

**PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Plattsburgh, New York**

Minutes of the Meeting of the
**Special Board of Education Regular Meeting
May 5, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. – Virtual**

*to participate go to: <https://bit.ly/35rlltJ> or
phone 1-408-418-9388 (note: this is a toll call)*

ROLL

Board of Education

Leisa Boise (President) – present
Amelia Goerlitz – present
Robert Hall, Jr. – present
Steve Krieg – present
Ronald Marino – present
Clayton Morris – present
Tracy Rotz – (Vice-president) – present
Roderick Sherman – present
Fred Wachtmeister – present

Others

Jay C. Lebrun (Superintendent of Schools) – present
Carrie Harvey-Zales – (Ass't. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction) – present
David Baroody (Ass't. Supt. for Business) – present
Fortune Ellison – (Director of Special Education) - excused
Dawn Stetz (District Clerk - Host) – present
Lucas Wisniewski (Alt. Host) - present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Leisa Boise led the pledge of allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER/EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:38 a.m., it was moved by Mrs. Goerlitz, seconded by Mr. Krieg to call the meeting to order. **Motion Carried: 9-0**

New Business

Business

Donation

It was moved by Mrs. Goerlitz, seconded by Mr. Krieg to recommend the Board of Education accept a \$1,250 donation from Katherine Wakim, Salesforce.com Inc. as a match to her personal donation as a parent, of \$1,250 to Bailey Avenue Elementary School for the purchase of technology items, which was approved by the Board in February, 2020.

Motion Carried: 9-0

BOND RESOLUTION – CEWW BOCES

It was moved by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Mr. Hall to recommend the Board of Education adopt the following Bond Resolution:

BOND RESOLUTION OF THE PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF SERIAL BONDS OR NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF SUCH BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$3,910,030.

RECITAL

WHEREAS, the Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services d/b/a Champlain Valley Educational Services (“the “CEWW BOCES”) has heretofore been created and the Plattsburgh City School District (the “District”) is a component district thereof; and

WHEREAS, CEWW BOCES is a local agency pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), ECL Section 8-0101, *et seq.*, and implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the “Regulations”); and

WHEREAS, CEWW BOCES, as lead agency, reviewed the impact of the Project, as defined below, upon the environment and by resolution adopted August 22, 2018 determined that the Project is an Unlisted Action as such term is defined in the Regulations; and

WHEREAS, based upon a review of a Full Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”) prepared for the Project dated July 11, 2018, together with other relevant criteria and materials, CEWW BOCES by resolution adopted August 22, 2018 (a) determined that the requirements of SEQRA had been met and that the Project will not result in any significant adverse impacts to the environment and (b) issued a Negative Declaration with respect to the Project; and

WHEREAS, the qualified voters of CEWW BOCES at a special meeting duly called and held on December 11, 2018 did vote and adopt the following proposition:

Shall the Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services (the "CEWW BOCES"), be authorized to undertake a project (the "Project") consisting of the acquisition of approximately 17 acres of land and related buildings and structures comprising the CEWW BOCES's Satellite Branch Campus, 518 Rugar Street, Plattsburgh, New York (the "Satellite Branch Campus") which the CEWW BOCES currently leases and approximately 20 acres adjacent thereto for future expansion, the construction of certain renovations, alterations, additions and improvements to the buildings and structures located at the CEWW BOCES's Plattsburgh Main Campus at 1585 Military Turnpike Ext., Plattsburgh, New York, the Satellite Branch Campus and the Mineville Campus, 3092 Plank Road, Mineville, New York, including related demolition, construction, renovations, site improvements, furnishings, fixtures and equipment required for such purposes, architectural fees and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of \$29,850,000 and in furtherance thereof in its discretion to either (a) enter into any and all agreements and instruments necessary or desirable to effectuate the financing for said Project through the auspices of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") including, but not limited to, authority to convey to DASNY such specific interests in real property or leasehold interests as may be necessary or desirable in connection therewith, and to enter into any lease or other agreement with DASNY, as may be necessary or desirable to effectuate said financing or (b) enter into an agreement with the component school districts of the CEWW BOCES pursuant to education law section 1950(14)(a) to provide for the financing of the Project and other matters necessary or proper to effectuate the Project as set forth in such statute; and

WHEREAS, CEWW BOCES entered into an agreement by and between CEWW BOCES and each of the component school districts of CEWW BOCES (the "Intermunicipal Agreement") providing for the construction, allocation and apportionment of the cost of the Project among such component school districts, the payment by each such component school district of its respective share to CEWW BOCES and other matters incidental thereto; and

WHEREAS, the District by resolution adopted February 13, 2019 approved the Intermunicipal Agreement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Intermunicipal Agreement, the amount payable by the District to CEWW BOCES in connection with the Project is \$3,910,030.

WHEREAS, the District intends hereby to authorize (but not require) the issuance of indebtedness to finance the District's allocable share of the cost of the Project in accordance with Section 1950(14) of the Education Law; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ON [BOARD MEETING DATE], BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE DISTRICT, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The District is hereby authorized to pay CEWW BOCES \$3,910,030 and said amount is hereby appropriated therefore. The estimated total cost of the District's allocable share of the Project, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof, is \$3,910,030 and the plan of financing includes the issuance of serial bonds in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3,910,030, and the levy and collection of taxes on all the taxable real property in the District to pay the principal of the bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable, subject to applicable amounts of state assistance available or to any revenues available for such purpose from any other source. It is hereby determined that the requirements of SEQRA have been met.

Section 2. Bonds and bond anticipation notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law of the State of New York (the "Local Finance Law"), in a principal amount not to exceed \$3,910,030 to finance said payment to CEWW BOCES.

Section 3. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

- (a) Under Section 1950(14)(b) of the Education Law, the period of probable usefulness of the Project is thirty (30) years;
- (b) Current funds are not required by the Local Finance Law to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds and any notes issued in anticipation thereof authorized by this resolution;
- (c) The proposed maturity of the bonds authorized by this resolution will exceed five (5) years;

Section 4. The temporary use of available funds of the District, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Local Finance Law, for the capital purposes described in Section 1 of this resolution. The reasonably expected source of funds to be used to initially pay for the expenditures authorized by Section 1 of this resolution shall be from the District's General Fund. It is intended that the District shall then reimburse expenditures from the General Fund with the proceeds of the bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized by this resolution and that the interest payable on the bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of such bonds shall be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. This resolution is intended to constitute the declaration of the District's "official intent" within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 to reimburse the expenditures authorized by this resolution with the proceeds of the bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized herein. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are reasonably expected to be, received, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the objects or purposes described herein.

Section 5. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation thereof shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be general obligations of the District, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property within the District without limitation of rate or amount. The full faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the District of appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the bonds and any notes in anticipation thereof to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year. Such debt service payments may be made in substantially level or declining amounts as may be authorized by law.

Section 6. The validity of the bonds authorized by this resolution and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds, may be contested only if:

- (a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or

- (b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of such resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity, is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- (c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 7. As permitted by Section 56.00 of the Local Finance Law, the power to issue and sell the bonds and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, including all powers or duties pertaining or incidental thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, as Chief Fiscal Officer, except as herein provided. The bonds shall be of such terms, form and contents as may be determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer, pursuant to the Local Finance Law. The Chief Fiscal Officer is authorized to execute and deliver any documents and to take such other action as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and provisions hereof.

Section 8. Bond, Schoeneck & King is appointed bond counsel to the District for the Project.

Section 9. This resolution shall take effect immediately. The District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a summary of the foregoing resolution, together with a Notice in substantially the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law in the newspapers having general circulation in the District and designated the official newspapers of District for such publication.

After much discussion, it was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Krieg to postpone this action item.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Hall.....no
 Mr. Krieg.....yes
 Mr. Marino.....yes
 Mr. Morris.....no
 Mr. Rotz.....no
 Mr. Sherman.....no
 Mr. Wathmeister...no
 Mrs. Boise.....no
 Mrs. Goerlitz.....no

Motion Failed: 2-7

It was moved by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Mr. Hall to vote on the original action item.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Krieg.....no
 Mr. Marino.....no
 Mr. Morris.....yes
 Mr. Rotz.....yes
 Mr. Sherman.....yes
 Mr. Wathmeister..yes
 Mrs. Boise.....yes
 Mrs. Goerlitz.....yes
 Mr. Hall.....yes

Motion Carried: 7-2

Personnel Items (not part of Consent Agenda)

Probationary Appointment

It was moved by Mr. Krieg, seconded by Mr. Marino to recommend the Board of Education approve Mary Jo Jubert to the position of Principal’s Secretary, for the initial 11 month, District-wide placement at Momot Elementary School. Ms. Jubert will be salaried at \$43,010, Step 13 L of the CSEA salary schedule, beginning on August 1, 2020 with a probationary period of 12 weeks.

**Concluding Reports and Remarks
 Superintendent’s Reports/Remarks**

June 9th School Budget Vote/Board Elections – Superintendent Lebrun gave an update on the process for the budget vote. He reported that the Governor issued an executive order late Monday morning which stated the school budget votes/board elections will be held on June 9th. He stated everything surrounding this process is flawed and challenging. He stated it is

clear that this vote will happen solely by absentee ballots, which will be sent to all eligible voters in our district with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to return the ballot in. Superintendent Lebrun pointed out there are contradictory dates in the executive order – the deadlines do not jive. There is a whole lot of confusion but we are working with the school attorney. What is ahead of us is very challenging and unnecessarily confusing.

The District Clerk gave a detailed report of the process/deadlines that need to take place in preparing for the vote/elections.

Superintendent Lebrun followed up with informing the board he intends to put a budget for approval before them after they receive the first “look back” figures from the Governor, which should be received by May 15th. So, he is predicting that around May 18th, 19th, 20th is when the budget will be put forward for the Board to vote on. Superintendent Lebrun mentioned a video conference Superintendents had with Assemblyman Jones and one they also had with Assemblyman Steck. Both painted disastrous pictures of the forthcoming State budget and the State short and mid-term revenue situation. He reminded the Board that he had reported that the district, was initially facing a \$800,000 gap in the budget and the budget committee has been working on reductions to reflect that gap. Unknown to us, then and still, is the degree of possible, further reductions in state aid, thus necessitating further reductions. The current working list of possible reductions totals approximately 1.3 million dollars, which already reflects additional reductions. He stated we will not know, until the 15th, if reductions beyond those we already defined will be necessary. The reductions currently being considered are: a possible savings associated with the currently opened and unresolved collective bargaining agreement, the non-replacement of three teaching assistant positions through attritions, the reduction of two administrators; one of which could be accomplished through attrition, the reduction of one secondary special education position which would be done through attrition, the reduction of one elementary general ed teaching position which would be done through attrition, the reduction of one custodial position which would be done through attrition, the reduction of two student aide positions which would result from the bumping rights to eliminate library aide positions, the reduction of a bus monitor position, the reduction of a nursing position, a reduction of the position in the Business Office, the reduction of a professional development money within the Curriculum & Instruction Department, the reduction of any expenditures beyond the direct state-aided amount for text book and library funding, an overall reduction in districtwide equipment and an overall reduction in districtwide supplies, a reduction in the athletic department which he will define in a moment, the elimination of building technologist’s stipend positions, the re-appropriation of the Buildings and Grounds position to the capital project, the general elimination of a certain amount of professional development and professional development materials.

As for the items for possible reduction for Athletics: a reduction in the amount of travel and transportation costs – most notably return trips from away games meaning the school district would transport to the venue, parents would be responsible for the student’s return, the elimination of a varsity and a jv assistant from the football program, the elimination of a varsity assistant from the varsity hockey program, the elimination of two assistant coaching positions for outdoor tack and field, a general reduction in supplies, the ending of the partial payment on behalf of the residence girls’ hockey players, a reduction in athletic equipment and contractual codes and the elimination of the Athletics Department professional development code. That is approximately a \$51,000 projected savings.

Mr. Sherman asked what the additional 20% dollar amount would be? Answer: Another 3.2 million we may have to cut.

Mr. Krieg Confirmed the first “lookback” would be May 15th? Answer: Yes, leaving the District less than a week to finish the budget process.

Mr. Morris asked if we have been given any indication/guidelines on what we are looking at when we get back into the buildings? Answer: No we have not. The District has been working on it, but what rules the States imposes on us, we do not know. He stated we have to be very careful with the potential cuts, such as custodial staff and teachers because we find ourselves in a position where we can’t meet the guidelines of the State and could cost us more money.

Board Member Reports/Remarks

Mr. Morris stated we need to take an immediate freeze on spending and hiring and looking at all position, not just the ones we discussed tonight’ including sports. We have to prepare for the worst and bring things back as the money comes in. He wished everyone to stay safe.

Mr. Krieg agrees with Mr. Morris and said the main message right now is that we face uncertainty so we have to prepare for the worst. He also said he would call freezing every salary. He also feels we need to go to BOCES and stop the project and do it in a form of a resolution, until we are more sure of what we've got.

Mr. Sherman stated we are in a tough spot and we do not know what we will be facing in the fall – we will be making decision late in the summer as to what positions we will need to fill. If we had to cut another 3.2 million dollars, we could almost close our doors. He strongly encourages the community to reach out to our legislators to ask for stimulus funds from the government. He has mixed feelings on the projects. We have to look at the circumstances as they are in front of us as they change.

At 10:10 a.m., Mr. Rotz was excused.

Mrs. Goerlitz agrees with everything that Mr. Sherman has said. She is very concerned about having to cut more out of the budget and concerned about the kids. And she shares Mr. Morris' concerns about cutting too much – schools are more than just classrooms.

Mr. Hall agrees with what everyone is saying. It's not possible to prepare for every scenario not knowing what we are going to have so, we have to hope we do the best with what we can and see what happens – it is difficult times.

Mr. Marino stated maybe one of the things we need to look at is the cost we incur with the custodians and what we might have to incur. We might be able to save money if we look to see what it will be to have someone else do it. We should be able to look at everything to see where we can cut costs. Kids need education so everything is on the table. He agrees going to BOCES re: the project. The District does not have the money to come up with 3 million dollars and neither do the tax payers.

Mr. Wachtmeister what is going to happen in September, is unknown. The charge in front of us is to come up with a budget based on the circumstances that exist at this moment and time that are known to us. And we will know by May 15th what additional reductions will occur. Yes, we need to communicate to the public the possible reductions as the budget is developed so we can receive some feedback. He discussed the gap and reserve funds that may be available. He also discussed the options before the Board in developing the budget. His recommendation is to make decisions on what is before us, not what if's.

Mrs. Boise agrees we need to make sure that the communication is out there to the community and are aware of all the issues going on and that the community needs to contact our legislatures. We do have our work cut out for us but agrees we need to move forward with the budget with the intentions to do the best we can for our students, staff and community. She thanked Mr. Wisniewski and the District Clerk for getting the meetings up and rolling. She also thanked the District Clerk for the extra time and effort she has been putting forward to ensure the District is moving in the right direction with all the changes. She has done an exceptional job.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 10:15 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Marino to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters as provided for in Board 2330; the employment history of particular personnel.

Motion Carried: 8-0

At 10:57 a.m., Mr. Wachtmeister was excused.

RECONVENE: At 11:19 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Marino to convene to Regular Session.

Motion Carried: 7-0

ADJOURNMENT: At 11:19 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Marino to adjourn.

Motion Carried: 7-0

A full recording of this meeting is available at www.plattscsd.org

Respectfully,

Dawn Stetz
District Clerk