

Board of Education, Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 18th, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Board of Education was held in the High School Library and was called to order by President Hannah Murray at 6:30 p.m., with the following additional board members present: Hope VanScoy, Gregory Houck, and Kate Davenport, as well as Superintendent Brent Suddaby, Elementary School Principal Peter Ahart, Jr/Sr High School Principal Wayne Aman, Director of Instructional Technology Matt Gelder, School Business Official Christine Pierce, and Board Clerk Kathlyn Hinkle.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said to begin the regular session.

Steven Palinosky, from Tioga County Real Property Tax Services, provided the Board with an Exemption Information Brief. The information was in regards to the Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers exemption and the Senior Citizen exemption.

School Business Official Christine Pierce and Superintendent Brent Suddaby presented an overview of student activity clubs.

CPSE/CSE REPORT ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Kate Davenport, seconded by Hope VanScoy, to accept the CPSE/CSE report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Gregory Houck made a motion, seconded by Hope VanScoy, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on December 21st, 2023, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Kate Davenport, seconded by Gregory Houck, to accept the Treasurer's Report for December, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS ACCEPTED:

Hope VanScoy made a motion, seconded by Kate Davenport, to accept the Appropriation Transfers reports for December, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

WARRANTS ACCEPTED:

A motion was made by Gregory Houck, seconded by Hope Vanscoy, to accept the following warrants for December 2023, as presented: General Fund #17, Federal Fund #6, and School Lunch Fund #6. The motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

President Murray acknowledged the visitors present: Linda Padgett, Neil Farley, Jessica Spaccio, and Sara Loomis.

Linda Padgett, member of the TST BOCES Board of Education, told the Board that she and Hope VanScoy attended an advocacy event at TST BOCES. There was a lot of discussion on electric buses.

Mrs. Padgett stated the Heavy Equipment students at the TST BOCES Career and Technical Education will hold a Triple E event at the Ithaca Armory on January 31st from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This event is open to the public, students at BOCES, or any interested students. It gives the public an idea of what these students can do. At these events in the past, several students have been offered jobs when they graduate.

Mrs. Padgett informed the Board that the Central New York School Board Association (CNYSBA) will hold a "Get on the Bus" event at TST BOCES in March. It will be a presentation of an electric bus. There will be a bus there, and attendees will have the chance to ride it.

Mrs. Padgett stated that an in-person legislative forum will be held at TST BOCES on February 8th.

Neil Farley, Jr/Sr High School Librarian and President of the Candor Faculty Association, stated that Wendy Bruttomesso is working with the Elementary School students to help them interpret the new set of standards in science.

Regular Meeting, January 18th, 2024

Jessica Spaccio, PTSA Co-President, informed the Board of festivities from December. The PTSA held a Glow Party for the 5th and 6th-grade students. They participated in the Scholastic Book Fair, sponsored staff massages, provided a wood ornament craft for the Elementary students, provided cookies and candy during lunch for the High School students, and held an indoor movie night for the community. In January, they will host a Snow Ball dance, a Family Fun Night on January 26th, a STEM Night on February 9th, and a popcorn fundraiser for the High School in February. They have also been a big part of the guest speaker events with the High School Guidance Office.

Mrs. Spaccio informed the Board that they have had some grant requests submitted that they have been able to approve. The 2nd-grade teachers have asked for funds to purchase books, and the 6th-grade teachers have asked for funds for band and general music supplies.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Upon the recommendation of Superintendent Suddaby, a motion was made by Hope VanScoy, seconded by Gregory Houck, to approve the following personnel items, pending fingerprint-supported criminal history background checks, where applicable*:

Resignation:

Accepted the resignation from **Michael Williams** as Part-Time Network Administrator, effective January 25th, 2024, with regret.

Recommended Appointments:

Approved the appointment of **Emma Powell** as a Long-Term Substitute Teacher for High School Vocal Music, effective March 29th, 2024, through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. These dates are tentative. Salary and benefits will be in accordance with the 2023-2024 Substitute Teacher Pay Schedule.

Approved the appointment of *Substitute Teachers* for the 2023-2024 school year, with salary and benefits in accordance with the 2023-2024 Substitute Teacher Salary Schedule.

1. **Emma Powell**: B.M. Music Ed and Vocal Performance (EL & HS)
2. **Jennah Kareem***: AAS Early Childhood Education (EL Only)

Approved the appointment of *Extra-Curricular Activities* for the 2023-2024 school year, with salary in accordance with the 2023-2024 Extra-Curricular Activities Pay Schedule.

1. **Daniel Pierce** - Track Asst/Modified Coach

School Psychologist Position Change Approved:

Approved a position change for **Lisa Hale** from a Full-Time School Psychologist at 0.9 FTE to a Full-Time Psychologist 1.0, effective January 19th, 2024, with salary and benefits in accordance with the 2023-2024 Candor Faculty Association Contract.

Approval to Change April Meeting Date:

Approved changing the April Board of Education meeting date from April 18th, 2024 to April 25th, 2024. The petitions to run for the Board are not due until April 22nd, 2024, which would make it impossible for the Board to approve candidate placement on the ballot.

Equipment Disposal (B & G) Approval:

Approved the disposal of items listed below. These items are no longer of use to the District. An advertisement for public bids will be sent out for these items.

- Turf 2 Club Car: S# RG0337-322136
- 855 John Deere Tractor: CCS: 20130645
CCS(2): 000564

Regular Meeting, January 18th, 2024

Equipment Disposal (Transportation) Approval:

Approved the disposal of bus #85 (2020 Chevrolet Micro Bird), which is no longer useful to the District. An advertisement for a public bid will be sent out.

2024-2025 Budget Development Calendar:

Approval of the 2024-2025 Budget Development Calendar, as presented.

Memorandum of Agreement - CFA Local Retirement Incentive Extension:

Approved of the Candor Faculty Association Retirement Incentive Extension Memorandum of Agreement, as presented.

2023-2024 Spring Sports Team Mergers:

Approved sports mergers for the 2023-2024 school year with the following resolutions:

SVEC Section IV Sports Merger - 2023 - 2024 school year (Varsity Girls Golf)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Candor Central School District hereby authorizes the merger of athletic programs with the Spencer- Van Etten School District, for the 2023-2024 school year. The sport to be merged is Varsity Girls Golf.

SVEC Section IV Sports Merger - 2023 - 2024 school year (Varsity & J.V. Baseball)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Candor Central School District hereby authorizes the merger of athletic programs with the Spencer- Van Etten School District, for the 2023-2024 school year. The sport to be merged is Varsity and J.V. Baseball.

SVEC Section IV Sports Merger - 2023 - 2024 school year (Varsity & J.V. Softball)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Candor Central School District hereby authorizes the merger of athletic programs with the Spencer- Van Etten School District, for the 2023-2024 school year. The sport to be merged is Varsity and J.V. Softball.

Study Program Approval (Volpe and Loomis)

Approved Merrick Volpe and Sara Loomis taking a spring 2024 study program course through SUNY Cortland/TST BOCES. The course is Introduction to Leadership. The total fee will be \$1,473.35 (for Merrick Volpe; there will not be a charge for Sara Loomis).

The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Reports:

Jr/Sr High School Principal Wayne Aman summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Aman spoke of the Enhanced Tier 2 Vocabulary Integration. Following the early release day in November, it was understood that the High School staff should supplement the "Coyote Word of the Week" with additional opportunities for students to become familiar with tier 2 vocabulary. Through the guidance of the Reading League, it was shared that students should be introduced to 8 - 10 tier 2 words each week, with each word being used and reinforced in classes a minimum of ten times per week. Based on this guidance, Mr. Aman has worked with the department chairs to develop a plan to introduce an additional eight tier 2 words/week to students to supplement the "Coyote Word of the Week" initiative. Departments will finalize their tier 2 vocabulary lists by the end of the month and begin the enhanced plan at the start of the third quarter. Mr. Aman stated that he appreciates the cooperation from the faculty with this important initiative.

Mr. Aman spoke about the shared programs with the Spencer-VanEtten School District (S-VE). For many years, the Jr/Sr High School has partnered with the S-VE to expand the course offerings for students in both districts. Candor has three students traveling to S-VE High School to participate in their Animal Science program this year. S-VE has three students taking CADD and Architectural Drawing at Candor. S-VE also has a student enrolled in the Candor Alternative School. Soon, Mr. Aman will meet with Missy Jewel (S-VE High School Principal) and guidance counselors to discuss other ways the two Districts can continue supporting each other through shared programs.

Regular Meeting, January 18th, 2024

As budget constraints become more restrictive with programming, cooperating with neighboring districts may be a cost-effective way to continue offering student options.

Mr. Aman informed the Board that the midterm and Regents exam schedule and the remote instruction day details have been sent out to the school community. Teachers and students are receiving a refresher course on online learning, and the High School staff should be ready to test the remote instruction plan on January 23rd.

Elementary Principal Peter Ahart summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Ahart stated that over the last two years, the Attendance Committee has developed practices to engage and educate families, address the health needs of students, build student accountability, provide monthly incentives, and utilize monthly data tracking measures to efficiently and effectively address student attendance. Mr. Ahart provided the Board data from the past seven years until the December Break of each year. 2022-2023 was the first year the Attendance Committee initiated various attendance initiatives due to the lowest attendance rates (92.38%) that the Elementary School has seen recently.

Mr. Ahart informed the Board that he and Sara Loomis met with teachers to continue planning the next steps for literacy proficiency throughout the building. Teachers will administer the Phonological Awareness and Phonics Understanding assessments during intervention throughout the week of January 22nd. Once they receive the data from those assessments, they will utilize the 6-Step lesson plan to teach the phonemic and phonic skills necessary for efficient decoding, spelling, and fluency during the intervention block. Mr. Ahart would like to thank Christine Stephens and Josh Schecter for their support and help with the plan.

Mr. Ahart stated that the Math Committee is implementing a First in Math (FIM) initiative in the Elementary School to encourage students to practice a variety of math activities and skills. Students earn stickers when they complete tasks and master levels within games. Students' individual sticker counts are celebrated within each class. A bulletin board in the main hallway will display classrooms that lead the sticker count to encourage friendly competition. Also displayed is the school-wide sticker total, which shows how students can work together as a school to reach the goal of 1,000,000 stickers earned this school year. FIM is a program where students are provided with instant feedback, direct instruction, and the freedom to make mistakes without penalty. Games are scaffolded from the pre-kindergarten level through eighth grade and beyond. FIM strongly supports students with number sense, foundational to understanding mathematics. The New York State Education Department allows us to pilot this program at no cost.

Additionally, Mariah Young has extensive knowledge and training in First in Math. TST BOCES has asked her to be a First in Math consultant for a regional training for teachers in February.

Mr. Ahart stated that the IReady Diagnostics will be completed by January 19th. He will report information on the data at the February Board meeting.

Mr. Ahart thanked Lockheed, Nate Brace, Matt Gelder, and Mat Pisano for their participation in STEM Day.

Director of Instructional Technology Matthew Gelder presented his report to the Board.

Mr. Gelder informed the Board that he and Craig Bennett have been searching for a technological solution that would provide administrators in the High School with real-time visibility and data analytics on student movement in the building without burdening teachers with yet another application to monitor. SmartPass is a digital hall pass that enables teachers to set up a kiosk at the front of the room, allowing students to sign out when using the restroom or moving to any other area in the building. Upon returning to their classroom, students end their pass. This system provides teachers and administrators with instant insights into which students are in the hallway and their intended destination. Moreover, it allows Mr. Bennett to limit the number of students in a restroom at any given time. It can prevent two students who should not be in the hallway together. The reporting features in the software allow them to quantify how much time a specific student has missed from class, facilitating more data-informed discussions with students and parents when necessary. SmartPass does not use GPS technology to track students and complies with all State and Federal privacy laws. While additional features are available for purchase from SmartPass, they are currently only utilizing the hallway monitoring feature. More information is available at smartpass.app.

Mr. Gelder stated that the addition of Mat Pisano to the technology department has allowed the department to work on the ongoing review of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Framework for Cybersecurity. They aimed to evaluate how they have strengthened the security posture over the last year and find opportunities for further improvement.

Regular Meeting, January 18th, 2024

Over the past few weeks, Mr. Gelder has focused on ensuring the least privileged access to student and teacher data by reviewing both Google Workspace and SchoolTool account groups. As organizations grow and as individual roles change, there is a tendency for permissions to be escalated unnecessarily. Last week, Mr. Gelder spent a morning with the point person for SchoolTool, reviewing group access and evaluating each individual user with any access to student data to ensure they have the minimum necessary access to perform their duties effectively. While this sometimes requires reducing access to particular information or limiting someone's ability to edit specific modules, it ensures the security of student data.

Mr. Gelder stated that STEM Day at the Elementary School was a great success. Lockheed worked with the 4th–6th grade students. Mr. Gelder and Mr. Pisano worked with the PreK-3rd grade students. Allison Glassman, a Technology Integrator from TST BOCES, was also on campus to help. The Elementary School has a second STEM Day planned for January 19th.

Athletic Director/Director of Transportation Holly Carling's report to the Board.

Mrs. Carling was not present for the meeting. A summary of her written report to the Board is as follows. Winter sports are in full swing. The Modified Volleyball and Boys Basketball teams wrapped up their seasons just before the holiday, and Modified Girls Basketball and Modified Wrestling picked up as soon as they returned from break. The J.V. and Varsity Basketball teams are playing well and playing some tough competition with successful outcomes. The Varsity Bowling and Wrestling Teams also compete at high levels with some great matches. They are winning matches and gaining great experience with some really tough competition. Mrs. Carling thanked Katie Anderson, Rob Truss, and the transportation team for getting the teams to their destinations.

Mrs. Carling informed the Board that the AED grant has been accepted and is being discussed by the Hooker Foundation Board. The department is grateful to be considered for the grant and looks forward to hearing a final decision.

Mrs. Carling gave the Board an update on the Transportation Department as submitted by Katie Anderson, Supervisor.

The town had the first significant snowfall this past week and with the help of the new Bus Driver/Asst. Mechanic Richie Winchester, the bus garage team was able to have everything completely cleared out before Monday morning. Snow removal will continue to be one of his main priorities/tasks throughout the next few months as his swing schedule allows him to get the job done with little to no overtime being paid.

As of the beginning of the year, Corey Whatley has taken over as the Town of Candor Highway Superintendent. The transition has been seamless. The department will certainly miss Kevin Noble, but they look forward to working closely with Mr. Whatley.

The buses that were approved for last year are currently held up again. The current projection is now April. The department has started spending more time developing a plan for the transition to electric buses. The mandates are that school districts must purchase zero emissions by 2027 and be fully electric by 2035. Next month, they plan on visiting another district that has already purchased an electric bus to see what it looks like.

Asst. Supt. of Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services Kimberleigh Nichols' report to the Board.

Mrs. Nichols was not present for the meeting. A summary of her written report to the Board is as follows. Mrs. Nichols informed the Board of The Reading League Partnership's visit on the December 21st Early Release Day. Dr. Heidi Beverine-Curry, CEO/PD Specialist with The Reading League, presented *Part II of the 6-Step Lesson Plan for Decoding, Spelling, and Fluency (Part I)* to the Elementary School faculty, full-time teacher aides and select Jr/Sr High teachers. Mr. Suddaby, Mr. Aman, and Mrs. Nichols presented a literacy session for the Jr/Sr High faculty, teaching assistants, and full-time aides that focused on embedding explicit and intentional reading and writing practice within the content areas and explicit vocabulary instruction strategies. The next scheduled professional development will be during our March 15th Superintendent's Conference Day.

Mrs. Nichols stated that she and Mr. Ahart attended a statewide literacy conference on January 10th hosted by the New York State Education Department (NYSED) in collaboration with the TST BOCES and Big 5 school districts. The event was a hybrid webinar with in-person discussions led by the TST BOCES Regional Student Support team. Districts were required to have administrators and literacy leaders in attendance. The keynote speaker was Dr. Nonie K. Lesaux, the Roy Edward Larsen Professor of Education and Human Development at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Dr. Lesaux previously partnered with NYSED in 2017 to create the series of Advanced Literacy Briefs aligned with the Common Core Standards roll-out.

Regular Meeting, January 18th, 2024

NYSED released a new series of literacy briefs focused on reading science at the January 10th event. Dr. Lesaux provided an overview of the science of reading and each of the seven literacy briefs, with time to reflect and discuss. The next steps will be sharing with the leadership team and discussing how and when to move forward with the information learned. The BOCES RSS team will also facilitate continued regional conversations.

Mrs. Nichols informed the Board that the annual IEP review meetings have begun. This year, the School Psychologists Lisa Hale (Elementary) and Abigail Holmes (Jr/Sr High) will chair annual reviews, while Mrs. Nichols will chair Initial Referral meetings and Reevaluation meetings. Sara Loomis will continue to chair CPSE annual reviews.

Mrs. Nichols stated that the CSE Office Team meets weekly to review and prepare for upcoming meetings and to coordinate and calibrate meeting procedures. They have recently included Jenny Cocco from CNYRIC in a portion of the weekly meetings to ensure accurate data collection and reporting procedures.

Mrs. Nichols provided the Board with a list of District priorities.

School Business Official Christine Pierce summarized her report to the Board.

Mrs. Pierce stated that as of January 1st, 2024, the minimum wage has increased to \$15.00 per hour.

She stated that the District continues seeing favorable interest rates through NYCLASS and U.S. Treasuries.

Mrs. Pierce, Brent Suddaby, Katie Anderson, and Holly Carling met with Fiscal Advisors on January 4th to discuss the financial position and borrowing for the capital project and buses. They assist the District in planning to maximize the state building and transportation aids. Mrs. Pierce, Mr. Suddaby, Ms. Anderson, and Mrs. Carling will meet monthly to discuss electric buses.

Mrs. Pierce and Accounts Payable Clerk Corrine Kellogg are working through an internal review of student activity clubs and accounts for compliance with the guidelines set forth by New York State.

Mrs. Pierce stated that she expects to see Executive Budget School Aid Estimates around the end of January.

The first budget advisory committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 15th, at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Pierce informed the Board that she and Mr. Suddaby have met with Orville Boden to review health insurance costs. They will begin to make projections for the 2024-2025 budget.

Mrs. Pierce stated that the District has completed the initial service requests with BOCES for 2024-2025.

Mrs. Pierce informed the Board that the District will have expended most of the ESSER 3 and Learning Loss grant funds by June 30th, 2024.

Network Administrator's Log for December 2023 was submitted.

Superintendent Brent Suddaby summarized his report to the Board.

Mr. Suddaby updated the Board on the 2023 Capital Project. On January 9th, Jim Wintermute, Mrs. Pierce, and Mr. Suddaby met with Sean Dollaway and Rob Sherman of C&S. Plans and Specifications were received by the New York State Education Department (SED) on October 5th, 2023. Review and approvals by SED are taking longer than was anticipated. The project's approval is now anticipated to come on or about April 15th. The District cannot put work out for bids until SED approves the plans. If the District waits until April to request bids, construction will not be able to begin until this summer. Proposals have been received from roofing companies with SED approval through the Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS). By using TIPS, contracts can be awarded in time to begin construction this summer. The proposals received are well within what was budgeted for the roof replacements.

Mr. Suddaby stated that Governor Hochul's State of the State Address directly affects school districts. Governor Hochul previewed her "back to basics" reading plan in which she referenced the "Science of Reading." The science of reading is not a program or a particular methodology; the science of reading is simply a term that expresses a scientific approach to teaching students how to read and then teaching them how to read even better. The administrative team and teachers are already taking this approach to teaching reading in both the Elementary and Jr/Sr High School. Mr. Suddaby thinks that the controversial issue around this is whether or not the state should be mandating instructional practices. The Governor proposed providing \$10 million to teacher-run Teacher Centers. The Candor Faculty Association is responsible for teachers' professional growth. Candor teachers have actively participated in the professional development opportunities available through the local Teachers Center. The Tioga County Teacher Center (TCTC) serves Candor, Newark Valley, and Tioga Central School Districts. Neil Farley is the TCTC's Policy Board Chair. Matt Gelder is the TCTC's Administrative Representative.

Regular Meeting, January 18th, 2024

Governor Hochul is continuing to promote school-based mental health. The Board approved the addition of a School Social Worker for the Elementary School five years ago, and added a School Social Worker to the Jr/Sr High School staff three years ago. Merrick Volpe and Corinna Evancoe have done an outstanding job for students and staff. Mr. Aman established a great working relationship with The Youth Empowerment Support Services (YESS). YESS Club is an academic support program whose goal is to maximize high school graduation rates. Students can be referred to the program by Mr. Aman, the guidance counselors, or teachers. Candor High School's YESS Site Coordinator is Ashley Kirchberger. Denise Ahart (and Hope, the mental health dog) have been fantastic resources supporting the social/emotional needs of the Elementary students. Candor Central Schools is participating in the SHAPE Up NY Learning Collaborative. The District partnered with TST BOCES, Newfield, and Ithaca to apply for and receive grant funding. The grant covers the expenses associated with professional development and planning to improve the quality of school mental health systems.

Mr. Suddaby said he would like to acknowledge the questions regarding the school's new Tahoe. The voters approved it in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget Vote to purchase a 7-passenger vehicle. After researching potential vehicles, it was decided to buy the Tahoe. It is an all-wheel drive vehicle and will potentially hold its value longer than a mini-van would.

Board Comments:

Hope VanScoy thanked Brent Suddaby, Holly Carling, and Katie Anderson for how they handled the recent snowstorm. Gregory Houck acknowledged Mr. Suddaby, Mrs. Carling, and Ms. Anderson's professionalism in handling the issues surrounding the recent snowstorm. Hope VanScoy stated that she received a letter from Candor retiree Joanne Goulart-Weber. She is 97 years old and doing well.

Recognition of Visitors:

Board President Hannah Murray acknowledged the present visitors, Jessica Spaccio, Neil Farley, Sara Loomis, and Linda Padgett.

Jessica Spaccio inquired about the First in Math program and if there will be funding for a summer 2024 program.

Adjournment:

President Murray announced the regular session of the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Executive Session:

At 8:36 p.m., Gregory Houck made a motion, seconded by Kate Davenport, to adjourn to executive session to discuss contract negotiations, employee retirement payout, and updates on the Counterclaim against the School District, No.2023-0003099. The motion carried unanimously. Hannah Murray, Kate Davenport, Hope VanScoy, Gregory Houck, Brent Suddaby, and Christine Pierce were present for executive session. Mrs. Pierce exited at 9:45 p.m. At 10:20 p.m., Kate Davenport made a motion, seconded by Gregory Houck, to exit regular session. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathlyn M. Hinkle, Clerk of the Board