

**ONEONTA CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

The Oneonta City Board of Education met in regular session September 28, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. in the Oneonta High School Auditorium. Members present were Don Maples, President, Patrick Adams, Ricky Hicks, and Sharon Breaseale. Steve Anderton was absent.

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 Mr. Adams and a second from Mr. Hicks the board unanimously approved the minutes of Regular Board Meeting and Work Session on August 31, 2020 and Special Called Meeting on September 14, 2020.

AUGUST FINANCIAL STATEMENTS APPROVED:

On a move from Mrs. Breaseale and a second from Mr. Hicks, the August financial statements were unanimously approved. The financial data and/or cash balances presented to the Board on September 28, 2020, are based on the reconciled bank statements to the general ledger as of August 31, 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS:

President Maples opened the floor for the public forum to discuss current students/teachers schedules. There has been a lot of deliberation for the next steps forward to reopening the schools to make them as safe as possible. Superintendent Smith made the following statement:

Since our schools opened for students to return on August 18, we have worked to provide the best avenue for our students to learn and be connected to their school. In planning for the new school year, we gathered information from community stakeholders with surveys. We gathered information from our state educational leaders and from state and local health leaders. We followed this information to form our school calendar, our class schedules and our teaching and learning platform. We chose to adopt our current calendar to reflect the Alabama Department of Public Health recommendations.

The OCS schedule that we have followed was for:

OES=Mondays are for remote learning, Tuesday-Friday students were given the choice of attending school in the traditional manner or remote learning.

OMS and OHS=Mondays are for remote learning, Tuesday-Friday= a hybrid "A"/"B" schedule where ½ students, "A" attend Tuesday and Wednesday; ½ students, "B" attend Thursday and Friday.

Students were given the option to choose traditional/hybrid or remote learning. If the student chose traditional/hybrid they could later choose to change to remote learning. However, once a student chose the remote learning, they could not return to traditional/hybrid learning until the end of the semester.

Presently we have only had 10 students test positive for COVID-19. This hybrid schedule was one recommended by health experts as a safer approach for various reasons:

1. Mondays allows for deep cleaning of the schools/campus.
2. Allows all student to experience learning remotely and to be ready if the situation arises for all students to move to full time remote learning.
3. Allows for less crowded conditions in middle and high school classrooms, common areas and school buses.

The hybrid schedule for middle and high school students has and is being used by many schools within the state.

The current OCS schedule was approved by the board for the first grading period. We informed our stakeholders that near the end of the grading period a review of the current practices would be assessed and a recommendation would be made for the remainder of the semester.

Although there are challenges to the current schedule, I do feel that the schedule that we have followed has been the correct path for our students and teachers. I also understand that as we move forward, we many consider changes to remain safe and help both the students and employees of OCS with the teaching and learning platform.

It will be my recommendation for the OCS Board of Education to approve the following:
OES= will continue to follow the current schedule.

OMS/OHS = Remove the hybrid schedule and have Traditional students attend school on Tuesday through Friday.

All Remote students shall continue remote learning.

Upon hearing this I do invite anyone who would like to come to the floor microphone and offer input. Please limit comments to our topic and 3 minute time.

Parents Jimmy Smallwood, Sandy Fredrick and Kristi Brooks made statements about the possible consideration of remote learners to return to the classroom before the end of the first semester, the support for OMS/OHS traditional students returning to the classroom 4 days a week, and concerns with the upcoming flu/strep season approaching. Superintendent Smith explained the need to bring students back in phases to maintain social distancing. Taking small steps now for the possible return in January of all students. There are no guarantees case numbers will stay low. Decisions are based on information and numbers from the experts, ADPH and our nursing staff. This has not been easy on kids or parents, it has caused frustration, and has been a difficult decision to navigate. Parents are encouraged to contact Mr. Smith or the school to setup a conference if additional help is needed for the student.

SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

On a move from Mr. Adams and a second from Mrs. Breaseale the board unanimously approved Superintendent Smith's recommendations 1A, 2, 3 and 4.

1. Students
 - A. Approved the continued enrollment of two (2) OES non-resident students for the 2020-2021 school year.
2. Approved OCS dismissal on Friday, October 16th at 1:00 pm for the annual homecoming parade and festivities.
3. Approved Facilities Use Agreement for Oneonta Police Dept/FOP Gospel Concert on December 12, 2020.
4. Approved the OCS District Accountability Chart for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Superintendent Smith thanked the parents, students, and employees for their efforts and understanding during this trying time. On a move by Mrs. Breaseale and a second from Mr. Hicks, the board unanimously approved Superintendent Smith's recommendation: Oneonta Elementary School students will continue to follow the current schedule for the remainder of the first semester. For Oneonta Middle School and Oneonta High School, beginning October 14, 2020, traditional learning students will attend school on Tuesday through Friday of each week. All remote learning students shall continue with remote learning activities. Students will follow this schedule beginning October 14 for the remainder of the first semester.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS:

On a move from Mr. Hicks and a second from Mr. Adams, the board voted unanimously to appoint Sharon Breaseale as AASB Delegate Assembly representative for December 3, 2020.

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


SECRETARY


PRESIDENT