Watervliet City School District
Watervliet, New York

Board of Education

Regular Meeting

DATE: January 9, 2024

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular Meeting

MEETING OPENED: 6:04 p.m.

WHERE: Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: President, Sheri Senecal *(arrived at 6:43 p.m.)*
Vice President, Mary Beth Whited
Heather Soroka
Brian White
Victoria Donnelly

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Donald Stevens Jr.

STUDENT COUNCIL REP: Jada Green

The meeting opened at 6:04 p.m., with Vice President Whited officiating.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS/COMMENTS

***2022 – 2023 Assessment Data* Presentation** **Kelly Webster**

A. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Stevens shared the following:

- The Governor came to visit last Wednesday. Thank you all for attending.
    - On the heels of her visit, her office reached out to come back and film students for the introduction video for the State of the State address. They also asked if Nathan, who spoke at the press event, could recite the pledge of allegiance at the event. Nathan and his parents attended the State of the State. He did a great job with the pledge and representing Watervliet.
    - Thank you to Mrs. Lance for sharing her validation of the Governor's remarks at the press event. Thank you for representing Watervliet, for sharing your thoughts around reading, and for your support.
    - If you looked around the room at the event, there were so many elected officials at all levels along with lots of regional educational partners.
    - Thank you to Mr. Emerson for bringing some of our high school students down there to observe.
    - Thank you to Mrs. Webster for keeping me in check during the planning of the event.
- Welcome back to everyone. Happy 2024!
- Regents exams are coming up for high school students January 23 – 26.
- In a few months, the grades 3-8 ELA tests will be coming up, which will be computer-based. We have a lot of preparation to do before those tests.
- Games scheduled for tonight were cancelled due to competing schools closing early and cancelling events. They will be rescheduled to tomorrow night.
- Friday night is game night at WES. It's a great event and a great chance for parents to play games with their children.
- Thank you to Mrs. Yanni for helping out with observations over the last month. She thanked us for having her back and gave thanks to the board as well.
- Mark your calendars for January 30 for Wellness Night. It will be held in the WJSHS cafeteria and lobby from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. It will be a great event!
- Can we have a brief moment of silence for our 6th grade student who passed away over the Christmas break? Our deepest condolences to Qwan's family for their loss.

B. **STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT**

Jada Green, Student Council Representative, shared the following:

- Student Council will be meeting with Mr. Whited, Ms. DeMento, and Mr. Tuskey, on January 29th to talk about breakfast and lunches. It is very nice of them to meet with us, and to get our opinions, and we thank them.
- On December 21st during 2nd period, we had mentoring again. This is something where students get to have a mentor who is available to help them out, answer questions, and guide them. Students in grades 7 - 11 meet with a mentor who is an adult in the building and 12th graders get to mentor students in the 6th grade, all under the supervision of teachers and staff. I have really enjoyed mentoring so far, and I think it is helping kids in all grades.
- Last Wednesday, 22 students from the Junior-Senior High School, myself included, had the opportunity to attend an event with the Governor, and shake her hand. We want to thank Dr. Stevens and Mrs. Webster for inviting us to go to this, and for everything that they did to set the whole thing up.

C. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Audit Committee

Mrs. Whited noted that Mr. Heid sent out a letter to the Audit Committee with the Corrective Action Plan, which is on tonight's agenda. The committee did not have any questions on it and everything looked good.

Policy Committee

Mrs. Soroka noted that, on tonight's agenda, we have the first reading on a revised policy regarding the use of service animals.

On behalf of Mrs. Senecal, Mrs. Whited asked if there was any further information we should know about the revisions to the policy and the policies that are up for deletion on tonight's agenda.

Dr. Stevens noted that the policies that are up for deletion are either redundant or our policy service has determined that they are not needed because they are covered under law. Nothing is changing on how the district operates, those policies are just not needed. As far as the service animal policy, it was reviewed by the school's attorney based on notes from the policy committee.

First Reading of **Revised Policy:**

Use of Service Animals

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

There was no discussion.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **revised probationary appointment** of **Jeremy Boyd** to the position of **Hall Monitor,** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School,** for a probationary period beginning **January 8, 2024** and ending January 7, 2025, at a Step 1 Teacher Aide salary, per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board accepted the **resignation** of **Carrie Swift-Huntley** from the position of **Science Teacher** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, effective January 15, 2024, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **emergency appointment** of **Jason Vasquez** to the position of **Building Substitute Teacher** at the **Watervliet Elementary School**, effective December 18, 2023, at a rate of $125.00 per diem, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **emergency appointment** of **Angela Quinonez** to the position of **Long-Term Substitute ENL Teacher** at the **Watervliet Jr. – Sr. High School**, effective January 2, 2024, at a Step 2 rate per contract, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **appointment** of the following **Coach** 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

Coaching Winter:

Girls' Varsity Wrestling: Jeremy Boyd *(50% stipend of $2,487.00)*

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Substitute Registry** submitted by **BOCES**, as recommended by the Superintendent (packets #6 & #7).

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the ***Corrective Action Plan***, prepared and submitted by Keith Heid, Business Manager, in response to the **Watervliet City School District's *Independent Audit Report*** for the period ended June 30, 2023, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Internal Claims Auditor Report** for the month of **December 2023**, submitted by Michaeleen Backus, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the following **Treasurer's Reports** for the month of **November 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 Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White 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 – AE	Invoice # 6248	$ 2,520.00
CSArch – CM	Invoice # 6268	$ 6,300.00
DLC Electric	Payment Application # 8	$ 93,603.50
	Payment Application # 9	$ 12,711.00
Duncan & Cahill	Payment Application # 7	$ 44,375.25

WATERVLIET 2020 CAPITAL PROJECT – ADDITIONS & ALTERATIONS

AFSCO Fence Supply	Invoice # 23-29366-1	$ 2,150.00
CSArch – AE	Invoice # 6267	$ 6,000.00
Duncan & Cahill	Invoice # 122723-1	$ 17,169.00
Joseph P. Mangione, Inc.	Invoice # 521054-01	$ 7,656.00
R.F. Gordon	Payment Application # 17	$ 7,465.60
	Payment Application # 18	$ 83,902.32
	Payment Application # 19	$ 20,868.85

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Board of Education Minutes** for the meeting held **December 12, 2023**, submitted by Bernadette L. Boardman, Clerk of the Board, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Committee on Special Education's** recommendations for the meetings held **November 6, December 1, December 6, December 7, December 8, December 11, December 12, December 13, December 14, December 15, December 18,** and **December 20, 2024**, submitted by Veronica Wilson and Daniele Tetrault, CSE Chairs, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board approved the **Committee on Pre-School Special Education's** recommendations for the meeting held **December 6, 2023**, submitted by Molly McGrath, CPSE Chair, as recommended by the Superintendent.

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White 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
Andrew Hoffman	Student Teacher	Joelle Bird	Spring 2024

On a motion by Victoria Donnelly, seconded by Brian White and unanimously accepted, the Board **deleted** the following **policies**, as recommended by the Superintendent:

- Contingency Budget
- Budget Transfers
- Negotiations
- COBRA – Continuation of Medical Insurance Coverage at Termination of Employment
- Workers Compensation

BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSION

There was no discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Senecal joined the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

On a motion by Heather Soroka, seconded by Victoria Donnelly and unanimously accepted, the Board entered into **Executive Session** at 6:43 p.m. to discuss matters related to the **employment history of a particular person**.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mary Beth Whited, seconded by Sheri Senecal and unanimously accepted, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:33 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.