

**RENSSELAER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
25 Van Rensselaer Drive  
Rensselaer, New York 12144  
April 16, 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, Ms. Vanessa Salsbury, Mr. Tim Spath, and Ms. Dana Endres were present.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Scott Beiter, Mr. Patrick Paratore, Ms. Teri Hopper, Mr. Will DeRuve, Ms. Meghan Heimroth, Ms. Colleen Multer, Mr. Dom Pitaniello, Mr. Charles Thomas, Ms. Amy Mooney and Superintendent Joseph Kardash were also present. There were 5 others in attendance.

By Ms. Jennifer Haggerty:

**RESO # 1 - 04/16/19  
Approve Minutes**

“RESOLVED, the Board approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated March 20, 2019.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Mr. Louis Sebesta brought and read a letter urging Superintendent Kardash to send to the DEC about air quality control around the school.

Ms. Chris Kielb, a New York State Epidemiologist, spoke on the potential effects the different pollutions could have on individuals.

Mr. Tom Ellis spoke about concerns of the landfill on particularly windy days, and encouraged a change in the protocols for that kind of weather.

Ms. Andrea Smyth inquired about the culture within the school and how incidents are reported to the DEC.

Board Member Ms. Salsbury, Board President Mr. John Mooney, and Superintendent Mr. Joseph Kardash emphasized that all residents and community members, including teachers are encouraged to report any incidents. Mr. Kardash said that he makes a point of investigating all incidents that are reported to him, and then escalated to the proper channels.

## REPORTS

### **Business Office Report by Ms. Meghan Heimroth:**

Presented the 2019/2020 Budget, of which 54.78% is comprised of revenue from State Aide. The tax levy is 4.98%, which has increased because of a decrease in a PILOT.

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

Reported that there was a concert for the 7th and 8th graders tonight and another one tomorrow for 9th through 12th graders. He commended Mr. McGough and Ms. Ladouceur are doing a great job!

Stated that the NYS computer based training would take place when students return from spring break and that prom would be shortly after that on May 10th.

Shared information provided by Mr. Stranahan about the grants he has been applying for and received for the students of Rensselaer City School District.

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

Added that students are gearing up for break!

Shared information regarding a conference recently attended focused around coding.

### **Rensselaer Junior/Senior High School ESports Reports by Mr. Scott Beiter:**

Reported that he has been working with other schools to get their E-Gaming clubs started.

Shared that students are excited about the club, attendance has been approving and the tournaments are a good draw!

**Pupil Personnel Service Report by Ms. Colleen Multer:**

Informed the Board that annual reviews have been continuing, classifications for incoming students have been taking place.

Reported that we are appointing Tara Rothenberger for the School Social Worker associated with the project AWARE grant, and that we have reposted the Behavior Specialist.

**Cafeteria Reports by Ms. Teri Hopper:**

Reported working on a program for the summer to feed students that attend Questar.

**Health & Safety Report by Mr. Patrick Paratore:**

Shared that our water tests have come back clear, our fire safety inspections have all been conducted successfully as well as a planned lock-down drill that took place on Friday, April 12th.

Brought an award the District received for a platinum level of compliance with our insurance company, Utica National.

**Buildings & Grounds report by Mr. Charles Thomas:**

Reported that the softball field has been improved and the teams are excited!

**NEW BUSINESS**

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

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

**RESO #2 - 04/16/19  
Accept & File Account Reconciliation**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

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

**RESO #3 - 04/16/19  
Accept & File Treasurer's Report**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

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

**RESO #4 - 04/16/19**  
**Accept & File Claims Audit Report**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5      Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby designates Metropolitan Bank as an official bank depository for the Rensselaer City School District for the 2018-2019 school year.”

**RESO #5 - 04/16/19**  
**Designate Banks**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5      Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves Inter-Municipal Agreements with Schodack City School District for Transportation Supervisor, Bus Dispatcher and school bus repair and maintenance services commencing July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020; and further authorize the Superintendent to sign same.”

**RESO #6 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Transportation Contracts with Schodack**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5      Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby approves the contract for services of a Community Project Manager to coordinate the Project AWARE SAMHSA Award between Rensselaer City School District and START Children's Center, Inc. from January 1st, 2019 through December 31st, 2019.”

**RESO #7 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Contract with START Children's Center, Inc.**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5      Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby adopts the proposed 2019-2020 School Budget in the amount of \$26,569,790 requiring voter approval on May 21, 2019.”

**RESO #8 - 04/16/19**  
**Adopt Proposed 2019-2020 School Budget**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5      Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

**RESO #9 - 04/16/19**  
**Adopt School Bus**  
**Lease Proposition**

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby adopts the following proposition requiring voter approval on May 21, 2019:

SHALL the Board of Education of the Rensselaer City School District, pursuant to Chapter 472 of the Session Laws of 1998, be hereby authorized to lease and expend therefore, including costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof, an amount not to exceed the estimated maximum cost of sixty thousand (\$60,000) dollars, and for a term not to exceed five (5) years, the following motors vehicles: two (2) sixty-six passenger school buses and one (1) twenty-four passenger wheelchair school bus.

AND, that such sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax collected in annual installments; and that in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District shall be issued.

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

**RESO #10 - 04/16/19**  
**Cast Vote for BOCES**  
**Board Member -**  
**Jennifer Haggerty**

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby casts its vote for the election of Ms. Jennifer Haggerty, Rensselaer, NY (District of Residence: Rensselaer Central School District), as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

**RESO #11 - 04/16/19**  
**Cast Vote for BOCES**  
**2019-2020 Budget**

“RESOLVED, the Board hereby authorizes the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties is authorized to expend the sum set forth in the 2019-20 tentative Administrative budget document in the amount of \$6,467,395.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

**PERSONNEL**

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Kathleen Brophy for an unpaid leave of absence April 29, 2019 through May 20, 2019.”

**RESO #12 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Unpaid Leave - Kathleen Brophy**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints William Spath Athletic Director for the 2019-2020 School year as per the negotiated agreement between the Board of Education of Rensselaer City School District and the Rensselaer Teachers Association.”

**RESO #13 - 04/16/19**  
**Appoint Coaches & Advisors: Athletic Director 2019-2020**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Anna Balfourt to an additional year of probation in the academic tenure area of Special Education, ending August 31, 2020, in accordance with an agreement which the Superintendent of Schools is hereby authorized to execute.”

**RESO #14 - 04/16/19**  
**Grant JUUL - Anna Balfourt**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Sarah Sharifipour as a long-term substitute teacher, at the daily rate of \$140.00, to fill the position held by Meghan Murphy who has been granted a leave of absence. Ms. Sharifipour's appointment will begin on or about April 29, 2019 and is intended to continue for the term of Ms. Murphy's leave, but no later than June 20, 2019.”

**RESO #15 - 04/16/19**  
**Appoint Long-Term Substitute Teacher - Sarah Sharifipour**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby appoints Tara Rothenberger as a Social Worker in the School Social Worker tenure area effective May 13, 2019 for a four-year term tentatively scheduled to conclude on May 12, 2022. Ms. Rothenberger holds New York State Certification as a Certified Social Worker. Ms. Rothenberger will be paid at a salary of Masters – Level G of the negotiated agreement between the RTA and the RCSD Board of Education.”

**RESO #16 - 04/16/19**  
**Appoint School Social Worker - Tara Rothenberger**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Sarah Sharifipour as a Substitute Teacher (Masters Rate) effective March 26, 2019.”

**RESO #17 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Substitute Teacher - Sarah Sharifipour**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Noel Santiago as a Substitute Teacher (Masters Rate) effective March 26, 2019.”

**RESO #18 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Substitute Teacher - Noel Santiago**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Jessica Casso as a Substitute Nurse effective April 16, 2019 pending fingerprint clearance.”

**RESO #19 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Substitute Nurse - Jessica Casso**

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves Connor Gray as a Substitute Teacher (Masters Rate) effective April 16, 2019.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

**RESO #20 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Substitute Teacher - Connor Gray**

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

## **USE OF FACILITIES**

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the request of Yankees Little League Team for use of the South gymnasium March 29, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of a team meeting and practice.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

**RESO #21 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Use of Fields & Gymnasiums**

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

## **COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION**

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the Committee on Special Education Minutes dated January 29, 2019 through April 10, 2019.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

**RESO #22 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve CSE Minutes**

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

## **OTHER**

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

“RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the updated Health & Welfare contract in the amount of \$2,377.71 for 9 Rensselaer City resident students attending a private/parochial school in the North Greenbush Common School District.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

**RESO #23 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Updated Health & Welfare Contract - North Greenbush**

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 \$3,189.80, for 5 Rensselaer City resident students attending a private/parochial school in the Averill Park Central School District.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

**RESO #24 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Health & Welfare Contract - Averill Park**

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 \$3,802.54, for 7 Rensselaer City resident students attending a private/parochial school in the Lansingburgh Central School District.”

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

**RESO #25 - 04/16/19**  
**Approve Health & Welfare Contract - Lansingburgh**

Motion Carried  
Unanimously

By Ms. Vanessa Salsbury:

"Motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m."

Second: Mr. Tim Spath

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

**RESO #26 - 04/16/19**  
**Adjourn**

Motion Carried  
Unanimously