur all throughout the State's current fiscal year, which would take us well into our operating year. What we are dealing with is the potential for mid-year decreases in state aid to a degree we can't nearly predict on the already decreases aid that we know about. Those potential mid-year reductions could be offset by future Federal stimulus directed to states and local governments. The potential reductions would mean that staffing and programming cuts would be necessary. The Board's sub committee has been discussing reductions in the following categories: supplies and equipment expenditures, nursing staff, general ed teaching positions, special ed teaching positions, paraprofessional positions, exempt staff, library support staff, custodial staff, administration, summer work and professional development for curriculum & instruction, stipend work, the number of foreign languages that are taught, school resource officers, clubs and extracurricular activities, and athletics whether entire

teams, discretionary spending, transportation, coaching or some mix of all. Unfortunately, Superintendent expects that the list may need to expand before it contracts. He also expects that some amount of impact and reduction in all of those functional areas will be necessary. The Board and budget committee will need to make decisions on these matters in the next few weeks. That is all I can share at this time. April 30th is the first scheduled “lookback”.

Mr. Hall asked if we knew what date the Board needs to make final decisions. Superintendent Lebrun responded mid May, most likely, which would allow printing and mailings to meet deadlines.

Mr. Sherman spoke to the federal aid and stated the District needs to look at the long-term implications.

Mr. Wachtmeister referenced between 2011-2015 budget woes, the amount of appropriated fund balance significantly went up. He also reiterated that the District needs to concentrate on that long term. He feels there will not be a significant increase in aid for the next few years. He asked if, in the next couple of weeks, we would have some sense, when we close the books on June 30th, what dollars would be left and we would not anticipate spending. What flexibility do we have in terms of being able to see it as a long-term reserve, if we use up all of the fund balance. That would help us to understand the degree of reductions that we maybe facing.

Superintendent Lebrun projects that we will end up with more unspent money, due to the closure, which would put us in a slightly better fund balance status.

Board Member Reports/Remarks

Mr. Hall thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mr. Sherman thanked Mrs. Zales and everyone for their hard work. It is impressive and greatly appreciated.

Mr. Morris thanked Mrs. Zales for the information and her work. And he knows that parents and students are also working hard. He applauded the staff and administration on the great job. He commented that the budget season is going to be awful but we have to be careful not to short ourselves too much. We have to meet the emotional, social and educational needs of the students. We have to be careful where we make the cuts.

Mr. Marino echoed what has been said. These last two months, no one has seen anything like it. When we do reopen, the kids are going to have a lot of confusion and concerns. Everyone is doing a great job for this school district.

Mr. Wachtmeister agrees with the difficulties we will have to face. He commented on the great technology we have to provide to our students. He would like to see a full and complete discussion on the budget at our next meeting, in public, in terms of reductions. He commented on the importance of the CENSUS forms being completed and maybe we could encourage parents to complete the form. He shared that the Plattsburgh Zoning Board of Appeals asked for comments relative to the changes regarding the PRIME and suggested we express our opposition to the subject.

Mrs. Goerlitz reiterated that the teachers and students are doing a great job. She thanked Mrs. Zales for a great job keeping everyone up to speed. She stated she is thankful to have Superintendent Lebrun and Mr. Baroody and thanked them for their work. She acknowledged the work the budget committee has before them. She wished everyone to stay safe.

Mr. Krieg thinks the District is doing a fantastic job! He feels one thing to help up us solve our problem is to get people to take a pay freeze. There are many people out of work and one thing we can do is come together during a time like this. He thinks we should ask all District employees to take a salary freeze – it is not too much to ask.

Mrs. Boise stated we have an exceptional staff and many thanks. She mentioned a PHS video put out by the staff. Great message! Kuddos. She agreed we have a challenge before us moving forward and we need to make sure the focus continues to take care of the students and staff for the end of the school year and the beginning. She acknowledged Superintendent Lebrun, Mr. Baroody and Mrs. Zales hard work.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:30 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Mrs. Goerlitz to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters as provided for in Board 2330; the employment history of particular personnel and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law, specifically the Plattsburgh Teachers' Association.

Motion Carried: 9-0

RECONVENE: At 8:47 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Goerlitz, seconded by Mr. Marino to convene to Regular Session.

Motion Carried: 9-0

ADJOURNMENT: At 8:47 p.m., it was moved by Mrs. Goerlitz, seconded by Mr. Marino to adjourn.

Motion Carried: 9-0

A full recording of this meeting is available at www.plattscsd.org

Respectfully,

Dawn Stetz
District Clerk