Watervliet City School District
Watervliet, New York

BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

DATE:	December 10, 2024
TYPE OF MEETING:	Regular Meeting
MEETING OPENED:	6:00 p.m.
WHERE:	Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School
BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	President, Mary Beth Whited Vice President, Brian White Heather Soroka Victoria Donnelly Kyle Daniels
SUPERINTENDENT:	Dr. Donald Stevens Jr.
STUDENT COUNCIL REP:	LaJay York

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

Musical Performance	**Ashley Dorn & Chorus Members**
Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School **Presentation**	**Jessie Williams, Michael Foust & Michael Lopez**
2023-2024 NYS Testing Data **Presentation (Regents Data)**	**Kelly Webster**

A. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Stevens shared the following:

- Thank you to Mrs. Williams, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Foust, and Mrs. Webster for their presentations. We focused on the high school and junior high school efforts this month. Next month, we will focus on efforts at the elementary school.
- Last night, Mrs. Webster and I visited Green Island for a community forum that they held for their residents. The forum focused on the potential for tuitioning their students in grades 9-12 into WCSD next year, if their board adopts it and the residents approve the vote. We answered lots of questions on what that would look like and what supports we have in place. Information has been posted on the web site with questions we have received and the answers to those questions. We also helped Green Island develop some of the answers to the questions they've received from impacted families. We are hoping to hold an open house prior to the vote, so families can visit and tour the school. If the vote is affirmative, we would host a shadowing day where their students can shadow another student for a day. We would also have them meet with a guidance counselor so they can plan their schedule for next year, give them a look at our course catalog, and do what we can to soften the anxiety that can come with moving from one school to another. Next week is their special meeting to discuss a resolution to bring it to the voters. More information is forthcoming.
- An invitation to the Board to ride the school bus in the City's holiday parade on December 18. Please let me know if you can participate.
- The Rockefeller study report has come out through the Governor's Office. The study focused on repealing the foundation aid formula. The report includes a lot of recommendations. We anxiously await the Governor's budget proposal so we can begin our budget planning process.
- There have been some changes to the regionalization plan. SED originally expected all districts to participate, but now they have dialed back some, giving district options. We have submitted our information. We are in a good place with the regional partnerships we have.
- Upcoming events:
    - WJSHS concert here tomorrow night.
    - Next Thursday, December 19, is the WES concert.
    - Friday night there are basketball games at WJSHS.

    - Breakfast with Santa is Saturday morning at WES.
- Happy Holidays and a peaceful recess to everyone!

B. **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

LaJay York shared the following:

- Thank you to Dr. Stevens and the Board of Education for the opportunity to serve as one of the Student Council Representatives this year.
- Thank you to Mrs. Williams, Mr. Foust and Mr. Lopez, as well as Mr. Whited and the kitchen staff, for hosting the High Honor Roll and Honor Roll lunch for students on Friday. The students really appreciated it.
- This week, we are enjoying Spirit Week and are looking forward to the Winter Sports Pep Rally coming up this Friday afternoon.
- We would like to thank Dr. Stevens and Mrs. Webster for the 4th Annual "Dress-cember," where we get to wear different themed outfits each day. It is fun and we get to learn about cultures and holidays around the world.
- On behalf of all of the students as well as the members of the Student Council, I would like to wish the members of the Board of Education, and everyone here, a happy holiday season. We will see you in 2025, which also happens to be the year I graduate!

C. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Audit Committee

Mrs. Whited noted that Mr. Heid provided the committee with the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for the one issue identified in the auditor's report. We did not need to meet, as we reviewed e-mail he sent and the CAP is on tonight's agenda.

Policy Committee

Second Reading of **New Policies:**

Educational Services for Married/Pregnant Students
Implementing Title IX

Second Reading of **Revised Policies:**

Equal Education Opportunities

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mrs. Whited wished everyone a happy holiday season.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted the **resignation** of **Janice Hamilton** from the position of **Part-Time Cafeteria Worker** at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, effective November 11, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted the **resignation** of **Bridan Sharpe** from the position of **Full-Time Cleaner** for the **Watervliet City School District**, effective November 28, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **revised appointment** of **John Bolt** from the position **of Junior Varsity Assistant Football Coach** to the position of **Modified Football Coach**, for the Fall 2024 season, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **emergency probationary appointment** of **Alex Acosta** to the position of **Part-Time Night Cleaner** for the Watervliet City School District, at a rate of **$17.00/hour**, effective **December 2, 2024**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **emergency probationary appointment** of **Bianca Smart** to the position of **Lunch Monitor** at the Watervliet Elementary School, at a rate of **$17.00/hour**, effective **December 2, 2024**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **appointment** of **Tina Shufelt** to the position of **Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten Teacher** at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, effective December 30, 2024, at a rate of $200.00 per diem, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **emergency appointment** of **Jessica Grogan** to the position of **ExTRA Club Homework Help Club Substitute Advisor** at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, effective November 18, 2024, at the current contractual rate, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted the Board approved the appointment of the following **Coaches** for the **2024– 2025** school year, pending fingerprint clearance and fulfillment of NYSED coaching requirements, at a rate as per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent:

WATERVLIET JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Coaching Winter:

Girls' Indoor Track Co-Coach: Olivia Skylstad *(50% stipend)*
Girls' Indoor Track Co-Coach: Lena Bond *(50% stipend)*
Volunteer Varsity Assistant Basketball: Joshua Kiefer

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted the **Substitute Registry** submitted by **BOCES**, as recommended by the Superintendent (packet #7).

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board **accept** the **Internal Claims Auditor Report** for the month of **November 2024**, submitted by Michaeleen Backus, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the following **Treasurer's Reports** for the month of **October 2024**, 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 Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the following **payment requests**, submitted by Keith Heid, Business Manager, as recommended by the Superintendent:

WATERVLIET 2020 CAPITAL PROJECT – ADDITIONS & ALTERATIONS

Colonie Mechanical Contractors	Invoice #Q18451	$3,650.00

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Corrective Action Plan**, prepared and submitted by Keith Heid, School Business Manager, in response to the Watervliet City School District's **Independent Audit Report for the period ended June 30, 2024**, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Instruction Contract, 2024 – 2025 School Year** between the **Watervliet City School District** and the **Menands Union Free School District,** as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board **adopted** the following **new/revised policies,** as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Educational Services for Married/Pregnant Students
- Implementing Title IX
- Equal Education Opportunities

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Board of Education Minutes** for the meeting held **November 12, 2024**, submitted by Bernadette L. Boardman, Clerk of the Board, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Committee on Special Education's** recommendations for the meetings held **October 30, October 31, November 1, November 6, November 13, November 14, November 15, November 18, November 19, November 21, November 22, and November 25, 2024**, submitted by Molly McGrath, Veronica Wilson, Rebecca Haws, and Danielle Tetrault, CSE Chairs, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Committee on Pre-School Special Education's** recommendations for the meetings held **October 31 and November 13, 2024**, submitted by Molly McGrath, CPSE Chair, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **home-schooling** requests of the parents/guardians of the following students, as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Student ID 900015133 – grade 4

On a motion by Brian White, seconded by Kyle Daniels and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the following **Student Teacher** request at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, as outlined below, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Name(s)	Role	Cooperating Teacher(s)	Dates
Zoie Wass	Student Observer	Samantha Walsh	Spring Semester 2025
Arisha Khawaja	Student Volunteer	Suzanne Vogel	December 2024 – February 2025
Madalyn Moran	Student Observer	Kara Cunningham	December 11, 13, 18 & 20, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Kyle Daniels seconded by Heather Soroka and unanimously accepted, the Board adjourned executive session and adjourned the meeting at 6:49 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.