

BRASHER FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Board of Education Meeting

St. Lawrence Central MS/HS Auditorium

Monday, August 21, 2023 – 6:00 PM

AGENDA

Board of Education Members Present:

Sarah Ashley

Abdo Bejjani (Excused)

Seth Belt (Excused)

Katherine Brown

Courtney Hallahan

Julie Carvel-Liberty (Excused)

Teresa Rios-Passon

Bethany St. Hilaire

Beth Todd

Administrators Present:

Christopher Rose, Superintendent of Schools

Kathy Mitchell, Business Manager

Kristen Zender, High School Principal

Jamie LaBarge, Middle School Principal

Danielle Colterman, Elementary Principal

Katherine LaVigne, Admin. Director of Sp.Ed.

Kevin Welsh, Dir. of Data & Technology

Timothy Redmond, Dir. of Trans/Bldg & Gnds

District Clerk:

Cynthia Delisle

Others Present:

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda – Motion that the Board of Education approves the agenda for this Regular Board of Education meeting.

Approval of Minutes – Motion that the Board of Education approves the minutes of the July 6, 2023 Organizational Board of Education meeting and the July 31, 2023 Special Board of Education meeting, as per enclosures.

Administrative Reports –

Administrators

a) HS Regents Report

b) Data Privacy and Security Update

c) MTSS Discussion/Questions

Policy Reading – The Board of Education is presented with the first reading of new policy by State or Federal Law and/or Regulation:

- Policy 3212 – Dogs on School Property
- Policy 6121 – Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Board Communications

Action Items

1. Motion that the Board of Education accepts the following financial reports:

- Treasurer's Report – July 2023
- Claims Auditor Report – July 2023
- Tax Rate Statements
- Tax Warrant

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- Check Register/Warrant – July 2023

2. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the budget and revenue budget amendments, as recommended by our external auditor and enclosed.
3. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, New York State General Municipal Law requires a Resolution adopted by the Political Subdivision's Governing Board to authorize the use of a Best Value Award methodology, in the competitive bidding process, for purchase contracts which may now be awarded on the basis of low bid or best value, as authorized in section 103 of the General Municipal Law and as defined in section one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law. Be it enacted by the Board of Education of the Brasher Falls Central School, New York, as follows:

WHEREAS, the State Legislature and Governor amended General Municipal Law, §103 (A08692/S6117) on January 27, 2012 to provide local governments greater flexibility in awarding contracts by authorizing the award of purchase contracts, including contracts for service work on the basis of best value. The state legislation requires Political Subdivisions with a population of less than one million to pass a local law authorizing the use of the best value award process; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of this legislation provides additional procurement options to localities in ways that may expedite the procurement process and result in cost savings. The "best value" standard for selecting goods and services vendors is critical to efforts to use strategic sourcing principles to modernize the supply chain and ensure that taxpayers obtain the highest quality goods and services at the lowest potential cost, while also ensuring fairness to all competitors; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, approximately half of the states and many localities have added best value selection processes to their procurement options, in recognition of these advantages. With the increased complexity of the goods and services that municipalities must obtain in order to serve taxpayers, it is critical to consider selection and evaluation criteria that measure factors other than cost in the strictest sense; and

WHEREAS, Taxpayers are not well served when a public procurement results in low unit costs at the outset, but ultimately engenders cost escalations due to factors such as inferior quality, poor reliability and difficulty of procurement. Best value procurement links the procurement process directly to the municipality's performance requirements, incorporating selection factors such as availability, quality and options for more timely performance and/or additional services; and

WHEREAS, even if the initial expenditure is higher, considering the need for procurement of goods and commodities that may be in short supply will result in a better value and long-term investment of public funds. Best value procurement also ensures that the district will be able to continue to provide the level of service and excellence in education the taxpayers have come to expect while continuing to meet the needs of the district staff to run programs and services efficiently. Best value procurement will provide much-needed flexibility in obtaining important goods and services at reasonable prices, and will reduce the time to procure such goods and services; and

WHEREAS, “best value” means the basis for awarding contracts for services to the offerer which optimizes quality, cost and efficiency, among responsive and responsible offerers. Such basis may also identify a quantitative factor for offerers that are small businesses or certified minority- or women-owned business enterprises as defined in subdivisions one, seven, fifteen and twenty of section three hundred ten of the executive law to be used in evaluation of offers for awarding of contracts for services.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of Brasher Falls Central School hereby authorizes the use of a Best Value Award methodology, in the competitive bidding process, for purchase contracts (including contracts for service work, but excluding any purchase contracts necessary for the completion of a public works contract pursuant to article eight of the labor law) which may now be awarded on the basis of low bid or best value, as authorized in section 103 of the General Municipal Law and as defined in section one hundred sixty-three of the state finance law.

4. Motion that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Brasher Falls Central School District (District) pursuant to the authority granted in General Municipal Law, Article 5A (Public Contracts), Section 103 desires to participate in the OMNIA National purchasing cooperative; and

WHEREAS, Section 103 of the General Municipal Law permits the District to make purchases of apparatus, materials, equipment or supplies, or to contract for services related to the installation, maintenance or repair of apparatus, materials, equipment and supplies, may make such purchases, or may contract for such services related to the installation, maintenance or repair of apparatus, materials, equipment, and supplies, as may be required by the District therein through the use of a contract let by the United States of America or any agency thereof, any state or any other county or political subdivision or district therein if such contract was let to the lowest responsible bidder or on the basis of best value in a manner consistent with this section and made available for use by other governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to participate for the purpose of fulfilling and executing its public governmental purposes, goals, objectives, programs and functions; and

WHEREAS, the District has reviewed the benefits of participating in this program and based on this review has concluded the program will provide the best value to taxpayers of this District through the anticipated savings to be realized.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Brasher Falls Central School District authorizes the District’s participation in the Purchasing Cooperative and authorizes the Purchasing Agent to register for the purchasing program and behalf of the District.

5. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health which:

- “calls attention to the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health;”
- emphasized that “now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;”
- “the onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;” and

- “technology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has further concluded that:

- “Social media use by youth is nearly universal. Up to 95% of youth ages 13-17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media ‘almost constantly.’”
- “nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media;”
- “in early adolescence ... brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison;”
- “social media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;”
- “in a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel ‘addicted’ to a social media platform;”
- “over half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;” and
- there is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use “depression among youth.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is “urgent that we take action.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, “more than ever, were glued to their cellphones during class.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that “a growing number of educators ... find themselves on the front lines of a fight to change how students use social media” and “there was been a push for more schools to ... develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media.”

WHEREAS, the Brasher Falls Central School District (the “School District”) has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of social media, which use, among other things: (i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and prevent such use and its results harms; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District is a leader in education excellence whose faculty and administrators care deeply about the education and well-being of its students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

That the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP and Ferrara Fiorenza PC to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek compensation to the School District for damages suffered by the School District and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The School District hereby authorizes its Superintendent of Schools or their designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the School District.

6. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, accepts the 2023-2024 Extra-Curricular/Faculty Audit Report.
7. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the Boys Varsity Hockey team to attend the Annual Holiday tournament in December 2023 in Clifton Park area.

8. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, accepts the following monetary gifts for the St. Lawrence Central Scholarship Fund in memory of Marie Dawson:

- John W. Dawson - \$250.00
- James & Elizabeth Jock - \$50.00

And accepts an anonymous monetary donation of \$20,00.00 to be used where most needed by the Athletic Department.

9. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the District Code of Conduct for the 2023-2024 school year.
10. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the School Safety Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
11. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the Technology Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
12. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
13. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the 1:1 Computing Handbook for the 2023-2024 school year.
14. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the AIS & RTI Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
15. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the Professional Development Plan for the 2023-2024 School year.
16. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves **Parishville-Hopkinton Central School's** merger for boy's football, at all levels, and boy's ice hockey at the varsity level with our district for the 2023-2024 school year.
17. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the creation of six teacher aide positions, 1.0 FTE's, effective September 1, 2023.
18. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves CSE, CPSE, and Section 504 classifications and placements, as per enclosures.

Executive Session

Motion that the Board of Education moves into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing 2 resignations, 7 appointments, and 2 substitute appointments.

Motion that the Board of Education moves back into general session.

Action Items

19. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, accepts the resignation, for medical reasons, from **Scott Monroe** as Cleaner, effective August 1, 2023; and from **Karleigh Bombard** as Teacher Aide, effective August 14, 2023.

20. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, appoints the following individuals as Teacher Aides, effective September 1, 2023, with salary according to the Teamsters' Contract:

- **Alicia Logan** (new position)
- **Jessica Coughlin** (new position)
- **Nichole Crump** (new position)
- **Steven Thibault** (K. Bombard's position)
- **Noah Adams** (new position)
- **Madison Austin** (new position)
- **Shane Rose** (new position)

21. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, appoints the following individuals in their respective substitute positions, pending security clearance:

- **Jerusha Chapman-Hirsch** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant
- **Grace Austin** – Teacher, Teacher Assistant and Teacher Aide

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- *Due to Angie Kowalchuk medical leave, effective September 5, 2023:*

- Lara Taylor changes from 2.5 hrs/day to 6.5 hrs/day cook
- Melissa Emlin subs for Lara Taylor 2.5 hrs/day cook position
- Melissa's dishwasher position covered by Substitute

Adjournment

Motion that the Board of Education agrees to adjourn.