

Wells Central School Board of Education Meeting Minutes February 24, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Board President Kenneth Hoffman. BOE Members present: Cathie Rust, Dorman Reese, Racheal Foster, and William Stuart. Also present: Superintendent Thomas Sincavage, Principal Jeremy Siddon, Food Service Director Melinda Madison, District Clerk Kathleen Towers and one guest, Dee Parker.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, **Melinda Madison invited the Board to proceed to the cafeteria kitchen for a tour of the facilities. Melinda reviewed with the Board equipment including age and condition.** She showed the Board areas in the kitchen where recommended upgrades would facilitate better use of space and make for a more conducive work site. She also pitched for some upgrades and replacements of existing equipment with items that could better suit our needs. Most of the equipment in our kitchen is over 50 years old (was installed when the building was built in 1963). The Board was given a three year plan for modification/upgrading of the kitchen. The most pressing need is the replacement of a 50+ old convection oven. The conversation with Mrs. Madison moved back to the Library. Board Members asked several questions. There was no action taken at the time.

The Board of Education approved the minutes of the January 20, 2016 Business Meeting. The motion was made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Cathie Rust and carried 5-0.

Under Information and Correspondence, the following items were brought up: February 1, 2016 Enrollment Report by Jessica Dampier, HFM BOCES Correspondence soliciting members for BOCES Board (no interest by Wells Board Members in serving on the BOCES Board), Utica National Risk Management Seminar Apr 21 in Saratoga (Tom will attend, Cathie expressed interest in attending).

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report for the time period January 1-31, 2016 and the Warrant dated January, 2016 in the amounts of: General Fund - \$130,274.55, Trust and Agency - \$202,167.18, Federal Fund – \$5,450.00, School Lunch Fund \$5,918.49 and Capital Fund – \$00. The motion was made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Racheal Foster and carried 5-0.

The Appropriation Status Report and Revenue Status Report were reviewed by the Board. Mr. Sincavage reviewed with the Board a very preliminary report provided by our accountant projecting possible fund balance including an amount that could possibly be applied to offset taxpayer burden. It appears that we are on track to have another financially healthy year.

Athletic Director Jeremy Siddon reported to the Board that secondary basketball programs are finished and varsity teams finished well, with girls having winning 50% of their contests. Boys finished as co-champs of the MVAC with Schroon Lake. Both boys and girls participated in sectional play. Elementary Basketball started on Monday, 2/22. Turning to spring sports, although there are sufficient girls interested in softball, there are not enough boys interested in baseball. There are definitely not enough interested boys to field a varsity team. Even combined with Lake Pleasant, there are presently only 7 boys interested in playing modified baseball. Jeremy will keep checking with students, but at this time, there are not enough interested boys to have a baseball program. Although Mr. Siddon tried to make an arrangement to merge with Northville, Northville was not interested.

Mr. Sincavage gave his Superintendents Report, consisting of the following items:

Proposed change in voting hours – Last year was the last year that NYS would allow school districts to use the old style voting machine. We either have to buy the new state of the art voting machines which are cost prohibitive or use paper ballots. We will be using paper ballots. However, it will take longer to determine the results, so the recommendation is to close the polls ½ hr. earlier.

School Accountability Status and Fiscal Stress Report – We are a district in Good Standing and our Fiscal Stress Report is the best score possible (0).

School Safety Excellence Award Program – We attained the Titanium with Honors Award from Utica National Insurance Co. and Mr. Sincavage believes there may be a monetary award. Award will be presented at the April Conference in Saratoga.

Preliminary Budget/Tax Cap Discussion- Presently we have a budget gap, but Mr. Sincavage is working to close that. The tax cap is 1.16%

Annual Transportation Report by Mindy Morrison – A total of 80,206 miles were driven by bus drivers in 2014/15. The plan is to replace bus 42 with a new bus in the fall. We have 11 active 19a qualified drivers (most of which are subs). All

paperwork, refresher courses, drills and inspections are up to date. New arrangement involving 3 full time drivers plus Mr. Welch is going well.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved for a second reading the following Board of Education polices: 4.510/5.730 Meals and Refreshments, 4.520/5.740 Conference Request, 4.530/8.930 Sex Offender Notification Policy, 4.540/9.940 Concussion Management Policy, 5.100 Fixed Assets, 5.290 Budget Transfer Authority, 5.410 Investment/Borrowing Policy, 5.600 Student Activity Funds, 5.700 Purchasing, 5.710 Purchasing Authority, 5.720 Credit Cards, 5.750 Local Purchasing, 5.760 Use of District Owned Cell Phones, 5.900 School Property Disposal Procedures, 5.910 Payroll Procedures, 5.920 Fraud Policy. The motion was made by Cathie Rust, seconded by Racheal Foster and carried 5-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved for a first Reading the following Board of Education Policies: 6.200 Inspection and Copying of Records, 6.210 FERPA, 6.500 Community Use of Facilities, 6.510 Animals in School Building and Grounds, 6.550 Authorized Use of School Owned Materials, 6.560 Distribution of Informational and Promotional Materials, 6.740 Relations with Churches, 6.800 Gifts from the Public, 7.460 Incidental Teaching, 7.600 Curriculum, and 7.606 Curriculum Review, Modification and Development. The motion was made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Racheal Foster and carried 5-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved a Section VII merger with Lake Pleasant Central School for modified sports in the event that our numbers of students are too low to field a team. The motion was made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Cathie Rust and carried 4-1. Racheal Foster voted no.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the WCS and HFM BOCES 2016/2017 School Calendars as presented. Dorman Reese made the motion, Cathie Rust seconded it and it carried 5-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the 2016 Legal Notice for 2016/2017 Budget Vote and Board Member Election as presented, (which includes the adjustment in the polling hours) to be published on: March 23, April 6, April 20, and May 4, 2016. It was moved by Cathie Rust, seconded by Bill Stuart and carried 5-0.

The WCS BOE recessed to Executive Session at 7:17 pm to discuss specific personnel items, the evaluation of the Superintendent and items of negotiations on a motion made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Bill Stuart and carried 5-0.

The WCS returned to open session at 9:28 pm on a motion made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Cathie Rust and carried 5-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved one year contracts commencing July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017 for the following school employees: School Nurse Kristy Wright, Part-Time Computer Coordinator Karen Strevy and Part-Time District Treasurer Martha Brown, as presented. Cathie Rust made the motion, Dorman Reese seconded it and the it carried 5-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved a new contract for Jeremy Siddon, Building Principal dated July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019 and the Board also approved granting tenure to Mr. Siddon, effective July 1, 2016, on a motion made by Cathie Rust, seconded by Racheal Foster, and carried by all.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved adding Mollie Lacek to the 2015/2016 list of approved substitute teachers. Ms. Lacek is NYS Certified. The motion was made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Cathie Rust and carried by all.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the following spring coaching position for the 2015/2016 school year: Parris Beach as girls' varsity softball coach, on a motion by Cathie Rust, seconded by Bill Stuart and carried 5-0.

On a 5-0 vote, moved by Cathie Rust and seconded by Dorman Reese, the Board passed the following two retirement incentives:

WHEREAS, the Wells Support Staff Association (“WSSA”) represents certain certified personnel employed by the Wells Central School District (“District”); and

WHEREAS, the District desires to offer a retirement incentive to eligible bargaining unit members; and

WHEREAS, the WSSA is agreeable to such an incentive;

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Any full time member of the bargaining unit who is eligible to retire, in accordance with the rules of the New York State Employees’ Retirement System, and does so retire in accordance herewith, will receive a lump sum payment of Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars.
2. In order to be eligible for this payment, the bargaining unit member must submit his/her irrevocable letter of resignation for retirement purposes no later than April 1, 2016 and must retire effective on or before July 1, 2016.
3. Payments required shall be made in a lump sum to the retiree, on the last payroll date of the 2015/2016 school year.
4. This agreement shall sunset on June 30, 2016 and shall have no further force or effect, except as to payment due on or after that date.
5. This agreement is subject to the approval of the Board of Education of the District. (approved 2/24/16)

WHEREAS, the Wells Teacher’s Association (“WTA”) represents certain certified personnel employed by the Wells Central School District (“District”); and

WHEREAS, the District desires to offer a retirement incentive to eligible bargaining unit members; and

WHEREAS, the WTA is agreeable to such an incentive;

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Any full time member of the bargaining unit who is eligible to retire, in accordance with the rules of the New York State Employees’ Retirement System, and does so retire in accordance herewith, will receive a lump sum payment of Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars.
2. In order to be eligible for this payment, the bargaining unit member must submit his/her irrevocable letter of resignation for retirement purposes no later than April 1, 2016 and must retire effective on or before July 1, 2016.
3. Payments required shall be made in a lump sum to the retiree, on the last payroll date of the 2015/2016 school year.
4. This agreement shall sunset on June 30, 2016 and shall have no further force or effect, except as to payment due on or after that date.
5. This agreement is subject to the approval of the Board of Education of the District. (approved 2/24/16)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm on a motion made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Bill Stuart and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Towers, District Clerk