The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order in the Administration Building at 5:30 p.m. by President Sheila Schwartz.

PRESENT:  Mrs. Schwartz, Mrs. Messing, Mr. Bond, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Conklin, Ms. Lewis and Mr. Wesenberg

ABSENT:  None

Also Present:  Mr. Xanthis, Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Bellarosa and several people in the audience including Staff, Students, Parents and Media (WVT)

Also Absent:  Media (THR)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Wesenberg moved, Mrs. Messing seconded that the Board convene to Executive Session at 6:01 p.m. to discuss negotiations under the Taylor Law as well as a particular student and personnel. Action is not anticipated to be taken following Executive Session. Voting YES:  Unanimous [7:0]

Mr. Byrne moved, Mrs. Messing seconded that the Board reconvene to Regular Session at 6:29 p.m. Voting YES:  Unanimous [7:0]

PLEDGE TO FLAG

Mrs. Schwartz made the regular announcements regarding emergency egress, no smoking, public participation, and audiotaping of the meeting. She made available a copy of the opening statement/guidelines for public participation for those wishing to speak.

STUDENT PRESENTATION

Valley Central High School

Mrs. Schwartz introduced Ms. Baxter, High School Principal. Ms. Baxter stated that the presentation given will be from the Music Department. She then introduced Mrs. Carver, Mr. Walker and Mr. Miller. Students presented a group activity, read a monologue and presented a scene from the Drama II class. Staff and students were thanked for their presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMENDATIONS

Mr. Xanthis and Mrs. Schwartz reviewed the attached listing of correspondence and commendations.

PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. She then asked if there were any items to be removed. Mr. Conklin stated that he would like item (B) under Consideration of Minutes be removed due to an error. There were no objections. Mrs. Schwartz then called for a motion.

Mr. Wesenberg moved, Mrs. Messing seconded that the following Consent Agenda be accepted/approved with the exception of Item (B) under Consideration of Minutes as listed, amended and/or attached.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A. Special Board Meeting Minutes dated 2/26/18
B. Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated 3/5/18 (*Item removed from vote)
FINANCIALS

A. Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report for February
B. Acceptance of Expenditure Budget Status Report for February
C. Acceptance of Revenue Budget Status Report for February
D. Acceptance of Record of Claims for February
E. Acceptance of Investment Report for February
F. Approval of General Fund Budget Transfer for February

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CSE/CPSE

FOR APPROVAL

A. Declaration of Obsolete Equipment
   1. Buildings & Grounds Equipment

SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Acceptance of Resignations:
   Noninstructural
   1. Dawn Murphy, Paraprofessional (1:1), p/t East Coldenham Elementary School, effective March 24, 2018
   2. Evelyn Gaina, Paraprofessional (1:2), p/t, Alternative Learning Center, effective March 19, 2018
   3. Timothy Harrison, Paraprofessional (1:1), p/t, Walden Elementary School, effective March 9, 2018

B. Approval of Appointments:
   Instructional
   1. Amanda Ruggirello, certified in Students with Disabilities (Gr. 1-6), appointed to a Childcare Leave Replacement position (Regular Substitute), commencing October 16, 2017 and ending March 23, 2018 [Childcare Leave]
   2. Maya Itzcowitz, certified in Childhood Education (Gr. 1-6), appointed to a Leave Replacement position (Regular Substitute), commencing March 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2018 [Childcare Leave]
   Noninstructural
   1. Maria Cooley, Custodial Worker, Valley Central School District, effective March 20, 2018 [Resignation Replacement]
   2. Evelyn Gaina, Paraprofessional, p/t, Valley Central School District, effective March 20, 2018 [Transfer Replacement]

Voting YES: Unanimous [7:0]
REPORTS

A. Student Representatives Report

After introduction of this Agenda item, Miss Coddington spoke about the High School production of “Once Upon A Mattress” and that the J.R.O.T.C. and the Triumph Honor Society volunteered their time to help. Miss Gatto spoke about the walk-out at the High School. She stated that although there was concern, it went well.

B. Superintendent’s Report

Following introduction of this Agenda item by Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Xanthis spoke about the walk-out and how proud he was of the students and staff for the way it was conducted. He then went on to state that he attended the New York State Council Superintendent’s Mental Health Summit in Long Island. He gave information regarding how the State Education Department (S.E.D.) will send out guidance on July 1, 2018 on what they will require and then will expect a program to address mental health, in place by September 1, 2018. He stated this will be for Grades K-12.

C. Assistant Superintendents’ Report

A. Michael Bellarosa

After introduction of this Agenda item by Mrs. Schwartz, Mr. Bellarosa also discussed the walk-out and how not only the High School, but the Middle School participated as well. He stated that although some participated and some did not, there was respect for everyone and their decision. He then discussed how the information that Mr. Xanthis shared relating to mental health, will help in the gap in Health Education. Mr. Bellarosa also stated that while meeting with the Curriculum Council, they discussed early intervention and the benefits it will have on the students.

B. Lisa Raymond

Following introduction of this Agenda item by Mrs. Schwartz, Mrs. Raymond shared that aside from the budget, there will be additional meetings with CS Arch and Chazen regarding the traffic light and hoping to get additional Foundation Aid. She then spoke about how she is working on getting a fixed assets plan in place as well as looking at archiving records.

D. Health, Safety and Wellness Committee – March 13, 2018

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Mr. Bellarosa stated that they are working on a program called “Stop the Bleed”. He stated staff would be trained for free on how to handle situations that involve tourniquets and similar issues. Mr. Bellarosa stated that it is currently being reviewed by our attorneys to look at the liability issues. There will be more to come. He then discussed a technology program that Chris Mohr brought to the committee. The program is called “Share 911”. He discussed the features of the app for any device and how it would notify first responders. Mrs. Messing then stated she agreed with this program and will be interested in getting more information.

OTHER

Mr. Xanthis stated that he did want to mention that on March 26-28, 2018 F.E.M.A. will be holding a drill at the High School. He explained that during an emergency, they would be utilizing the parking lot for a car wash and if needed, a place for the elderly.

E. Community Participation

Mrs. Schwartz then introduced this Agenda item. Board members went around the room and discussed what they participated in. Some of the events were the production of “Lion King, Jr.” at East Coldenham Elementary, the Middle School Night of Specials, Academic Site Visits at Walden and East Coldenham Elementary Schools, the production of “Once Upon A Mattress” at the High School and the PTA Founders’ Night. Mr. Wesenberg spoke about a conversation he had with Mr. Skoufas and how he
would like to see an Advocacy Committee at Valley Central to make sure we are getting all the funding we can from legislature.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Mr. Rich Steger spoke to the Board regarding the negotiations of the Secretarial and Paraprofessional Unit.

OLD BUSINESS

A. CS Arch Presentation

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Tom Ritzenthaler of CS Arch and George Cronk of Chazen, presented plans for the proposed project for the High School/Middle School traffic reconfiguration as well as Montgomery Elementary School. There were different possible designs for the Board to review. A possible public meeting was discussed for March 22, 2018.

B. Budget Presentation

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Mrs. Raymond explained there would be a 4.26 percent tax levy increase, however it would stay within the tax cap. The proposed budget is $104,395,610. This is with a staff reconfiguration and no teachers would lose their jobs.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Candidates Forum Offer by PTA Council

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Conklin seconded the motion to approve the Consideration of Candidates Forum Offer by the PTA Council Voting: YES: Unanimous [7:0]

B. Approval of Split Session Schedule – Valley Central Middle School

After introduction of the Agenda item by Mrs. Schwartz, she asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Byrne moved, Mrs. Messing seconded to approve the Split Session Schedule for the Valley Central Middle School. Voting: YES: Unanimous [7:0]

C. Approval of Elementary Guided Reading Materials – Grades K-5

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. She asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Wesenberg seconded the motion to approve the Elementary Guided Reading Materials for Grades K-5. Voting: YES: Unanimous [7:0]

D. Approval of Memorandum of Agreement between the Valley Central School District and the Viking Aquatic Club

After introduction of this Agenda item, there were questions regarding the timeline within the new Memorandum of Agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Byrne, seconded by Mr. Conklin to table the Memorandum of Agreement until the next meeting and timeline reflects the current school year.
Voting: YES: Unanimous: [7:0]

OTHER

Mr. Byrne moved, Mrs. Messing seconded to convene to Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. for the purpose of discussing particular personnel and negotiations.
Voting: YES: 3 NO: 4 – Mr. Wesenberg, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Conklin, Mrs. Schwartz [3:4]

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Conklin moved, Mr. Wesenberg seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Voting YES: 6 NO: 1 – Mr. Byrne [6:1]

Ms. Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reneé Simerson
Clerk of the Board

/rs