

**FORT ANN CENTRAL SCHOOL  
Board of Education  
Fort Ann, New York**

**Regular Meeting**

**December 17, 2019**

The Regular meeting of the Fort Ann Central School Board of Education was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 in the Library. Dr. James Seeley, President, opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

**ROLL CALL**            Dr. James Seeley, President  
**PRESENT:**            Mr. James Allen  
                             Mrs. Cathy Graham  
                             Mr. Paul Greene  
                             Dr. Diana Sustar  
                             Mrs. Alison West  
                             Mrs. Pamela White  
                             Mr. Kevin Froats, Superintendent

Absent: Shelley Gregorio, Clerk of the Board

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Alex Bodensieck, Mrs. Michelle Discenza, Mrs. Lori Johnson, Mrs. Kori Colvin, Mrs. Diane Langlois, Mrs. Honey Bee Cenate, Ms. Michele Foran, Mrs. Cindy Jenkins, Ms. Janet Jenkins, and Ms. Michelle Maynard.

**PRELIMINARY ACTION:**

Motion by Alison West, second Cathy Graham, approval given to December 17, 2019 agenda.  
Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by James Allen, second Alison West, approval given to minutes of November 10, 2019 Regular Board of Education meeting.  
Motion carried: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Abstention 1, Diana Sustar

**BUSINESS OPERATIONS:**

Motion by Alison West, second Diana Sustar, approval given to Warrants of Bills for November 2019:

#A-12 General Fund in the amount of \$242,348.85  
#C-6 School Lunch Fund in the amount of \$25,080.90  
#H-6 Capital Fund in the amount of \$27,962.04  
Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Cathy Graham, second James Allen, approval given to budget transfer Gen #A-5 Ref. #8, in the amount of \$8,768.35.  
Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic/Assessment Comm.**-Mr. Hoskins and Mrs. West met and reviewed scores of math and ELA looking for trends. PLC's are working on identifying trends and gaps.

**Athletic Comm.** – Met November 21, 2019; discussed new scoreboard, 6 wrestling athletes, possible installation of Wall of Athletes, Section II hotel rooms no longer funded, 14 students in Clay Target League at \$180. Per athlete with no school funding, March 9 varsity start date and March 16, 2020 for junior varsity. Fields need work to be ready for spring. Next meeting March 16, 2020.

**Finance Comm.** – Met December 12, 2019; taxes have been mostly collected, gathering quotes for lease copiers, bus replacement schedule; minivan and 2 large 30-35 passenger buses needed, 2020 visual inspection upcoming, completion of building survey, and two employees with medical leaves.

**Policy Comm.** – No policies on this agenda.

**Facilities Comm.** – Working on list of priorities for leftover money from the capital project; 3m film on front windows, classroom door hardware upgrades to include lockdown latch on inside of classroom doors, front plumbing is major issue. Currently approved for \$100,000 project which mostly consists of security cameras; we have the building permit. Also discussed future project needs. Next meeting TBD

**Arts Comm.** –Next mtg TBD

**Wellness Comm.** –Next meeting TBD

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ms. Michelle Maynard mentioned leaky roof for the entirety of the 4/5 wing, boy's locker room, guidance office, nurse's office, cafeteria, etc. She suggests this be a priority for facilities committee to consider in building project. Mr. Froats mentioned part of the back parking lot was dug up to improve water situation in basement. Last week basement was dry despite heavy rain.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Due to weather conditions, the NYS Assessment presentation by Mrs. Diane Quick is rescheduled to January 21, 2020.

#### **DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS/COMMUNICATIONS:**

Superintendent update; many thanks to the Family Outreach Center and staff for assisting many families during this holiday season, yesterday's lockdown drill had a strong police presence including a tour of the facility with Mr. Northrup. Confidential discussion was held regarding police ability to enter building quickly. Next year's school calendar was discussed with Mr. Froats suggesting staff days for September 1 & 2 or 2 & 3, November 3, 2020 will be the WCC Superintendent's Day. Variance was applied for November 4<sup>th</sup> loss of school day due to village water break. There will be a public forum held at Warrensburg School on January 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss strengths and challenges of rural schools. Discussion held regarding independent contractor agreement being open-ended; monthly invoices will include student progress updates. Dr. Seeley explained legislative priorities 1-6 with 40% of FA students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch. Mr. Froats explained math stipends allows algebra and geometry students extra support.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Organizational/Administrative:**

Motion by James Allen, second Paul Greene, approval given to independent contractor agreement with Camille B. Casey, Reading Specialist/Certified Wilson Dyslexia Therapist, effective November 20, 2019 concluding when criteria is met for successful completion of the program as indicated in due process order and decision.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Paul Greene, second Cathy Graham, approval given to RESOLUTION DATED December 17, 2019

**FORT ANN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGARDING ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Fort Ann Central School District strives to provide an outstanding education and post-secondary pathway for each and every student; and

WHEREAS, the District works diligently to meet the needs of all students while still fulfilling the ever increasing list of state mandates, best practices and contractual obligations; and

WHEREAS, our School District's free and reduced lunch rate has increased from **33% to 48% since 2010**; and

WHEREAS, the district continues to work diligently to create a balanced budget that respects the needs of area taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, property tax levy legislation at the state level has provided an increased need for State Aid to maintain quality programs; and

WHEREAS, public schools are being asked to do more for students than ever before, so they are prepared for college, military or a career; and

WHEREAS, each child in Fort Ann Central School District only has one opportunity to go through the full elementary and secondary educational experience;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Ann Central School District Board of Education calls on the New York State Legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo to act upon the following priorities:

- 1. Fund and Adjust the Foundation Formula**
  - A. Review and Update the Foundation Amount-Currently \$6,714.00 per pupil**
  - B. Provide a minimum increase of 2% in foundation aid to all school districts**
  - C. Maintain the "SAVE Harmless" provision.**
  - D. Adjust the weighting factor for Free and Reduced Lunch from .65 to .75-.80 to reflect large increases in this population.**
- 2. Increase the \$30,000 threshold on BOCES Aid for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs by providing 100% aidability for the salaries of CTE teachers**
- 3. Allow Districts to Access to the BOCES Health Safety and Risk Management Service to Offset the Costs and to Increase the Number of School Resource Officers**
- 4. Support a Permanent Solution to the Small Group Health Insurance Issue**
- 5. Support Efforts to Prevent the use of E-Cigarettes, including Vaping**
- 6. Building Aid for Small Capital Projects**
  - A. Increase the threshold for base year capital outlay expenses from the current amount, established in 2002 from \$100,000 to \$250,000 to assist districts in making critical capital improvements.**

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Personnel:

Motion by James Allen, second Alison West, approval given to resign Brian Davis as per diem bus driver effective December 3, 2019.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Cathy Graham, second Alison West, approval given to accept resignation of Eileen Horgan as per diem bus monitor effective December 3, 2019.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by James Allen, second Alison West, approval given to accept resignation of Rebecca Guy as teacher assistant effective December 13, 2019.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Cathy Graham, second Paul Greene, approval was given to accept resignation of Helene Resnick as teacher assistant effective December 4, 2019.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Alison West, second James Allen, approval given to appoint Dawn Whitney as probationary teacher assistant effective November 1, 2019 at annual salary of \$16,139.43 (to be prorated) with all benefits per CSEA agreement.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Paul Greene, second Diana Sustar, approval given to appoint Michelle David as probationary teacher aide effective December 2, 2019 at annual salary of \$14,935.47 (to be prorated) with all benefits per the CSEA agreement.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by James Allen, second Paul Greene, approval given to appoint Marissa Baker as probationary teacher assistant effective December 5, 2019 at annual salary of \$15,284.03 (to be prorated) with all benefits per the CSEA agreement.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Paul Greene, second Diana Sustar, approval given to appoint Kinsey Bobel as probationary teacher assistant effective December 13, 2019 at annual salary of \$15,284.03 (to be prorated) with all benefits per the CSEA agreement.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Alison West, second Paul Greene, approval given to accept FMLA for employee #2641 effective November 22, 2019 using available sick and personal days with any remaining days unpaid.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by James Allen, second Diana Sustar, approval given to accept FMLA for employee #2456 effective December 10, 2019 using available sick, personal, and vacation days with any remaining days unpaid.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Alison West, second Paul Greene, approval given to extra classroom (every day 7<sup>th</sup> pupil contact) stipend to Tara Wilson-Monroe effective September 1, 2019. Stipend paid at 1/6 base salary, or \$6,346.78 per year, for the full 2019-2020 year.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Paul Greene, second Alison West, approval given to extra classroom (every other day 7<sup>th</sup> pupil contact) stipend to Tim Gleason effective September 1, 2019. Stipend paid at 1/6 base salary, prorated to be \$3,173.39 per year, for the full 2019-2020 year.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Paul Greene, second James Allen, approval given to extra classroom (every day 7<sup>th</sup> pupil contact) stipend to Heather Sweeney, effective October 3, 2019 to October 31, 2019. Stipend paid at 1/6 base salary, prorated to be \$571.21.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

**PUBLIC TO BE HEARD:**

Ms. Michelle Maynard presented the Board of Education with her letter of resignation and expressed that her department has been difficult to work in. She feels the BoE should make it a priority for employees to be well treated. She also thanked the BoE for taking a chance on hiring her.

In response, Mr. Froats indicated further training will be taking place and progressive discipline is being followed, with change not always coming as quick as we would like. He thanked Ms. Maynard for attending.

Mr. Paul Greene spoke regarding the elementary winter concert having received both positive and negative comments from the public. Questions were raised as to why the risers are not on the stage where parents can see students on the bottom two rows as well as the placement of the piano. He commended the music department on a job well done with the students. Dr. Diana Sustar suggests the dates be published at the beginning of the year.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Motion by James Allen, second Diana Sustar, approval given to adjourn to executive session at 7:17 pm for the purpose of CSE/CPSE recommendation review and pending legal matters.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Motion by Diana Sustar, seconded Paul Greene, approval given to return to public session at 7:45 p.m.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

**NEW BUSINESS – Continued:**

Motion by Paul Greene, second James Allen, approval given to accept CSE/CPSE recommendations on students listed:

#092040604, #000001251, #092040591, #092040099, #092040461, #982420131,  
#092040592, #000001141, #092040242, #982420181, #000001158, #982420068,  
#092040396, #092040334, #092040695

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

**Regular Meeting**

**December 17, 2019**

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

December 23, 2019 to January 3, 2020 Holiday Break; classes resume January 6, 2020.

January 21, 2020 Board of Education Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Diana Sustar, second Alison West, approval given to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Motion carried: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstention 0

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Gregorio