

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL, GREENE, NY
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021**

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CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Greene Central School Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 PM by Board Vice President, Doug Markham, in the Board of Education Conference Room, Middle School/High School campus, South Canal Street, Greene, New York.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Douglas Markham – Vice President
Mr. Seth Barrows
Mr. Andrew Bringuel, II
Mr. Nicholas Drew
Mrs. Natalie McMahon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. John Fish – President
Mr. Brian Milk

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Timothy Calice, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Cliff Jones, Head Bus Driver
Mr. Mark Rubitski, Business Official

OFFICER(S) PRESENT:

Mrs. Shiela Walker, Clerk of the Board

FIRST EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO REGULAR AGENDA

None.

GOOD NEWS ~ DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Calice congratulated all the Middle and High School students that were recently recognized for achieving Honor and High Honor Roll for the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Calice stated that he had the opportunity to have a photo taken with the fifty-one (51) High School students that received the Superintendent's Honor Roll, which is a 95 or above average. He said that this is an awesome start academically to the school year and that he hopes they all keep up the great work.

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Mr. Calice extended congratulations to Olivia Kennedy as she recently signed her National Letter of Intent to play softball at Caldwell University next fall.

Mr. Calice thanked the Interact Club students and Student Council members that have teamed up to participate in the annual ringing of the bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign. He stated that he will provide a follow up on amounts raised after they are done for the season.

Mr. Calice announced that the Arts in Education mural, which was produced in conjunction with the mural that is on the Scout House at the ball flats, has been hung at the Intermediate School. He extended thanks to Mrs. McDermott for her coordination of this project and all the staff that participated with their students. The GCS maintenance staff was also thanked for hanging the mural. He stated that there was a delay in installing it due to the capital project, but that it is a great addition to the building.

Mr. Calice thanked Mrs. Flohr for her work on submitting the Scholar Athlete information to NYSPHSAA. He stated that for the fall season the student athletes did an awesome job in the classroom and that six (6) out of the seven (7) fall sports teams earned the honor, including field hockey, boys' and girls' soccer, girls swimming, volleyball, and golf.

Finally, Mr. Calice wanted to recognize one of the district's bus drivers. Due to the actions of Sue Proscia last Thursday, she prevented what could have been a devastating accident. While preparing to stop and drop off a student, she was watching in the rearview mirror as a car was approaching from behind that was not slowing down. Mrs. Proscia stopped the student from going down the stairs just as the car swerved to avoid the back of the bus, and instead, passed on the right side of the bus, ending up in the ditch. The driver of the vehicle was okay but if it hadn't been for Mrs. Proscia's alertness and following proper safety protocols, it could have ended with much different results. Mr. Calice thanked Mrs. Proscia and stated that he had watched the bus videos and her attentiveness and immediate reaction was excellent. He stated that the videos will be used for future training of our bus drivers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENTS

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education, a motion was made by Bringuel, seconded by Barrows, to approve the following placements:

PRESCHOOL:

#800000026

REQUESTED REVIEW:

#710024119

#710024180

#710024035

#710024257

#710024251

AMENDED/MODIFIED IEP:

#710023865

#710023608

#710023695

Yes – 5, No – 0

APPROVE MINUTES OF 11/17/21 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Vice President Markham noted that there was an error in the minutes as presented. At the top of Page 7 it had been reported that Mr. Fish would be absent at the December 3rd Board of Education meeting when, in fact, it had been announced that he would be absent from the *December 8, 2021* meeting. The District Clerk stated that this correction would be made to the minutes. Motion made by Bringuel, seconded by Barrows, to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on November 17, 2021, as presented and with the noted correction.

Yes – 5, No – 0

CALENDAR

December 10 – ½ day for Primary & Intermediate Students – Parent-Teacher Conferences

December 16 – IS/MS/HS Band Concert – 6:30 PM

December 17 – ½ day for Primary & Intermediate Students – Parent-Teacher Conferences

December 20 – IS/MS/HS Chorus Concert – 6:30 PM

December 22 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM

December 23-31 – Holiday Recess (Offices Closed December 23 & 24 and December 30 & 31)

January 12, 2022 – Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM

January 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School (Offices Closed)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice President Markham asked that the first Public Comment Period be used for items that are on this evening's Agenda and reminded guests that there is now a three-minute time limit per person.

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

None.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Barrows discussed the December Budget Committee meeting with the Board. It was decided that Mr. Rubitski will provide information to the Board ahead of time. If the Board has questions, they will hold a meeting on December 22, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

OTHER ITEMS

None.

AGREEMENT WITH NUTRITION GROUP

Motion by Drew, seconded by McMahon - *"In accordance with Section 204-a of the New York State Civil Service Law, funds are hereby provided to implement the agreement between the Greene Nutrition Network and the Chief Executive Officer at the Greene Central School District for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 and authorize the Superintendent to sign the necessary Memorandum of Understanding to complete the agreement."*

Yes – 5, No – 0

AGREEMENT WITH TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Motion by Drew, seconded by McMahon - *"In accordance with Section 204-a of the New York State Civil Service Law, funds are hereby provided to implement the agreement between the Bus Driver Group and the Chief Executive Officer at the Greene Central School District for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023 and authorize the Superintendent to sign the necessary Memorandum of Understanding to complete the agreement."*

Yes – 5, No – 0

EDUCATION & PERSONNEL:

The Superintendent of Schools recommended the following Board actions:

CREATE POSITIONS – TWO (2) FULL-TIME SUBSTITUTE TEACHER POSITIONS

Motion made by Barrows, seconded by Bringuel, to create two (2) Full-Time Substitute Teacher positions.

Yes – 5, No – 0

CREATE POSITION – ONE (1) .5 TEACHER'S AIDE POSITION BASED ON AN IEP

Motion made by Barrows, seconded by Bringuel, to create one (1) .5 Teacher's Aide position based on an IEP.

Yes – 5, No – 0

BUSINESS & FINANCE:

INTERNAL CLAIMS AUDITOR REPORT – OCTOBER 2021

Motion made by McMahon, seconded by Barrows, to accept the Internal Claims Auditor Report for October 2021 as presented.

Yes – 5, No – 0

TREASURER'S REPORTS FOR THE ACTIVITY FUND – OCTOBER 2021

Motion made by McMahon, seconded by Barrows, to approve the Treasurer's Reports for the Activity Fund for October 2021 as presented.

Yes – 5, No – 0

TRANSPORTATION BUS REPLACEMENT PLAN

Motion made by McMahon, seconded by Barrows, to accept the Transportation Bus Replacement Plan as presented.

Yes – 5, No – 0

SURPLUS REQUEST – IT EQUIPMENT

Motion made by McMahon, seconded by Barrows, to accept the Surplus Request of IT Equipment as presented. Mr. Rubitski stated that the request will go to BT BOCES next for approval. If there is anything of value, items will be donated to the Greene CSD tech teachers or robotics club for repurposing or breaking down components.

Yes – 5, No – 0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

REVIEW BOARD OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST:

Directed Date	Task	Responsibility	Report Back
7/10/2019	BOE Training	BOE & Superintendent	Ongoing
9/18/2019	BOE Goals	BOE & Superintendent	Ongoing

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Calice reported that the District was contacted last Thursday by the Comptroller's Office that it was our turn for an audit. The focus of their audit will be provided after they meet with Administration. Mr. Calice stated that these audits are done every seven (7) years. On Thursday, Mr. Calice, Mr. Rubitski and Mr. Markham will have a kick-off meeting with the auditors. Mr. Calice said that, due to the upcoming holidays, the timing is unfortunate as these can be very lengthy. He also stated that it would be nice if it was not during our budget development period.

Next, Mr. Calice spoke regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at Greene Central Schools. He said that New York State has a DEI framework and also has an initiative throughout the state, region and in our own district. He stated that over the summer he attended several trainings and started working with the Administration team on this initiative. Also, New York State required every district to create and approve a DEI policy. He noted that Greene Central School was the very first district to create a Board of Education DEI policy in the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego (DCMO) BOCES district and was also one of the first in the region.

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Additionally, Mr. Calice stated that all instructional staff attended a training on DEI during the second conference day held in September and that the district intends to follow up and have further trainings.

He noted that all these items were prior to the recent concerns.

Next, Mr. Calice announced that the Social Studies department recently met to discuss possible speakers at each grade level and how to address diversity and culture that can be imbedded with the curriculum. The students are learning to make better connections. Mr. Calice said that he has also had meetings with some parents that represent some of the group that was at the last Board of Education meeting and is working with Binghamton University to provide additional resources. He is also engaged with DCMO BOCES to discuss additional training opportunities around DEI.

Furthermore, Mr. Calice stated that he will be meeting with students on Friday to discuss ideas they have come up with regarding mental health and what the District can possibly do in response to student needs/concerns. The District wants to provide a venue for students, staff and parents to be able to share thoughts and feedback.

Mr. Calice announced that he has also invited a parent member to sit in on a meeting so that they can see how the tool ThoughtExchange works. He said that this parent will act as a liaison to assist other parents and community members to understand the process so that we continue to move forward. Mr. Calice said that we will use the data, themes and thoughts from the ThoughtExchange to give direction to the committee that the District will be forming. He also stated that he intends to have each respective group have a voice at the table and that, most likely, there will need to be subcommittees of stakeholder groups. Mr. Calice feels that Binghamton University will be able to assist in training people on the committees so that our work is focused on improvement. This will also likely have a larger impact on our District by opening more opportunities and resources.

Finally, Mr. Calice stated that our strengths are in our differences and that, as with every initiative, it will not move forward fast enough for some and too fast for others. However, the work being done over the next couple of weeks will continue to create the venue for voices to be heard.

REVIEW COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Committee Name:	Last Meeting:	Next Meeting:
Audit	September 29, 2021	
Budget	November 17, 2021	December 22, 2021 @ 6:00 PM
Building & Grounds	November 16, 2021	
Curriculum & Technology	August 15, 2018	
Policy	June 23, 2021	
Transportation	November 15, 2021	

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR

Student Leslie Bowen stated that she feels we need the Middle and High Schools to hold an assembly to be able to talk about such things as bullying, harassment, and racism. She stated that students need to hear about the Greene Way, which should be reinforced with students.

Ted Bowen said that he is Leslie's Dad and first wanted to say how great Sue (Proscia) is and that she has helped his other daughter. He stated that he wanted to follow up on the public comment portion of the November 17th Board of Education meeting and is pleased to hear about the new diversity ideas and policies. He feels that it is only good if applied equally. Furthermore, he said that the world has changed a lot in the last fifteen to twenty years and that he moved from New York City, which he feels is one of the most diverse areas. He felt it was a culture shock at first but is pleased that changes are being made here.

Stephanie Davy stated that she is super grateful for the committees the school is planning to create and that there are a lot of community members in attendance this evening that would be willing to sit on a committee. She stated that she has a lot of experience with this subject matter and that the current thinking is good. Additionally, she feels that students can help each other, and teachers can jump in and help.

Victoria Pezzino thanked the Board for letting the community members be in attendance. She said that she wants open mindedness and agrees with Leslie (Bowen) and wants an open dialogue about subjects such as African Americans and Judaism. She feels that the students working with the Social Studies department is fantastic. Finally, she had copies of a personal letter that she wanted each Board member to receive as it was an explanation of what is happening in their own household.

Melissa Thurston spoke regarding bullying. She stated that students are told such things as to kill themselves and walk the track. Luckily, her own daughter hasn't contemplated these actions, but she wonders what if the next student has, and does. Additionally, she stated that we don't know their struggles and neither do other students.

Rachel Parsons stated that Sue (Proscia) is amazing. She said that she's glad the district is acting on bullying and racism. She feels that changing the culture can affect everyone and that everyone from the principals to janitors can create an environment where kids feel safe.

Fred Mills stated that there was an incident with his daughter not long ago. He said that he has questions on what the next steps will be. He claims that there is a lot of lying and mistrust and wants to know what consequences the monitor, driver, and head bus driver were given. He stated that his daughter was found in Oxford.

Marie Scofield said that she was following up on the last board meeting and the new processes for speaking. She is concerned for those that might be running late and also knows that sometimes people think of topics of discussion during the meeting.

Student Alec Mills stated that he feels there is a lot of favoritism at Greene and sometimes kids get in trouble when they are repeating things that other students have done without getting into trouble themselves. **Mr. (Fred) Mills** stated that kids mature and that it has taken him years to get his son (Alec) to where he is. He also said that staff has called him a crappy father.

SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Bringuel, seconded by M^cMahon, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 7:35 PM to discuss litigation involving the district and the performance of a specific individual.
Yes – 5, No – 0

ADJOURNMENT SECOND EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by M^cMahon, seconded by Bringuel, it was recommended to adjourn the second Executive Session at 8:40 PM.
Yes – 5, No – 0

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Barrows, seconded by Drew, Vice President Markham adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.
Yes – 5, No – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Shiela Walker
Clerk of the Board