

Edwards-Knox Central School
Board of Education
Regular Meeting
April 7, 2020

The Regular meeting of the Edwards-Knox Central School Board of Education was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by President Stacia Kroniser on April 7, 2020 through an online Zoom meeting due to COVID-19 Social Distancing Executive Orders.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the Board of Education present were: Penny Allen, Lynn Coller, Jennifer Hotaling, Stacia Kroniser, Tom O'Brien, Bobbie Trudeau, Todd Wells and Michael White. Also present were: Erin Woods, Amy Sykes, Lura Hughes, Glenda Morales-Hanley and Brandi Graham.

Public Participation: None

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Bobbie Trudeau, seconded by Jennifer Hotaling to approve the minutes of March 10, 2020.

Minutes
3/10/20

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O'Brien - Yes	Trudeau -Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

The Board reviewed the warrants on file in the business office, recommended for payment by the Claims Auditor and asked clarification questions regarding the payments.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Todd Wells, seconded by Michael White to accept the Claims Auditor reports dated March 11 2020 and April 1, 2020, as presented and as on file in the Business Office.

Claims
Auditor
Reports

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O'Brien – Yes	Trudeau - Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Lynn Coller, seconded by Michael White to approve the Treasurer's Treasurer's report of February 29, 2020, as presented and on file in the Business Office:

Report
2/29/20

General Fund: \$343,445.30
General Fund Class: \$3,305,870.70
School Lunch Checking: \$11,818.00
Federal Fund Checking: \$19,042.15
Trust & Agency Checking: \$120,924.31
Trust & Agency-HRA FSA: \$11,085.90
Payroll Checking: \$910.73
Class Retirement Contribution Reserve Fund: \$1,234,697.99
Class Workers Comp Reserve Fund: \$414,731.42
Class Debt Service Fund: \$335,202.94
Class Insurance Reserve Fund: \$39,168.99
Class Employees Benefit Reserve Fund: \$615,271.71
Class Unemployment Reserve Fund: \$299,619.12
Class Capital Fund: \$49.74
Class Expendable Fund: \$104,096.74
Class Non-expendable Fund: \$124,424.59
Class Capital Money Market Fund: \$209,342.90
Scholarship Fund NBT: \$11.93

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O'Brien – Yes	Trudeau - Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Lynn Coller, seconded by Jennifer Hotaling to accept the Trial Balance Report, Revenue Status Report, Budget Status Report and the Budgetary Rev. Stat. Transfer Reports dated February 29, 2020, as presented and on file in the Business Budg. Stat. Office.
Budg. Trans.
Rpts.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O'Brien – Yes	Trudeau - Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Michael White, seconded by Bobbie Trudeau to adopt the COVID-19 following resolution regarding the COVID-19 New York State Executive Order:
NYS Exec.
Order

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, the Governor of the State of New York signed Executive Order 202, wherein the Governor declared a disaster emergency in the State of New York with respect to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus;
WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, the Governor of the State of New York signed Executive Order 202.1, whereby the Governor amended Order 201 to include the following as it relates to school districts 180 days of required attendance for state aide purposes as public meetings as follows:

1. Suspension of Education Law 3604(7), to allow the Commissioner of Education to disregard such reduction in the apportionment of public money due to a failure by a school to meet the instructional requirements proscribed within this section due to the properly executed declaration of a local state of emergency as defined within sub-section (i), a school is directed to close by a state or local health official or following a properly executed declaration of a state of emergency as defined within sub-section (i), limited to the extent that those specified schools are unable to make up missed instructional days.
2. Suspension of Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, the Governor of the State of New York signed Executive Order 202.2 whereby the Governor amended Order 201 to require any school district which is closing pursuant to a local state of emergency declared as a result of COVID-19, that such school district shall be required to first consult with the local department of health and to exhaust any available time, including snow days and vacation days, as part of such closure in relation to the 180 days of attendance requirement for purposes of state aid.

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Governor of New York State signed Executive Order 202.4, wherein the Governor directed every school in New York State to close no later than Wednesday, March 18, 2020 for a period of two weeks, ending April 1, 2020, with reassessment by the State at the end of this period as to whether the state-wide closure shall be extended. On March 27, 2020, the Governor extended the period of closure through April 15, 2020. Furthermore, the Governor directed that the 180 day instructional requirement shall be suspended during such closure. The Governor further directed that school districts shall develop a plan for alternative instructional options, distribution and availability of meals, and child care, with an emphasis on serving children of parents in the health care profession or first responders who are critical to the response effort. Such plans shall be submitted to the State Education Department and may be amended or modified by the State Education Department, in consultation with the Department of Health and Office of Children and Family Services at any time.

WHEREAS, New York State Education Law §1709(16) states that the Board of Education has the authority as it relates to the payment of employee's wages and salaries to contract with and employ such persons as qualified teachers and other staff of the District, to determine the number of teachers to be employed in the several departments and at the time of such employment, to make and deliver to each teacher a written contract; and employ such persons as may be necessary to supervise, organize, conduct the District's business; and to adopt rules and regulations governing the excusing of absences of all teachers and other employees and for the granting of leaves of absence to such employees either with or without pay;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves and declares as follows:

- 1. Pursuant to the powers vested in the Board of Education, and in accordance with the declared state of Emergency, and in accordance with Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 202, *et seq.*, the Board of Education hereby declares and directs that the during the period of emergency closure from March 14, 2020, through April 15, 2020, all employees of the District will continue to be paid their regular salary and/or contract hours and regular benefits pursuant to such employees regular contract appointments and salary or hourly wage, as the case may be;
- 2. **AND FURTHER**, Depending on the length of closure, the Superintendent may extend the length of payment to reflect an extended closure.
- 3. **AND FURTHER**, Superintendent of Schools shall determine at the Superintendent’s discretion which employees are essential employees and/or which job functions are essential job functions such that the District may require such employees to report to work as necessary to carry out any essential functions of the District during the period of emergency closure for the service of the students of the District, subject to the requirements of this resolution;
- 4. **AND FURTHER**, that during the period of closure, where the Superintendent of Schools, in his/her sole and absolute discretion, finds that the absence of any employee from their jobs and/or duties with the District, including such employees deemed by the Superintendent to be essential employees performing essential job functions, is a direct result of the existing declared emergency due to COVID-19, to the extent allowed by law, such employee’s absence shall be considered an excused absence with regular pay and benefits;
- 5. **AND FURTHER**, that the Superintendent of Schools shall have the authority to determine which employees in the District are not essential employees, which employees’ physical presence is not required in the District to perform job related duties and functions, and to excuse such employees from physical attendance, provided, that such employees continue to provide services to the extent possible under the modified building operations, are available during their normal work hours on normal work days during this period of closure and to provide support to the District and the students of the District as directed by the Superintendent;
- 6. **AND FURTHER**, the Board of Education shall consider any absences with pay during this period of emergency closure to be in the paid service of the District subject to the final determination any applicable New York State administrative agency and/or the requirements of New York State Law;
- 7. **AND FURTHER**, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to consult with any and all of the District’s unions for the implementation of this resolution, including where in the Superintendent’s judgment the Superintendent deems it necessary and appropriate to execute any memorandum of agreements concerning the direction and application of the District’s work force resulting from or related to the declared emergency as described herein;

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O’Brien – Yes	Trudeau - Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

This resolution is thereupon declared adopted.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Lynn Coller seconded by Penny Allen to approve the Cummings leave of absence of Stephanie Cummings effective on April 23, 2020 and through Leave of June 17, 2020, or as determined, all of which falls under the Family and Medical Absence Leave Act (FMLA).

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O’Brien – Yes	Trudeau - Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Michael White, seconded by Penny Allen to approve Appoint long term substitute, certified teacher, Marcus Frisbee at a the Step 1 salary daily
Frisbee base rate of \$221.51 effective on the 6th day from commencement on April 23,
Long 2020 and through June 17, 2020, or as determined.
Term Sub

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O'Brien – Yes	Trudeau - Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Lynn Coller, seconded by Bobbie Trudeau to approve CSE the programs recommended by the CSE for students #1808, #2034, #1672, #1751, #2415, #1579 and #1941.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O'Brien – Yes	Trudeau - Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

Administrative Reports

Ms. Woods noted her appreciation of all the community support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Woods also stated that the staff has been fantastic managing the constant changes and their willingness to adjust to the changes. Also noted was the community involvement that aligns with the established board goals.

Ms. Hughes noted the extended school closure through April 29, 2020, three more weeks of prepared learn at home packets for grades 3-6 and the 1:1 devices that are ready for pick-up tomorrow. Ms. Hughes also stated that the PK-2 paper materials are ready and will be mailed this week. Ms. Hughes noted that parents, teachers and staff have been very supportive during this time.

Mrs. Sykes stating that the high school is making progress and is very impressed with our staff and that they are trying to do what is right for our students. Mrs. Sykes also noted that the 3-8 testing and regents exams have been canceled.

2020/2021 Budget Discussion:

Mrs. Morales-Hanley stated that the budget vote has been tentatively moved to June 1, 2020, noting that all budget mailing materials will be pushed to later than usual. Also noted was the decrease in school aid with an emphasis on our healthy fund balance that the school is fortunate to have. More definitive budget numbers are expected by April 30, 2020 which will allow for a more accurate 2020/2021 school budget that can be presented to the board. Mrs. Morales-Hanley noted again that we are in a good position with our fund balance which will enable us to maintain current personnel. Also stated was the probability of a 0% tax increase due to the economic hardships of our community during this time of pandemic.

Mr. O'Brien asked questions regarding the new Resource Officer position that we were planning for next school year. Mrs. Morales-Hanley stated that this position could be added mid school year if we arer able to move forward with the hire. Ms. Woods also noted that the Resource Officer position has been placed on the "back burner" with the County at this time but as things turn around we would like to continue to pursue the position.

Mr. O'Brien also asked questions pertaining to Wi-Fi on the school buses. Ms. Woods stated that currently the buses do not have Wi-Fi installed but it is an option that she will look into.

Ms. Woods noted concerns from parents during this unprecedented time. Ms. Woods stated that there is no expectation of parents to be teachers that we want and hope that parents can create a structure for their children to have success and routines in place for them to accomplish some of the work that is being asked of them, but to use our teachers as a resource. Ms. Woods also stated that if working with your child and they're overwhelmed or the parent is overwhelmed, put it away, go outside and then regroup or put it away for that day. Ms. Woods encouraged all families to reach out to the school if there is anything that is needed.

Mr. O'Brien asked how the school closure and regents will impact seniors. Ms. Woods stated that there will be no negative impact on them due to the canceled regents and is very hopeful that they will be able to return to school for their last year.

Mrs. Trudeau asked questions regarding advanced regents for underclassmen. Ms. Woods stated she is unsure at this time but they will get credit for their courses and are exempt from taking the corresponding regents. More information will come when it is available.

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Lynn Coller, seconded by Michael White to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hotaling - Yes	Kroniser - Yes
LaPoint - Absent	O'Brien – Yes	Trudeau - Yes	Wells - Yes
White - Yes			Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandi Graham
Board Clerk