

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Wallkill Senior High School Library/Media Center (via Live Stream)

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

7:00 p.m.

1. Commendations

The Board and Superintendent Castle recognized the Wallkill Senior High School Class of 2020 Top Ten Students, including Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The Board also recognized the achievements of the following student-athletes: the Varsity Gymnastics team for winning the Section 9 Championship, various Indoor Track student-athletes who won the Section 9 Championship in their specific events, as well as those student-athletes who also qualified to compete at the State Competition, Nordic Ski student-athletes who qualified to compete at the State Competition and two (2) student-athletes for receiving the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Class A Sportsmanship Award. Since the students could not be present, their pictures and names were shown on the Live Stream.

2. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance – Agenda #1

At 7:05 p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Joseph LoCicero.

Member Present

Mr. LoCicero

Members Present (Via zoom)

Mrs. Anderson

Mrs. Crowley

Mr. Frisbie

Mr. McCullough

Mr. Palen

Mr. Petrocelli

Mr. Spencer

Mr. Jerome Futia [Student Board Member]

Members Absent

Mr. Missale

Also present were Superintendent Castle, Assistant Superintendents Devincenzi and Herrington (via Zoom).

3. Approve Minutes – [4/22/20 Regular Board Meeting] – Agenda #3

Mr. Petrocelli moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the minutes of the April 22, 2020, Regular Board of Education Meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Spencer and carried 8 – 0.

4. Board Committee Reports – Agenda #5

Audit:

Mrs. Crowley reported that the Audit committee met via Zoom meeting on May 19, 2020, to review the draft risk assessment report performed by the internal auditors. There were no findings and the Board will be sent the final copy of the report. Additionally, the committee met with the with external auditors, Nugent and Haeussler to review the required yearly external audit scheduled for July. The committee also reviewed the results of the RFP for the Internal Auditor and External Auditor. A recommendation to approve the appointment of the Internal and External auditors will be on the June 11, 2020 Board of Education agenda.

Budget:

Mr. Devincenzi reported that the recommendation to approve the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget, District Budget Notice, and the Property Tax Report Card will be added to the May 20, 2020 Board agenda. Additionally, the updated budget calendar was sent to all Board members. The total proposed budget is \$77,697,248 with a budget increase of 1.53% resulting in a five-year average budget increase of 1.86%. The proposed tax levy increase is 2.49% which is at the tax levy limit with permissible exemptions resulting in a five-year average tax levy increase of 1.98%. This is the 9th year that the District has been at or below the tax cap with permissible exemptions. While the Governor has not released any updated State Aid figures, the District has lowered its projected State Aid to \$29,100,00 in anticipation of a potential reduction. The District will continue to use fund balance and reserves to balance our budget. The budget vote is June 9, 2020, via absentee ballot only. Absentee Ballots will be mailed out on

May 21, 2020 and must be returned to District Office by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020. The Public Budget Hearing will be held on May 28, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m. via Live Stream.

Mr. Castle reported that the budget cycle has been challenging since the State aid number that was received back in March will most likely change. Therefore, the District had to estimate a new number by reducing what the governor originally projected (\$30,000,000) by \$900,000. Mr. Castle stated that because of the potential reduction the District will not be able to add any new programs; in addition, the K-8 Summer Learning Academy and the night school program will not be offered. However, on the positive side there will be a high school summer learning program (even if it goes virtual), elementary level class sizes will remain the same and there will not be any loss of jobs. There is one position being reduced through attrition. Mr. Castle thanked the Board for having the foresight to plan accordingly and as a result the District is in a good position for the 2020-2021 school year. However, if more State aid is taken away then the District would have to look at possibly increasing the appropriated fund balance. Mr. McCullough asked what would happen if an additional 3% reduction took place. Mr. Castle indicated it could potentially affect the District's cash flow resulting in mid-year cuts. The 2020-2021 budget will be discussed further at the May 28, 2020 Budget Hearing. In addition, the Budget Edition of Learning at Wallkill be sent home on May 29, 2020, with further information.

Buildings & Grounds:

Mr. Frisbie reported that the Buildings and Grounds committee has not met since the last meeting. A committee meeting will be scheduled in June. He also mentioned a potential Capital Project Vote in December and a Building Condition Survey is being completed.

CDEP:

Mrs. Anderson reported that CDEP has not met since the last Board meeting. The committee will not meet until the Fall of 2020.

Curriculum/TAG:

Mrs. Anderson reported that the District will be working with a team of teachers over the next several months to create a Guide to Distance Learning that will be implemented in the Fall if we receive an Executive Order to continue with online learning. The Office of Educational Services is constructing surveys for grades 5-12 students, parents, and teachers to gather feedback on their experience with distance learning. The data will be shared with the committee so that they can take the feedback into consideration when creating our Distance Learning Guide. Reading teachers and special education teachers that have been doing Orton Gillingham Multi-Sensory reading training will complete the training in the last week of June. Part two of the Educator Certification training will commence in the Fall of 2020. We are working on a plan to offer grades 9-12 summer school virtually if we receive an executive order indicating that we cannot have in person summer school.

Mr. Castle provided an update on the Special Education Committee which has been reviewing all of our special education programs in order to present a report for the 2021-2022 school year. They will be doing some surveys and are busy reviewing District data. He gave appreciation for Anthony White and Nicole Parete for leading the work.

Health & Safety:

Mr. Palen reported that the Health and Safety committee has not met since the last Board meeting; a Zoom meeting has been scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on May 26, 2020.

Mr. Castle reported that Mr. Devincenzi is working with the committee on a health and safety re-entry plan for the return to school in September. We still need to get guidelines from the State to give us more direction and the parameters we would have to follow.

Legislative:

Mr. Castle indicated that he has had the opportunity to speak with a very responsive Senator Skoufis to get more information about our State aid. Senator Skoufis indicated that the State is waiting on the Federal government to determine how much aid the State will receive but does not anticipate hearing anything until the end of May/beginning of June. Mr. McCullough asked if any feedback was provided on the return to school. Mr. Castle stated we are waiting on a guidance document from the State.

Mr. Castle indicated that a committee is being formed to work on an online instructional plan should the District be required to continue with online learning in the Fall based on state/local guidance.

Policy:

Mr. Palen reported that the Policy committee met via a Zoom meeting on May 7, 2020. He also indicated that there is a recommendation on the May 20, 2020 Board Agenda to approve the first reading of two policies.

Technology:

Mr. Spencer reported that technology department continues to provide support to students and staff as we continue with distance learning. The communication flow chart is working well. Parents, staff, and students contact IT support staff via email and phone. He commented on how technology the District put into place several years ago and how it is proving its worth since COVID- 19 forced us to go to a complete online educational system. The District was out in front of the curve and built a reliable stable platform. Mr. Spencer provided special thanks to Tom Hein and his staff for helping maintain this critical infrastructure and he also thanked the administration for seeing how valuable the infrastructure would become to our teachers who utilize it every day.

Wellness:

Mr. Spencer reported that the Wellness committee has not met since the last meeting. However, the District continues to provide meals to approximately 290 students. Families have the option to pick up meals at the Senior High School or Plattekill Elementary School or delivery by our transportation contractor. Breakfast and lunch are provided on Mondays (for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) and Thursdays (for Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). There is an active link on our website, which is monitored daily, where families can sign up for meals.

Student Rep:

Mr. Jerome Futia reported the following:

- The unity of Wallkill has never been stronger. On behalf of the students, he thanked everyone for their support.
- Various clubs and committees are still doing everything they can to benefit the community. Such clubs include the Leadership Experience Opportunity (LEO) club, the National Honor Society, and the Wallkill School Broadcast Crew. He also mentioned the graduation committee who is working hard to develop a graduation ceremony for our seniors.
- AP tests were administered online to students for college credit in many of their classes. Some seniors will be entering college as sophomores or possibly even juniors depending on how many college level courses they took throughout their high school experience.
- Wallkill students have adapted to distance learning. Teachers are providing a steady stream of work to be completed daily.
- To show their support, the Wallkill Teachers Association provided lawn signs to the seniors of the Class of 2020.

5. Add Item to the Agenda

Mr. Frisbie moved the Board that, Approve 2020-2021 Proposed Budget, District Budget Notice and Property Tax Report Card be added to the Agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 8 – 0.

6. Approve 2020-2021 Proposed Budget, District Budget Notice and Property Tax Report Card

Mr. Spencer moved the Board to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the proposed 2020-2021 budget in the amount of **\$77,697,248** the District Budget Notice as required by law and the Property Tax Report Card for 2020-2021.

Motion seconded by Mr. Petrocelli and carried 8 – 0.

7. Consent Agenda

Mr. Petrocelli moved items 5A through 5D, 5F through 5H and 6A be taken as consent agenda.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 8 - 0.

Accept Retirements – Non-Instructional – Agenda #5.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **Kathleen Bianco** from the position of Part-Time [.50 FTE] Clerk and Part-Time [.50 FTE] Teacher Aide, effective June 26, 2020.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **William Davidson** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Head Custodian, effective June 29, 2020.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the resignation for retirement purposes of **April Zoutis** from the position of Full-Time [1.0 FTE] Teaching Assistant, effective June 30, 2020.

Approve Resolution – Data Protection Officer – Agenda #5.B.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved that in accordance with the requirements of Education Law 2-d and its accompanying regulations, the District appoints Yvonne Herrington to serve as the District's Data Protection Officer.

Approve Resolution – Appointment of Inspectors of Election-2020 Annual Budget Vote and Election – Agenda #5.C.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the following resolution:

Pursuant to Governor's Order 202.26 requiring that the Annual School District Budget Vote and Election be held by absentee ballot only, the Board of Education hereby appoints clerical staff of the Wallkill Central School District as Inspectors of Election for the June 9, 2020 annual school district budget vote and election.

Approve First Readings – Policy – Agenda #5.D.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the first reading of the following policies:

1. Policy #5665 Privacy and Security for Student Data and Teacher and Principal Data
2. Policy #7600 – Immunization of Students

Approve Substitutes Lists – Agenda #5.F.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and approve the lists for individuals for teaching and non-teaching substitute positions.

Approve Pre-School Special Education Placements – Agenda #5.G.

The Board approve the placement of Pre-School Special Education students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education in its April minutes.

Approve Special Education Placements – Agenda #5.H.

The Board approve the placement of Special Education students as recommended by the Committee on Special Education in its April minutes.

Accept Treasurer's Report – Agenda #6.A.

The Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent that the Board of Education has reviewed and accepts the Treasurer's Reports as of April 30, 2020 and Revenues as of April 30, 2020.

8. Set Board of Education Meeting Dates – July, August, September 2020 – Agenda #5.E.

Mr. Petrocelli moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and set the following dates for the Reorganization July, Regular August, and Regular September Board of Education Meetings, to be held at 7:00 p.m., in the Wallkill Senior High School:

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Motion seconded by Mr. Spencer and carried 7 – 0 [Mr. McCullough Abstained].

9. Accept Donations – Agenda #6.B.

Mr. Palen moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the donation of ten (10) Yeti Coolers at a value of \$2,449.90 from Orange County Transit, LLC.

Motion seconded by Mr. Frisbie and carried 8 – 0 [With Thanks].

Mr. Petrocelli moved the Board accept the recommendation of the Superintendent and accept the donation of \$550 from the Wallkill Valley Federal Savings and Loan to purchase “Kinder Boxes” for incoming kindergartners at the Plattekill Elementary School.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 8 – 0 [With Thanks].

10. Close Meeting – Agenda #9

At 7:36 p.m. Mr. Frisbie moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Mr. Palen and carried 8 – 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Corcoran
District Clerk