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**Lansingburgh Central School District
Minutes of the
Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
Monday, July 31, 2023
Turnpike Elementary School - LGI**

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice President, Jason Shover, at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board of Education Members, Michael Cusack, Jillian Manupella, Talia Pallozzi, Daniella Richards, Jason Shover, James Spear, and Jessica Vartigian were present. Andrea Fairhurst and Thomas Zakrzewski were absent from the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Others present include Angela Mauriello (on behalf of the LTA), Linda Klime, Rebecca McGrouty, Dr. Antonio Abitabile and Christina Williams. There were 4 others present.

Mr. Shover read the District's Mission Statement:

MISSION

Our mission at the Lansingburgh Central School District is to create for all students a productive, challenging and safe educational environment. Our students will acquire civic values and learning skills and strategies through a dynamic partnership between the schools and community. These experiences will inspire a lifetime of learning and self-sufficiency.

The Public Hearing on the Veterans Tax Exemption was opened. The Veterans Tax Exemption information was shared with the Board of Education and discussed at several workshops over the past few years.

PUBLIC HEARING

PJ Higgitt, a past board member and resident of Lansingburgh addressed the Board sharing that he believes younger veterans may locate here due to the tax exemption. There are several other surrounding school districts that offer the exemption. He stated that veterans try to integrate themselves into their community and want to make it a better place to live. He thinks the exemption is a very good thing to do.

Mr. Spear commented that as a board member, he always puts students first. Part of him thinks the exemption will be a burden on those

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families who are not veterans. He appreciates those who came to speak to us tonight.

Mr. Shover also thanked those who came this evening. The Board has discussed the tax exemption many times and had never heard from anyone from the community on the issue.

Ms. Richards stated she believes this will be a minimal tax burden on the remaining tax payers.

Ms. Manupella stated she sees this as a benefit to our students as the veterans do many things for our schools.

The hearing was closed.

The Public Hearing for the Districtwide Safety Plan was opened. Dr. Abitabile explained that this plan can be shared with the public, unlike the Building Safety Plans that are confidential and unfoible.

PUBLIC HEARING

Our updated remote learning plan is included with the Districtwide Safety Plan. The plan, in its entirety, is quite lengthy and is included on our website for parents and community members to view.

There were no comments on the plan and the hearing was closed.

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the revised meeting agenda for July 31, 2023.

RESO #1-07/31/2023 Approve Meeting Agenda

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Ms. Richards spoke on behalf of the Policy Committee. The committee met this evening and reviewed the Code of Conduct. We will hold a public hearing on the revised Code of Conduct at the August 14, 2023, Board Meeting with a first reading. The second reading will be done on the August 28, 2023, Board Meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Shover spoke on behalf of the Audit Committee. The committee met this evening. The end of the fiscal year was June 30, 2023. The auditors continue their work on this years books and are currently reviewing the ARP grant. Our building aid is a little shorter than expected. The revenue has experienced some fluctuation and is more than we anticipated. Once again, funds were taken to pay for the tiles in the High School. We continue working toward paying down our bonds.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the Treasurer's Report, Budget Transfers and Monthly Financial Report submitted by the Audit Committee.

Second: Mrs. Vartigian

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**RESO #2-07/31/2023
Approve Financial
Reports**

Motion Carried
Unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 10, 2023, with amendments to resolutions #52 and #53.

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**RESO #3-07/31/2023
Approve Minutes**

Motion Carried
Unanimously

PERSONNEL – INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accepts the resignation of Sean Colfer, Athletic Director, effective July 21, 2023.

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**RESO #4-07/31/2023
Accept Resignation –
Sean Colfer**

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Mr. Cusack thanked Sean Colfer for his years of service to the district. He will be missed by many folks, and we wish him well.

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accepts the resignation of Haylielyn Szemplinski, English Teacher at Knickerbacker Middle School, effective August 10, 2023.

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

**RESO #5-07/31/2023
Accept Resignation –
H. Szemplinski**

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESO #10-07/31/2023
Appoint Elementary
Teacher – Kathleen
Zarou

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints Kathleen Zarou to a probationary teaching position at Knickerbacker Middle School, in the tenure area Elementary Education, pending clearance by the New York State and Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, with compensation in accordance with the LTA contract as set forth in below:

Commencement of Service – September 1, 2023
Expiration of Probationary Service – August 31, 2027
Certification Status – Childhood Education Grades 1-6,
Professional
Salary – Step F \$54,612
Masters 450
30 Credits 1,250
 \$56,312

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESO #11-07/31/2023
Appoint Special
Education Teacher –
Elizabeth Anderson

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints Elizabeth Anderson to a probationary teaching position at Turnpike Elementary School, in the tenure area Special Education, pending clearance by the New York State and Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, with compensation in accordance with the LTA contract as set forth in below:

Commencement of Service – September 1, 2023
Expiration of Probationary Service – August 31, 2027
Certification Status – SWD Grades 1-6, Emergency COVID-19
Salary – Step E \$53,007
Masters 450
15 Credits 625
 \$54,082

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESO #12-07/31/2023
Appoint English
Teacher – Mick
Lichtenberg

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints Mick Lichtenberg to a probationary teaching position at Knickerbacker Middle School, in the tenure area

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Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints Iyana Echandy to a probationary position in the tenure area Teaching Assistant, pending clearance by the New York State and Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, with compensation in accordance with the CSEA Instructional contract as set forth in below:

Commencement of Service – September 1, 2023

Expiration of Probationary Service – August 31, 2027

Certification Status – Uncertified

Salary – Step 4 \$19.77 per hour

RESO #15-07/31/2023
Appoint Teaching
Assistant – Iyana
Echandy

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints Bianca DeFlumer to a probationary position at Knickerbacker Middle School, in the tenure area Teaching Assistant, pending clearance by the New York State and Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, with compensation in accordance with the CSEA Instructional contract as set forth in below:

Commencement of Service – September 1, 2023

Expiration of Probationary Service – August 31, 2027

Certification Status – Uncertified

Salary – Step 4 \$19.77 per hour

RESO #16-07/31/2023
Appoint Teaching
Assistant – Bianca
DeFlumer

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints Kassondra Ray to a probationary position at Turnpike Elementary School, in the tenure area Teaching Assistant, pending clearance by the New York State and Federal Government per the Project SAVE Law, with compensation in accordance with the CSEA Instructional contract as set forth in below:

RESO #17-07/31/2023
Appoint Teaching
Assistant – Kassondra
Ray

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Michele McGivern	School Psy	7	IEP and Scheduling Responsibilities, Student Testing, Write Reports, AR Meetings	ARP	1/200 th
Michele Foster	School Psy	7	IEP and Scheduling Responsibilities, Student Testing, Write Reports, AR Meetings	ARP	1/200 th
Olivia Harmon	School Psy	7	IEP and Scheduling Responsibilities, Student Testing, Write Reports, AR Meetings	ARP	1/200 th
Lauren DeMarco	School Psy	7	IEP and Scheduling Responsibilities, Student Testing, Write Reports, AR Meetings	ARP	1/200 th
Kelly Fonda Ewing	OTR	7	Supervise COTA servicing the ESY program	General	1/200 th
Safiya Cole	IT TA	15	Summer Work	General	Hourly
Laura Gallagher	Guidance	19	Contractual Summer Work	General	1/200 th
Darlene Sampson	Guidance	19	Contractual Summer Work	General	1/200 th
Catherine Bragg	Guidance	19	Contractual Summer Work	General	1/200 th

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves summer days for curriculum work for the following (non-summer school) staff:

RESO #21-07/31/2023
Approve Summer
Days

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Building	Staff Member	# Days	Compensation Rate	Funding Source
KMS	Angela Mauriello	1	\$30/hour	SIG Grant
RPES	Elizabeth Jamison	5	\$30/hour	SIG Grant
TES	Christine Martinelli	5	\$30/hour	SIG Grant
TES	Cara Isabella Patricia Stinson	7	contractual rate	UPK and SUFDPK
TES	Colleen McGuirk	3	Contractual rate	UPK and SUFDPK
District	Trista Bugbee James Hoteling	1	\$30/hour	Title I
District	Serena Gates Nikki Santiago Danielle Koetzner Marydalia Coriano Nicole Van Cott	1	contractual rate	Title I
TES	Nicole Van Cott	1	contractual rate	Title I
RPES	Melissa Watts	1	\$30/hour	Title I
TES	Sue Weiss Maggie McLaughlin Stacey Paolino Samantha Mahoney Denise Mooney	3	\$30/hour	UPK and SUFDPK

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints the following staff serve as New Teacher Mentors for the District for the 2023-2024 school year with a stipend of \$2,000 from the Title II grant:

Tiffany Ainsworth Mary Haydock
Colleen Buff Megan Hupfl

RESO #22-07/31/2023
Appoint New Teacher
Mentors

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Michelle Coon	Samantha Kelso
Eileen Culliton	Emily LaBella
Jessica Dusenberry	Mary Legnard
Justine Fazziola	Michelle McGivern
Lori Filarecki	Jodi McNutt
Lindsey Gibson	Kimberly Ravena
Adam Gregoire	Abby Rock

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESO #23-07/31/2023
Approve Summer
Hours

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following staff be compensated at \$30/hour for three hours of planning work for the 2023-2024 Mentor program from the Title II grant:

Tiffany Ainsworth	Mary Haydock
Colleen Buff	Megan Hupfl
Michelle Coon	Samantha Kelso
Eileen Culliton	Emily LaBella
Jessica Dusenberry	Mary Legnard
Justine Fazziola	Michelle McGivern
Lori Filarecki	Jodi McNutt
Lindsey Gibson	Kimberly Ravena
Adam Gregoire	Abby Rock

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESO #24-07/31/2023
Approve STEAM
Club Advisors

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following staff serve as STEAM Club Advisors for the 2023-2024 school year with a stipend of \$2,000 from the Title IV grant:

Peter Allen - RPES
Joseph Roman - RPES
Maureen Mahoney - TES

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Motion by Mr. Spear:

**RESO #25-07/31/2023
Approve STEAM
Club Advisors**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following staff serve as STEAM Club Advisors for the 2023-2024 school year with a stipend of \$1,000 from the Title IV grant:

Cassidy Hayes – TES
Natalie Russo – TES

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

**RESO #26-07/31/2023
Approve PE
Enrichment Advisor**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following staff serve as PE Enrichment Advisor for the 2023-2024 school year with a stipend of \$2,000 from the Title IV grant:

Samantha Kelso - TES

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

**RESO #27-07/31/2023
Approve Art Club
Advisors**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following staff serve as Art Club Advisors for the 2023-2024 school year with a stipend of \$2,000 from the Title IV grant:

Kelly Borden – TES
Megan Greene – RPES

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

**RESO #28-07/31/2023
Approve
Music/Drama Club
Advisor**

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following staff serve as Music/Drama Club Advisors for the 2023-2024 school year with a stipend of \$2,000 from the Title IV grant:

Chelsea Horner – TES

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

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Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESO #29-07/31/2023
Approve Summer
Hours

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following Lansingburgh Academy Class Facilitators for the 2023-2024 school year:

Kim Ravena	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Mind Up	\$30/hour	Title II
Elizabeth Jamison	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Look it Up Digital Research	\$30/hour	Title II
Christine Martinelli	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Look it Up Digital Research	\$30/hour	Title II
Elizabeth Jamison	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Reading on the Go	\$30/hour	Title II
Christine Martinelli	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Reading on the Go	\$30/hour	Title II
Derek Shuttleworth	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Infusing College & Career Preparation	\$30/hour	Title II
Jamie Desso	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - A Fresh Look at Phonics	\$30/hour	Title II
Lori Filarecki	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - A Fresh Look at Phonics	\$30/hour	Title II
Katherine Rice	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Self-Paced Flipped Classroom	\$30/hour	Title II
Jenna Tyler	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Self-Paced Flipped Classroom	\$30/hour	Title II
Maureen McLoughlin	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - STEM Integration/Google Slides	\$30/hour	Title II
Theresa Eckler	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Pixton Writing App	\$30/hour	Title II

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Jodi McNutt	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Special Education Workshop	\$30/hour	Title II
April Kilmer	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Technology Based Research	\$30/hour	Title II
Lindsey Gibson	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - Teach-Bots 101: Unraveling the Wonders of AI for Educators	\$30/hour	Title II
Theresa Eckler	up to 5 hours	Burgh Summer U - 20 Ways to Start the Year	\$30/hour	Title II

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the following staff to receive a Teachers of Tomorrow grant-funded stipend of \$3400 in fulfillment of terms of the signed agreement:

Trista Bugbee

Christopher Corr

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

RESO #30-07/31/2023
Approve TOT
Stipends

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves a tutoring assignment for Eric Jasuta for a high school student for the purpose of 20 hours of compensatory tutoring services during the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

RESO #31-07/31/2023
Approve Tutoring
Assignment

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the request of Gretchen Murphy, COTA, for

RESO #32-07/31/2023
Approve Unpaid
Leave of Absence –
Gretchen Murphy

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an unpaid leave of absence from January 3, 2024, through June 30, 2024, for educational purposes.

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

PERSONNEL – NON- INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board appoints Roland Guilz as Claims Auditor for the 2023-2024 school year at the rate of \$35.00 per hour.

RESO #33-07/31/2023
Appoint Claims
Auditor – Roland
Guilz

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mr. Cusack

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

ACTION ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Cusack:

RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board accepts the following donations:

<u>From</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Berthe Cote Foundation	\$1979.76	Purchase Z-Medica Trauma Trainers and Blood Control Kits
Berthe Cote Foundation	\$1920.00	Subsidize Nurses Membership to NYSASN 2-years
Berthe Cote Foundation	\$1854.00	Purchase Adult/Child Manikins and AED Trainers/Pads

Second: Mrs. Manupella

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

RESO #35-07/31/2023
Award Construction
Manager – McBain
Electric

Motion by Mr. Spear:

RESOLVED, based upon competitive bids opened in the District Office on July 11, 2023, the Board awards the Construction Manager RFP #022-002 for the Knickerbacker Middle School audio system to McBain Electric. The contract will be active from August 1, 2023, through January 1, 2024.

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Mrs. Vartigian

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

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Motion by Mr. Spear:

**RESO #36-07/31/2023
Adopt Veterans Tax
Exemption**

WHEREAS, this resolution is adopted under the authority granted by New York Real Property Tax Law (“RPTL”) § 458-a; and

WHEREAS, the Lansingburgh Central School District (the “District”) Board of Education (the “Board”) desires to offer a school tax exemption on the primary residence of eligible veterans residing within the school district; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this matter on July 31, 2023, at Turnpike Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, said public hearing was advertised in The Times Union newspaper and The Record newspaper; and

WHEREAS, all parties in attendance were permitted an opportunity to speak on behalf or in opposition to the adoption of the proposed resolution offering a school tax exemption on the primary residence of eligible veterans residing within the district; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section § 458-a, the Board of Education hereby adopts the Alternative Veterans Exemption, permitting qualifying real property to be exempt from taxation to the extent of fifteen percent (15%) of the assessed value of such property, provided however, that such exemption shall not exceed \$12,000 or the product of \$12,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section § 458-a, in addition to the exemption provided in the above paragraph, where the veteran served in a combat theatre or combat zone of operations, as documented by the award of a United States campaign ribbon or service medal, or the armed forces expeditionary medal, navy expeditionary medal, marine corps expeditionary medal, or global war on terrorism expeditionary medal, qualifying residential real property also shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such property, provided however, that such exemption shall not exceed \$8,000 or the product of \$8,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the class ration, whichever is less; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section § 458-a, in addition to the exemptions provided in the above two paragraphs , where the veteran received a compensation rating from the United States veteran’s administration or from the United States Department of Defense because of a service connected disability, qualifying residential property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of the product of the assessed value of such property multiplied by fifty percent (50%) of the veteran’s disability rating, provided however, that such exemption shall not exceed \$40,000 or the product of \$40,000 multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution shall be effective immediately and shall continue until rescinded or amended by resolution of the Board of Education.

Second: Ms. Richards
Mr. Cusack – Abstain
Ms. Fairhurst – Absent
Mrs. Manupella – Aye
Mrs. Pallozzi – Aye
Ms. Richards – Aye
Mr. Shover – Aye
Mr. Spear – Aye
Mrs. Vartigian – Abstain
Mr. Zakrzewski – Absent Motion Carried 5-2-2-0

Motion by Mrs. Vartigian:
**RESO #37-07/31/2023
Authorize Disposal of
Surplus**
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board authorizes the Purchasing Agent to surplus and dispose of 50 marching band uniforms due to their age and poor condition.
Motion Carried
Unanimously
Second: Mr. Spear Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

Motion by Ms. Richards:
**RESO #38-07/31/2023
Approve 23-24
Professional Learning
Plan**
RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board approves the 2023-2024 Professional Learning Plan submitted by Rebecca McGrouty, Assistant Superintendent of School Improvement.
Motion Carried
Unanimously
Second: Mrs. Vartigian Ayes – 7 Nays – 0

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By Dr. Abitabile:

Superintendent Report

RPES Project Update:

- There are asbestos abatement issues.
- We had a design meeting on the new field. The same design was selected that was used on the other. The same turf is being used.

Coach Pasinella is currently looking for new sleds that are meant for use on artificial turf.

We have received four resignations in the month of July. That is a total of 11 so far for the year.

The Board Retreat is scheduled for September 30th and will be held in a conference room at the Questar III Administration Building.

There is a Public Hearing being held on August 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. on the Catholic Central High School building. The new owner is seeking a PILOT.

Motion by Mrs. Manupella:

RESO #29-07/31/2023
Adjourn

Be it resolved this meeting of the Board of Education hereby adjourns at 6:34 p.m.

Second: Ms. Richards

Ayes – 7

Nays – 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Williams
Clerk to the Board of Education