The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order in the Administration Building at 6:30 p.m. by President Sheila Schwartz.

PRESENT: Mrs. Schwartz, Mrs. Messing, Mr. Bond, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Conklin, Ms. Lewis and Mr. Wesenberg (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

ABSENT: None

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

Also Absent: Media (THR)

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
Walden Elementary School

Mr. Heidemann, Principal of Walden Elementary School, stated that the students from the Media Club and teacher Amy Wendel will show the Board the exciting things they have learned using technology. Mr. Heidemann then introduced Mrs. Amy Wendel. Mrs. Wendel gave an overview explaining what the Media Club consists of. The students exhibited one of their morning announcements for the Board. A round of applause was offered to the students. Mr. Heidemann then offered a PowerPoint presentation regarding the other opportunities at Walden Elementary and how it will relate to the 5-Year Strategic Plan. Mr. Heidemann was thanked for his presentation and a round of applause was offered.

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. There were none. Mrs. Schwartz then called for a motion.

Mr. Wesenberg moved, Mr. Byrne seconded that the following Consent Agenda be accepted/approved as listed, amended and/or attached.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated 3/5/18
B. Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated 3/19/18
C. Special Board Meeting Minutes dated 4/3/18

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CSE/CPSE
FOR APPROVAL

A. Declaration of Obsolete Equipment
   1. Montgomery Elementary School – Playground Equipment

B. Acceptance of Donation
   1. Valley Central Middle School – Monetary Donation
      Hannaford Helps Schools Program

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Acceptance of Resignations:

Instructional

1. Lindsay Walsh, Special Education Teacher (Regular Substitute), East Coldenham Elementary School, effective April 2, 2018

Noninstructional

1. Jessica Bedford, Paraprofessional (1:1), p/t, Valley Central Middle School, effective March 30, 2018

B. Approval of Leave of Absence:

Instructional

1. Breeanna Ramos-Janson, Special Education Teacher, East Coldenham Elementary School, for medical purposes, effective April 10, 2018 through June 30, 2018 [Medical Leave]

C. Approval of Appointments:

Administrative


Noninstructional

1. Laura Kurtz, Paraprofessional (1:1), p/t, East Coldenham Elementary School, effective April 10, 2018 [Resignation Replacement]

2. Substitute Paraprofessionals/Food Service Helper, p/t, Valley Central School District, effective 2017-2018 School Year – See Separate Listing [Annual Appointment]

Curricular


Voting YES: Unanimous [7:0]

REPORTS

A. Student Representatives Report

   After introduction of this Agenda item, Miss Coddington and Miss Gatto thanked everyone for putting in the doors in the High School as the students feel safe with their installation. They also discussed the Poetry Slam and how it has improved and gotten more organized. The student representatives were thanked for their report.
B. Superintendent’s Report

Following introduction of this Agenda item by Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Xanthos spoke about the FEMA drill that transpired at the High School on March 26-28, 2018. It is set up as a washing station for cars in case of an emergency. Mr. Xanthos then explained that Trooper Vetter had come in to speak to staff. He stated Mr. Bellarosa will give more information under his report. He then stated that on April 4th, the Wallkill Valley Times reporter did a walk through with our Student Resource Officer (“SRO”) to see what his job is like. The reporter’s article will appear in the upcoming Wallkill Valley Times. Mr. Xanthos then stated that he received information from Amanda Dana, Director of Business Retention Expansion of Orange County. She mentioned three projects that are ongoing. Ms. Dana wanted to know if the Board would like someone to come in to give a short 20 minute presentation regarding the Hudson Valley Crossing project. They would explain to the Board what they can do for schools.

C. Assistant Superintendents’ Report

A. Michael Bellarosa

After introduction of this Agenda item by Mrs. Schwartz, Mr. Bellarosa also discussed the presentation by Trooper Craig Vetter. He stated that Trooper Vetter spoke to staff regarding mental health, workplace incidents as well as awareness of being a civilian. Mr. Bellarosa stated that the Orange County Sheriff’s Office was there as well. Mr. Bellarosa then spoke about a meeting he had with Mayor Dennis Leahy regarding the Opioid use. They discussed getting the stakeholders together and pooling their resources to have a centralized National Night Out. This is something they are looking at for Parent University. There will be more to come. Mr. Bellarosa spoke about a conversation he had with the District’s new physician, Dr. Remenar who has a contact by the name of Jonathan Fader who is the Director of the New York Giants Mental Condition Program. Mr. Bellarosa spoke about a program called “Owning the Moment”. Which helps with peak performance. He thought this could potentially be added into the physical education class sometime in the future. There are also grant opportunities. Mr. Bellarosa stated there would be more to come. The last item he spoke about was that he was notified by S.E.D. that they would be coming to review our Title I and Title II. Mr. William Raymer will be coming for approximately 4 hours to review the paperwork. Mr. Bellarosa stated that Theresa Lennon did an excellent job of preparing the preliminary work.

B. Lisa Raymond

Following introduction of this Agenda item by Mrs. Schwartz, Mrs. Raymond shared that she had a meeting with Brian Maher, Aide to Senator Larkin, and now that the State has passed its budget, there should be money available for Senator Larkin to disperse. Typically it is not for school districts, however they are hoping to include schools so that $75,000 - $100,000 could be given to Valley Central toward potential improvements. Mrs. Raymond then shared information regarding the No Student Goes Hungry Act which bans meal shaming. It is required by S.E.D. that we submit, adopt and post a plan on our website to comply. The guidelines are not out yet, but are supposed to be out as of July 1, 2018 and the plan must be in place by September 2018. The last item Mrs. Raymond discussed was that she was asked by the Board of Education to give them a breakdown of the ALC program costs. Mrs. Raymond handed out an informational sheet and explained that it had everything except transportation costs. The District has a net savings of $145,000 by utilizing the ALC Program.

D. Community Participation

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.

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 packing of backpacks for the Back...
Pack Snack Attack, Middle School Founders’ Night, BOCES Dinner, Montgomery Elementary’s DARE graduation, school tours and the Pre-K lottery.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Mr. Schmipf and Mr. Lown both spoke on behalf of the budget and their concerns regarding the tax levy. Mr. Feller spoke about the need to update the STAR exemption for seniors. It has not been updated since 1995.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Second and Final Reading of:
   1. Policy 4773 – Diploma and Credential Options for Students with Disabilities (Revised)
   2. Regulation 6700-R – Purchasing Regulation (Revised)
   3. Policy 8330 – Authorized Use of District-Owned Materials and Equipment (New)

After introduction of this Agenda item, Mrs. Schwartz called for a motion.

Mr. Wesenberg moved, Mrs. Messing seconded to adopt the above referenced policies.

Voting: YES: Unanimous [7:0:0]

B. Adoption of 2018-2019 Student Calendar

After introduction of this Agenda item by Mrs. Schwartz, Mr. Bellarosa gave an overview of the changes on the student calendar. Mrs. Schwartz asked if there were any questions. There were none, however Mrs. Schwartz did question the snow days and why they are built into the calendar. Mr. Bellarosa explained the reasoning behind the calendar.

Mrs. Schwartz then called for a motion.

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Conklin seconded to adopt the 2018-2019 Student Calendar.

Voting: YES: 6 NO: 1 – Mrs. Schwartz

Motion passed as [6:1:0]

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

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Mr. Bellarosa explained that this agreement was originally tabled as the Board wanted to include this current school year so there was no lapse. Mr. Bond and Mrs. Schwartz both asked why the term of the contract was so long. Mr. Bellarosa gave an explanation regarding this club and their involvement since the pool was built.

Mrs. Schwartz asked if there were any other questions. There were none.

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Conklin seconded the motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement.

Voting: YES: Unanimous [7:0:0]

Budget Presentation

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Mrs. Raymond explained there was a reduction in State Aid this year. There is a difference of $131,336.00. She also explained that there is a Tax Certiorari from the 2012-2013 school year that will need to be moved to the general fund as you can only hold these certiorari’s for 5 years. The amount being moved is $801,519.00. She discussed each certiorari that the district currently has for a total of approximately $4,000,000.00. Mrs. Raymond went through each component of the budget in detail. She stated that the Revenues would be $61,679,639.00 which is a 3.02% increase. She explained that the Capital Component would be $8,762,639.00 which
would be a decrease of $1,757,926.00 from the 2017-2018 school year. The Administrative Component would be $8,335,780.00 which is an increase of $303,619.00 and the Program Component would be $87,205,855.00 which is an increase of $4,511,255.00 from the 2017-2018 school year. This would be a total proposed budget for 2018-2019 of $104,304,274.00 at the 4.26% tax levy. Mrs. Raymond also explained what new items would be included in that. There were many questions and concerns from the Board regarding the 4.26% tax levy and some of the items included. Mr. Wesenberg had questions regarding the Director of Curriculum/ALC Principal and if there was a Literacy Collaborative. Mr. Xanthis gave some information relating to that. Mr. Conklin was concerned with the 4.26% tax levy and if we would be able to sustain in the future. Ms. Lewis had questions regarding fund balance that Mrs. Raymond explained to her. Mr. Byrne also had a question regarding fund balance that Mrs. Raymond answered for him. Mr. Bond asked Mrs. Raymond to look into whether or not removing the new items would do anything for the percentage increase. Mrs. Schwartz asked about the job coach position, the Director of Curriculum and the need for an ALC Principal as well as wanting to know about the plan for the roll out of the Chromebooks. Her last concern was the 4.26% tax levy. Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Bellarosa and Mr. Xanthis gave some information relating to those areas of concern. There was continued discussion on the Chromebook roll out and what that plan will be as well as what tax levy percentage they would like to see before voting on April 19th. After much discussion, the Board of Education decided that there would be a need for another Budget Workshop. The Board of Education would like to see the budget with a 2.5%, 3.0% and 3.5% tax levy increase.

OTHER

Mr. Wesenberg moved, Mr. Conklin seconded the motion to have a special meeting on April 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. for the discussion of the proposed budget.

Voting: YES: Unanimous [7:0:0]

NEW BUSINESS

A. First Reading of:
   1. Regulation 8121.1R – Opioid Overdose Prevention Regulation (New)

   Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Mr. Bellarosa read the regulation. This will be brought back to the Board at the May meeting for approval.

B. Adoption of BOCES Cooperative Purchasing Resolution

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

   Mr. Wesenberg moved, Mrs. Messing seconded the motion to adopt the BOCES Cooperative Purchasing Resolution.

   Voting: YES: Unanimous [7:0:0]

C. Review Procedure for Selection of Candidates’ Placement on Ballot

   After introduction of this Agenda item, Mrs. Raymond explained that the nominating petitions are due to the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on April 16th. On April 17th at 9:00 a.m. the names will be written on paper and placed in a basket to be picked at random, with witnesses, at Central Office for placement of names on the ballot.

D. Discussion of Petitions for Board Candidates’ Seats

   Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. Mrs. Raymond explained that the petitions are due to the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on April 16th and that they are reviewed to make sure all are residents of Valley Central.

E. Review of Tenure Night Procedures

   After introduction of this Agenda item, Mr. Bellarosa reminded the Board that Tenure Night will be on April 19th at 5:15 p.m. The Board will have a schedule of those tenure candidates as well as a folder.
F. BOCES Budget Dinner

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. In attendance was Mrs. Schwartz, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Xanthis and Mrs. Raymond. Mr. Xanthis spoke about the health insurance and how the rates have been going down and will hopefully continue on a downward trend.

G. Approval of Side Agreement between the Valley Central School District and the Valley Central Administrators Association

Mrs. Schwartz introduced this Agenda item. She asked if the other board members had any questions, comments or concerns. Mrs. Schwartz then stated that she is concerned with the amount of money coming from EBLAR for these incentives. She then called for a motion.

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Wesenberg seconded to approve the Side Agreement with the Valley Central Administrators Association.

Voting: YES: 6 NO: 1 – Mrs. Schwartz

Motion passed as [6:1:0]

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Byrne moved, Mr. Bond seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Voting YES: Unanimous [7:0:0]

Ms. Schwartz adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reneé Simerson
Clerk of the Board

/rs