

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL, GREENE, NY
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020**

The Regular meeting of the Greene Central School Board of Education was called to order at 6:01 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:

ROLL CALL

Mr. Brian Milk, President
Mr. Nicholas Drew, Vice-President
Mr. Douglas Markham
Mr. Scott Youngs (left @ 6:55 p.m.)
Mr. Seth Barrows
Mr. Andrew Bringuel, II
Mr. John Fish

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Timothy Calice, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Mark Rubitski, Business Manager
Mr. Mark Wilson, Middle School Principal

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Donna Marie Utter, District Clerk

- President Milk requested to move Agenda items 5. EDUCATION & PERSONNEL and 6. BUSINESS & FINANCE up on the Agenda to after the Calendar as Board member Youngs needed to leave the meeting early.
- All members agreed to the Agenda change.

**ADD/DELETIONS
TO AGENDA**

-Middle School winter carnival raised \$543 which will be donated to a cause yet to be determined.

**GOOD NEWS –
DISTRICT
HIGHLIGHTS**

-Congratulations to Nate Erickson for his selection to the *Press & Sun-Bulletin Elite 24 Football Squad* as a defensive back.

- Due to the generosity of students and staff through participation in the Rotary Christmas Basket program with the canned food drive and adoption of families, they played an important part in helping 97 families in our district receive gifts and food to make their Christmas brighter.

- The High School Academic Challenge team competed at SUNY Oneonta in the Upstate Academic Competition where they placed 3rd out of 16 teams. The team was led by Amy Bentley, Robert Sallai and Natalie Specht who won 3 high-scoring matches before barely losing to Elmira Notre Dame in the semifinals. Additional team members included Emma Braman, Sophia Hanselman, Olivia Ketzak, Jarret Ludolph, Emily Milk and Victoria Milk.

- President Milk announced that tomorrow night at a dual wrestling meet in Greene, former coach Tim Jenks will be recognized.

- Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, a motion was made by Drew, seconded by Bringuel, to approve the following placements:
#710023473; #710024011; #710023912; #710023808;
#710024077; #710023976; #710023980; #710023971;
#710023923.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
PLACEMENTS**

Yes-7, No-0

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020**

PAGE 2

- 12/18/19 MEETING** - Motion made by Fish, seconded by Markham, to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Education meeting held on December 18, 2019 as presented.
Yes-7, No-0
- CALENDAR**
- 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.
 - 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:** - None.
- EDUCATION & PERSONNEL:
RESIGNATION – ROBERT HOLCOMB,
BUS MONITOR**
- **The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following Board actions:**
- Motion made by Fish, seconded by Bringuel, to accept the resignation of Robert Holcomb, Bus Monitor, effective January 8, 2020.
Yes-7, No-0
- RESIGNATION – KIMBERLY HOWARD,
SPEECH THERAPIST**
- Motion made by Fish, seconded by Bringuel, to accept the resignation of Kimberly Howard, Speech Therapist, effective January 24, 2020.
Yes-7, No-0
- APPOINTMENT(S):
ROBERT HOLCOMB,
BUS DRIVER**
- Motion made by Fish, seconded by Bringuel, to appoint Robert Holcomb as a Bus Driver, effective January 9, 2020 for a one-year probationary period ending January 8, 2021.
Yes-7, No-0
- SUBSTITUTE ROSTERS**
- Motion made by Fish, seconded by Bringuel, to appoint the following individuals to the Substitute Rosters for the 2019-2020 school year effective January 9, 2020:
- Robert Holcomb – Substitute Bus Monitor
 - Cindy Shaffer – Substitute Custodian
 - Jesse Kunow – Substitute LTA and Teacher UPK-12
 - Graci Standish-Warpus – Substitute LTA and Teacher UPK-12
- Yes-7, No-0
- INSTRUCTIONAL SICK BANK REQUEST – MICHELLE EVANS,
TEACHER**
- Upon the recommendation of the Instructional Sick Bank Committee, a motion was made by Fish, seconded by Bringuel, to approve the request of Michelle Evans, Teacher, for the withdrawal of thirty-one (31) days covering December 20, 2019 through February 21, 2020.
Yes-7, No-0
- BUSINESS & FINANCE:
CAPITAL BOND
RESOLUTION**
- Motion made by Fish, seconded by Markham, to approve the attached Bond Resolution (Exhibit "A") authorizing the Greene Central School District, Chenango County, New York, to pay the cost of the construction of improvements to and reconstruction of

- various school district buildings and facilities at a maximum estimated cost of \$15,000,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$13,500,000 bonds of said school district to pay a portion of the cost thereof.

A role call vote was taken:

Seth Barrows - Yes	Andrew Bringuel- Yes
Nicholas Drew – Yes	Scott Youngs – Yes
Douglas Markham – Yes	Brian Milk – Yes
John Fish - Yes	

Yes-7, No-0

- Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Fish, to accept the Budget Status Reports for November 2019 for the General Fund, School Lunch Fund, and Federal Grants & Capital budgets as presented.

**REVENUE & BUDGET
STATUS REPORTS**

Yes-7, No-0

- Mark Rubitski, Business Manager, reviewed the financial status of the School Lunch Program through November 2019. The budget indicates a small positive balance of \$9,034.41. Revenues have increased slightly with an increase in free and reduced lunch applications up. The balance does not include the \$20,000 transfer from the general fund that was approved and included in the budget to help fund the program.

**SCHOOL LUNCH
PROGRAM
2019-2020
FINANCIALS**

- Board member Markham asked if the increase in the amount of free and reduced lunches help with funds received from NY State.
- Superintendent Calice commented that the increase in free and reduced lunches which are reimbursed by the State could potentially increase the amount the district receives in Title funds. If we increase free and reduced lunch numbers by 5%, it would offset the deficit the School Lunch Fund experienced last year.

- Mr. Mark Wilson, Middle School Principal, gave a report on the Middle school so far during the 2019-2020 school year. He stated that it is an honor to work in the district and he highlighted the following:

**REPORTS:
MIDDLE SCHOOL -
MR. WILSON**

- **Enrollment** – Grade level numbers are consistent with a few move ins but not considerably transient. 6th grade – 77, 7th grade- 76 and 8th grade – 76.
- **Special Education/504/AIS** – Special Education students make up 13% here are of the student population and make scheduling tricky as numbers are not consistent from year to year. 504 students make up 6% of the population and students receiving AIS services for math and ELA total 92 or 40% with some crossover of 504 and Special Education students.
- **Assessments** – Students on a whole are doing well. 6th grade ELA scores were outstanding with 1/3 of the students scoring in the proficient range. 8th grade math scores were concerning with only 1 student reaching proficiency. Superintendent Calice and Mr. Wilson met with the teacher and discussed how to address the concerns and create a proactive plan. The teacher was very receptive and Superintendent Calice believes that we will see a change in those numbers this year. There are also 13 8th grade students who are taking Integrated Algebra and probably would have scored in the proficient range had they taken the exam.
- **Celebrations** - 6th grade State Assessment scores for ELA and Math were 2nd out of 16 schools in the DCMO BOCES. 36 students were on High Honor Roll (95 and above) and 60 students on Honor Roll (90 and above).

- **Challenges** – Meeting the varied educational needs of all students. Mental health needs are increasing ten-fold. Superintendent Calice commented that the Chenango County Mental Health personnel by the end of last year had a full caseload of students (40) with 30 of those being middle schoolers. Mr. Wilson noted that sometimes behavioral issues are tied to mental health issues and therefore, we need to shift how we handle some behaviors and diagnose a situation. Building Administrators are working closely with the Special Education office through a Special Education Continuum to develop a plan to offer the best array of services to meet the needs of our students.

- Attendance is also a concern and he recognizes that it has a domino effect which adds to student anxiety and other mental health concerns. 18 students have missed 8 or more days and 30 students have 5 or more absences. Student absences can result in huge gaps in learning and is also tied to drop out rates and retention in later grades. The "action plan" going forward regarding attendance is to use Google docs to compile information on potential barriers, conferencing with student, sending attendance letters home, reaching out to parents to offer assistance, morning attendance calls, and home visits.

- Board member Drew asked if someone else accompanies the Principal on a home visit.

- Superintendent Calice commented that ideally you should have another individual for a home visit. However, there is no requirement, but often times a counselor will accompany the Principal as they usually have a connection with the family. Mr. Wilson commented that sometimes the parents have had a bad experience with their education and the negativity is transferred to their student and making a home visit can humanize the situation and show the parents the district cares.

- **Strengths** – A devoted staff who put in a lot of their own time to develop positive experiences and learning for students. Development of relationships between staff and students have been a positive goal of the middle school. If positive relationships are not in place, it is difficult to head in a positive direction. The middle school staff are continually evolving classroom learning practices to fully engage students. Some very creative learning experiences for students are the result.

- **Open House** – The new format used for Open House this year prior to school starting, received overwhelmingly positive feedback. It was a great kick off to the school year which allowed for collaboration with parents and the community before the school year began.

- **Positive Activities** – Robotics Club; an Escape Room created by 7th grade staff requiring students to complete challenges to get out of the room; the project with Mr. Bogardus and Raymond's was amazing; Engineering day saw a large group of students compete at the regional level which was a great opportunity; *Frozen, Jr.* middle school Footlights production was amazing; joint ELA and Social Studies project using technology was a good collaborative effort across the curriculum; charitable food drive where 1997 items were collected surpassing their goal of 1500 helped teach students to be good citizens. Reaching their goal, resulted in Mr. Wilson being duct taped to the bleachers in the

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020**

- gym during the winter carnival. The middle school art teacher did a Burger Art project with 7th grade students and finished projects are being displayed at Burger Mondays in Binghamton.

- The Enrollment Report for November 2019 with a total student enrollment of 1001 was noted. **ENROLLMENT REPORTS**

- Motion made by Drew, seconded by Bringuel, to declare a 8' 6" Fisher V-plow as surplus and to authorize the sale/disposal of the same. **SURPLUS PLOW**

The plow is not being used and has an estimated trade-in value of \$1500 which will be used towards a new 10' snow push box.

Yes-7, No-0

- **Budget Committee Update:** Board member Seth Barrows commented on the Budget Committee meeting that occurred prior to tonight's meeting. The following items were discussed: **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Reviewed known cost budget items;
 - Reduction in recruitment costs, but will keep the funds in the Board budget for conference costs. NYSBA conference next year will be in NYC;
 - Spending Title Funds wisely and where and how it can be used;
 - How to best support students;
 - Possible SRO;
 - Supporting curriculum;
- Vice President Drew commented that if any Board members have questions regarding budget items, contact someone on the committee in an effort to avoid duplication of questions and discussions that occur with the Budget Committee and then again at a Board meeting.

- Board member Markham asked about maintenance of the bus wash, which was promoted as being covered if we bought the manufacturer's wash supplies. **TRANSPORTATION**

- Cliff Jones, Head Bus Driver, commented that was the understanding of the district, however, that is not happening. The manufacturer is located in Michigan and so district maintenance individuals are trying to maintain the bus wash. Beacon Water has been out to look at the bus wash and the need for all water to go through the water softner, not just the soap. At this time, it is still not operating properly.

- Vice President Drew commented that this has been the smoothest Season from his Highway Superintendent role. Communication with the bus garage, through Cliff and Sue, has been great and he is appreciative of the cooperation.

- Cliff Jones commented that the first month was a little rough, but they are starting out fresh, moving forward in a positive manner, and he has noticed a big improvement.

- Nothing.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

**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

- Nothing to change.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

- Superintendent Timothy Calice reported on the following:

- Special Education Placements – BT BOCES has closed enrollment in their special school programs to district's outside of their BOCES. DCMO BOCES special schools are also full at this point. This is creating an issue within our district for appropriate placement of students with special needs. We currently have a primary student who was ready to start at Oaktree in Winsor and now cannot attend which is creating additional stress for our staff. A meeting was had with K-5 staff and administrators to brainstorm ideas for meeting these needs. The primary school student will require a half-time aide which was not budgeted for and will be brought to the Board in the near future.

- Board member Markham asked if down the road BOCES might be able to open another class.

- Superintendent Calice stated that any new program would require finding a teacher, and determining if there are enough students to run a program which would take time and probably would not be available until April. He also commented that there are many pros and cons to trying to develop your own in-house special program. Past Special Education practice was to give students a trial run in house before looking at alternative programs, and then when needed, the programs are full.

- Budget Process - Working through the budget process going through all line items the traditional way, but also looking ahead to the following year and any curriculum changes the district might want to make. Using this year to organize costs associated with any changes will help strategic planning for next year. Superintendent Calice is excited about some of the non-traditional options that could be available to the district.

**REVIEW COMMITTEE
SCHEDULE:**

Committee Name:	Last Meeting:	Next Meeting:
Budget	Jan. 8, 2020	Jan. 22, 2020
Building & Grounds	Jan. 7, 2020	
Transportation	Nov. 13, 2019	
Audit	Oct. 5, 2019	
Curriculum & Technology	Aug. 15, 2018	
Policy	Nov. 18, 2019	

- Building & Grounds met yesterday;
- Transportation Committee will meet in February date TBD
- Curriculum & Technology will schedule a meeting to review some of the ideas for next year.

PUBLIC COMMENT: - Nothing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Motion made by Drew, seconded by Markham, to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss:

- To discuss current litigation
- To discuss the Superintendent's evaluation

Yes-6, No-0

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION - Motion made by Barrows, seconded by Fish, to adjourn Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.
Yes-6, No-0

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020**

PAGE 7

- President Milk reconvened the meeting 8:00 p.m.
 - Motion made by Barrows, seconded by Markham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
- Yes-6, No-0

RECONVENE

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Marie Utter
District Clerk