

NISKAYUNA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 13, 2016

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD PRESENT:** Mr. Jack Calareso, Ms. Nicky Foley, Mr. David Koes (arrived at 6:04 p.m.), Ms. Patricia Lanotte, Ms. Rosemarie Perez Jaquith, Dr. Howard Schlossberg

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Ambreen Aslam, Cassidy Beauchemin

**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ABSENT:** Mr. David Apkarian

**ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT:** Dr. Cosimo Tangorra, Jr., Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Lauren Gemmill, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; Ms. Carrie Nyc-Chevrier, Director of Business and Finance; Mark Treanor, Director of Student and Staff Support Services

**ADMINISTRATORS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Matt Leon, John Rickert, Edward Alston, Bill Garrison, Marie Digirolamo, Zachary Matson, Amy Jasiewicz, Laurie Farina, Priti Irani, Cindy Wilde and other community members.

President Perez Jaquith called the regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:03 p.m. in the Board of Education Conference Room.

Dr. Schlossberg moved to approve the agenda as revised for the September 13, 2016 regular meeting of the Board of Education. Mrs. Lanotte seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Ambreen Aslam and Cassidy Beauchemin spoke about the new combined AB class schedule, piloted on the first day of high school this year. The format of the day is similar to freshman orientation when students visit all of their classrooms in one day. Another change this year is that sophomores are assigned to study halls during free periods. There were years during personnel reductions that the privilege of having “frees” was extended from upperclassmen to sophomores as well. With reinstatement of personnel, sophomores are again given assigned areas to be during free periods.

There were no comments from the community.

**Presentations**

- A. Mr. Mark Treanor, Director of Student and Staff Support services provided information to the Board on the District Wide Safe Schools Plan. Mrs. Lanotte moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the 2016-17 District Wide Safety Plan per ASM 2A. Mr. Calareso seconded. Motion carried 6-0.
  
- B. Director of the International Scholars Program, Edward Alston, addressed the Board. Since this program’s inception, he has hoped to promote a partnership with a school in China. He recently met with the Wisdom Educational Group, from Beijing, China. This group runs the leading Montessori school for students (current K-6 program) and a training academy for teachers in China. They are working to develop a middle school, then two high schools with an American-style curriculum. Niskayuna has been asked to be a partner based on our reputation and our academic results. Dr. Tangorra and Mr. Alston have been asked to visit Beijing (at the group’s expense) later this year to see the school and discuss the proposal. The first goal is to develop a middle school program

**Call to Order**

Approve Agenda

Student Representative Report

Privilege of the Floor

**Presentations**

District Wide Safe Schools Plan

Wisdom Educational Group

for their schools and to develop a cultural exchange with Niskayuna. In the future, they will ask for help with professional development for their teachers and high school curriculum development. Eventually, it is hoped to send a delegation of their students to go through our school for several years.

Director of World Languages Marie Digirolamo provided information to the Board on the potential for a Chinese II course.

Chinese II

**Superintendent Report**

Building Tours

High School Start Time

School Resource Officer

Transportation Grant

Transportation

Food Service

**Reports and Recommendation**

Summer School Report

Board Meeting Date Changes

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Tangorra and the Board will plan a time to tour the district buildings, starting with the Hillside Avenue facility. A superintendent/board retreat will also be scheduled.

The first BOCES superintendents meeting will be held on Friday, and one item on the agenda is a later start time at the high school. This topic will be placed on the agenda at upcoming Board of Education and IPAC meetings.

Since Tom Constantine spoke at the last meeting, the superintendent has met with Chief of Police McManus. There was discussion around the concept of a school resource officer, most likely sharing the cost with the town. This would be a plain-clothes person with a unique ability to foster relationships with kids. The position would include the end of each day into evening hours so to be available at after-school and evening activities. Another consideration would be to have an on-site drug and counseling program to address needs in real time.

We are investigating the possibility of pursuing a grant through the Department of Transportation for healthy pathways/sidewalks through community areas.

Transportation is making strides since the first days of school although some buses are still up to ½ hour late. The department is continuing to work on returning calls.

The district has lost a number of food service employees. Although our district is not alone in being low on food service staff, we have exhausted the traditional ways of recruiting. In response, a message was sent out to Niskayuna families via SNN. There were several responses by individuals who will come in initially as subs. We are still in need of a cook.

**Reports and Recommendations**

- A. Ms. Lauren Gemmill, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction provided data from the 2016 Summer School. Summer school recommendations for individual students come from counselors, teachers and principals. Twenty-seven attendees were English as New Language students.
- B. The Board discussed two possible date changes for meetings scheduled during the school year. Commissioner Elia will be addressing school Boards and administrators at a CAPSBA (Capital District School Boards Association) dinner on September 27. As a result, the Board meeting scheduled for September 27 will move to September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Board meeting on February 28, 2017 will change to February 27, 2017.

- C. Mr. Calareso moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, authorize a transfer of \$788,175.61 from the unassigned fund balance of the 2015-16 school year budget to the Capital Reserve Fund as authorized by voters on May 17, 2016 as per ASM 3C. Mr. Koes seconded. Motion carried 6-0.
- D. Mrs. Foley moved that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the attached legal services contract between Niskayuna Central School District and Guercio & Guercio, LLP for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. Mrs. Lanotte seconded. Motion carried 6-0.
- E. The Board was provided with initial District Enrollment for 2016-17. As compared to the same time in 2015-16, elementary school enrollment has increased.
- F. The Board of Education received a copy of the proposed NYSSBA Resolutions on which school boards across the state will vote at the New York State School Board Convention in October. Each Board member will have the opportunity to contribute to the process by weighing the merit of each resolution. These will be discussed as necessary at upcoming Board meetings.
- G. Mr. Koes moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, adopt Policy 5220 *District Investments* for inclusion in the Niskayuna Board of Education Policy Manual, and repeal current Policy 6240 *Investments*. Mrs. Foley seconded. Motion carried 6-0.
- H. The Board received Draft Policy 5681 *School Safety Plans* for review as a first read.
- I. The Board received Draft Policy 5683 *Fire and Emergency Drills, Bomb Threats, and Bus Emergency Drills* for review as a first read.

Capital Reserve  
Fund Resolution

Guercio &  
Guercio Retainer  
Agreement

District  
Enrollment

NYSSBA  
Resolution  
Process

**Policy Review –**  
Adopt 5220  
Repeal 6240

First Read Policy  
5681

First Read Policy  
5683

**Consent Agenda**

**2. Consent Agenda**

- A. Mrs. Foley moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the actions in the consent agenda, items 4B - 4F-ii listed below, per ASM 4A. Mr. Calareso seconded. Motion carried 6-0.
- B. . . .approve the minutes from regular meeting of August 16 and the special meeting of August 31, 2016
- C. . . .approve the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education (CSE), the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) and the 504 Committee
- D. . . .approve the following personnel actions per revised ASM 4D

Approve Minutes

Student  
Placements

**Personnel  
Actions**

**a. Instructional - Appointment - Permanent Status**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Academic Tenure Area</u>	<u>Probation Period</u>	<u>Cert Status</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Velinov, Christina	Teaching Assistant/GLE	17.5 hrs/wk 9/13/16-9/13/19	Pending	\$14.61/hr
Grace, Samantha	Teaching Assistant/CRA	28.75 hrs/wk 9/13/16-9/13/19	Perm.	\$14.61/hr
Petralia, Julie	Teaching Assistant/GLE	25 hrs/wk 9/13/16-9/13/19	Pending	\$14.61/hr

Instructional  
Appointment –  
Permanent

**b. Instructional - Appointment - Part-Time**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Klein, Susan	World Lang./IRO	9/6/16	.30	MA 8

Instructional  
Appointment –  
Part-Time

**c. Non-Instructional - Appointment - Probationary**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Bergmann, Ruth	EA/VAN 35 hours/week	8/31/16	\$12.25/hour
Harland, Michele	CA/Guidance, NHS, 29 hours/week	9/12/16	\$10.58/hour

Non-Instructional  
Appointment –  
Probationary

**d. Non-Instructional - Appointment - Permanent**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Wuttke, Michelle	CA/HIL	8/24/16

Non-Instructional  
Appointment -  
Permanent

**e. Non-Instructional - Adjustment**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Lamar, Janet	CA/CSE Notetaker from 29 to 35 hours/week	8/31/16
McKeone, Elizabeth	CA/CSE Notetaker from 29 to 35 hours/week	8/31/16
Gangji-Welge, Frances	ESI/IT, NHS adj to \$19.01/hour	8/31/16
Persaud, Narendra	Cleaner, 2nd shift/ROS 40 hours/week, \$29,630.00+shift diff	8/29/16
Lasher, Karen	Custodian, 2nd shift/VAN 40 hrs/wk \$40,008.26+shift diff	10/3/16

Non-Instructional  
Adjustment

**f. Appointment of Approved Staff - These staff have received fingerprint clearance from SED**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Albano, Kyle	Substitute Teacher
Billings, Megan	Substitute Teacher
Clinton, Deborah	Substitute Teacher
Coughlin, Christine	Substitute Teacher
Cowdry, Francesca	Substitute Teaching Assistant
Curtiss-Crotsley, Martha	Substitute Teacher
Della Villa, Denise	Substitute Teacher
DeMarte, Nick	Substitute Teacher
Goodwin, Nubia	Substitute Teacher
Hayes, Jocelyn	Substitute Teacher
Keruskie, Elissa	Substitute Teacher
LeClair, Katherine	Substitute Teacher
Leombruno, Rachel	Substitute Teacher
Macfie, Molly	Substitute Teacher
Marley, Jessica	Substitute Teacher
McGan, Katherine	Substitute Teacher
Melewski, Jenna	Substitute Teacher
Miciotta, Nicolette	Substitute Teaching Assistant
Noonan, Kevin	Substitute Teacher
Page, Kraig	Substitute Teacher
Phillips, Rebecca	Substitute Teacher
Willette, Thomas	Substitute Teacher
Wood, Tiffanie	Substitute Teacher
Richardson, Daniella	Substitute Clerical Assistant, Teaching Assistant
Elsbree, Cynthia	Substitute Clerical Assistant, Food Service Helper

Appointment of  
Approved Staff

Chillrud, Jean Substitute Clerical Assistant, Food Service Helper  
 O'Dea, Margaret Substitute Clerical Assistant, Food Service Helper, TA

**g. Lifeguards - \$11.00/hour**

Name  
 McCarthy, Madeline  
 Amberger, Sean  
 Bickham, Jr., Steven  
 Cazer, Kelly

Lifeguards

**h. Non-Instructional - Resignation**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Maltseva, Anastasiya	S/CA Bus Aide/TRANS	8/15/16
Tricozzi, JoAnn	Food Service Helper/HIL	10/7/16

Non-Instructional Resignation

**E. Financial Reports**

- i. . . .accept and file the **attached** Budget Status Report per ASM 4E-i
- ii. . . .receive the School Lunch Fund Report Per ASM 4E-ii

**Financial Reports –**  
 Budget Status Report  
 School Lunch Fund

**F. School Sponsored Student Trips – Niskayuna Rowing**

- i. . . . approve the Niskayuna Rowing trip to the Riverfront Regatta at Riverside Park/Connecticut River in Hartford, Connecticut on Sunday October 2, 2016 per ASM 4F-i.
- ii. . . .approve the Niskayuna Rowing trip to the Head of the Housatonic Regatta in Shelton, CT per ASM 4F-ii.

**Student Trips –**  
 Niskayuna Rowing to Riverfront Regatta  
 Niskayuna Rowing to Head of the Housatonic

**Items Removed from Consent Agenda**

**Board Forum**

- A. President's Perez Jaquith reported that the students who will be a part of the panel at the NYSSBA Convention have completed their presentation.
- B. The Board of Education was represented at the N-CAP meeting. PTOs will receive a reminder to have a representative who will attend those meetings. The district's external auditor will attend the Audit Committee meeting on September 23.

**Board Forum –**  
 President's Report  
 Member Report

**Executive Session**

- A. Mrs. Lanotte moved that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, convene to Executive Session to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article 13 of Civil Service Law, and a specific personnel item. Mr. Koes seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

**Executive Session**

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, Mr. Calareso moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Mr. Koes seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

**Adjourn**