

HORNELL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING – APRIL 3, 2024

President Clark opened the meeting at 5:15 PM and led the Board/Public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Christopher Clark, Joseph Liberto, James Marino, Dr. Uzma Mehr, Meghann Khork, Kerry Davis, Brian May

ABSENT: None

BY: DAVIS/MAY

RESOLVED: that, the agenda be approved as presented.
CARRIED – 7 AYES – ALL

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

PRESENTATIONS:

HS DIPLOMA - President Clark officially acknowledged Hornell resident, Donald J. Tronetti under “Operation Recognition” as a graduate of the Hornell City School District effective April 3, 2024. Mr. Tronetti left High School to serve in the US Army prior to his graduation and is officially being awarded his High School Diploma through “Operation Recognition”; he has requested to receive it in the mail. Congratulations to Mr. Tronetti and we thank him for his service to our Country.

2024/25 BUDGET – Superintendent Palotti and School Business Official Flaitz presented the Board with an overview (handout) of the 2024/25 Budget.

Member Davis was excused at 5:55 PM

REPORTS:

Construction Report:

Andy Billiotte (Welliver) presented the Board with an overview (handout) of the status of the various construction projects around the district.

Member Mehr was excused at 6:12 PM

Celebrating Success:

Kate Wall, Interim North Hornell Principal reported:

- March 20th, the North Hornell BCT organized a *Family Fun Night* that included a variety of activities for families to participate in. Activities included: yoga, dance parties, an obstacle course, family games, a book give away, prizes, and a fruit and yogurt bar. Thank you to all those who made this happen. It was a great opportunity to engage our families and students.
- A thank you to John Dolph, head custodian at North for recognizing on a Sunday that the building was experiencing some kind of outage. Also thank you to Pat Flaitz and Shannon Davis for supporting John in getting the network back up and running.
- Thank the staff for preparing for the last fire inspection and for being welcoming to Interim Principal Wall during the most recent changes.

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- North Hornell is home to 25 Paraprofessionals, and in honor of Paraprofessionals Week, we would like to recognize these staff members for all their hard work. It is evident just how much they are needed as we support our young learners.
- Thank you to Andy and the capital project folks, for recognizing the need to fix some of the electrical issues at North. The breaker being one of them.

Eileen Marino, Intermediate School Dean of Students reported:

- We celebrated Grand Week in February. Each grade level had one morning to invite their Grand Guests in for some refreshments, musical entertainment and a craft or activity. A lot of fun was had by all. Thank you to the cafeteria staff for baking some amazing cookies, to Mrs. Hopper for preparing the music, and to our classroom teachers for putting together the activities!
- We held our Annual Scripps Spelling Bee. Our winners this year were Akshaya Veena Narra and Margaret Rohan
 - The Regional Competition will be in Painted Post this Saturday, March 9th
- Our 6th graders traveled to NH for Read Across America Day. They split up around the entire building and made several rotations to read with different students. All the kids really enjoyed this experience!
- We had nine 6th grade students selected for All County Band--Carson Shinebarger, Sarah Haynes, Willa Smith, Zoey Westbrook, Lyla Davis, Ricky Andrus, Gracie Medina-Collazo, Berkeley Wing and Maddie Peterson. Congratulations to all of them!
- We celebrated Maintenance Worker Appreciation Day on Monday with a breakfast, hosted by our Student Ambassadors. We thank the whole crew for fixing all broken things, mowing the grass, shoveling the snow and everything else that keeps our building running smoothly!
- Thank you to everyone in the district who helped to support a family who lost their home to a fire. Our district is amazing at stepping up and helping when there is a crisis!
- Our fifth grade had the opportunity to go to Elmira's Clemens Center to see Dr. Kaboom and be inspired with exciting math and science experiments!
- We had several students represent Hornell Intermediate School at Chorus and Band Solo Festivals this month.
- Our Drumline has also started performing and won first place at their first competition of the season!
- We want to acknowledge that today is Paraprofessional Day. As has been Intermediate's tradition, the teaching staff all contributed to put on a nice breakfast for our paras! They do so much to help our students, we can't imagine not having them. They are appreciated way more than they realize!
- The Hornell PTO put on a sixth-grade dance this month. It was really special! A huge THANK YOU to the PTO for organizing and chaperoning, and also to the 6th grade teachers, who volunteered their time to dance with the kids for two hours straight!
- The Fourth-grade team planned our second trimester's assembly. They focused this assembly on "Grit". It was a fun and inspirational assembly! Students at The One and Only Hornell Intermediate School met the challenge goal of Red Raider tickets this marking period, so they earned a two-minute school-wide dance party! We are proud of our students showing so much Respect, Responsibility and Safety!

Morgan Allison, High School Principal reported:

In February

- We celebrated National School Social Workers: Thank you to Nicole and Tracey!
- Students competed in the DECA state competition: Amaya Hoffman, Russell Gage, and Matt Robinson. Good luck!
- Boys Varsity basketball - awesome seasons that ended a great game on Saturday in an attempt to claim the Section V title.
- The Girls Varsity basketball team won the Section V title against Dansville and moved on to the State tournament!
- Sam Olix won 1st place in the senior division at the Alfred State College regional science and technology fair

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In March

- Candlelight Ball was held for 9th and 10th Graders
- Band Spring Concert
- 10th grade trip to Fahrenheit 451 at Clemens Center
- NHS Induction ceremony - 27 new members inducted, fantastic dinner put on by HHS cafeteria staff
- Academic All-Stars - Hornell was the Large School Division winner
- Good luck in Boston - Choir
- CDC: Engineering Panel (NYSD DOT Engineers Matt Aldrich and Bryan Hubbard) and Zoe Learner-Ponterio from the NASA Spacecraft Planetary Image Facility at Cornell University.
- National paraprofessional appreciation day today!
- Thank you to Kate Wall for all she did...Goodbye, Kate! Welcome back, Barb!

Shannon Davis, Director of Facilities reported:

- Thank you to all for working together to make our fire inspection the smoothest yet...any necessary fixes were done on the spot with not need to return...we were “one and done”
- With the lack of snow we have been able to dig down deep into our maintenance vehicles and everything is running great.
- We had just a week to get the fields ready for play, but we did it. John sent a very nice letter thanking the team getting things ready.
- Changing many lights to LED
- Met with Pat and Jeremy to review where projects stood...we are finally caught up with old things roofs, dugouts, etc. and can now move forward with new things.
- Was nominated and elected by the NYS Facilities Directors Group as the State Director...both excited and honored for this opportunity.

The Board congratulated Shannon.

ROUTINE ITEMS

BY: LIBERTO/KHORK

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti to approves/accepts the following Consent Agenda items:

- approves the minutes from the meeting of March 6, 2024.
- accepts the General Fund Budget Transfer Report of February 29, 2024.
- accepts the Federal Fund Budget Transfer Report of February 29, 2024.
- accepts the Revenue Report of February 29, 2024.
- accepts the Appropriations Report of February 29, 2024.
- accepts the Treasurer’s Report of February 29, 2024.
- accepts the Student Activities Report of February 29, 2024.
- accepts the Warrant Reports of February 29, 2024.
- has no objections to the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education and approves the authorization of funds to implement the special education programs and services consistent with such recommendations for the CSE meetings of March 6, 7, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 25, 26 and 27, 2024 and April 2, 2024, the CPSE meetings of March 7, 12, 25 and 28, 2024 and the 504 meetings of March 6, 7, 13, 15, 22, 25 and 28, 2024 and April 2, 2024.

CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

OLD BUSINESS:

None

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NEW BUSINESS:

BY: LIBERTO/MAY

RESOLVED: that agenda items VI. E. 1. a. through VI. E. 3. c. be grouped together for one action.
CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

BY: MAY/KHORK

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board:

POLICY/PROCEDURE

- approves the enrollment of non-resident student #902000215 effective March 27, 2024;
- approves the following change to the 2023/24 academic calendar in observance of the total eclipse:
Monday, April 8, 2024 from full day of school to no school for students and a half day (AM) Superintendent’s Conference Day for staff with the PM off for all to observe the total eclipse;
- approves the disposal list from the High School Library dated October 23, 2023 - March 2024;
- approves the disposal of the chromebooks on the list dated 2/12/2024;
- approves combining with Arkport CSD to create one team for the 2024 25 Football Season;

FINANCE

- approves the renewal of the contract with Stony Brook Pediatrics as School Physicians for the 2024/25 school year;
- approves the agreement with GST BOCES for participation in the Food Service Coop Bid for the 2024/25 school year;
- approves the agreement with WFL BOCES for participation in the Natural Gas Coop Bid for the 2024/25 school year;
- awards the Waste Pickup bid for the 2024/25 school year to the lowest responsible bidder meeting the specifications on the waste pickup bid to:
Lippencott’s Rubbish - \$27,950
and furthermore the Board approve the contract with Lippencott’s Rubbish effective July 1, 2024.
- awards the Fencing bid to the lowest responsible bidder meeting the specifications on the fencing bid to:
NYS Fence Company, Inc - \$77,380
- approves the Professional Service Agreement with LaBella for the 2024 Capital Improvement Project;
- approves the agreements with Management Advisory Group of NY, Inc. for the 2022/23 school year for STAC Services and Medicaid Services and Tuition Billing;
- WHEREAS, the City School District of the City of Hornell, Steuben County, New York (the “District”), after consultation by District officials with the District’s retained architectural firm (LaBella Associates, D.P.C.), is studying the need to undertake, during the District’s current (2024-2025) fiscal year, some modest capital improvements work at the District’s North Hornell Elementary School building located at 2 Avondale Avenue, Hornell, New York, such work being anticipated to include, but not necessarily be limited to, renovating a multipurpose room into two classrooms with bathrooms, and all associated work (collectively, the “Project”); and

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WHEREAS, the estimated maximum cost of the Project, including all incidental costs relating thereto, has been determined by LaBella Associates to not to exceed \$1,300,000; and;

WHEREAS, in accordance with New York State Education Department (“SED”) guidance and policy, the local school district/board of education is the appropriate agency to be the lead agency to undertake review of the Project under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); and

WHEREAS, Section 617.5 of the SEQRA Regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617) provides that certain activities are Type II actions that are not subject to review under SEQRA and that such activities include “routine activities of educational institutions,” “maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility;” “replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site...unless such action meets or exceeds any [Type I] thresholds in section 617.4”; and

WHEREAS, the Project constitutes, collectively, such routine activities of educational institutions; maintenance or repair activities; and/or in-kind, same-site replacement, rehabilitation or reconstruction activities not exceeding Type I thresholds;

WHEREAS, under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (a/k/a “SED MOU 023-024” or the “MOU”) between the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (“OPRHP”) (a/k/a the “State Historic Preservation Office” or “SHPO”) and SED, a project is exempt from SHPO review if, among other possible reasons, a building is 50 years old or older but has previously been evaluated by SHPO and found not to meet the criteria for inclusion in the State and National Registers (the “Registers”); and

WHEREAS, as indicated in the Cultural Resource Information System (“CRIS”), SHPO has determined that the North Hornell Elementary School building is “not eligible” for listing on the Registers because it does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Registers, and therefore the proposed Project is exempt under the MOU terms described above, although LaBella may nonetheless choose to submit information on the proposed Project to SHPO for confirmation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the final determination of the District’s Board of Education that the planned Project constitutes a Type II action, which is not subject to review under SEQRA, and the proposed Project will not result in a significant adverse impact on the environment;

RESOLVED, the proposed Project shall continue to be funded by means of a “transfer to capital” in the District’s approved budget, so that such Work can be undertaken in the District’s 2024-2025 fiscal year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- approves the contract with the Steuben County Board of Elections for the use of their voting machine for the 2024/25 Budget Vote and Election;
- approves the following SRO contracts for the 2024/25 school year:
 - Contract w/ Village of North Hornell
 - Contract w/ City of Hornell

PERSONNEL

- accepts the resignation of Emily Moore as LPN effective at the end of the day on March 6, 2024;
- accepts the resignation of Candy Brundu as Attendance Clerk effective at the end of the day on June 30, 2024
- approves the probationary appointment of Mitchell Russell-Wade as Bus Attendant effective March 28, 2024. 10-months, 4 hours per day at the starting rate specified in the HESSA Contract;

CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

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BY: KHORK/LIBERTO

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board accepts the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Theresa Persichilli as LPN effective at the end of the day on October 4, 2024. (17 years in District).
CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

The Board congratulated Theresa on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her dedicated service to the District.

BY: LIBERTO/MAY

RESOLVED: that agenda items VI. E. 3. e. through VI. E. 3. l. be grouped together for one action.
CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

BY: LIBERTO/MAY

RESOLVED: that, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Palotti, the Board:

- approves the change in title for Tara Foster from Tax Collector to Senior Typist / Deputy Tax Collector effective April 4, 2024;
- approves the following appointments for the 2023 ESY and SLA programs (appointments made are conditional upon the needs and numbers for each program):

ESY:

Teachers:

Michelle Kendall
Andrea Sharp
Dawn Kiesl

Stephanie Wheeler
Kim Smith

LPN:

Paras:

Rhonda Smith
Karla Combs
Nicholas Baker
Mary Campbell
Kristin Kashmer
Theresa Rhude
Peggy Nankivell
Brandon Burritt
Tremaine Clemons

Ann Postilli
Taylor Davis
Andrah Coddington
Taylor Richardson
Samantha Zschoche
Colleen Harrison
Elizabeth Willsey

SLA:

Teachers (or subs depending on numbers):

Sarah Valentine
Brittany France
Leigh Emerson
Dawn Reinhart
Tracy Stark
Marieka Woolever
Sara Mullikin
Michael Carretto
Deborah Kenney
Colleen Amidon, RN
Rachel Snyder

Ashley Saurbaugh
Lindsay Wilson
Joseph Gibson
Theresa Ashworth
Michele Flaitz
Sue Willitt
Jennifer Carretto
Jennifer Class
Christine Locker
Amy Winslow
Derek O'Dell
Madelyn Moore

Subs Only:

Coordinator:

John Gandy
Christopher vanLeeuwen

- approves the MOA with HEA to clarify the options for health insurance for retirees;
- accept the resignation of Dr. Charles Infurna from his position as Elementary Administration - North Hornell Principal effective June 30, 2024;

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- approves the MOA with HPDG for a salary adjustment for Kate Wall to act as North Hornell Principal for the remainder of the 2023/24 school year;
- approves the Separation Agreement with Employee # 1970
- approves the appointment of Kate Wall as Interim North Hornell Principal for the remainder of the 2023/24 school year
- approves the following changes to the substitute roster and other assignments, **pending successful fingerprint clearance through the New York State Education Department and approval through DMV and or Civil Service if applicable:**

Substitute Additions:

Annabelle Franclemont - Teacher Aide

Rachael McGregor - Typist, Teacher Aide, Bus Attendant

Andrea Norton - Teacher Aide

Jacey Palmgreen - Teacher (for Jamie Williams only) - Effective 3/20/24

Mitchell Russell-Wade - Laborer, Food Service Helper

Jessica White - Typist, Teacher Aide, Food Service Helper

Emma Flaitz - Uncertified Teacher

Emily Moore - Nurse (effective 3/6)

CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

Discussion:

Informational:

The next meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 5:15 PM in the High School Library.

The Public Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the High School Library.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 immediately following the Public Budget Hearing.

BY: LIBERTO/KHORK

RESOLVED: that, at 6:24 PM the Board move to Executive Session to review the tenure of particular individuals.

CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

BY: MEHR/KHORK

RESOLVED: that, at 6:45 PM the Board return to Regular Session and the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED – 5 AYES – ALL

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Eaton, District Clerk