

**RENSELAER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
25 Van Rensselaer Drive  
Rensselaer, New York 12144  
October 17, 2018**

Board President, Mr. John Mooney, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. John Mooney, Mr. Tim Spath, Ms. Dana Endres, Ms. Jennifer Haggerty, and Ms. Vanessa Salsbury were present.

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Ken Claflin, Ms. Meghan Heimroth, Mr. Dave Martyn, Ms. Colleen Multer, Mr. Jeff Palmer, Mr. Dom Pitaniello, Mr. Charles Thomas, Ms. Karen Urbanski and Superintendent Joseph Kardash were also present. There were no others in attendance.

By Mr. Spath:

**RESO #1- 10/17/2018  
Approve Minutes**

“RESOLVED, the Board approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated September 19, 2018.”

Second: Ms. Haggerty

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

Ms. Teri Hopper entered at 6:36 P.M.

**REPORTS**

Audit Report by Mr. Ken Claflin:

- ❖ Cusack and Company performed three audits on behalf of the District: a single audit, an Extra Classroom Activity Fund audit, and a state mandated audit based on the amount of aid the District receives. The purpose of these audits is to report back any findings and increase District efficiency.
- ❖ Reports are shown in two different formats, Governmental Standards and Full Accrual Basis which result in different appearances of the information namely because one shows ‘other post retirement benefits’.
- ❖ Rensselaer City School District needs to work on building reserves back up, then building net income.
- ❖ There were no findings in the Extra Classroom Activity Fund.

Mr. Claflin exited at 6:47 P. M.

Business Office Report by Ms. Heimroth:

- ❖ Presented a bar graph showing the contractual expenses over the last 5 years and what we trending to spend in the current year.
- ❖ Between 2017 and 2018 Rensselaer City School District had a significant amount of savings in Auditing (about \$45K) and Insurance (about \$20K) expenses because RFP's were done for both services.

Pupil Personnel Services Report by Ms. Multer:

- ❖ From prior year to current, our special education student population decreased by 19 but we have had 9 new special education students register.
- ❖ Our new psychologist, Kimberly Manikas has been doing a great job! She is quickly making connections with the students.

Van Rensselaer Elementary Report by Mr. Palmer:

- ❖ Approximately 300 of our students were recognized at our annual ice cream social for completing their summer reading program. A big thanks goes out to Stewarts for donating the supplies, our secondary students for helping serve the ice cream, and Ms. Baumeister for working to organize everything.
- ❖ Turnout for PTA meetings has been great so far!
- ❖ We had two Character Education assemblies today (10/17/18) which were about 'Respect', students were awesome!
- ❖ There is a lot of hype about the PTA 'Trunk or Treat' event next Thursday (10/25/18), nearly 400 have RSVP'd!
- ❖ Presented reports on student test scores for both ELA and Math 3-8 assessments.
  - ELA exam results showed many students on the brink of proficiency (level 3). These results are indicating that the tier 2 support we are trying to provide to our students is helping. Working towards proactive rather than reactive solutions. Our District is on track with other urban high needs districts.
  - Math exam results show a drop in scores. Mr. Palmer has been having good conversations with the math teachers about ways to improve scores. Textbook applications will be supplemented with actual exam questions and will be approached the same way by all teachers K-6. Presently our scores show us behind other comparable districts.

Athletics Report by Mr. Pitaniello:

- ❖ All senior nights have taken place, 27 seniors in total from all of our sports teams were recognized.
- ❖ Girls Varsity Soccer will be playing in the sectionals this Saturday (10/20/18) at Gloversville!

Buildings and Grounds Report by Mr. Thomas:

- ❖ Mr. Curran's earth science students are getting hands on learning experiences with the land behind the school. Students are going to be involved in obtaining and testing soil samples.
- ❖ Energy consumption is down compared to where we were last year.

Rensselaer Junior/Senior High School Report by Ms. Urbanski:

- ❖ Expanded on Mr. Thomas's report of the earth science students. Students recently visited the dump and learned how the workers maintain water flow and reduce dust.
- ❖ Open house was well attended.
- ❖ Homecoming dance was one of the best in recent years, students did a great job decorating the gym and the turnout was one of the highest we've seen.

By Ms. Endres :

**RESO #2-10/17/2018  
Accept & File Claims  
Audit Report**

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby accepts and orders filed the September 2018 Claims Audit Report submitted by Michael Wolff.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

**RESO #3-10/17/2018  
Approve IMA**

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the IMA with Schodack Central School District for a shared transportation service.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

**RESO #4-10/17/2018  
Accept and File  
Account Reconciliation**

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby accepts and orders filed the September 2018 account reconciliations of the Extraclassroom Activity Fund submitted by Central Treasurer, Michael Toney.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:			<b>RESO #5-10/17/2018</b>
“RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the substitute pay rates for the 2018-2019 school year.”			<b>Approve Substitute Pay Rates</b>
Second: Mr. Spath	Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Motion Carried Unanimously
By Ms. Endres:			<b>RESO #6-10/17/2018</b>
“RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the tax adjustment in the amount of \$24, 242.98 for Niagara Mohawk, a National Grid company as well as an adjustment for in the amount of \$565.00 for Winnie Williams.”			<b>Approve Tax Adjustment</b>
Second: Mr. Spath	Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Motion Carried Unanimously
By Ms. Endres:			<b>RESO #7-10/17/2018</b>
“RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the contract with East Greenbush Central School District for the period of September 6th, 2018 through June 30, 2019 for Special Education Services.”			<b>Approve Service Contract</b>
Second: Mr. Spath	Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Motion Carried Unanimously
By Ms. Endres:			<b>RESO #8-10/17/2018</b>
““RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the creation of a stipend position for the purpose of Substitute Calling.”			<b>Approve Stipend Position</b>
Second: Mr. Spath	Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Motion Carried Unanimously
By Ms. Endres:			<b>RESO #9-10/17/2018</b>
“RESOLVED, the Board hereby accepts and orders filed the September 2018 Treasurer’s Report submitted by the District Treasurer.”			<b>Accept &amp; File Treasurer’s Report</b>
Second: Mr. Spath	Ayes – 5	Nays – 0	Motion Carried Unanimously

**PERSONNEL**

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the updated request of Nicole McNamara for 8 consecutive weeks of Family Medical Leave as per Rensselaer City School District Policy 9520.2 commencing on or about September 6, 2018 and ending on or about November 1, 2018.”

**RESO #10-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Updated**  
**FMLA -**  
**Nicole McNamara**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the updated request of Christina Lane for 30 consecutive weeks of Family Medical Leave as per Rensselaer City School District Policy 9520.2 commencing on or about October 3, 2018 and ending on or about May 13, 2019.”

**RESO #11-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Updated**  
**FMLA -**  
**Christina Lane**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Jessica Mouawad for 12 consecutive weeks of Family Medical Leave as per Rensselaer City School District Policy 9520.2 commencing on or about January 23, 2019 and ending on or about April 17, 2019.”

**RESO #12-10/17/2018**  
**Approve FMLA -**  
**Jessica Mouawad**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Diane Rizzo for an unpaid leave of absence commencing on October 10, 2018 and ending on or about November 21, 2018.”

**RESO #13-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Unpaid**  
**Leave - Diane Rizzo**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

**RESO #14-10/17/2018  
Appoint Coaches &  
Advisors**

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints following coaches and advisors for the 2018-2019 school year:

Modified Wrestling	Scott Beiter
Varsity Wrestling	Michael Quinn
Modified Basketball-Girls	Anna Balfourt
Varsity Bowling	Robert Stranahan
Modified Basketball-Boys	Ryan Debrosky
Dean of Students-Elementary	Eric Ferrone
Odyssey of the Mind	Annemarie Spencer
Odyssey of the Mind	Rita Fisher
Builders Club	Andrew Higgs
Builders Club	Tessa Sedlar
Varsity Cheerleading (Basketball)	Jessica Siddon
Volunteer Varsity Cheerleading (Basketball)	Kimberly Ketzer
Grant Writer	Robert Stranahan

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

**RESO #15-10/17/2018  
Approve Substitute  
Teacher/Teacher Aide  
- Christine Krenzer**

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Christine Krenzer as a substitute teacher (Bachelors rate) and a substitute teacher aide effective October 17, 2018.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

**RESO #16-10/17/2018  
Approve Substitute  
Teacher - Barbra  
Blowers**

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Barbra Blowers as a substitute teacher (Bachelors rate) effective October 17, 2018.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Vesna Stefanovich as a substitute nurse effective October 17, 2018 pending fingerprint clearance.”

**RESO #17-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Substitute**  
**Nurse - Vesna**  
**Stefanovich**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Blair LaCoy as a substitute teachers aide effective October 17, 2018 pending fingerprint clearance.”

**RESO #18-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Substitute**  
**Teacher Aide - Blair**  
**LaCoy**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Lisa Dennis as a substitute teacher (Bachelors rate) and substitute teachers aide effective September 19, 2018.”

**RESO #19-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Substitute**  
**Teacher/Teacher Aide**  
**- Lisa Dennis**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Julie Stoffels as a substitute nurse effective October 17, 2018.”

**RESO #20-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Substitute**  
**Nurse - Julie Stoffels**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Dean Biancanello as a substitute teacher (Non-degree rate) effective October 17, 2018 pending fingerprint clearance.”

**RESO #21-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Substitute**  
**Teacher - Dean**  
**Biancanello**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Sherlyn Chapman as a substitute food service worker effective October 17, 2018 at the approved hourly rate.”

**RESO #22-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Substitute**  
**Food Service Worker -**  
**Sherlyn Chapman**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Thomas McAvoy as a substitute cleaner effective October 17, 2018 at the approved hourly rate.”

**RESO #23-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Substitute**  
**Cleaner - Thomas**  
**McAvoy**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Irka Cabrerra as a substitute food service worker and a substitute teachers aide effective October 17, 2018.”

**RESO #24-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Substitute**  
**Food Service**  
**Worker/Teachers Aide**  
**- Irka Cabrerra**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

#### **USE OF FACILITIES**

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Rensselaer CYO Basketball for the use of the north and south gyms for practice and games Monday - Friday commencing November 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.”

**RESO #25-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Use of**  
**Gymnasiums**

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5      Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the updated request of the Class of 2019 to host a fundraising craft fair in the building on Saturday, March 30, 2019.”

**RESO #26-10/17/2018**  
**Approve Use of School**



Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

**COMMITTEE ON  
SPECIAL  
EDUCATION**

By Ms. Endres:

**RESO #27-10/17/2018  
Approve CSE Minutes**

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the Committee on Special Education Minutes dated September 13, 2018 through October 4, 2018.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

**RESO #28-10/17/2018  
Approve 504  
Committee Minutes**

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the 504 Committee Minutes from meetings held between August 1, 2018 through October 10, 2018.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

**OTHER**

**RESO #29-10/17/2018  
Approve Service  
Agreement**

By Ms. Endres:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves a Service Agreement with Access Therapy for special education services for the 2018-2019 school year .”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

**RESO #30-10/17/2018  
Executive Session**

By Ms. Endres:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Education enter into executive session at 7:48 p.m. during which time matters concerning personnel will be discussed.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

**RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AT 8:33 P.M.**

**RESO #31-10/17/2018**  
**Adjourn**

By Mr. Mooney:

“Motion to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.”

Second: Mr. Spath

Ayes – 5

Nays – 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously