

DeRuyter Central School
711 Railroad Street
DeRuyter, NY 13052

REGULAR MEETING UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

6:00 PM via Zoom/Live Stream

JUNE 17, 2020

Members Present: Brandi Compton (BC), Dean Hathaway (DH), Jodi Wiesing (JW),
Richard Metcalf (RM), Bradley Mierke (BM)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: David Brown (DB), Sandy Welsh (SW), Jim Southard (JS), Steve Rafferty (SF), Kim
O'Brien (KO), Jenny Valente (JV)

I. Regular Meeting Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Call To Order

The June 17, 2020 Regular Meeting of the DeRuyter Central School Board of Education was called to order by President Hathaway at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance immediately followed.

II. Establish Agenda

RESOLVED That the Board establish the agenda as presented.

*Established
Agenda*

Motion: CARRIED 1st: Compton 2nd: Mierke
Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

(DH) 4 Yes – Motion passed

III. Discussion Items

*Discussion
Items*

A. FFA – Nationals in October – Dr. Brown

(DB) The only thing we're all gonna deal with before I speak about FFA is because we are 6' apart, but we are in a very cavernous room so we will all turn our microphones off so we don't have that reverb. Jodi – your microphone's on, but I think you are still trying to figure out the in.

So, anyway, the FFA today stopped to see me, Taylor Bass who is one of the co-advisors has a deadline of this Friday to sign up for the National trip in October. It is in Indianapolis. If they put their money forward, and we hold them out, they will not get their money back. If they put their deposits down and FFA cancels because of a second wave of COVID-19, they will get their money back. NYS is going to decide whether or not they are going to send delegates from all of the school districts July 15th based on what is going on in the state.

My recommendation is that we allow our FFA students to move forward and if and when FFA cancels or New York cancels, that we pull out. But I believe that we shouldn't be pulling out of anything educational, at this point any educational trips until we get the guidance from

somebody above us. Because otherwise everything can clear up and then we are not going to be going to be going anywhere or doing anything. So my recommendation to the Board is that we let FFA move forward with their registrations knowing there might be some parents who choose not to send their child because of COVID-19 and those possibilities. But, I feel as a school district we need to move forward and open our school for next year in the hopes that everything is as normal as possible.

(DH) What is the deadline?

(DB) Deadline for registration is this Friday. She need, I told her we had a Board meeting and I would be speaking to you and I would have a response for her.

(JW) Will they get reimbursed if we pull out

(DB) Yes, if we pull out they will not get their money back. If they cancel we do get our money back.

(DH) Who makes this decision?

(DB) The community or the Board decides we shouldn't be going on trips. That would be the only reason you would recommend to the superintendent that we not move forward with the trip even though nationally they are.

(DH) I don't see it being an issue. I highly support our FFA program and especially that trip.

(DB) Thank you – I will let her know.

(DH) Anything further on that?

(DB) No Not from me – thank you.

IV. Board Comments

Board Comments

(DH) Board comments – anybody?

(DH) On behalf of the BOE I want to thank this amazing community helping get the budget passed. It was a tough way to go about getting it done, but I am very humbled by the support of the community and very appreciative. It shows they are entrusting us with their kids and their district and we are going to move forward and continue doing the same work we are doing. Thank you.

V. Administrative Comments

Administrative Comments

(DB) I spoke to the construction project leaders specifically Bouley who is doing the outside work and they said you absolutely can use any pictures that you want to use and I am trying to load right now, but I will show you some of the pictures they gave me and then I can also to the community I will put them up on the website. It is really, really interesting, the large buried water system that they have put into the ground, and I have pictures they have sent me and I will share those with you as soon as I can get that to work when we get a break.

So that was one of the things you had asked.

Madison County has donated 8 digital thermometers to each of the school districts in Madison County. So I want to thank Madison County publically. We were using them tonight. You do not need to touch the forehead, you just need get in front of the forehead, take the temperature, it beeps and then you turn and it says 98.1 – I'm 98.1 – We're good.

So I appreciate that and I wanted update you, the Commissioner's Task Force – We have had 2 meetings now – they have been very interesting meetings and a lot of the conversations we have been having have been about transportation. And how we are going transport all of our students if they start to restrict the number of students on a bus. There are a lot of rural school superintendents on this task force and we all said it is a near impossibility. The other thing that we talked about is that the Board of Regents and State Education has got to communicate with the Governor and let him know this is how schools are run. Every time I spoke to the committee that I was on yesterday, Monday, I was on Facilities, Food Service, and Transportation. Today I was on Bilingual Education. Next week I will on two different Task Force – Task Forces – there are four different days. And everything that I said, was you need to let the Governor know that this group of thinkers needs to make these decisions, or help you make these decisions. And stop making a decision on a Friday and expect us to be able to do it on a Monday.

The other thing that we talked about, and there were several of my colleagues who also said this, is you keep telling us what we need and they are unfunded mandates. So we are not going to be able to afford everything that you think we are going to be able to do just by saying do it. So a lot of rhetoric that is coming from this task force is to let the Governor know let us open our schools the way we think it is best to open the schools. I will continue to update you in July.

And...there was one other thing on here. Oh – then we are also starting our own task force. I have been looking for teachers, community members, and staff, non-teaching staff so we make sure that every voice can be in the room talking about how we open our school in September. As I said last night, for our Budget Vote, and again I want to thank the community too, for the number of, we had more vote yes than we have seen in many, many years. 83% support – so thank you community for trusting us, educating your children. So I want the community there also. Of course, the Athletic Director will be there, and Kevin, our Transportation Director and our Facilities Director, Food Service and all of those important components will be there, secretarial be together with the community to look at how we open school next year.

And I think that's all of my updates for the Board.

(JW) Which Board Member was selected to be on the reopening committee?

(DB) I think you asked to be on it, Jodi.

(JW) I volunteered.

(DB) Yes – you are the only one so far that volunteered. I haven't – by the way community and staff – I have not said who is on it yet because I would love to have everyone, but we can't have a 50 member committee so I am going to be whittling it down, but right now you are the Board Member who has asked to be on it.

(JW) Ok.

(DB) And the only other thing I would like to say, because I don't know if it comes back to me Mr. Hathaway, is we have something for a young woman I am looking at across the table, but because of COVID-19 nothing seems to come in time when you actually order something on line. So I would just like to thank Brandi Carpenter publically for your 6 years of service if I am not incorrect. This is your last Board meeting unless we have to call another Board meeting and I have really in my two years, enjoyed working with you and appreciate everything you have done for this district and I don't know if the other Board members are going to say anything, but this could be our last time officially. And...thank you for all you have done for DeRuyter Central School.

(BC) Thank you. I will miss our time together but looking forward to more time with my family. I am always around if you need me/

(DH) On behalf of us all we have thoroughly enjoyed our time together. You will be missed and believe every member of the Board and everyone you've gotten to work with appreciates your volunteering to be on the board...very tough 6 years. We have been through a lot of stuff – crazy stuff. Couldn't have done it without you.

(DB) I didn't know if there were any other updates from any of the administrators who are being Zoomed in.

(SR) I just wanted to mention that graduation planning is under way. We are looking forward to Sunday's Graduation at 1:00 pm at the Fairgrounds. And right now we are making sure we have the parking spots the way we want and that all last-minute details are being ironed out. Hopefully the weather will hold up – it won't be too hot and it will be an enjoyable ceremony.

(DH)...I am sure it will be a wonderful day and it is because you've worked hard at it and we appreciate everything you have done for these kids. So...Anything else from the administrators? Ok – let's move on to Action Items

VI. Board Action Items

*Board Action
Items*

A. Personnel

1. Leave of Absence

RESOLVED, That the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, approve the maternity leave of absence for Kylie Stenger (Music Teacher) effective approximately October 13, 2020 through approximately January 29, 2021.

*Approve LOA
– K. Stenger*

Motion: **CARRIED** **1st: Compton** **2nd: Wiesing**
Vote: **Yes: 5** **No: 0** **Absent: 0**

(DH) Motion passed.

2. Appoint Special Education Teacher

RESOLVED, That the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, appoint Lisa Clark to a 4 year probationary appointment as Special Education Teacher - Elementary effective September 1, 2020 ending August 31, 2024 (unless extended in accordance with the law). This expiration date is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent

*Appointed
Special Ed.
Teacher – L.
Clark*

required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure, the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure at that time. The salary for this position is \$47,050.

(BC) Question –Didn't we do this last month?

(DB) No we moved a teacher out of a present position into a special education position, then we had to add a Special Education Teacher if you remember at the Board last month because of State requirements.

(BC) Thank you.

(DB) Good Question

(DH) All in favor?

Motion: **CARRIED** **1st: Mierke** **2nd: Wiesing**
Vote: **Yes: 5** **No: 0** **Absent: 0**

3. Appoint Executive Secretary

RESOLVED, That the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, appoint Janene Kascha to a 52 week probationary appointment as Executive Secretary, effective July 6, 2020 at a salary of \$37,500.

*Appointed
Exec.
Secretary – J.
Kascha*

Motion: **CARRIED** **1st: Compton** **2nd: Mierke**
Vote: **Yes: 5** **No: 0** **Absent: 0**

4. Appoint Athletic Director

RESOLVED, That the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, appoint Sheri Smith as Athletic Director for the 2020-2021 school year effective July 1, 2020. The salary for this position is pending negotiations.

*Appointed S.
Smith – AD*

Motion: **CARRIED** **1st: Compton** **2nd: Wiesing**
Vote: **Yes: 5** **No: 0** **Absent: 0**

5. Appoint Technology Director

RESOLVED, That the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, appoint Zachary Miller as Technology Director for the 2020-2021 school year effective July 1, 2020. The salary for this position is pending negotiations.

*Appointed Z.
Miller as Tech.
Dir.*

Motion: **CARRIED** **1st: Compton** **2nd: Mierke**
Vote: **Yes: 5** **No: 0** **Absent: 0**

B. Consent Items

RESOLVED, That the Board approve/accept the following Consent Items:

*Approved/
Accepted
Consent Items*

1. Accept Claims Auditor Report (attached)
2. Approve Claims Auditor Claim - # 20-0011 - \$90.00 (attached)
3. Accept Treasurer’s Reports as Presented (attached)
4. Approve Budget Transfer in the amount of \$43,951.000 (attached)
5. Approve Maximum/Minimum Amounts for Reserves & Fund Balances (attached)
6. CSE Recommendations (as attached)
7. Approve 2020-2021 Board of Education Meeting Schedule (attached)
8. Approve Bus Bond Resolution (attached)

Motion: CARRIED 1st: Compton 2nd: Mierke
Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

C. Accept 2020-2021 School Budget Vote Results

*Accepted 2020-
2021 School
Budget Vote
Results*

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the 2020-2021 School Budget Vote Results as follows:

Proposition # 1 – 2020-2021 School Budget	382 Yes	79 No
Proposition # 2 – 2020-2021 Transportation Proposition	347 Yes	115 No
Proposition # 3 – 2020-2021 Library Proposition	384 Yes	80 No
Proposition # 4 – 2020-2021 District Wide Summer Rec. Prop.	356 Yes	106 No

Board of Education Members:

Daniel Degear	376 Votes
Jodi Wiesing	355 Votes

(DH) Congratulations Jodi for another 3 years

Motion: CARRIED 1st: Compton 2nd: Wiesing
Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

D. Approve Memorandum of Agreement

RESOLVED, That the Board approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the DeRuyter Faculty Association, with regards to the extension of the contract, as per attached.

*Approved
MOA w/DFA –
extension of
current
contract*

Motion: CARRIED 1st: Compton 2nd: Mierke
Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

NEXT MEETING: July 7, 2020 (1st Tuesday) – Reorganization/Regular Meeting

Next Meeting

(DH) Dr. Brown, do you have something else?

(DB) Yes quickly.

*Return to
Admin.
Comments*

(DH) Sure

(DB) I forgot, as I was looking at my pile, there are 2 different logos to put up at the entrance to the new track and I just wanted to pass it around and I am going to pass it around to the Board. They are either 'ROCKETS' or 'Rockets' and smaller. And I just wanted to get a vote from the Board and I knew we couldn't talk about it in Executive Session. Thank you. My apologies Mr. Hathaway.

Discussion – Capital D and Capital R but the rest lower case letters

(DB) I think he is prepared if you would like him to– I forgot to bring that up in my part. Jim would you like to talk about the per capita – what it costs per student? There have been quite a few community, not quite a few – there have been a few community members wondering why we are spending so much per student and I think it is important that we understand what it means when these numbers come out, especially for a small school district. And you can either present this on July 7, 2020 or if you are comfortable, I know you and I talked about it earlier this week, sharing with the Board.

(JS) I am fine sharing it now. As we discussed I went through last year's final amounts and it was approximately \$27K/student. For comparison purposes across the state, we spend about \$55 billion on education and that's for 2.6 million students. That works out to a little over \$21K/student. Now if you are a low population district, if you are a sparse district, if you are a district that has a lot of high needs students, if you are a district that has smaller class sizes, then you are going to have increase from that average. Since we are all four, we are going to increase significantly from that average. It is just basic math, because when you put those factors in place, it is all going to put more and more expense on. You have to divide certain expenses that are the same across multiple, across districts over smaller numbers of students. And that is what drives our per capita costs.

Now, we do have a piece in the for the federal funds which is never used every year as long as we get federal grants so it is always going to be a little inflated, like about \$800/student just because of that. So that is one factor.

So...And I know people talk about that and it is because the Post Standard does the story every year – they just take the numbers and divide them out, they don't, you know, they compare North Syracuse to DeRuyter and it doesn't make any sense. You know, people talk about it and we have to be prepared to discuss it.

(DB) And it is not a true, correct me if I am wrong, Mr. Southard, it is not a true representation – we don't literally take \$31K out of the budget and allocate it to one child, or another child. There are a lot of aspects to how we educate children and the expenses of educating children that offset the revenues that we get. What we have to understand is when we educate from the moment of July 1st to June 30th we have a pool of money and we have expenses and those expenses are divided up amongst everything that happens inside of our school district.

(JS) There are other factors like the cost per, for capital projects, that is going to be higher in DeRuyter than in North Syracuse. The cost of transportation, because we are such a sparse district, it is going to be higher per student than in another district. So we have to consider all those things.

(DB) So that actual amount in the newspaper doesn't really represent the funding that we have or that we do to educate our children – per student.

(JS) On a direct division amount, yes it does, but as far as what we actually do and why we do the things we do – no. The cost per student is to my way of thinking a relatively irrelevant thing because you cannot compare a North Syracuse to a DeRuyter. I mean, we could have 2 high cost kids and it is equivalent to North Syracuse having 200. And they may not have 200 very high cost kids. It is the same percentage thing we talk about with the Senior Class where 3% is one kid. We have to consider that when you talk about percentages and when you talk about per capita, there are going to be things in our situation that is going to be skewed.

(DB) Yes. Thank you. Any other questions, Mr. Hathaway or Board of Education?

Executive Session

VII. Executive Session (If Needed)

RESOLVED, That the Board adjourn to Executive Session at 6:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing contract for a particular person.

Motion: CARRIED 1st: Compton 2nd: Mierke
Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

Return to Public Session

Motion passed. Thank you all for tuning in. We will see you Sunday.

The Board returned to Public Session at 6:45 p.m.

Board Action Items

VI. Board Action Items

A. Personnel

6. Approve Non-Affiliated Personnel Salaries for 2020-2021

Approval of 2020-2021 Salaries

RESOLVED That the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools approve the 2019-2020 salary increase of 3% for the following: Cook Manager, District Treasurer, Technology Coordinator, Superintendent’s Secretary, District Clerk, Athletic Director’s Secretary, Buildings & Grounds/Transportation Supervisor, MS/HS Principal, Elementary Principal, Superintendent, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Motion: CARRIED 1st: Compton 2nd: Wiesing
Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

VIII. Adjournment

RESOLVED That the June 17, 2020 Regular Meeting of the DeRuyter Central School Board of Education be adjourned at 6:51.

Adjournment

Motion: CARRIED 1st: Compton 2nd: Metcalf
Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Absent: 0

Respectfully Submitted: _____


Sandra Welsh, District Clerk