

BRASHER FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Regular Board of Education Meeting**

St. Lawrence Central MS/HS Library

Monday, September 18, 2023 – 6:00 PM

AGENDA

Board of Education Members Present:

Sarah Ashley  
Abdo Bejjani (Excused)  
Seth Belt  
Katherine Brown (Excused)  
Courtney Hallahan  
Julie Carvel-Liberty  
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:

Cindy Delisle

Others Present:

**Call to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Presentation – New Employee Introductions**

Ronald Jeror & Lisa Winters – Senior Trip  
Timothy Brown – Softball Trip – Disney 2024  
Joseph VanElls – Buckling up children under 5 on buses

**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 August 21, 2023 Regular Board of Education meeting, as per enclosure.

**Administrative Reports** – Superintendent of Schools

a) District Goal Update – Goal #1 (2023-2024)

Administrators

a) Building Goals Updates – Goals #2 & 3 (2023-2024)

**Policy Reading** – The Board of Education is presented with the second reading of new or revised policies 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 – August 2023
- Claims Auditor Report – August 2023

FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- Check Register/Warrant – August 2023

2. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, adopts the revisions of the following policies by State or Federal Law and/or Regulation:
  - Policy 3212 – Dogs on School Property
  - Policy 6121 – Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
3. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, accepts the monetary donation of \$100.00 from Ethan & Kristen Danforth for the St. Lawrence Central Scholarship Fund in memory of Marie Dawson.

And accepts the monetary donation of \$1,000.00 from John & Shannon Boyce to benefit the Boys Hockey Team.

4. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the transportation request from the Quad-Town Senior Citizens' Club for October 8, 2023 to attend Luncheon & Theater in Ogdensburg, New York leaving at 12:30 PM and returning approximately 8:00 PM, costs covering fuel and bus driver expenses (estimated \$277.91) paid by the group.
5. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves the following Resolution authorizing partial settlement of the Vaping Litigation:

**WHEREAS**, in recent years the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices increased dramatically among high school and middle school students, leading to significant risks of addiction and potentially life-threatening respiratory ailments; and

**WHEREAS**, students attending the Brasher Falls Central School District (the "School District") have not been immune to this phenomenon with the School District observing students using e-cigarettes and vaping devices in school and on school grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices by students has caused the School District to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District authorized the law firms of Ferrara Fiorenza PC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC, to initiate litigation against Altria Group, Inc. and Philip Morris USA, Inc. Altria Client Services LLC, Altria Enterprises LLC, and Altria Group Distribution Company (Collectively "Altria") by board resolution relating to the production, marketing, sale, and distribution of e-cigarettes and vaping devices; and

**WHEREAS**, a tentative settlement has been reached with Defendant Altria whereby in return for discontinuing the litigation, the School District would receive certain cash payment; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount that the School District receives will be no less than \$5,889; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education (the "Board") has determined it is necessary, advantageous, desirable, and in the public interest and the best interests of the School District that it settle this litigation against Altria.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BIT IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the School District, as follows:

1. The Board authorizes the partial settlement of the vaping lawsuit against defendant Altria.
  2. A Settlement with the substantive terms contained herein is hereby approved in substantially the form reviewed by the Board and together with such minor modifications as are deemed necessary by the School District's attorneys and administrators to protect the best interests of the School District.
  3. The Board President, Superintendent and their designee(s) are hereby authorized to finalize, sign and enter into the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the School District and take all actions and execute all documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution.
  4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.
6. 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, 1 probationary appointment, 6 Coach appointments, 10 substitute appointments and 2 Adult Volunteers.

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

### **Action Items**

7. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, accepts the resignations from **Nichole Crump** as Teacher Aide, and **John Gardner** as Bus Driver, effective September 5, 2023; and accepts the resignation, for retirement purposes, from **Sue Anne Hourihan**, as Teacher Assistant, effective at the end of the day on January 17, 2024.
8. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, appoints **Joseph Lashomb** to a probationary appointment in the tenure area of Music Teacher, September 1, 2023 and to expire on August 31, 2027 (unless extended in accordance with the law). This expiration date is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure, the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure at that time. This appointment is at Step 1 of the Teachers' Contract.
9. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, approves a 4% salary increase for the 2023-2024 school year for **Cynthia Delisle** (Secretary to the Superintendent and District Clerk) and **Cynthia Fraser** (District Treasurer) and **Jane Ward** (Accounts Payable).

10. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, appoints the following individuals in their respective coaching positions for the 2023-2024 Winter Season:
- **Joey Reome** – Boys Varsity Basketball Coach
  - **Bryan Bordeleau** – Boys JV Basketball Coach
  - **Daniel Cruikshank** – Boys Modified Basketball Coach
  - **Eric McLaughlin** – Boys Varsity Hockey Coach
  - **Colby McCall** – Boys Varsity Assistant Hockey Coach
  - **Emme Brault** – Competitive Cheerleading Coach
11. 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:
- **Dominique LaVoie** – Teacher Assistant, effective 7/1/23
  - **Bailey Decker** – Teacher, Teacher Assistant & Teacher Aide, effective 9/5/23
  - **Katrina James** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant
  - **Ruby Bratek** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant
  - **Sonya Snyder** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant
  - **Brynn Sweeney** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant
  - **Olivia Holmes** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant
  - **Robert Gibbs** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant
  - **McKenna Bowles** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant
  - **Sue Anne Hourihan** – Teacher and Teacher Assistant, effective 1/22/24
12. Motion that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of Mr. Rose, Superintendent of Schools, appoints the following individuals as Adult Volunteers for the 2023-2024 school year:
- **K. Stuart Smith** – Robotics
  - **Donna Chambers** – Greenhouse

#### FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- Megan M. Arquitt – medical leave beginning approx. February 13, 2024 for 10 weeks

#### *Teamsters' changes:*

- Peggy Cook is changing from 4 hr/day bus monitor to 2 hr/day monitor, eff. 9/7/23
- Matthew Lynch changed from a 10 mo. emp. to a 12 mo. emp., eff. 9/1/23
- Jordan Shorette changed from a 12 mo. emp. to a 10 mo. emp., eff 9/1/23
- Greg Marsh from 4 trips to 5 trips, effective 9/13/23

#### *Due to John Gardner's resignation:*

- Laura Evans from 3 trips to 4 trips
- Ronald Converse from 4 trips to 5 trips
- Karen Mondoux from 3 trips to 4 trips

#### **Adjournment**

Motion that the Board of Education agrees to adjourn.