Due to COVID-19 and in accordance with New York State Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order, the regular meeting of the Orleans/Niagara BOCES Board of Education was held on March 10, 2021 electronically (via Zoom and livestream on YouTube). The meeting was called to order by President Grabowski at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Keith A. Bond
Vincent J. Cancemi, Sr.
Anthony Casinelli
Janice M. Covell
Carol Feltz
Edward J. Grabowski
Thomas J. Klotzbach
Timothy F. Kropp
Robert McDermott
Colleen M. Osborn
Wendy Swearingen
Wayne Wadhams
Joanne Woodside

Absent:

Also present: Dr. Clark J. Godshall, District Superintendent; Mr. Wayne M. Van Vleet, Director of Labor Relations; Mrs. Melanie A. Conley, Director of Business Services; Mr. Daniel R. Connolly, Director of Facilities; Dr. Michael Weyrauch, Director of CTE and Instructional Services; and Dr. Ronald J. Barstys, Director of Special Programs.

Moved by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mr. Klotzbach, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the February 10, 2021 regular meeting minutes be approved. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mr. Klotzbach, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that budget modifications #118-134 for the 2020-2021 school year be approved. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mr. Klotzbach, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that Treasurer’s Report of General Fund for January 2021 be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mr. Klotzbach, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that Treasurer’s Report of Special Aids for January 2021 be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mr. Klotzbach, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that Treasurer’s Report of Capital Fund, Risk Retention Fund, and Trust and Agency Fund for January 2021 be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mr. Klotzbach, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the Budget Status Report by service program be accepted. Carried unanimously.
**Career Education:** Tenth graders interested in BOCES programs recently toured the career and technical education programs. Working with students who are failing; trying to bring them in to school and complete missing assignments.

**Facilities:** Orleans/Niagara BOCES had another successful auction. Animal science classroom at Orleans CTEC is coming along.

**Legislation:** Mr. Klotzbach provided an update on the New York State budget.

**Audit:** Meeting scheduled for tonight was cancelled and rescheduled for April 14, 2021.

Dr. Godshall provided a COVID-19 vaccine update. He also spoke about: Public employer health emergency plan; debates between three feet and six feet for social distancing; proms and graduations; Harrison Place site; recent tour of the Niagara Falls Workforce Training Center with Niagara Falls Mayor Restaino and Mr. Scott; NYSUT lobby day he recently participated in; refunds to component districts; lease with Roy-Hart CSD; NYSSBA Annual Convention scheduled for October 24-26, 2021 in New York City; and we may need a board meeting prior to the next meeting scheduled on April 14, 2021.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mrs. Woodside, that the Orleans/Niagara BOCES hereby approves the Public Employer Health Emergency Plan, dated February 26, 2021, as submitted. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. Kropp, that the Orleans/Niagara BOCES hereby approves the agreement with Insignia Software Corporation, term of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2026, as submitted, and the Board authorizes the Board President and/or the District Superintendent (or his designee) to sign the agreement as submitted or with changes that are approved by the BOCES’ General Counsel. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. Kropp, that the Orleans/Niagara BOCES hereby approves the collaboration agreement with other Western New York Regional School Library Systems, for professional development services to occur on May 12 and 14, 2021, as submitted, and the Board authorizes the Board President and/or the District Superintendent (or his designee) to sign the agreement as submitted or with changes that are approved by the BOCES’ General Counsel. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mrs. Feltz, that the Orleans/Niagara BOCES hereby gives approval for the BOCES’ 2021-2022 school year participation in the statewide School Online Library Informational Databases (SOLID) Consortium contract. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Kropp, seconded by Mr. McDermott, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the resignation of **Jennifer Sones, Teacher Aide (Special Education)**, be accepted effective at the end of the day on March 2, 2021. Carried unanimously.
Moved by Mr. Kropp, seconded by Mr. McDermott, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the appointment of Scott Mueller, 2021 Regional Summer School Assistant Principal, approved at the February 10, 2021 board meeting, is hereby rescinded. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Kropp, seconded by Mr. McDermott, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the following individuals be appointed without benefits, except as required by law, to provide planning services for the 2021 regional summer school program, effective March 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021, unless terminated sooner, with salary as indicated below (to be pro-rated if service is discontinued sooner):

Paul Gilbert
Akiachak, AK
Principal
Niagara Falls High School
Scott Mueller
North Tonawanda, NY
Principal
Niagara Falls Middle School

Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Kropp, seconded by Mr. McDermott, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the following individuals be appointed without benefits, except as required by law, to the 2021 regional summer school program, effective July 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021, unless terminated sooner, with salary as indicated below (to be pro-rated if service is discontinued sooner):

Paul Gilbert
Akiachak, AK
Principal
Niagara Falls High School
Scott Mueller
North Tonawanda, NY
Principal
Niagara Falls Middle School

Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. Bond, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that Courtney Yourdon, Lockport, NY, be appointed to the position of Teacher Aide (Personal Care), effective March 15, 2021 through June 30, 2021, unless terminated sooner, at an hourly salary of $13.25. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. Bond, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that Max Tafelski, Teacher Aide (Special Education), having successfully completed his probationary period, be appointed to permanent status, effective April 26, 2021. Carried unanimously.
Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. Bond, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the following individual(s) be appointed, without benefits, except as required by law, to the position of Substitute Teacher (Non-Certified), effective as indicated below, with services to be utilized on an as-needed basis at the discretion of the District Superintendent, at a daily rate of $97.50. Employment shall automatically be discontinued effective June 30, 2021, unless employment is terminated sooner. Service shall be at-will and at the pleasure of the Board of Education.

Chelsea Herriven  Roberta Keirn
Middleport, NY  Middleport, NY
Effective Date: 2/2/21  Effective Date: 2/4/21
Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. Bond, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the following individuals be appointed, without benefits, except as required by law, to the position of Substitute Teacher Aide (Non-Certified), effective as indicated below, with services to be utilized on an as-needed basis at the discretion of the District Superintendent, at a daily rate of $78.00. Employment shall automatically be discontinued effective June 30, 2021, unless employment is terminated sooner. Service shall be at-will and at the pleasure of the Board of Education.

Jennifer Gonzalez
Albion, NY
Effective Date: 2/3/21
Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. McDermott, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that the resignation of Lydia Bilotta, Teacher Aide (Personal Care), be accepted effective at the end of the day on February 28, 2021. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. McDermott, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that Lydia Bilotta, North Tonawanda, NY, be appointed to the position of Teacher Aide (Special Education), to serve a 52-week probationary period, effective March 1, 2021, at an annual salary of $17,220.00 to be pro-rated. The individual shall be permitted to carryover 9.5 days of accumulated sick leave. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Mr. Klotzbach, seconded by Mr. McDermott, upon the recommendation of the District Superintendent, that Amanda Pankow, General Special Education Teacher, be granted up to 17.5 days of extended sick leave to be used when she has exhausted her accumulated sick leave, contingent upon the submission of required documentation. Such days of extended sick leave shall not remain accrued after the employee’s return to work. Carried unanimously.

Mr. Cancemi and Mr. Bond were impressed with the National Technical Honor Society booklet and virtual ceremony.

Mrs. Feltz said Barker CSD special education students are
returning to school four days per week starting next week. Barker’s prom is scheduled for June 11, 2021 and they hope to have a graduation ceremony outside on the football field. Mr. Klotzbach said some college professors are concerned about current high school seniors being ready for college. Mr. McDermott said the Niagara Wheatfield CSD board of education will return to in-person meetings starting in April. Mrs. Osborn said North Tonawanda CSD board of education meetings are in-person and online. She thanked Dr. Barstys for participating in a recent Fidelis event. Mrs. Woodside said Lockport CSD will be audited for their facial recognition program.

Moved by Mrs. Covell, seconded by Mrs. Woodside, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia P. Hurt
District Clerk