

Edwards-Knox Central School  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
March 7, 2023

The Regular meeting of the Edwards-Knox Central School Board of Education was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Penny Allen on March 7, 2023 at the Edwards-Knox Central School Library.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members of the Board of Education present were: Penny Allen, Lynn Collier, Malissa Hale, Craig Kirkpatrick, Dustin Lottie, Tom O'Brien and Roger Tresidder. Also present were: Erin Woods, Amy Sykes, Lura Hughes, Chris Harris, Shawn DeLorme, Jennifer Impey, Natasha Brewer, Kristin Tulip, Amanda Oemcke, Megan Hewlett, Erika Rowe, Karen Dandrow, Tara LaPoint, Melanie Morgan, Valerie Paro, Steve Szczepanski, Rob White, Amanda Bond and Brandi Graham.

**Public Participation:**

Mrs. Sykes introduced perspective new hire, Amanda Bond, Agriculture Occupation Education Teacher. Ms. Bond shared her agricultural background and her courses of study.

Jennifer Impey, E-KTA President spoke regarding starting salaries for incoming new staff. Mrs. Impey noted that recent hires were not consistent with the current step schedule and would like to look at possible options for tenured staff such as changes to longevity payouts.

Ms. Woods stated that she was in favor of exploring the ideas that the E-KTA had and expressed her gratitude and appreciation for all members of the teaching staff. Ms. Woods also noted the national teacher shortage and that the E-KTA step schedule is not comparable when hiring new teachers from larger school districts. Ms. Woods stated that she encourages further conversations with the E-KTA.

**Administrative Reports:**

Ms. Woods noted the upcoming musical performances on March 31 and April 1, a \$2,500 donation from the food bank to our food pantry and backpack program and the process of using a remote instruction day if the last snow day needs to be utilized. Ms. Woods also discussed the BOCES annual meeting scheduled for April 5 and the regent dinner on March 22. Recognition was also given to Madelyn Rowley for singing the National Anthem at the Dome in Syracuse and Marin McIntosh for receiving Academic All-Star.

Mrs. Sykes spoke regarding the student employment process, recent and upcoming field trips, Youth Art Month, spring conferences and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade planning night.

Ms. Hughes discussed reading celebrations, the upcoming book fair, field trips, state testing plans and staff development.

Mr. Harris reported on the capital outlay project, maintenance done on the garage doors and the need for lifeguards for community swim.

Mr. DeLorme noted that the two new buses are expected to arrive in April.

Ms. Woods discussed the draft budget and noted a 2.98% tax cap while also reminding the board that the last three years were set with a 0% increase. Also noted, the budget is very preliminary and will need further discussion.

**Board Member Discussion Items:**

Discussion was had regarding merger sports with costs associated with them. The board agreed to maintain the current process with no cost to the district and all costs to be paid for by the Booster Club, as it has been.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Lynn Collier, seconded by Craig Kirkpatrick to approve the Minutes approve the minutes of February 7, 2023.  
2/7/23

Allen - Yes	Collier - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - 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 Tom O'Brien, seconded by Roger Tresidder to accept the Claims Auditor reports dated February 8, 2023 and February 28, 2023, as presented and on file in the Business Office.

Allen - Yes	Collier - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Lynn Collier, seconded by Malissa Hale to accept the Rev. Stat. Revenue Status Report dated January 31, 2023, as presented and as on file in the Rpts. Business Office.

Allen - Yes	Collier - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Lynn Collier, seconded by Craig Kirkpatrick to accept the Rev. Stat. Revenue Status Report, Budget Status Report and the Budgetary Transfer Reports Budg. Stat. dated February 28, 2023, as presented and as on file in the Business Office.

Allen - Yes	Collier - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Tom O'Brien, seconded by Lynn Collier to adopt the Bus following resolution:  
Bond

**WHEREAS**, the Edwards-Knox Central School District (the "District"), is a local agency pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"), Environmental Conservation Law Section 8-0101, et seq., and implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the "Regulations"); and

**WHEREAS**, the District is considering the acquisition of two (2) student transport vehicles (the "Vehicles"); and

**WHEREAS**, the District has reviewed the classifications of actions contained in the Regulations; and

**BE IT RESOLVED** by this Board of Education as follows:

Section 1. The District hereby determines that the acquisition of the Vehicles constitutes a Type II Action pursuant to Parts 617.5(c)(10) and 617.5(c)(31) of the Regulations and as such is not subject to review under SEQRA.

Section 2. The proposition hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters at the annual school district election to be held in said District on May 16, 2023.

Section 3. The District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to include as a part of the notice of the annual district meeting and election notice the proposition in substantially the following form:

**NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN** that at said annual election to be held on May 16, 2023, the following proposition will be submitted:

TRANSPORTATION PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education of the Edwards-Knox Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance two (2) student transport vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$327,835, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$327,835, shall be issued.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that qualified voters of the District may obtain applications for an absentee ballot from the office of the Clerk of the District. Completed applications must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 15, 2023 and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on May 9, 2023 if the absentee ballot is to be mailed to the voter. Completed applications received after 4:00 p.m. on May 9, 2023 will require the voter to personally appear at the office of the Clerk of the District to receive an absentee ballot. A listing of all persons to whom an absentee ballot is issued will be available for inspection by any qualified voter in the office of the Clerk of the District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. during each of the 5 days prior to the election, except Sundays, and shall also be posted at the polling place at the election.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that military ballots may be applied for by qualified voters by requesting an application from the District Clerk at 315-562-8130 or bgraham@ekcsk12.org. Completed applications for military ballots must be received by the Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 20, 2023. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate their preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

Section 4. The Clerk of the School District is hereby authorized and directed in the name and on behalf of the District to do all acts and things necessary, following the advice and counsel of the District’s Attorney and the District’s Bond Counsel, to comply with all applicable laws, regulations and executive orders relating to the Annual Meeting to be held on May 16, 2023, and to do all other acts as may be necessary, or in the opinion of the District’s Attorney and the District’s Bond Counsel, desirable or proper to effectuate the purposes of the foregoing Resolution and to cause compliance by the District with all applicable laws, regulations and executive orders relating to the notice of, and procedural steps to be taken in connection with such Annual Meeting.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O’Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
			Motion Carried

**Board Discussion: Budget/First Draft**

Ms. Woods reiterated that the presented budget is very preliminary, and also stated that RFP’s will be sent out for a new auditing firm.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Lynn Coller, seconded by Roger Tresidder to approve Board of the use of optic scanning machines provided by the Board of Elections for the annual Elections budget vote and board member election to be held on May 16, 2023.  
MOA

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O’Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
			Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Lynn Coller, seconded by Malissa Hale to approve the JUUL Labs following resolution authorizing partial settlement of vaping litigation:  
Inc. Settle.

**WHEREAS**, in recent years the use and abuse of e-cigarettes and vaping devices increased dramatically among high school and middle school students, leading to significant risks of addiction and potentially life-threatening respiratory ailments; and

**WHEREAS**, students attending the Edwards-Knox Central School District (the "School

District") have not been immune to this phenomenon with the School District observing students using e-cigarettes and vaping devices in school and on school grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of e-cigarettes and vaping devices by students has caused the School District to incur costs in the form of staff time, disciplinary proceedings, and other costs, with the expectation that these costs will only increase unless and until student use of these devices decreases and stops; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District authorized the law firms of Ferrara Fiorenza PC, and the Frantz Law Group, APLC, to initiate litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and other parties by board resolution relating to the production, marketing, sale, and distribution of e-cigarettes and vaping devices; and

**WHEREAS**, the litigation involved more than 1400 U.S. public school districts across more than 25 states; and

**WHEREAS**, a tentative settlement has been reached with Defendant Juul Labs, Inc. and certain individual board members, directors, executives and parties with whom Juul Labs, Inc. has indemnity agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, litigation against Altria and remaining defendants will continue; and

**WHEREAS**, partial settlement means the School District would forever release all claims against Juul Labs and the other released entities; and

**WHEREAS**, in return, the School District would receive certain cash payments; and

**WHEREAS**, the amount that the School District receives will be based on a final allocation framework recommended by the court-appointed Special Master Thomas Perrelli with the allocation framework for all governmental entities including factors such as population and litigation risk and be no less than \$12,932 for the School District; and

**WHEREAS**, an initial payment of approximately 54% of the settlement amount is anticipated to be paid by late 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the remaining payments will be made in four installments anticipated in late 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education (the "Board") has determined it is necessary, advantageous, desirable, and in the public interest and the best interests of the School District that it settle this litigation against Juul Labs, Inc. and continue the litigation against remaining other parties involved with e-cigarettes and vaping devices.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the School District, as follows:

1. The Board authorizes the partial settlement of the vaping lawsuit against defendant Juul Labs, Inc. and certain individual board members, directors, executives and parties with whom Juul Labs, Inc. has indemnity agreements.
2. A Settlement with the substantive terms contained herein is hereby approved in substantially the form reviewed by the Board and together with such minor modifications as are deemed necessary by the School District's attorneys and administrators to protect the best interests of the School District.
3. The Board President, Superintendent and their designee(s) are hereby authorized to finalize, sign and enter into the Settlement Agreement on behalf of the School District and take all actions and execute all documents necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this Resolution.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Ms. Woods noted that the settlement had not been anticipated, school attorneys Ferrara Fiorenza PC recommend accepting the settlement.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Roger Tresidder, seconded by Craig Kirkpatrick to approve a merger with Canton Central School District for the 2022-2023 school year, for the purpose of Girls' Lacrosse, at the varsity level, at no expense to the district.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Malissa Hale, seconded by Tom O'Brien to approve a merger with Colton-Pierrepont Central School District for the 2023-2024 school year, for the purpose of Competitive Cheer, at all levels, at no expense to the district.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Malissa Hale, seconded by Roger Tresidder to accept the highest sealed bid from Chris Harris, for four pianos, as advertised and at an amount of \$1.00 each.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

**Board Discussion: BOCES Regent Dinner**

Ms. Woods discussed the regent dinner scheduled for March 22 at the BOCES Seaway Technical Center.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Lynn Coller, seconded by Malissa Hale to accept the resignation of Shawn DeLorme as the Modified Softball Coach for the 2022/2023 school year, effective February 13, 2023.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Malissa Hale, seconded by Roger Tresidder to appoint Elizabeth Burke as the Modified Softball Coach for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Craig Kirkpatrick, seconded by Tom O'Brien to appoint Kolby Barbarito as an Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach for the 2022/2023 school year, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Tom O'Brien, seconded by Roger Tresidder, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the appointment of Amanda Bond and is hereby conditionally appointed to the position of Agriculture

Ag. Occ. Occupation Education Teacher and in the same tenure area for a probationary  
Ed. period of four (4) years, to commence September 1, 2023 and to end September 1,  
Teacher 2027. Eligibility for tenure at the end of the probationary period is dependent on  
Amanda Bond receiving APPR ratings of Effective or Highly Effective in 2 of 3  
preceding years and no ineffective composite overall ratings in the final year. The  
prorated salary during the first year of appointment will be paid at a Step 4 salary of  
\$50,690.00 effective September 1, 2023.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Lynn Coller seconded by Malissa Hale to approve the  
Subs following additions to the 2022-2023 substitute lists:

Teacher/Support Staff: Ashley LaPoint, Kristina Whitmarsh (pending fingerprints), Tracey Murray, Amber Boulden, Hannah McIntosh, Patricia Gotham (pending fingerprints), Karissa Stowell, Laura LaMere, (pending fingerprints)

Lifeguard: Emma Gotham

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Malissa Hale, seconded by Tom O'Brien to approve  
CSE the programs recommended by the CSE for students #2590, #2888, #1803, #2403, #1769, #2267, #1831, #2544, #2492, #3139, #2671, #1756, #1957, #2329 and #3135.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Lynn Coller, seconded by Malissa Hale to adjourn the  
meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Allen - Yes	Coller - Yes	Hale - Yes	Kirkpatrick - Yes
Krull-Goss - Absent	Lottie - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Tresidder - Yes
Motion Carried			

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandi Graham  
Board Clerk