

Wells Central School Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. Those present were Cathie Rust, President, Kenneth Hoffman, Vice President, Dorman Reese, Board Member. William Stuart, Board Member, Thomas D. Sincavage, Superintendent, Jeremy J. Siddon, Building Principal, Rachelle Dwyer, District Clerk, and one guest. Rachel Lauria, Board Member was absent.

Following the pledge of allegiance, Mr. Sincavage explained the Title I Federal Program. Title I is a grant that the school district receives. The district currently uses this grant money to cover 35% of the special education teachers salary, cse stipends, and programs. The district is investing in an additional testing program through BOCES which will help AIS(academic intervention service) students.

Mr. Sincavage gave the **Superintendent's Report**. The capital project is on time and under budget. The district is looking forward to welcoming back students with a brand new building. The enrollment report has 130 students registered for the 2020/2021 school year. There are a few new families moving into the area. The district anticipates an additional 7 new students. Mr. Sincavage reviewed the fund balance with the board. The accountant will have a final figure for us next month. Finally the school district plans to reopen with full person instruction on Wednesday September 9th. The school district will have an additional conference day on Tuesday, September 8th to be in line with the HFM BOCES calendar.

At 5:15pm the Board of Education opened bids. The Wells Central School Board of Education accepted the bid of **Mirabito for No. 2 Fuel Oil, in the amount of \$1.3198 with a differential of .0435** on a motion made by Ken Hoffman, seconded by William Stuart and carried 4-0..

The Wells Central School Board of Education accepted the bid of **GA Bove for low grade gasoline, in the amount of \$1.20 with a differential of .25** on a motion made by Ken Hoffman, seconded by William Stuart, and carried 4-0.

Mr. Siddon gave the **Principal's Report**. The school district is working in conjunction with Broadalbin Perth who is also in the Harvard Grant Study. The school district is doing a test study with grades 1, 3, and 5th grade on attendance. We will be utilizing a post card system to notify parents on attendance goals. Next the student bell schedule has changed to meet social distancing guidelines. This year there will be a Lunch A and a Lunch B. Lastly, September 3rd will be a parent orientation day. Teachers will contact parents to schedule a one on one meeting to discuss the changes to the upcoming year and to meet their new teacher. Students in grades 3-6th will also get chromebooks during orientation.

The Board of Education approved the following consent agenda items:

1. **Approval of the July 15, 2020 Minutes**
2. **July Treasurer's Report**
3. **July Warrant 1-31, 2020:** *General fund - \$169,483.41 Federal – \$6,572.08, School Lunch \$0.00 and T and A - \$56,076.38*
4. **Appropriation Status Report**
5. **Instructional Contract with Lake Pleasant Central School for the 2020/2021 School Year** :*accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the*

following tuition to be charged to the Lake Pleasant SD for students who choose Wells as their high school: \$7,000 for students in grades 9-12 who attend full days in the Wells school building \$2,333 for students in grades 9-12 who attend a full time BOCES program or FMCC as an early admission student.

- 6. Instructional Contract with Piseco Common School for the 2020/2021 School Year:** *accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following tuition to be charged to the Piseco Common SD for students who choose Wells as their high school: \$7,000 for students in grades 9-12 who attend full days in the Wells school building \$2,333 for students in grades 9-12 who attend a full time BOCES program or FMCC as an early admission student.*
- 7. Art Teacher Shared Services Contract:** *accept the recommendation of the Superintendent to accept the Shared Services Contract for the Art Teacher for the 2020/2021 school year.*
- 8. Hamilton County Agreement for Services:** *accept the recommendations of the Superintendent to accept the Hamilton County Agreement for Services for the School Resource Officer.*

On a motion made by Ken Hoffman, seconded by Dorman Reese, and carried 4-0.

Under New Business, **the Wells Central School District's Board of Education declares the \$52,542.12 deficit in the School Lunch an ordinary contingent expense and authorized an interfund transfer from the General Fund to the Cafeteria Fund in the amount of \$54,000. Such expenditure will be offset by Appropriated Fund Balance in the General Fund.**

RESOLVED, the Wells Central School District Board of Education authorized a General Fund budget increase of \$54,000 with a transfer of funds from the General Fund to offset the operating loss in the School Lunch Fund at June 30, 2020 on a motion made by Ken Hoffman, seconded by William Stuart, and carried 4-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the **2020/2021 Tax Rate** as follows:

Arietta: 10.248493

Hope: 12.057051

Lake Pleasant: 10.248493

Wells: 12.057051

On a motion made by William Stuart, second by Dorman Reese and carried 4-0. Mr. Sincavage noted that the school district's levy went up by .82% however **the County has made changes to the equalization rate**. The equalization rate for Hope and Wells changed from 93% to 85%. The changes in the equalization rate made the Hope and Wells tax rate increase by 2.94% and the Arietta and Lake Pleasant tax rate decreased by 5.91%.

The Wells Central School Board of Education **approved the 2020/2021 Tax Warrant** as presented. (Each Board member in attendance signed the warrant) on a motion made by Ken Hoffman, seconded by William Stuart, and carried 4-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education **approved the 2020/2021 Student Handbook and the 2020/2021 Faculty Handbook** as presented on a motion made by Ken Hoffman, seconded by William Stuart, and carried 4-0.

During **public access** one guest asked a question about the use of masks in the building.

The Wells Central School Board of Education **recessed to Executive Session at 5:56p.m.** for the purpose of discussing specific personnel matters and/or negotiations pm on a motion made by William Stuart, Dorman Reese, and carried 4-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education **returned to Open Session at 6:10p.m** on a motion made by Ken Hoffman, seconded by Dorman Reese, and carried 4-0.

The WCS Board of Education approved the 2020/2021 List of Substitutes as presented on a motion made by Dorman Reese, seconded by William Stuart, and carried 4-0.

The WCS Board of Education **approved the updated 2020/2021 school calendar** on a motion made by William Stuart, seconded by Ken Hoffman, and carried 4-0. The 1st day of school was moved to Wednesday, September 9th. Tuesday, September 8th was changed to a Conference day to be in line with the HFM BOCES calendar.

The WCS Board of Education **appointed Mandy Peters to the part-time Cleaner position to work 29 hours per week, effective September 1, 2020.** Mandy Peters will be paid and will be entitled to leave day benefits in accordance with the Wells Support Staff Association Contract. The position does not include health insurance. The motion was made by Ken Hoffman, seconded by Dorman Reese, and carried 4-0.

The Wells Central School Board of Education **approved adding Kathy Simons to the Election Inspector list** on a motion made by William Stuart, seconded by Dorman Reese and carried 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m on a motion made by Dorman Reese, seconded by William Stuart, and carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachelle Dwyer
District Clerk