

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL, GREENE, NY
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019**

The Regular meeting of the Greene Central School Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m., by Board President, Brian Milk, in the Board Conference Room, High School/Middle School complex, South Canal Street, Greene, NY.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Brian Milk, President
Mr. Nicholas Drew, Vice-President
Mr. Douglas Markham
Mr. Scott Youngs
Mr. Seth Barrows
Mr. Andrew Bringuel, II
Mr. John Fish

ROLL CALL

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Timothy Calice, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Mark Rubitski, Business Manager
Mr. Bryan Ayres, Intermediate School Principal & Director of PE & Athletics
Mrs. January Pratt, Primary School Principal

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Donna Marie Utter, District Clerk

- Nothing.

**ADD/DELETIONS
TO AGENDA**

- Congratulations to the Middle and High School for reaching their Christmas Basket Food Collection goals. The High School collected 3,122 items and the Middle School collected over 1500 items. Thank you to the students and staff for their participation and to Mrs. Aloï and Mrs. Frair for coordinating the efforts.
- The High School Band and Middle School Chorus had wonderful performances at their recent holiday concert. The Intermediate School performances are tonight.
- Thank you to Deb Mills and the Primary School for organizing a holiday luncheon for the Transportation Department last week.
- Thank you for the Intermediate School staff and students who did a collection of Christmas gift items for the Vets Home and TLC.
- Congratulations to Mike Kuratnick on the birth of his son.
- Last week in Sidney at a Boys' Modified Basketball game, both teams allowed RC to come into the game and gave him a chance to make a foul shot. He made the shot and the crowd on both sides went wild. It was a great display of sportsmanship and meant the world to RC.

**GOOD NEWS –
DISTRICT
HIGHLIGHTS**

- Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, a motion was made by Bringuel, seconded by Drew, to approve the following placements:
#710023955 and #710023986.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
PLACEMENTS**

Yes-7, No-0

- Motion made by Markham, seconded by Fish, to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on December 4, 2019, with a spelling correction in Board member Fish's last name

**12/4/19 PUBLIC
HEARING, 12/4/19
MEETING AND**

12/12/19 VOTE

on Page 1, Board Members Present; the Regular Board Meeting held on December 4, 2019, and the Capital Project Vote minutes held on December 12, 2019 as presented.
Yes-7, No-0

CALENDAR

- December 23 – January 3 – Holiday Break
- January 8 – Budget Committee Meeting @ 5:00 p.m.
- January 8 – Board of Education Meeting - 7:00 p.m. *Note start Time (moved from January 1, 2020)
- January 20 – No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 21 – 24 – Regents Exams
- January 22 – Budget Committee Meeting
- January 29 – Board of Education Meeting – 6:00 p.m. (moved from January 15, 2020)
- February 14 -18 – Presidents’ Day Recess
- February 19 – Board of Education Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- March 11 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 p.m. *Note start time

**PUBLIC COMMENT:
STACY MONTICIOLO**

- Stacy Monticiolo, a parent, followed up her concerns expressed to the Board at the previous Board meeting regarding NYS Legislators pushing a bill to make HPV and flu shots mandatory for all students in public and private education as well as flu shots being required for young children before they can enroll in daycare. Mrs. Monticiolo reiterated that she believes because these two vaccinations have controversial results, that it should be a parent’s choice. She also stated again that she has copies of letters sent by other school districts expressing their objection to the legislative mandates.

COLIN EVANS

– Colin Evans, Co-Advisor of Ski Club, spoke in support of the request for the district to help with the cost of transportation for Ski Club. He stated that skiing is a life-long sport and gives students a chance to experience the sport. It is costly, as they have to pay for their equipment and the transportation costs have been a burden for many years.

**REPORTS:
PRIMARY SCHOOL
UPDATE-MRS. PRATT**

- Mrs. January Pratt, Primary School Principal, gave a report on the Primary school so far during the 2019-2020 school year. She highlighted the following:

- **Enrollment** – This is the third year in a row that UPK has full enrollment with a few students on a waiting list. UPK - 30; Kindergarten – 83; First grade – 73; Second grade – 64 for a total enrollment of 250 students.
- **Reading** – Students were tested at the start of the school year using Aimsweb to determine their reading readiness. Upper- and lower-case letter recognition and letter sounds at the kindergarten level; and sentence reading including sight words, new words and organized sentences at the first and second grade levels.
- **Reading Proficiency** – Reading proficiency levels have been increasing over the past three years with the introduction of a new reading series and the resources provided to supplement the reading curriculum. One of the LINKS Goals is to increase reading proficiency by 10% this year.

- **Remediation & Support** – The percentage of the student population receiving remediation and support are Special Education – 20 or 9%; 504 – 15 or 7%; RTI Tier II – 50 or 22%; RTI Tier III – 26 or 12%.
- **Attendance** – For the first quarter of the school year, the Primary school has had 1 student in Kindergarten and 2 students in first grade with 8 or more days absent. There have been a lot of tardies and an Attendance Committee has been established to review all students' attendance. Mrs. Pratt has also called home to alert parents of tardies and to try to address any obstacles.
- **Parent Engagement** – the following activities allow for parent engagement with the school community: Morning Program (1950 visitors so far), reading volunteers, parent/teacher conferences, Open House (86% participation), Discovery Night, Friday folders, School website, letters from the Administrator and staff use the "remind" app often.
- **Student/Building Performance Success and Challenges:**
 - Successes have been the introduction of a new Math series; an updated RTI Plan K-5 with new exit and entry criteria and updated assessments; and all members of our staff. The staff helped out by adopting a family for the Rotary Christmas Basket Program, formed a Sunshine Committee, we have a new Librarian, Art Teacher, and a new 2nd grade teacher. Each grade level is doing a team building activity. And Mrs. Pratt appreciates everyone's willingness to help out.
 - Challenges have been student behavior - a Behavior Committee has been established to address building needs. The variety of needs of incoming students – cultural, lack of school experience, academic, therapies, and mental health issues. Budget restrictions while trying to meet the needs of our students.
- **Primary Fun** – Character Education, Fun Run, Halloween Parade, Veterans' Day Ceremony, Snow Plow visit, Thanksgiving Feast, Staff Team Building, and Arts in Education "Go Green".
- Board member Bringuel asked about UPK and the possibility of expanding the program to admit all students who apply. Nursery schools tend to be more social base, whereas UPK is more academic and preparing students for Kindergarten. He expressed his concern for those students who don't get into the program.
- Superintendent Calice commented that the program is federally funded and there are only 30 slots available. There is a nursery school available also as well as the Head Start program.
- Mrs. Pratt stated that there are only 5 or 6 students who are on the waiting list. The district has tried in the past to apply for waivers to increase class size, however they were unsuccessful.
- Mark Rubitski, Business Manager, also commented that funding for the program has remained consistent with no increase which has forced the district to contribute to funding the program.
- Board member Fish asked how it is determined who gets into the program.
- Superintendent Calice stated that 5 or 6 years ago, the Board would draw the names at a Board meeting to determine who got in. Now, Mrs. Pratt does the lottery drawing.
- Board member Drew asked that since you can't change behavior of parents regarding student absences, have you considered some kind of reward system.

**INTERMEDIATE
SCHOOL UPDATE-
MR. AYRES**

- Mrs. Pratt stated that the committee considered it, but felt that it was a parent issue and not the student.
- Board member Bringuel asked if there is anything legally that can be done regarding truancy.
- Superintendent Calice stated that you can hotline your concerns, but they are dealing with so many issues, that nothing usually comes of it. It is something we are working on district-wide.

- Mr. Bryan Ayres, Intermediate School Principal, gave a report on the Intermediate school so far during the 2019-2020 school year. He highlighted the following:

- **Enrollment** – This is the first time in quite a while that there are 4 sections at each grade level. Third grade - 75; Fourth grade - 64; and Fifth grade – 65; for a total enrollment of 204 students.

- **3-5 Assessments** – Mr. Ayres shared 2018 state assessment results. The percentage of students scoring at a level 3 & 4 in Reading were 56.9% (3rd grade); 44.3% (4th grade); 35.2% (5th grade). In Math 50% (3rd grade); 70% (4th grade); 53.6% (5th grade). In 4th grade Science, 100% of students scored either a 3 or 4. Overall, the 4th grade had higher proficiency (level 4) numbers. Compared with the other 15 districts in the DCMO BOCES, Greene's ranking was in the top 4 with highest ranking in 5th grade ELA, 4th & 5th grade Math. Scores in the Aimsweb testing were very different for proficiency levels. Reading – 3rd grade 82%; 4th grade 82%; 5th grade 89%. In Math – 3rd grade 68%; 4th grade 82%; and 5th grade 95%. This difference makes it difficult to determine which is the better measure of student performance.

- Board member Bringuel stated that state testing scores are not always reflective of what students are learning in the classroom.

- Board member Barrows asked if there is something special about 4th grade.

- Mr. Ayres stated that every year 4th grade scores are higher.

- Board member Fish asked if class testing scores are tracked going forward. He also stated that there are other variables that can affect the outcomes.

- Superintendent Calice stated that the district has a new tool which will allow us to compare scores with other schools outside of our BOCES. It will also be able to track individual classes moving forward as well as variables such as economically disadvantaged students and students with special needs and show comparisons.

- **Attendance** – For the first quarter of the school year, the Intermediate school has had 2 students in fourth grade and 2 students in fifth grade with 8 or more days absent. The first class to get 5 days in a row of perfect attendance, get to have a pizza party. Mr. Ayres has also made home visits to pick up students. If a family issue is preventing the student from coming to school, there is usually more than one student involved.

- Board member Bringuel stated that excessive absences only involve 2% of the student population.

- Superintendent Calice stated that when you look at absences within a particular month, such as September, if a student missed 4 days out of a possible 16 days of attendance, the percentage is much larger.

- Student/Building Performance Success and Challenges:

Successes: Regional NYS testing ranking; Aimsweb assessment scores; updated curriculum; and reading and attendance incentives including bicycle giveaway and free hockey tickets.

- Improvement in school climate; planned approach to improve relationships with students, parents/community, and colleagues; positive impact from new staff; collaborative approach for data driven discussion and decision making; targeted professional development.

Challenges: Chronic attendance issues; behavior/mental health supports; funding/staffing; length of school day; change in student demographics (poverty, trauma, etc.) and how we support students, parents and staff; staffing for large AIS/RTI needs; measuring academic success (school benchmarks/classroom assessments vs NYS testing). Staff are in the building until 3:15, but students leave at 2:00.

- Board member Bringuel asked if the Intermediate school has a behavior assessment team.

- Mr. Ayres stated that there will be a K-5 committee developed after the Christmas break.

- Superintendent Calice stated that a Behavior Specialist can be sought out through a BOCES Co-ser to help with training staff.

- Board member Bringuel asked if there are any students from Stillwater at the Intermediate/Primary schools.

- Mr. Ayres stated that they do not have any students from Stillwater.

- Vice-President Drew asked what testing format best reflects student knowledge/abilities.

- Mr. Ayres stated that school benchmarks and report cards are more reflective of the student day to day abilities.

- Board member Bringuel stated that most parents look at the report cards. However, prospective community members want to see a comparison with other districts.

- Board member Markham asked if students can stay after and ride the late bus as is done in the middle and high schools.

- Mr. Ayres stated that Monday through Thursday students do stay after for academics and clubs.

- Board member Markham asked if we are teaching script writing.

- Mr. Ayres stated that exposure to script writing is given in 3rd grade and then more teacher dependent after that.

- **Parent Engagement:** Open House, student assemblies, Character Education Day, social media and newsletters, Parent-teacher conferences, webpage, Friday Folders, Class Dojo; Remind App, and email.

- **Intermediate Fun:** Fun Run; Greene Fire Department visit; Arts in Education; Christmas donations to TLC & Vets Home; Intermediate Band and Chorus performances.

- **Remediation & Support:** The percentage of the student population receiving remediation and support are Special Education – 15 or 7%; 504 – 26 or 13%; AIS/RTI Reading – 25 or 50%; and AIS/RTI Math – 29 or 50%.

- The Enrollment Reports for September 2019 (revised) with a total student enrollment of 1002 and for October 2019 with a total student enrollment of 1005 were noted.

**ENROLLMENT
REPORTS**

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BOARD COMMITTEE**

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REPORTS: - None.

TRANSPORTATION: - Nothing.

**EDUCATION &
PERSONNEL:
MODIFY BOARD OF
EDUCATION MEETING
SCHEDULE**

- The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following Board actions:
- Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Fish, to adopt the following modified Board of Education meeting schedule following a three-week rotation schedule starting January 2020 all meetings to start at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:
January 8, 2020 – Special Start Time of 7:00 p.m.
January 29, 2020
February 19, 2020
March 11, 2020 – Special Start Time of 7:00 p.m.
April 1, 2020
April 20, 2020 (BOCES Budget Vote & Election)
May 11, 2020 (following the Budget Hearing)
June 3, 2020
June 24, 2020
Yes-7, No-0

**RESIGNATION –
JOHN SININGER,
MUSIC TEACHER**

- Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Fish, to accept the resignation to retire of John Sininger, Music Teacher, effective June 30, 2020 with appreciation for his 30 years of service.
Yes-7, No-0

**APPOINTMENT(S):
SUBSTITUTE ROSTERS**

- Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Fish, to appoint the following individuals to the Substitute Rosters for the 2019-2020 school year effective December 19, 2019:
• Theresa Miller - Tutor
• Corey Miller - Tutor
• Tyler Lloyd – Substitute Teacher K-12
• Meryt Allmendinger – Substitute Bus Driver
• Sheila O'Connor – Substitute Custodial Worker
• John Schindler – Substitute Custodial Worker and Substitute Maintenance Worker
Yes-7, No-0

**TRIP REQUEST(S):
7TH GRADE TO
ALBANY, NY**

- Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Fish, to approve the trip request for the 7th grade class to go to Albany, NY on May 1, 2020 with transportation being provided by Shafer Bus or Oneonta Bus lines pending approval of credentials by Greene's transportation department.
Yes-7, No-0

**CO-CURRICULAR
ROSTER MOD. -
CARLIE BRANT
CO-ADVISOR HS
STUDENT COUNCIL**

- Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Fish, to approve the appointment of Carlie Brant as a Co-Advisor to the High School Student Council for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.
Yes-7, No-0

**SKI CLUB REQUEST
FOR TRANSPORTATION
FUNDS**

- Motion made by Drew, seconded by Bringuel, to approve paying the transportation costs for Ski Club for the 2019-2020 school year and continue to budget an amount going forward, however depending on budget numbers, the amount could be dropped from the budget.

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- Discussion followed:
- Board member Bringuel commented that no fundraising has been done to help offset the cost.
- Colin Evans, Advisor, stated that fundraising in the past has been difficult to fit in with all the other fundraising being done district-wide.
- President Milk commented that there needs to be some effort going forward to help offset the cost. Can look at putting in the budget for next year, but if the budget gets tight, it would be eliminated.
- Superintendent Calice stated that the club would know in April whether or not it is funded in the budget.
- Board member Youngs asked what we are doing with other club transportation requests.
- Superintendent Calice stated that other clubs tend to do one trip such as Girls on the Run (\$225). The problem is that this involves multiple trips (6).
- Colin Evans stated that the club has \$800 in its account, however they do not want to use the entire amount and wipe out the program. He also stated that transportation costs have continued to increase from \$600 to \$1400 and it is an unknown until students sign up to participate and the cost is divided between participants. Sharing the transportation with Whitney Point (they pay \$600) has kept the program afloat. Whitney Point Rotary donates \$600 towards transportation.
- Board member Bringuel asked if Greek Peak is willing to offer any discounts for the program.
- Colin Evans stated that the program includes 6 tickets and the cost of equipment and meals are on top of that. They do offer free entrance on Wednesdays, after 6 admissions. They also have a water park and could offer fun days, however there would still be the cost of transportation to get there.
- Superintendent Calice stated that the cost to the district would be about the same as the district paid last year (\$600) and the total cost was \$1325. The difference is transparency this year.
- Board member Youngs stated that he doesn't like to add anything into the budget, however in a round about way we funded it last year. He voiced that he would be in favor of covering a portion of the cost this year with the understanding that it be included in the budget for next year, however, if it has to come out then it is on the club to fund transportation.
- Board member Barrows stated that the costs for the students with rentals, transportation and meals is well over \$300.
- Board member Fish stated that all other costs are the same per student except transportation which is changeable depending on the number of students involved. Another option would be to match what Whitney Point is paying (\$600).
- Board member Barrows stated that now that he has heard more information he is okay with the district paying for transportation this year, but for budgeting purposes, we keep consistency with paying for one trip per club.
- Vote on motion: Yes-7, No-0

- The Budget Committee met last week. Mr. Rubitski, Business Manager, shared a news article regarding NYS having a large mid-year deficit of 6 billion dollars. This raises a red flag. Last time there was a deficit, education funding took a big hit with Aid being cut 1.3 billion dollars which resulted in Greene's aid seeing a 1 million dollar reduction, which would have a huge impact on our budget.

**BUSINESS & FINANCE:
BUDGET COMMITTEE
UPDATE**

- A five-year projection shows that local revenue cannot keep pace with costs and that the budget gap will continue to expand.
- Board member Youngs commented that the projected \$400,000 budget gap for next year does not take into account the possibility of how the state will address the deficit.
- The committee addressed 6 budget line items including school association dues for the Board of Education which is currently in the budget. School Capital Bonds and Bond Notes (BANS) are up \$7,000 from last year.
- Vice President Drew stated that the Board needs to decide what we are going to leave in the budget such as: school associations dues and whether or not a school resource officer is something we want.
- Superintendent Calice commented that the sooner the Board Budget Committee know what the priorities of the district are, the sooner the process can be framed for determining what is included and what is not.
- Board member Youngs stated that he feels the information the Board receives from the Association is helpful, but is it more important that addressing instructional issues? He also commented that a Resource Officer is something he would love to have in the budget, but again is it a priority.
- Board member Bringuel stated that behavior/mental health teams are a good idea; however, we need to look at resources currently available and provide appropriate training to better utilize those resources.
- Vice President Drew commented that last year the Resource Officer was initially in the budget, but \$50,000 is a big number.
- Board member Bringuel commented that having a Resource Officer presence is definitely a deterrent.
- President Milk stated that he would be okay with including the Resource Officer, but with the knowledge that it may have to come out when finalizing the budget.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Potential New Vaccination Mandate:

- Board member Bringuel stated that the bill which mandates the HPV vaccine has been in committee since 2009 and the mandated flu bill has been stalled in committee since 2015. He cited several websites where information can be obtained and individuals can voice their opinion on the bill:
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/S298>
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/a2316>
<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/fred-akshar/senator-fred-akshar-releases-survey-results-vaccination>
- President Milk stated that he is in favor of putting information on our website as a way to inform the community.
- Stacy Monticciolo stated that letters home to parents would be helpful in spreading the word.
- Superintendent Calice stated that it is awesome that this information has been brought to the Board, however the district needs to be politically active as it relates to learning without being political. Providing information to the community without indicating a political position (for or against) would be preferable.

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- Board member Bringuel commented that most of the community would probably side with Stacey Monticiolo; however, I think we need to education the community and then they can go individually to express their concerns.
- Vice President Drew commented that he doesn't know how the community feels, but is concerned that this is a political issue.
- Stacey Monticiolo commented that some districts developed an awareness group to poll the community and then the Board responded to the results of the poll.
- Superintendent Calice stated that the school boards have a Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, February 1st and they are looking for individuals to speak. This could be an avenue even more powerful than a letter.
- Board member Fish stated that the Board is charged with looking at educational issues that affect our district and should not be trying to sway legislation on this subject. He can also see the community getting upset if they were not informed, so get the word out by placing informational websites on our website and allow individuals to access the information.

**REVIEW BOARD
OUTSTANDING ACTION LIST:**

Directed Date:	Task:	Responsibility Of:	Report Back:
7/10/19	Board Training	Board & Superintendent	Ongoing
9/18/19	Board Goals	Board & Superintendent	Ongoing

- No changes.

Superintendent Timothy Calice reported on the following:

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

- Excited with the support from community on the recent Capital Project Vote. There was not a huge turnout, but it passed by with 76% approval.
- Yesterday was the first meeting to discuss scope items for Phase I the project which need to be submitted to SED by February 5, 2020.
- On January 7, 2020 discussions regarding the scope of the Phase 2 project will begin.
- After break, we will be looking at building schedules and school day schedules and forming committees for their input into any changes.
- Working on cleaning up school procedures.
- There are only 4 Board meetings before approving the budget.
- Superintendent Calice expressed his wish for everyone to have a wonderful holiday and looks forward to starting the new year/decade.
- President Milk thanked Superintendent Calice for the very informative regarding the capital project.
- Vice President Drew asked what phase of the project the front sign is in.
- Superintendent Calice stated that he was hoping for Phase 1; however, if he can obtain approval from the Village, it may have to wait until Phase II.

**REVIEW COMMITTEE
SCHEDULE:**

Committee Name:	Last Meeting:	Next Meeting:
Budget	Dec. 11, 2019	Jan. 8, 2020 @ 5:00 p.m.
Building & Grounds	Dec. 17, 2019	
Transportation	Nov. 13, 2019	
Audit	Oct. 5, 2019	
Curriculum & Technology	Aug. 15, 2018	
Policy	Nov. 18, 2019	

**PUBLIC COMMENT:
SCOTT YOUNGS**

- Board member Youngs commented on a recent article in the *On Board* publication which discussed ways for rural schools to offer advanced coursework to students. This is a topic that he has been advocating for years and the article refers to Distance Learning Labs which offer students the ability to participate virtually in classes taught at other locations. This is the type of curriculum offerings he would like to see Greene look into.

ANDREW BRINGUEL

- Board member Bringuel commented that he would like to explore having an ROTC program at Greene. This would be a great avenue for some of our students and there are many programs which use innovations which will allow for hands on learning and keep the district on the forward edge of education.

MARIE SCOFIELD

- Marie Scofield, GTA President, thanked the Board for their great discussions. She also commented that she hopes the district continues to look at the need for smaller class sizes going forward and the positive impact it has on student learning. She also stated that while the Board Association dues are a large budget item, she feels it is a great resource for the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Motion made by Youngs, seconded by Fish, to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:08 p.m. to discuss:
• To discuss the performance of a particular person.
Yes-7, No-0

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Motion made by Barrows, seconded by Fish, to adjourn Executive Session at 8:52 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0

RECONVENE

- President Milk reconvened the meeting 8:52 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion made by Barrows, seconded by Youngs, to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Marie Utter
District Clerk