

Massena Central School Board of Education Update
July 5, 2019

Reorganizational Meeting

The Reorganizational meeting will begin at **6:00 pm** on Thursday July 11th. Candy will administer the oaths of office to the superintendent and student ex-officio followed by the selection of President and Vice-President. The BOE will then move into an executive session to discuss personnel appointments and other issues as presented in the usual e-mail correspondence. After executive session the main portion of the Reorganizational Meeting will begin followed immediately by the Regular Meeting.

As listed below, there are some proposed changes in the items of action compared to last year. The other categories on the agenda such as bond counsel remained the same. **The general practice at the Board meeting has been to move the whole slate of appointments unless a Board member would like any to be treated separately.**

- .School Attorneys (#8)—Ferrara Firm will increase from \$210 to \$215 per hour for senior attorneys and increase the range for staff attorneys from \$160-\$190 per hour to \$165-\$195.
- Official newspaper (#21)—Watertown Daily Times & Courier Observer. We have added the Watertown Daily Times due to the recent restructuring at Johnson Newspapers. We will continue to mainly use the Courier Observer for legal notices but there may be times due to circulation that the Watertown Daily Times may be an expedient alternative.
- Establishment of Substitutes Pay—(#31)— There were some proposed increases based largely on the rise in minimum wage, which will increase from \$11.10 to \$11.80 on 12/31/19. Attracting a greater pool of teacher substitutes was also a factor in that rate increase.
 - Maintenance/Operations, Teacher Aides, Food Service and Bus Monitors = \$12.00/hour; up from \$11.25/hr.
 - Clerical Substitutes = \$12.75/hour; up from \$12.00/hr.
 - Uncertified Teacher Substitutes = \$95/day; up from \$90/day.
 - Certified/Experienced Teacher Substitutes = \$105/day; up from \$100/day.
 - Uncertified Teacher Assistant Substitutes = \$90/day; up from \$85/day.
 - Certified Teacher Subbing as Teacher Assistant = \$105/day; up from \$100/day
 - Substitute Nurses: LPN = \$90/day; up from \$85/day; RN = \$105/day; up from \$100/day
 - Home Tutors= \$17.50/hour; up from \$15.00/hr.
- The IRS rate for mileage reimbursement—(#33) is \$.58/mile up from \$.545/mile in 2018. The rate is adjusted each December 31st.
- Non-Resident Tuition Rates for 2019-20 (#35) are \$1,243 for Grades K-6; up from \$850 in 2018-19 and \$4,288 for Grades 7-12; down from \$4,869 in 2018-19. These rates are set by the SED.

- The Utica National annual contract for District liability insurance (#37) decreased from \$197,494 to \$151,076 (23.5%). The large decrease was spurred by a request for proposal process organized by Nick Brouillette this spring.
- External Auditor (#52) will continue to be Seyfarth & Seyfarth with the rate increase from \$13,500 per year to \$13,800 (2.2%).
- School Physician Services (#53) will continue to be Massena Memorial Hospital with a contract to remain the same at \$45,000 per year.
- Civil Rights Compliance Officer (#54) name changed from previous Compliance Officer (Title IX/Section 504/ADA) per Labor Law Section 201-g. This was discussed at Policy Committee meeting in October, 2018.
- School Lunch Prices (#57) Under the requirements of the Healthy & Hunger Free Kids Act, school districts are required to raise lunch prices to close the gap between the revenues gained for paid meals versus free meal revenues. The general idea is that pricing for paid lunches is below the cost of production which effectively increases Federal subsidies for higher income children because Federal funds intended for free and reduced price lunches are being used to help fill in the gap between what a paid lunch costs and what the school receives for it. Therefore, districts are required to raise the price of paid lunches over time so they meet cost of production. Based on their calculations, we are required to raise lunch prices by ten cents in 2019-20. Therefore the following prices are on the Reorganizational agenda.

Elementary Schools - \$2.45; Jr. High and High School \$2.55; Reduced Price Breakfast and Lunch - \$.25 (no change); Full Student Price of Breakfast - \$1.20 (no change).

- Designation of District Representative for Substance Use (#60) New item: Chapter 323 of the Laws of 2018 requires the superintendent to designate an employee of the school district to provide materials and/or resources upon request to any student, parent, or staff regarding where and how to find available substance use related services. I am recommending the appoint of School Counselor Department Chair Bob Jordan to this role.
- Parent-School Organizations and Booster Clubs (#61) New item: Policy 3250 Parent and Other School Support Organizations as revised and readopted by the BOE on March 14, 2019 requires the BOE to approve all Booster Clubs supporting the school district. A list of these groups have been added to the Reorganizational Meeting agenda.

Regular Meeting

Capital Project Update

At the Board meeting on Thursday, I will update the Board on the various projects underway in the District—capital project, capital outlay project and energy efficiency project. For the main capital project, this month is primarily testing and verification for existing conditions. It is anticipated that our committee will meet in the last week of July so we can review results and make adjustments to scope. Below is a picture of standing water on the roof at Nightengale Elementary School. The \$100,000 capital outlay project for work on the fuel station at the transportation facility has been approved by the NYS Education Department. The project has

been advertised and contractor bids are due on July 10th with a substantial completion date set for September. The NYPA Energy Efficiency project is also underway with S&L Electric crews starting at Nightengale and Jefferson. I will keep you posted on their progress.



District Goals Update (2018-19)

The administration is in the process of preparing our District goals for the 2019-20 school year. This will include work at our annual retreat which this year will be held on 7/18 at the Nicandri Nature Center. A draft will be created for consideration at the Board of Education meeting on 8/15. Undoubtedly, we will be spending considerable time on a capital project and continued goals of the Strategic Plan. I would like to discuss with the Board of Education any ideas they have about goals for the year when we meet on 7/11. A progress report for the 2018-19 District goals will be attached to the BOE agenda.

Religious Exemptions for Immunizations

In June, the state legislature passed a bill which Governor Cuomo signed into law ending religious exemptions for student immunizations. This means that all families must have their students immunized in order to attend school in the fall. I have **attached** a newsletter from our counsel, the Ferrara Firm, which provides details on the impact for schools. We have ten students who will be effected by this new law. Our head nurse has already sent out letters to the families who have

previously been under the religious exemptions so they can make decisions accordingly. I will discuss further at the Board meeting on Thursday.

Donation - \$2000 to Food Service - Anonymous

For the second year in a row we have received an anonymous donation of \$2,000 to apply toward student meal debt. We appreciate the support of this donor for our students at Massena Central. It is a very charitable expression of good will.

District Upcoming Events

7/11—BOE Meeting—6:00 pm—HS Room 314