

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL, GREENE, NY
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 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 of Education 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
Ms. Penny Connolly, High School Principal
Mr. Mark Wilson, Middle School Principal
Mrs. January Pratt, Primary School Principal
Mrs. Nicole Knapp, Director of Special Programs
Mr. David Kendall, Director of Buildings/Grounds, Transportation & Safety

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Donna Marie Utter, District Clerk

5. EDUCATION & PERSONNEL

6. Termination – Sarah Dexheimer, Typist

**ADD/DELETIONS
TO AGENDA**

- Justin Stureck, Continuous Improvement Manager, and his team from Raymond, spent 80 hours this summer working with Jonathan Bogardus on technology curriculum and projects for the 2019-2020 school year. They met again yesterday along with Alexandra Brown, a Junior and Raymond Intern, to begin working on a project with the Woods and Manufacturing students to develop a better method for storing wood in the shop.
- Mikaela Sepulveda-Kiefer, a Senior, has been selected to perform at NYSMA All State for chorus.
- Footlights production is up and running. Congratulations to the 86 students selected to perform in the show (Frozen) this year.
- Greene currently has three Master Teachers – Jessica Schindler, Trina Leonard, and Christine Mack.
- Rotary has given the High School a 3-D printer.
- Congratulations to Samantha Parrish on the birth of her son.

**GOOD NEWS –
DISTRICT
HIGHLIGHTS**

- Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, a motion was made by Youngs, seconded by Bringuel, to approve the following placements:
#710023779; #710022713; #710022830; #710022656;
#710022460; #710022260; #710022489; #710023156;

**SPECIAL EDUCATION
PLACEMENTS**

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- #710023926; #710023670.
Yes-7, No-0

**APPROVE MINUTES
9/4/19 MEETING**

- Motion made by Fish, seconded by Bringuel, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 4, 2019 as presented.
Yes-7, No-0

CALENDAR

- September 19 – Intermediate Open House
- September 26 – Primary Open House – 6:30 p.m.
- September 30 – Morning Program Introduction – Board of Education – 8:05 a.m.
- **October 2 – Audit Committee Meeting – 5:00 p.m.**
- October 2 – Board of Education Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- October 11 – No Classes – Conference Day
- October 11 – Homecoming Football Game vs Tioga
- October 12 – Homecoming Dance
- October 14 – Columbus Day – No School
- October 16 – Board of Education Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- October 18 – Evacuation/Dismissal Drill – ALL students released 15 minutes early

**PUBLIC COMMENT:
VICKI PEZZINO**

- Vicki Pezzino requested that the Board consider her request for transportation for her two children. Her home is located on Cahoon Road which is on the Coventry/Greene border. She commented that her and her siblings attended G.C.S. and were transported from the same address.

REPORTS:

- None.

**BOARD COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

- Audit Committee: Board member Youngs reported that the Audit Committee met tonight at 4:30 p.m. A general discussion was had to bring two new members to the Committee (Fish and Markham) up to date. What will determine when the committee meets and a review of past budget summary reports were discussed. Board member Youngs thanked Mr. Rubitski for putting together the information for the committee.

**TRANSPORTATION:
TRANSPORTATION
REQUEST-APPLEFEST**

- Motion made by Drew, seconded by Markham, to approve the Transportation Request of the Applefest Committee for the use of a bus and driver on September 28, 2018, to provide a shuttle bus during the Applefest.
Yes-7, No-0

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

- **The Superintendent of Schools recommends the following Board actions:**
- Motion made by Fish, seconded by Bringuel, to modify the Board of Education meeting schedule for October by moving the second meeting from October 16th to October 23rd, 6:00 p.m. start time remains the same.
Yes-7, No-0
* This was done to give the Board more time before a vote on a building project referendum needs to be done.

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- Motion made by Youngs, seconded by Bringuel, to approve the revisions to Board of Education Policy #11 – *Anti-Discrimination* as presented.
Yes-7, No-0 **REVISED POLICY #11 ANTI-DISCRIMINATION**
- Motion made by Youngs, seconded by Bringuel, to approve the revisions to Board of Education Policy #12 – *Sexual Harassment* as presented.
Yes-7, No0 **REVISED POLICY #12 SEXUAL HARASSMENT**
- Motion made by Youngs, seconded by Bringuel, to accept the First reading of Board of Education Policy #20A – *Provision of Services to Homeschooled Students*, as read.
Yes-7, No-0 **FIRST READING POLICY #20A – PROVISION OF SERVICES TO HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS**
*Board member Barrows requested that changes to future policies be highlighted so that Board members know exactly what was changed.
- Motion made by Youngs, seconded by Bringuel, to appoint Christina James as a Substitute Aide K-12, effective September 19, 2019.
Yes-7, No-0 **APPOINTMENT(S): CHRISTINA JAMES-SUBSTITUTE ROSTER**
- Upon the recommendation of the Non-Instructional Sick Bank, a motion was made by Youngs, seconded by Bringuel, to approve the request of Elizabeth Hitt, Aide, for the withdrawal of thirteen and one-half (13.5) days from the Non-Instructional Sick Bank. Said withdrawal to cover the period of September 17, 2019 (1/2 day) through October 4, 2019.
Yes-7, No-0 **NON-INSTRUCTIONAL SICK BANK-ELIZABETH HITT, AIDE**
- Motion made by Youngs, seconded by Bringuel, to approve the request to establish the Middle School Book Club and Heather Rapp and Lila Page as Volunteer Advisors.
Yes-7, No-0 **MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK CLUB**
- The Superintendent has recommended that Ms. Sarah Dexheimer be dismissed from typist service with the district. On motion of Barrows, seconded by Markham, it is resolved that the employment of Ms. Sarah Dexheimer is hereby terminated effective immediately.
Yes-7, No-0 **TERMINATION-SARAH DEXHEIMER, TYPIST**
- Motion made by Youngs, seconded by Fish, to accept the Budget Status Reports for July and August 2019 for the General Fund, School Lunch Fund, and Federal Grants & Capital budgets as presented.
Yes-7, No-0 **BUSINESS & FINANCE: REVENUE & BUDGET STATUS REPORTS**
- Motion made by Markham, seconded by Bringuel, to declare Pearson, enVision math series, copyright 2012, teacher manuals, student consumables, and other miscellaneous items as obsolete/surplus and to dispose of the same.
Yes-7, No-0 **OBSOLETE/SURPLUS**

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR
CHENANGO LEASE
AGREEMENT**

- Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Fish, to approve the Lease Agreement between Opportunities for Chenango and Greene Central School District for September 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 at a monthly cost of \$750.00 and to authorize the Superintendent and Board President to sign said Lease Agreement on behalf of the District.
Yes-7, No-0

**CONSULTING
AGREEMENT – WCS
MANAGEMENT, LLC**

- Motion made by Drew, seconded by Markham, to approve the Consulting Agreement with WCS Management, LLC for construction and facilities consulting services for September 19, 2019 through June 30, 2020 in the amount of \$39,577.00.
Yes-7, No-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Dress Code: Board member Bringuel was approached by a community member who expressed a concern that Board members appearance (dress) at Board meetings might adversely affect their perceived character. He researched dress codes for Boards and some have a formal dress code and others do not. He feels that the Board should project a professional approach and dress codes set a culture of an organization. However, the focus of the Board should be what makes us effective and efficient. He was looking for input from other Board members on whether or not the Board needs a dress code policy.

- Board member Barrows asked what happens if you don't follow the policy? Perception is there and possibly overdressing could give an impression that Board members are "fat cats".
- Board member Bringuel stated that Board members are judged by the community every 3 years when they come up for re election. Business casual is fair.
- Board member Youngs commented while he can appreciate the community's feedback, this is an unpaid position, some may not own a suit, and several Board members come to meetings right from a game or practice.
- Vice-President Drew commented that there are no requirements to become a Board member besides being a Greene resident. You could have a member who does not have a high school diploma or a job. Wearing a collared shirt is a good compromise toward "business casual".
- Board member Fish commented that how a Board member is dressed doesn't affect our ability to do our job. We are a Board of a business with revenues and expenses.
- President Milk commented that wearing collared shirts is a good idea.
- Superintendent Calice commented that if the Board is being challenged by the public at a meeting, business casual dress helps set a tone. Wearing a collared shirt is fine.

Board Goals: Board member Youngs asked how the Board wants to proceed on developing Board goals and a timeline for when they should be finalized.

- Board member Bringuel suggested that each of the Board Committees could develop goals and then bring them to the full board.

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- Superintendent Calice stated that the October 2nd meeting is a full meeting. He will provide language on the 5 goals that the Board had discussed before and try to match the language to Board goals as well as the Superintendent's evaluation criteria for discussion/approval at the October 23rd meeting.
- Board member Youngs read the 5 goals previously discussed:
 - *Vision and Mission Statement – clean-up language
 - *Procedures and Protocols
 - *Capital Project
 - *Establish Positive Atmosphere and Culture
 - *Smart Bond

- **Cell Phone Policy:** Board member Fish stated that he recently had cause to look at documentation regarding the cell phone policy in the student handbook and the restrictions and punishments. There should be a Board policy for mobile devices which includes rules and punishments. He expressed a concern if an appeal is made to the Board, the language in the Student Handbook is conflicting, making it hard to interpret. Most Boards in the area have cell phone policies.
- Board member Bringuel commented that there should be a Policy, but the regulations and enforcing the policy is up to the Superintendent and staff.
- Superintendent Calice commented that regulations are set by New York State, Policy is set by the Board of Education, and Procedures are an administrative decision-making tool. The Board has never approved the Student or Teacher Handbooks as they are expectations and procedures. He also stated that computer/electronic usage falls under the Code of Conduct. NYS requires a district to have a Code of Conduct and a plain language Code of Conduct documentation. The Student Handbook contains the plain language version of the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct is available on the website.
- Board member Youngs commented that right now the Superintendent is in charge of updating the website and we need to get a position in place to relieve the Superintendent of that duty.
- Board member Barrows commented that he uses the website for information than anything else.
- Vice-President Drew commented that he received a letter from the school around August 1st explaining the new cell phone regulations. He added that his daughter was not happy about the change, but both parents
- Board member Fish asked if there is legal foundation for a no cell phone policy.
- Superintendent Calice stated that there is no law, but there is court case from NYC that went through the Commissioner of Education and the court system and it was found that cell phone use in school has no educational purpose. He also stated that all students have a 1-1 device to use during the school day and the district has not eliminated their messaging or getting to social media. Eliminating cell phones has taken away the distraction and ability of students to video students and staff and then using those videos inappropriately. Decreasing the distraction will increase productivity and students can still use their cell phones during lunch and check for messages from their locker in between classes. There is no educational detriment to taking away cell phones during class time. Besides the letter home to parents, Ms. Connolly, High School Principal, was very clear in her meetings with students on the first day what "no cell phones" meant – it left no room for doubt on what the expectations were.
- Board member Markham commented that there are phones available if a student needs to make a call.

- Superintendent Calice stated that if a student needed to text, They can go to an office to send the text with permission, and then return the phone to their locker.
- Vice-President Drew commented that the Board is setting administrators up for failure by trying to micromanage how they set procedures and punishments. This could have been discussed in August if the Board had concerns.
- Board member Youngs commented that everyone has their opinions, but it is important that everyone (Board, staff and parents) is on the same page when procedures are put in place. If there are contradictions in procedures then they need to be cleaned up.
- Board member Fish commented that the Board should look at what other districts are doing and clean-up any language that is contradictory. A committee including all stakeholders should review the Code of Conduct, dress code, and mobile device usage.
- Superintendent Calice stated that it is worth having a Discussion.

Ag in the Classroom: Board member Bringuel commented that he was at a meeting with the Cornell Extension and Greene was part of the Ag in the Classroom program for a number of years, but opted out this year. The program promotes careers in agriculture and is available through a BOCES Co-ser which makes the cost reimbursable.

- Superintendent Calice stated that grant money received from Senator Akshar paid for the program for the last two years. Akshar's seed money dried up this year and the district was unaware and therefore did not budget the \$10,000 cost of the program. It was determined that there were other areas that were more crucial to support our students and staff this year. The program was at the primary and intermediate schools, and the decision to forego the program this year was discussed by the administrative team.

**REVIEW BOARD
OUTSTANDING ACTION LIST:**

Directed Date:	Task:	Responsibility Of:	Report Back:
9/5/18	Transfer to Capital Reserve	BOE	October 2019
5/22/19	Footlights Policy	Amanda Boel	October 2019
7/10/19	Board Training	Board & Superintendent	Ongoing
9/18/19	Board Goals	Board & Superintendent	10/23/19

- Board goals report back 10/23

**SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT:**

- Superintendent Timothy Calice reported on the following:

- Superintendent Calice publicly thanked all the staff for the important part they played in successfully handling today's power outage. A lot was learned in the debriefing, but everyone did a good job. Thank all of staff Staff remained and finished working the remainder of the day and students were present for half of the day so the district did not lose a day of attendance.

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- Vice-President Drew commented that some phone numbers were unavailable and that a meeting should be set up prior to snow removal to be sure everything is in place.

**REVIEW COMMITTEE
SCHEDULE:**

Committee Name:	Last Meeting:	Next Meeting:
Budget	April 2, 2019	
Building & Grounds	May 16, 2019	9/19/19 @ 8:30 a.m.
Transportation	Jan. 16, 2019	
Audit	June 19, 2019	10/5/19 @ 5:00 p.m.
Curriculum & Technology	Aug. 15, 2018	
Policy	Sept. 28, 2018	

- 10/5 Audit Committee @ 5 p.m.
- 9/19 Buildings & Grounds @ 8:30 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:
MARIE SCOFIELD**

- Marie Scofield, GTA President, commented that the opening staff days were amazing and staff appreciated being recognized. Middle School Open House was a blast. Middle School students had a good day today even with the power outage. The Ag in Education discussion is appreciated and could be a valuable program at the high school level. She also commented that limits put on devices is going to be an ongoing battle and she is disappointed if teachers are not backing policies.

- Vice-President Drew asked what the feedback was from the survey for having Open House before school started.
- Mark Wilson, High School Principal stated that the results were 98% positive. Constructive feedback was received.

NICHOLAS DREW

- Motion made by Drew, seconded by Bringuel, to adjourn to Executive Session for the following at 7:42 p.m.:
 - To discuss the performance of a particular person.Yes-7, No-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Markham, to adjourn Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. Yes-7, No-0

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

- President Milk reconvened the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

RECONVENE

- Motion made by Barrows, seconded by Drew, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Yes-7, No-0

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Marie Utter
District Clerk

