

**Board of Education  
Regular Meeting**

**Minutes November 18, 2020**

**ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELMIRA HEIGHTS, NEW YORK  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and State executive order  
This meeting was held via Zoom**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Harry Blish called the Board of Education Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Lisa Benedict, Harry Blish, Christopher Callas (7:02), John Cole, Michael Lepak, Joseph Sullivan, Andrew Willard

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT** Michael Gill, Martha Clark, Tom Boyanowski, Julie Lederman, Erin Furstoss

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

**Agenda:**

A motion was made by Michael Lepak, seconded by Joseph Sullivan and carried 6-0 to approve the agenda of the November 18, 2020 Board of Education Regular Meeting.

**Order of Business:**

A motion was made by Andrew Willard, seconded by Lisa Benedict and carried 6-0 to suspend the regular order of business to accommodate guests, special discussion topics and presentations in an order of business as deemed appropriate.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:01pm a motion was made by John Cole, seconded by Andrew Willard and carried 6-0 to enter executive session to discuss personnel.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

At 7:23pm a motion was made by Joseph Sullivan, seconded by Michael Lepak and carried 7-0 to adjourn executive session.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND STAFF**

Michael Gill - Superintendent ♦ Superintendent Council met with Corning Inc.'s racial equality group to discuss possible outreach program to recruit teachers of color to our area through grant/scholarship or student loan payoff opportunities ♦ NYSSBA legislation session preview in December

Principal Report – Tom Boyanowski, High School ♦ from Mr. Foley, Middle School – Early Release days will run a rotating schedule – combination of virtual office hours and webinar/presentations. Monday and Tuesday they will present from Elmira Heights Police and Fire departments, First Heritage Bank, BOCES CTE, Tanglewood, and Cornell Space program -- Update regarding MS TSI school improvement plan: wrapped up 2 full days of work of needs assessment, including classroom visits, parent/student interviews. Overall a very positive experience, hoping to have plan to present to the Board before 2021

♦ Tomorrow we start in-house Covid testing for staff, RNs are phenomenal ♦ Completing BEDS on Friday ♦ Half credit courses are wrapped up, block schedule at high school is working out very well ♦ Overwhelmingly positive response regarding the decision to be remote through winter break provides continuity with structure and instructional planning for students and teachers. ♦ January Regents cancelled ♦ Ramping up on after school tutoring, offering clubs, Secret Santa for seniors to help engage and look at social emotional health.

**PERSONNEL**

A motion was made by John Cole, seconded by Andrew Willard and carried 7-0 to approve the following consent personnel item(s) F-1a through F-2b. Be it further resolved that upon receipt of final clearance from the State Education Department, any conditional appointments shall be changed to regular appointments, reflecting the effective date of said Board meeting.

**F-1 Parental Leave Extension**

**a. Meghan Devlin – approved**

The Board approved the recommendation to extend the unpaid parental leave for Meghan Devlin with an anticipated return date of April 12, 2021, instead of January 19, 2021.

**F-2 Resignations / Terminations / Retirements**

**a. Cleaner – retirement – accepted**

George Riker

The Board accepted with thanks and appreciation for 16 years of service, the resignation for purposes of retirement of George Riker as Cleaner, effective November 20, 2020. His last day with the district will be November 19, 2020.

#### **FINANCIAL**

##### **G-1 Affidavit of Unpaid School Taxes - acknowledged**

A motion was made by Lisa Benedict, seconded by Michael Lepak and carried 7-0 to acknowledge the Affidavit of Unpaid 2020 School Taxes in the amount of \$534,148.87 to be re-levied by the Chemung County Treasurer.

#### **FACILITIES**

No items

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

No items

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **J-1 EHESSA – Memorandum of Agreement – approved**

A motion was made by Joseph Sullivan, seconded by Andrew Willard and carried 7-0 to approve the following resolution

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Elmira Heights Central School District hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement executed by and between Michael Gill, Superintendent of Schools, and the Elmira Heights Educational Support Staff Association dated November 12, 2020 regarding terms and conditions of employment that are to be provided in the event that a Shared Work Program is approved by the NYS Department of Labor and implemented by the District.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that due to the ongoing economic concerns and lack of work due to transitions to remote learning for students, the Board of Education hereby empowers Superintendent Michael Gill to file for the Shared Work Program with the NYS Department of Labor and to implement the same by certifying benefits on a weekly basis; the same to impact some or all non-instructional staff with a start date and end date he deems appropriate. Benefits specified in the Memorandum of Agreement that was previously adopted shall be provided to staff who are in the Shared Work Program. The following positions/units/groups of employees may be added to the Shared Work Program by Superintendent Gill:

- |                          |                                    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) Bus Drivers          | (7) Cleaners                       |
| (2) Food Service Helpers | (8) Custodians                     |
| (3) Cooks                | (9) Building Maintenance Mechanics |
| (4) Teacher Aides        | (10) LPNs                          |
| (5) Clerk Typist         | (11) RNs                           |
| (6) Secretary            | (12) Teaching Assistants           |

#### **CONSENT**

A motion was made by Christopher Callas, seconded by Michael Lepak and carried 7-0 to approve the following consent agenda item K-1 – K-3

##### **K-1 Health & Welfare Services – Corning Painted Post School District - approved**

The Board approved the Health and Welfare Services contract with the Corning Painted Post District, to provide services to two (2) Elmira Heights students attending non-public schools located in the Corning Painted Post School District, at a rate of \$541.43 per student for the 2020-21 school year, at a cost of \$1,082.86.

##### **K-2 Donation – Chris Klee - Partial Stipend- accepted**

The Board accepted the donation of the fall 2020 stipend payment (\$926.57) of Mrs. Christine Klee, back to the District, with thanks and appreciation. Funds shall be used for the Extracurricular Builder's Club program.

##### **K-3 Donation - \$750 Community Foundation COVID-19 Unity Response Fund**

The Board accepted the donation of \$750 in grant funding from the Community Foundation COVID-19 Unity Response Fund with thanks and appreciation. Funds shall be used to supply homeless students with tools to meet their specific needs.

#### **AWARDS/HONORS/ACHIEVEMENT**

No items

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

No items

#### **DISCUSSION**

**N-1 Athletics Update: Review of current circumstances of athletics – Winter Sports** - Tentative start date is January 4, 2020 for moderate risk sports – Bowling. High risk sports Basketball, Cheerleading. There are financial concerns with Modified sports and

questions regarding sports physicals when students can not be on site. The Board will review the conditions set by NYSPHSAA to make a determination if the District will proceed with modified sports at a future meeting.

**N-2 Community Communications: review of status and review of proposal** – Local schools are using more online resources to push communications out to community and parents. Superintendent Gill will present financials regarding possibly appointing a Public Information Officer to update website, create and handle DID and calendar publication, and social media for the Board to review at a future meeting.

**N-3 Closure Updates: Orange Zone Etc** – Covid testing now handled in-house by LPNs and supervised by RN with lower nasal swab. Instruction is still remote through orange zone designation.

**N-4 Board Retreat: Information on NYSSBA options** – Superintendent Gill presented the costs of organizing an in-person Custom Board Retreat from the NYSSBA website. The Board is not interested in pursuing this at this time.

**N-5 Snow Days** – Superintendent Gill discussed the specifics regarding a pilot program available for students to stay remote learning when weather may determine “snow day”. Immediate region is likely to stay with traditional Snow Day Approach. The Board decided to not engage the pilot program at this time, the District will keep the traditional Snow Day.

**NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday December 2, 2020	Regular Board Meeting	7:00pm Community Rm
Wednesday December 16, 2020	Regular Board Meeting (if needed)	7:00pm Community Rm

**ADJOURNMENT** – At 8:13pm a motion was made by Christopher Callas, seconded by John Cole and carried 7-0 to adjourn the meeting.

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Clerk