Watervliet City School District
Watervliet, New York

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

DATE: February 13, 2024

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting

MEETING OPENED: 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President, Sheri Senecal
Vice President, Mary Beth Whited
Heather Soroka
Brian White
Victoria Donnelly

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Donald Stevens Jr.

The meeting opened at 6:00 p.m., with Vice President Whited officiating.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Heather Soroka, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board entered into **Executive Session** at 6:01 p.m. to discuss matters related to the **employment history of a particular person**.

RECONVENE

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Heather Soroka and unanimously accepted, the Board adjourned Executive Session and reconvened the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Angela Wareing, 1247 7th Avenue, Watervliet, NY – started to comment on a particular personnel matter, but was advised that her comments were in violation of policy number 1510, which prohibits public discussion of specific individuals.

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

State Budget Overview	**Assembly Member John McDonald**
Yondr Video	**Communications Team**
Family Opportunity Center Grant Update	**Danielle McKee**
2023 – 2024 ESSA Accountability Status	**Dr. Donald Stevens Jr. and Kelly Webster**

A. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Stevens shared the following:

- Thank you to Assembly Member John McDonald . We are in a good spot with the state budget. We hope it improves for neighboring districts as well.
- Shared a copy of the Comptroller's fiscal and environmental stress report, noting that we have no designation for fiscal stress and a susceptible designation for environmental stress. When it comes to economically disadvantaged and English language learning students, we don't have a lot of control, as they are community factors.
- Shared a Snapshot of Services that we receive through the Capital Region BOCES.
- Congratulated Mrs. Conley on receiving tenure this evening.
- International Night is scheduled for March 7 at 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. in the WJSHS cafeteria.
- March 8, 9 and 10, we will have the production of Mean Girls, Jr. Students are working hard on it.
- Our first Budget Workshop will be March 6 at 6:30 p.m. the PTA Meeting; the second will be March 12 during our Board meeting; and the third will be March 26 at 6:00 p.m. in the WJSHS conference room. Our budget will be presented at the April Board meeting.
- Wished everyone a happy February break next week.

B. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Audit Committee

There was no report.

Policy Committee

Second Reading of **Revised Policy:**

Use of Service Animals

First Reading of **New Policy:**

Workplace Violence Prevention Statement

First Reading of **Revised Policies:**

Entitlement to Attend – Age and Residency
Transition Services
Identification and Register of Children with Disabilities (Child Find)
Children with Disabilities
Timeout and Physical Restraint

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

Mrs. Senecal noted that she heard that the Wellness Fair went well and it was well-attended.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the agreement between the **Watervliet City School District** and the **Watervliet Administrators' Association** and authorize the Superintendent to take all necessary action to carry out the terms of the settlement.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted the **resignation** of **David Wareing** from the position of **Assistant Principal,** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, effective June 30, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted the **resignation** of **Jeremy Boyd** from the position of **Hall Monitor,** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, effective January 22, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted the **resignation** of **Kevin Reiss** from the position of **Building Substitute,** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, effective January 19, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **emergency probationary appointment** of **York Bush** to the position of **Chemistry Teacher,** in the tenure area of **Chemistry**, at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, beginning January 22, 2024, at a **Step 1** salary, plus master's degree and credit hours, as per contract. The probationary period shall expire on January 22, 2028, contingent upon achievement of effective or highly effective APPR ratings necessary to receive tenure throughout his/her probationary period, consistent with the requirements of Education Law Sections 2509, 3012-c, and/or 3012-d.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **emergency probationary appointment** of **Rosemary Rodriguez-Sharpe** to the position of **Home School Coordinator (aka Outreach Coordinator),** for the **Watervliet City School District,** beginning January 29, 2024, at a pro-rated salary of $36,000.00 (ExTRA Grant), as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **emergency probationary appointment** of **Sean McGovern** to the position of **Teaching Assistant,** in the tenure area of Teaching Assistant, at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, beginning January 29, 2024, at a **Step 2** salary, plus Associate or Bachelor degree stipends, as per contract. The probationary period shall expire on January 29, 2028, contingent upon positive evaluations from his/her direct supervisor throughout his/her probationary period, consistent with the requirements of Education Law Sections 2509, 3012-c, and/or 3012-d. Sean McGovern holds a Students with Disabilities certification (certificate #1778114241).

On a motion by Heather Soroka, seconded by Brian White and accepted 4-0 (Mary Beth Whited abstained), the Board approved the **appointment** of **Aaron Treacy** to the position of **Hall Monitor,** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School,** for a one-year probationary period beginning February 26, 2024, at a Step 5 Teacher Aide salary, per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **appointment** of **Ann Hegney** to the position of **Long-Term Substitute School Counselor** at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, effective April 8, 2024, at a Step 1 pro-rated rate per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **appointment** of **Alexa Giardino** to the position of **Homeless Youth Counselor** for the **Watervliet City School District**, effective February 14, 2024, for two hours per week, at a rate of $36.42 per hour, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the appointment of the following staff as **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School Advisors** for the **2023 – 2024** school year, at a rate as per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent:

ExTRA Drama Club Substitute: Allison Fried
Extra Cooking Club: Heather Swinney and Rosie Sharpe *(split stipend at a pro-rated rate of $1080, effective January 31, 2024)*
Afterschool AIS: Lauryn Lloyd and Daniel Ciaramella
Class of 2027 Advisor: Andrea Morris

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **appointment** of the following **Coaches** for the **2023– 2024** school year, pending fingerprint clearance and fulfillment of NYSED coaching requirements, at a rate as per contract, unless outlined below, as recommended by the Superintendent:

WATERVLIET JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Varsity Assistant Wrestling: Dennis Lane

Coaching Spring:

E-Sports: Matthew Kellish

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board awarded the status of **tenure** to **Kristin Conley,** in the area of **English Language Arts,** effective **February 26, 2024**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Substitute Registry** submitted by **BOCES**, as recommended by the Superintendent (packet #9).

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board **accepted** the **Internal Claims Auditor Report** for the month of **January 2024**, submitted by Michaeleen Backus, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the following **Treasurer's Reports** for the month of **December 2023**, submitted by Keith Heid, Business Manager, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Schedule of Warrants & Payrolls
Revenue Status Report
Cash & Investments
Appropriation Status Report

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the following **payment requests**, submitted by Keith Heid, Business Manager, as recommended by the Superintendent:

WATERVLIET 2022 ARPA CAPITAL PROJECT – ADDITIONS & ALTERATIONS

CSArch (A/E)	Invoice #6449	$ 1,411.03
DLC Electric	Payment App. #10	$93,603.50

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the request to **close out** the following **defunct extracurricular accounts** at the Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School and transfer funds, as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Ski Club
- Class of 2023

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Data Privacy Agreement** with **Common Sense, Inc.**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Agreement** with the **Capital Region Planning Commission**, for a three-year school enrollment projection study, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board **waived a second reading** and **adopted** the following **policy**, as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Workplace Violence Prevention Statement

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board **adopted** the following **policy**, as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Service Animals

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Board of Education Minutes** for the meeting held **January 9, 2024**, submitted by Bernadette L. Boardman, Clerk of the Board, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Committee on Special Education's** recommendations for the meetings held **January 4, January 5, January 8, January 10, January 18, January 19, January 25, January 26,** and **January 31, 2024**, submitted by Veronica Wilson and Daniele Tetrault, CSE Chairs, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Committee on Pre-School Special Education's** recommendations for the meetings held **November 15, 2023** and **January 17, 2024** submitted by Molly McGrath, CPSE Chair, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Sheri Senecal and accepted 4-0 (Brian White abstained), the Board approved the following **Student Teacher/Observer/Intern** requests at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, as outlined below, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Name(s)	Role	Cooperating Teacher(s)	Dates
Kevin Walsh	Student Observer	Samantha Walsh	Spring 2024
Hannah Brown	Student Observer	Ena Minnick	Spring 2024
Alexia Cusack	Student Intern	Allison Santiago	Spring 2024
Rianna Ferrara	Student Teacher	Sharon Foglia	Spring 2024
Alyssa Makar	Student Observer	Tina Shufelt	Spring 2024
Joshua White	Student Observer	Courtney Ricci	Spring 2024
Grace Wayland-Smith	Student Teacher	Rachel Manning & Joelle Bird	Spring 2024
Whitney Thomas	Student Teacher	Samantha Walsh	Spring 2024

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **home schooling** request of the parents/guardians of the following students, as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Student ID 900014824 – grade 7
- Student ID 900011882 – grade 7

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **2024 – 2025 School District Calendar**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

Mrs. Senecal shared the following:

- Congratulations to all of our sports teams, coaching staff and athletic coordinator. They had a lot of success and it was great to see so many supporters in the stands.
- Wished all students and staff a wonderful break.
- The PTA and Environmental Club are looking for clear empty gallon milk jugs with lids. If you have any, please bring them in.
- The next Board meeting is on March 12.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Heather Soroka and unanimously accepted, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bernadette L. Boardman
Clerk of the Board

NOTE: All district appointments are subject to fingerprint clearance by the NYS Education Department and verification of Permanent or Pending Certification by NYS.