

**Board of Education  
Regular Meeting**

**Minutes April 14, 2021**

**ELMIRA HEIGHTS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ELMIRA HEIGHTS, NEW YORK  
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and State executive order  
this meeting was held in person and livestreamed for public view**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Lisa Benedict, Harry Blish, Christopher Callas, John Cole, Michael Lepak, Joseph Sullivan, Andrew Willard

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT** Michael Gill, Martha Clark, Andy Lutz, Megan Zoerb, Julie Lederman, Erin Furstoss

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

**Agenda:**

A motion was made by Andrew Willard, seconded by John Cole, and carried 7-0 to approve the agenda **with addition K-2 and adding discussion item N-2 "Reopening guidance from NYS"** of the April 14, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Christopher Callas, seconded by Michael Lepak and carried 7-0 to approve the minutes of the following meetings: March 31, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting

**Order of Business:**

A motion was made by Lisa Benedict, seconded by John Cole and carried 7-0 to suspend the regular order of business to accommodate guests, special discussion topics and presentations in an order of business as deemed appropriate.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AND STAFF**

Michael Gill - Superintendent ♦ NYS issued guidance on reopening, speak to that in discussion ♦ Planning for reopening is taking up a lot of time ♦ Still hoping to have graduation and prom this year

Principal Report – Megan Zoerb, Director of Student Services ♦ Haven't been here long, but jumping right in

Martha Clark – Business Manager ♦ Excited to get budget numbers nailed down.

**PERSONNEL**

A motion was made by Andrew Willard, seconded by Joseph Sullivan, and carried 7-0 to approve the consent personnel item(s) F-1a through F-2f. 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 Update to Prior Appointment**

a. Tina Todzia – Licensed Practical Nurse

Effective: April 26, 2021

Probationary Period: April 26, 2021 through April 25, 2022/Civil Service Regulations

The Board approved the above corrective action from the March 24, 2021 meeting to update the effective date and probationary periods for the appointment due to unforeseen delay in release from current employer:

**F-2 Appointments**

The Board approved the following personnel appointments for the 2020-21 school year:

- |    |                                     |             |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| a. | Sexual Harassment Complaint Officer | Megan Zoerb |
| b. | 504 Teams                           | Megan Zoerb |
| c. | Committee on Special Education      | Megan Zoerb |
| d. | Committee on Pre-School Education   | Megan Zoerb |
| e. | Section 504/ADA Compliance Officer  | Megan Zoerb |
| f. | Data Protection Officer             | Megan Zoerb |

## **FINANCIAL**

### **G-1 Reports – acknowledged**

A motion was made by John Cole, seconded by Joseph Sullivan, and carried 7-0 to acknowledge the following consent financial reports:

- a. Budget Status Report as of April 7, 2021
- b. Revenue Status Report as of April 7, 2021
- c. Budget Transfer Report as of April 7, 2021
- d. Treasurer's Report for February 2021
- e. Claims Auditor Report for February 2021
- f. Extra Classroom Report for February 2021

## **FACILITIES**

### **H-1 2021 Capital Outlay/Annual Project Update**

Abatement started over spring break at TAE main doors. Major renovation will begin in May.

### **H-2 Capital Project 2021**

Meetings held over spring break to establish a more complete scope, seem to be ahead of schedule. More detailed scope to be presented soon.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **I-1 Litigation against NY44 Health Benefits Plan Trust update**

The Superintendent informed the Board that three other districts are wavering their decision to stay and pursue further appeals. The Districts have not won any decisions the Court has made to date and to continue on would cost more money. After much discussion, the Board decided to withdraw from the litigation against NY44.

## **CONSENT**

A motion was made by Michael Lepak, seconded by Andrew Willard, and carried 7-0 to approve the following consent agenda item K-1 through K-2

### **K-1 2021-22 School Calendar - approved**

The Board approved the 2021-2022 School Calendar.

### **K-2 CPSE Recommendations and Funding - approved**

The Board approved the student placement determinations from the March 31, 2021 CPSE meeting(s) and the funds to support such recommendations.

## **AWARDS/HONORS/ACHIEVEMENT**

No items

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

No items

## **DISCUSSION (out of order)**

### **N-2 Reopening guidance from NYS**

The Superintendent discussed reopening guidelines from NYS and the change from 6ft to 3ft for social distancing, all other Covid protocols will stay in place. Cohen Elementary school is anticipating to reopen on Wednesday, April 21. The Elementary Principal, Andy Lutz, discussed the many areas of that task that were addressed: "Tweaking" the Master Schedule to provide a better way for more support—teachers prep time will be at the end of the day with student dismissal at 2:15pm; Spending more money on desks (a lot of tables in younger grades)—still need 6ft when eating, some classrooms will have students in the hallway (supervised) during lunches; Transportation routes should be finalized tomorrow, and communication has gone out to parents/guardians and crossing guards (village). However, secondary levels at Cohen Middle School and Edison High School are labeled High Risk by CDC county maps and may not be able to open due to specific data interpretation and lack of cohorting. If the district could use local DOH data instead, the secondary levels could possibly reopen safely. There was a brief discussion and the Board would like more information and clarity on the local data and approval from the local DOH and school attorneys, before making a determination.

**N-1 Budget 2021-2022 Update**

Business Manager presented three possible budget scenarios to the Board for consideration - tax cap at 1.75%, 1.0% and 0%. Discussion ensued when learning the neighboring districts are proposing 0%. The Board would like to see two of options presented at the next meeting in more detail and will move to make a final budget determination at the 4/21 meeting. The District clerk should prepare either budget proposal resolution for the Board to add next week.

**NEXT MEETING**

|           |                |  |        |              |
|-----------|----------------|--|--------|--------------|
| Wednesday | April 21, 2021 | Regular Board Meeting & BOCES Administrative Budget Vote | 7:00pm | Community Rm |
| Wednesday | May 5, 2021    | Regular Board Meeting & Public Budget Hearing            | 7:00pm | Community Rm |
| Tuesday   | May 18, 2021   | Budget VOTE & BOE Elections                              | 7:00am | TAE Gym      |

**ADJOURNMENT** – At 8:38pm a motion was made by Michael Lepak, seconded by John Cole and carried 7-0 to adjourn the meeting.

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Clerk