

**RENSSELAER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
25 Van Rensselaer Drive
Rensselaer, New York 12144
March 20, 2019**

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Mr. Will Deruve, Ms. Meghan Heimroth, Mr. Dave Howell, Ms. Yeleina Johnson, Mr. Dave Martyn, Ms. Colleen Multer, Mr. Jeff Palmer, Mr. Dom Pitaniello, Ms. Heather Staszak and Superintendent Joseph Kardash were also present. There were approximately 38 others in attendance.

By Mr. Tim Spath:

**RESO # 1 - 03/20/19
Approve Minutes**

“RESOLVED, the Board approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated February 13, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Jennifer Haggerty

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Mr. Tim Spath:

**RESO # 2 - 03/20/19
Approve Minutes**

“RESOLVED, the Board approves the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated March 18, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Jennifer Haggerty

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

REPORTS

Board President Mr. John Mooney opened the floor for Public Comment:

Mr. Mike Stammel spoke of concerns that he has with the landfill in the city of Rensselaer.

Ms. Dawn Gillan spoke of concerns she has about the children who attend the Rensselaer City School District and the odor from the landfill, as well as municipal waste concerns in the landfill.

Ms. Wendy Johnson spoke about her own personal experiences with the landfill and her concerns about the smell. She urged we focus on protecting the children of Rensselaer.

Mr. David Ellis gave a thorough history on the S. A. Dunn site.

Ms. Chris Kiel, a New York State Epidemiologist, spoke on the potential effects the hydrogen sulfide scent could have on individuals.

Mr. David Ellis reiterated Ms. Kiel's concerns.

Mr. Louis Sebesta spoke about his experience with the traffic created by the landfill and his concern about the students. Mr. Sebesta read a resolution the community group has written to the Governor.

Mr. Peter Mannella expressed concerns about the time trucks en route to the landfill sit idling in the morning and how it may negatively impact students waiting at the bus stops.

Mr. Mike Stammel closed the citizens discussion by stating that no one blames the District or Board of Education, but he hopes they will take the concerns of the citizens seriously.

At this time, Superintendent Kardash asked DEC representatives, Mr. Keith Guertz, Mr. Jon Whitcomb and Ms. Vickie Schmitt, to the floor to speak on behalf of their oversight on the landfill.

Mr. Keith Guertz said that the DEC is committed to keeping the landfill in compliance, stating they have been to the facility at least 25 times this calendar year alone and they are working with the facility to eliminate odors as well as putting in permanent air quality meters.

Mr. Jon Whitcomb and Ms. Vickie Schmitt addressed a concern about the liner of the facility, going into detail about the size of the stone that is permitted to be mixed in to the liner and how they determine if the facility is compliant based on testing that is done. They determined that the liner in place would have no negative impact on the health of individuals but the facility put in an additional liner system as a precaution.

Superintendent Kardash thanked the DEC members for coming to this evening's meeting. He told the crowd that the District has been working closely with the DEC and commended the advocacy of all the residents

closely with the DEC and commended the advocacy of all the residents. He said that these combined efforts have led to higher regulations on the landfill than required. With that being said, Mr. Kardash asked that the public work to stop associating the school with the landfill, and instead focus on the amazing achievements of our students such as: our graduation rate increasing by 20% in the last year, our bronze medal high school status, that we inducted 15 new members into both the National Honor Society and the National Junior Honor Society this year, that we have 5 scholar athlete teams this spring, and that we have a renowned bridge building club whose achievements are currently on display in the hall. He urged we show pride in these accomplishments rather than focusing on the negativity of our neighbor.

Assemblymember Mr. John McDonald presented the remaining crowd with the preliminary State budget, stating that it appears the education aide is moving upwards. He did address a deficit that has appeared during the planning stating that this is due to the new tax laws and the decrease in estimated tax payments.

Please note that during the public comment section of the meeting, members of the public entered and exited the Large Group Instruction room throughout.

Project AWARE Grant Report by Ms. Heather Staszak:

Reported that the District received a large grant in the amount of \$420,000.00 a year for the next 5 years to address mental health issues of our students. A community group has been assembled to decide how to distribute funds and coordinate trainings.

Introduced Yeleina Johnson, from Start Center, who will be working in the District as the Community Project Manager.

IT Report by Mr. David Howell:

Reported the District is hoping to roll out a 1:1 chromebook initiative next year focusing on grades 5,7, and 8.

Introduced Justin Darling, our new Network Administrator.

Pupil Personnel Service Report by Ms. Colleen Multer:

Recommended tenure for Caroline Macrae.

Informed the Board that she is working on professional development surrounding literacy and quality IEPs with staff.

Van Rensselaer Elementary Report by Mr. Jeffrey Palmer:

Recommended tenure for Kelly Clum.

Recommended tenure for Julia Hobson.

Spoke about how wonderful the Pick a Reading Partner night the PTA hosted was. When this program was implemented 2 year ago we had maybe 15 students participate but this year we had about 55 students and their families participate. The event was almost too big to be hosted in the library.

Reported that the final donation for the Ronald McDonald House Fund was upwards of \$3,500.00 which is an unbelievable figure for a first year participant.

Business Office Report by Ms. Meghan Heimroth:

Reported on the budget, showed how the loss of a PILOT is directly offset with an increase to the tax levy.

Rensselaer Junior/Senior High School Reports by Mr. Dom Pitaniello:

Reported that both National Honor Society and Junior National Honor Society inducted 15 new members each this year. Commended the jazz bands incredible performance before each of the ceremonies.

Rensselaer Junior/Senior High School Reports by Mr. Will DeRuve:

Added that Mr. Pitaniello has been an excellent addition to the team and has been doing a great job including working on new disciplinary

PTA Reports by Ms. Amy Mooney:

Reported that local author Bobbie Reno will be coming to our school next month for a reading/signing of her book.

Planning a spirit week for the elementary students that coincides with testing week to boost morale amongst students.

NEW BUSINESS

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #3 - 03/20/19

Accept & File Account Reconciliation

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby accepts and orders filed the February 2019 account reconciliations of the Extraclassroom Activity Fund submitted by Central Treasurer, Michael Toney.”

Motion Carried

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby accepts and orders filed the February 2019 Treasurer’s Report submitted by the District Treasurer.”

RESO #4 - 03/20/19
Accept & File
Treasurer's Report

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby accepts and orders filed the February 2019 Claims Audit Report submitted by Michael Wolff.”

RESO #5 - 03/20/19
Accept & File Claims
Audit Report

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the budget transfers for March 2019 as submitted by the School Business Official.”

RESO #6 - 03/20/19
Approve Budget
Transfers

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the Managerial/Confidential Employee Work Agreement for the Network Administrator, effective February 14, 2019.”

RESO #7 - 03/20/19
Approve Work
Agreement - Network
Administrator

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

PERSONNEL

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby accepts the resignation of Andrea Cook, Teacher Aide, for the purpose of retirement effective June 27, 2019.”

RESO #8 - 03/20/19
Accept Resignation -
Andrea Cook

Motion Carried
Unanimously

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the updated request of Meghan Murphy for 8 consecutive weeks of Family Medical Leave as per Rensselaer City School District Policy 9520.2 commencing on or about April 29, 2019 and ending on June 20, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

RESO #9 - 03/20/19

Approve Updated FMLA - Meghan Murphy

Motion Carried Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the updated request of Ashley Fitzgerald for 9 consecutive weeks of Family Medical Leave as per Rensselaer City School District Policy 9520.2 commencing on or about January 28, 2019 and ending on or about March 29, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

RESO #10 - 03/20/19

Approve Updated FMLA - Ashley Fitzgerald

Motion Carried Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Ann Marie Coulombe for an unpaid leave of absence April 29, 2019 and April 30, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

RESO #11 - 03/20/19

Approve Unpaid Leave - Ann Marie Coulombe

Motion Carried Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Kendra Hadden for 6 consecutive weeks of Family Medical Leave as per Rensselaer City School District Policy 9520.2 commencing on or about May 14, 2019 and ending on or about June 25, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

RESO #12 - 03/20/19

Approve FMLA - Kendra Hadden

Motion Carried Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Sue Keneston for an unpaid leave of

RESO #13 - 03/20/19

Approve Unpaid Leave - Sue Keneston

absence April 17, 2019 and April 18, 2019."

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #14 - 03/20/19

**Appoint Coaches &
Advisors**

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

Varsity Baseball - Volunteer

Timothy Foust

Varsity Baseball - Volunteer

David Martyn

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #15 - 03/20/19

**Grant Tenure - Kelly
Clum**

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Kelly Clum, currently serving a probationary appointment in the area of Elementary Education, to a tenured position effective September 1, 2019."

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #16 - 03/20/19

**Grant Tenure - Julia
Hobson**

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Julia Hobson, currently serving a probationary appointment in the area of Elementary Education, to a tenured position effective September 1, 2019."

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #17 - 03/20/19

**Grant Tenure -
Caroline Macrae**

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Caroline Macrae, currently serving a probationary appointment in the area of Speech, to a tenured position effective September 1, 2019."

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Louise Lanz as a 10 month full-time Account Clerk for Food Services at the hourly rate as per the negotiated agreement between the CSEA and the RCSD Board of Education, effective March 11, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

RESO #18 - 03/20/19
Appoint Account Clerk - Louise Lanz

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Justin Darling as a Network Administrator as per the Managerial/Confidential Employee Work Agreement for the Network Administrator, effective March 4, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

RESO #19 - 03/20/19
Appoint Network Administrator - Justin Darling

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Michael Guarini as a full-time Cleaner at the hourly rate as per the negotiated agreement between the CSEA and the RCSD Board of Education, effective March 25, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

RESO #20 - 03/20/19
Appoint Cleaner - Michael Guarini

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Kiersten Cosgrove as a long-term substitute teacher, at the daily rate of \$140, to fill the position held by Kendra Hadden who has been granted a leave of absence. Ms. Cosgrove’s appointment will begin on or about May 14, 2019 and is intended to continue for the term of Ms. Hadden's leave, but no later than June 25, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

RESO #21 - 03/20/19
Appoint Long-Term Substitute Teacher - Kiersten Cosgrove

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Deb Danz as a consultant teacher at Doane Stuart for 2

RESO #22 - 03/20/19
Appoint Consultant Teacher - Deb Danz

hours per week at the agreed upon tutoring rate of \$40.00 per hour."

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Heather Staszak as the Project Aware Program Coordinator with a stipend of \$5,400.00."

RESO #23 - 03/20/19
Appoint Project
Aware Coordinator -
Heather Staszak

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Autumn Sabath as a substitute teacher (Bachelors rate) effective March 20, 2019."

RESO #24 - 03/20/19
Approve Substitute
Teacher - Autumn
Sabath

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Julia Ciaccio as a substitute teacher (Bachelors rate) effective March 20, 2019."

RESO #25 - 03/20/19
Approve Substitute
Teacher - Julia
Ciaccio

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Jacob Preston as a substitute teacher (Non-Degree rate) effective March 6, 2019."

RESO #26 - 03/20/19
Approve Substitute
Teacher - Jacob
Preston

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Angela Nye as a substitute Food Service Worker effective March 20, 2019."

RESO #27 - 03/20/19
Approve Substitute
Food Service Worker -
Angela Nye

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #28 - 03/20/19

**Approve Student
Teacher(s)**

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board

hereby approves the following student teacher(s) from The College of St. Rose with cooperating teacher(s).”

<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>	<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>Term</u>
Jackie Schacht	Sophia Santiago	3/11/19-5/3/19

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

USE OF FACILITIES

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #29 - 03/20/19

**Approve Use of Fields
& Gymnasiums**

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board

hereby approves the request of Tay Fisher's Fundamental Basketball Camp for use of the Main and North gymnasiums beginning July 8, 2019 through July 12, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, for the purpose of hosting a basketball camp pending the receipt of the usage fee and certificate of insurance.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #30 - 03/20/19

**Approve Use of Fields
& Gymnasiums**

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board

hereby approves the request of Teresa D'Arcangelis for use of the Elementary Library and Cafeteria on Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:15 p.m., March 21, 2019 through April 18, 2019 for the purpose of hosting a Parenting Program on staying connected with your teen.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

RESO #31 - 03/20/19

**Approve Use of Fields
& Gymnasiums**

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board

hereby approves the request of CSEA Local 871 for the use of the Faculty Lounge for a general membership meeting March 5, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salisbury:

RESO #32 - 03/20/19
Approve Use of Fields & Gymnasiums

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of New York State Master Teacher Program for the use of the Mezzanine March 9, 2019 for the purpose of hosting a game-a-thon.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salisbury:

RESO #33 - 03/20/19
Approve Use of Fields & Gymnasiums

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Upstate Youth Basketball for use of the Main, North and South gymnasiums April 6, 2019, April 7, 2019, May 18, 2019 and May 19, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of hosting an AAU basketball tournament pending the receipt of the usage fee and certificate of insurance.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

By Ms. Vanessa Salisbury:

RESO #34 - 03/20/19
Approve CSE Minutes

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the Committee on Special Education Minutes dated January 30, 2019 through March 3, 2019.”

Second: Ms. Dana Endres Ayes - 5 Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

OTHER

By Ms. Vanessa Salisbury:

RESO #35 - 03/20/19
Approve St. Peter's Hospital Contract - Van Rensselaer

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the memorandum of understanding with St. Peter's Hospital to provide dental services to students enrolled at Van Rensselaer

Elementary School."

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the memorandum of understanding with St. Peter's Hospital to provide dental services to students enrolled at Rensselaer Junior/Senior High School."

RESO #36 - 03/20/19
Approve St. Peter's
Hospital Contract - Jr.
Sr. High

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the Health & Welfare contract in the amount of \$2,081.61 for 9 Rensselaer City resident students attending a private/parochial school in the North Greenbush Common School District."

RESO #37 - 03/20/19
Approve Health &
Welfare Contract -
North Greenbush

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves a three day, two night field trip for 9 seniors to New York City to attend a Spanish play at Repertorio Español Theatre Company."

RESO #38 - 03/20/19
Approve Overnight
Field Trip

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

By Mr. Tim Spath:

"Be it resolved that the Board of Education enters into executive session at 8:12 p.m. during which time matters concerning matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation will be discussed."

RESO #39 - 03/20/19
Executive Session

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AT 8:28 P.M.

By Mr. Tim Spath:

RESO #40 - 03/20/19

Adjourn

"Motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m."

Second: Ms. Dana Endres

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried
Unanimously