

PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Plattsburgh, New York
Minutes of the Meeting of the
Board of Education Special Meeting
June 22, 2021 – 5:30 p.m. – Duken Building

ROLL

Board of Education

Leisa Boise (President) – present
Amelia Goerlitz – present
Robert Hall, Jr. – present
Thomas Lacey – present
Ronald Marino – present
Clayton Morris – present
Derek Rosenbaum – 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
Dawn Stetz (District Clerk - Host) – present
Glenn Hurlock - (Director of Special Education) - present
Norbert Nedierer (Director of Bldng. & Grounds) – present
Building Principals - present

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

CALL TO ORDER: At 5:32 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Wachtmeister, seconded by Mrs. Goerlitz to call the meeting to order.

Motion Carried: 9-0

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 5:33 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mrs. Goerlitz to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters as provided for in board Policy 2330; the employment history of particular personnel and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law, specifically Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

Motion Carried: 9-0

RECONVENE: At 6:31 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Sherman ~~Mr. Marino~~, seconded by Mr. Hall to reconvene to Regular Session.

Motion Carried: 9-0

SPOT LIGHT: Footbridge Designation – Anne Bailey spoke favorable in name the footbridge after Thelma Douglas, acknowledging many of Thelma’s accomplishments and interactions with students. Ms. Bailey also shared a letter from Dan LaDue supporting the naming of the bridge after Thelma.

It was moved by Mr. Sherman, seconded by Mr. Morris to approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS **Thelma Douglas** began teaching Physical Education across the entire Plattsburgh City School District in 1944 and was often seen bicycling gym class equipment from school to school and,

WHEREAS **Thelma Douglas** became the first woman in New York State to become a Director of Health, Physical Education and Recreation a role in which she successfully received a federal grant for her program “Movement Education” to the Plattsburgh City School District’s elementary education and,

WHEREAS **Thelma Douglas** consistently and regularly introduced and promoted life-long activities such as bicycling, snow shoeing, ice skating, cross-country and down-hill skiing, hiking, camping and swimming to the students of the City School District and,

WHEREAS **Thelma Douglas** was one of the founders of the Beartown Ski Area (“Mother of Beartown”) and initiated down-hill skiing instruction for grades 4-12 and,

WHEREAS **Thelma Douglas (Miss D.)** was inducted into the Plattsburgh High School Hall of Fame in September of 1988 and,

WHEREAS **Thelma Douglas** served on and headed many local committees that were focused on both the physical and mental health of both the children and adults of the City of Plattsburgh and,

WHEREAS the footbridge that crosses the Saranac River behind Plattsburgh High School and makes a pedestrian connection between Waterhouse Street and Angell Drive is solely owned by the Plattsburgh City School District therefore

BE IT RESOLVED to honor her dedication to both the students and community the Plattsburgh City School District Board of Education on this 22nd day of June 2021 officially names this bridge as the “THELMA DOUGLAS FOOTBRIDGE” and be it further,

RESOLVED that the school district will install appropriate signage noting such recognition and be it further,

RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools and/or the Clerk of the Board of Education notify the appropriate public authorities to make such changes as necessary.

Motion Carried: 9-0

It was moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Marino to add “Public Comment” to the agenda. **Motion Carried: 9-0**

PUBLIC COMMENT: Karen Larking expressed she feels the newly elected board members should make decisions on the current agenda items. Michael Claussen referenced policy 3100 – quoting the length of Superintendent contracts should not exceed 3 years and mentioned it appears no evaluation has been done prior to extending the contract. He is also in favor of the newly elected board members acting on the Superintendent’s contract. Ben Wright had also hoped that the vote on the Superintendent’s contract would be tabled. He also referenced no one responding to his wife’s inquiry on if this meeting could be virtually attended.

NEW BUSINESS

Contract - Superintendent

It was moved by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Morris to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves the employment agreement between the District and Superintendent of Schools, John (“Jay”) Lebrun, for a period of five years commencing June 22, 2021 and ending June 21, 2026, and authorizes payment thereunder.

It was moved by Mr. Marino and seconded by Mr. Lacey to table this action item.

ROLL CALL VOTE: YES – Mr. Marino, Mr. Rosenbaum and Mr. Lacey
NO – Mr. Morris, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Wachtmeister, Mrs. Boise, Mrs. Goerlitz and Mr. Hall.
Motion Failed: 3-6

ROLL CALL VOTE (on initial action item): YES – Mr. Morris, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Wachtmeister, Mrs. Boise, Mrs. Goerlitz and Mr. Hall
NO – Mr. Lacey, Mr. Marino and Mr. Rosenbaum
Motion Carried: 6-3

Contract – Assistant Superintendent to Curriculum and Instruction

It was moved by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Wachtmeister to recommend the Board of Education approve a revised contract to Carrie Zales, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, authorizes payment thereunder, and such other terms and conditions of employment as set forth, approved by the District’s legal counsel, and as in the Agreement submitted to the Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE (on initial action item): YES – Mr. Hall, Mr. Lacey, Mr. Marino, Mr. Morris, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Wachtmeister, Mrs. Boise, and Mrs. Goerlitz
NO – Mr. Rosenbaum
Motion Carried: 8-1

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:28 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Hall to reconvene to adjourn.
Motion Carried: 9-0

Respectfully,

Dawn Stetz
District Clerk