

**ONEONTA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2021**

The Oneonta City Board of Education met in regular session August 30, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in the Oneonta High School Auditorium.

ROLL CALL:

Members present were Don Maples, President, Patrick Adams, Ricky Hicks, Sharon Breaseale, and Matthew Taylor.

AGENDA APPROVED:

On a move from Mr. Hicks and a second from Mrs. Breaseale, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVED:

On a move from Mrs. Breaseale and a second from Mr. Hicks the board approved the minutes of Regular Board Meeting July 14, 2021; Work session July 21, 2021; Special Called Board Meeting July 27, 2021; Work Session and Special Called Board Meeting August 11, 2021; Emergency Called Meeting August 19, 2021.

RECOGNITION OF DELETATIONS:

President Maples opened the floor giving the opportunity for the public to address the Board and voice their concerns. The Board is open to suggestions and opinions to take into consideration in their decisions. Six community members gave statements: Bart Cannon, Jerry Casey, and Amy Hill opposed the mask mandate. Joseph Bailey, Poppy Lowe, and Shelly Butler supported the mask mandate. President Maples stated his appreciation for their openness; going forward board meetings will offer an opportunity for the public to comment as long as it is constructive. Superintendent Smith thanked the community members for their comments, the board wants to be transparent in their decisions. Board meeting notices are posted in accordance by law. The Covid issue has been the hardest issue he has dealt with in his 40 years in education. OCS started the school year with mask optional. Numerous meetings were held and ALSDE left it up to each LEA to make their own decision regarding mask. OCS saw a surge in Covid cases, especially in the elementary school. We did seek scientific information from various agencies, which urged LEAs to try masking. When our positive case numbers doubled within 48 hours, the Board decided to mandate mask for a two week interval. OCS does have Covid cases, but the number is manageable. We are aware of the social and mental aspects of wearing masks. As we go forward we will try to keep the doors open. In addition to student safety, another consideration are our adults to ensure we are adequately staffed. We don't have the luxury of many subs willing to work during Covid. Two full-time substitute teachers have been hired to assist the schools. Numbers are reviewed every day, 7 days a week for our community and surrounding area. Principals are doing a great job staffing, we hear their concerns and will be happy to address concerns from individuals.

President Maples stated these are trying times, we have to put our personal opinions aside to figure out the best way to keep the school doors open. The last thing we want is to go to hybrid learning. We will continue to analyze the situation, statistics, scientific data, input and opinions as while considering actions for the next step. There will be a board meeting Tuesday night, September 7, to make a decision. Our goal is for the safety of the students/staff and to keep the school doors open.

President Maples offered a brief recess to allow meeting members to dismiss if they did not want to stay for the remainder of the board meeting.

JULY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS APPROVED:

On a move from Mr. Adams and a second from Mr. Hicks, the July financial statements were unanimously approved. The financial data and/or cash balances presented to the Board on August 30, 2021, are based on the reconciled bank statements to the general ledger as of July 31, 2021.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

Kathy Loggins, CSFO, presented information and figures for Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Hearing #2.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

On a move from Mr. Adams and a second from Mrs. Breaseale, the board unanimously approved Superintendent Smith's recommendations 1A through 1E.

1. Students
 - A. Approved the OHS Singers overnight field trip to University of Mobile, November 16 and 17, 2021.
 - B. Approved the OHS Singers overnight field trip to BJCC for Allstate Show Choir & Honor Choir, January 19 through 21, 2022.
 - C. Approved the OHS Singers overnight field trip to BJCC for AllState Choir Festival, March 10 through 12, 2022.
 - D. Approved the Music & Drama/OHS Singers overnight field trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, March 18 through 23, 2022.
 - E. Approved the continued enrollment of one (1) OMS non-resident student for the 2021-2022 school year.

On a move from Mrs. Breaseale and a second from Mr. Hicks, the board unanimously approved Superintendent Smith's recommendations 2A through 2F.

2. Personnel
 - A. Accepted the retirement of Kathy Loggins, CSFO, effective September 30, 2021.
 - B. Accepted the verbal resignation from Mariela Nunez, EL Instructional Aide, effective August 19, 2021.
 - C. Approved the employment of Brooke Murphree as OES Teacher, effective August 31, 2021.
 - D. Approved Heather Owens as OES Homebound teacher for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - E. Approved the medical/maternity leave request for Tracey Payton, OES Teacher, from August 9, 2021 through December 17, 2021.
 - F. Approved Sarah Hickman as the maternity leave substitute teacher for Tracey Payton.

On a move from Mr. Hicks and a second from Mrs. Breaseale, the board unanimously approved Superintendent Smith's recommendations 3, 4 and 5.

3. Approved the COVID Illness Leave for Employees effective June 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.
4. Approved the English Language Arts textbook adoption committee for the 2021-2022 school year.
5. Approved the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Superintendent Smith welcomed the new staff member and Julie Talton, OES Principal, introduced Brooke Murphree, OES K5 Teacher. He thanked Mrs. Talton and Mrs. McElvey for keeping the kindergarten classes going with spur of moment notice.

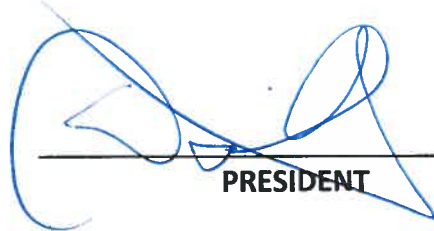
It was announced today OCS will participate in remote learning tomorrow, August 31, 2021, due to inclement weather forecast. The anticipated wind speed creates a safety concern for our buses, and students/staff on the road.

He appreciates all the people that came out tonight for the public forum. Our goal is to be transparent. The board was thanked for their efforts to lead the school during this trying time. Administrators, school personnel and staff are appreciated for all they do. President Maples also extended his thanks for everyone's efforts in an attempt to keep the doors open and kids in school.

On a move from Mr. Adams and a second from Mr. Taylor the meeting was adjourned.



SECRETARY



PRESIDENT