

DATE: August 29, 2023
KIND OF MEETING: Regular

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephanie Randall, Joel Sanford, Joseph Castrechino
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Kory Bay, Superintendent, Erin Peck, PK-12 Principal, Roxanne Elward, District Clerk, Kelley Louthan, Assistant Principal Applicant, Patty Barkalow, Teacher Representative, Brian Chaffee, parent, Emily Bonk, parent.

CALL TO ORDER: President Sanford called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

President Sanford, in accordance with New York State Fire Code regulations, read the public notice regarding fire exits and the leaving of room 301 should an emergency occur during the meeting.

The pledge to the flag was given.

APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board approve the following recommended actions:

- Minutes of the reorganizational meeting and regular board meeting held on July 6, 2023.
- Claims Auditor's Report for the months of July 2023 and August 2023
- Treasurer's Report and Outstanding Check Listing for June 2023
- Extra Classroom Activity Fund report for the month June 2023

Motion was carried by all members present.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Ms. Peck provided the PK-12 Principal's Report and Athletic Report

Mr. Bay provided the CSE/Curriculum Report and Superintendent's Report

DISCUSSION:

- District Safety Plan
- Internal Audit- TST BOCES
- Use of Facilities
- Student Handbook/Code of Conduct (hats, hoodies and cell phones)
- Board of Education Seats
- Pilot Educational Programming
- Final School/Library Tax Levy
- Participation in Social Media Lawsuit
- Electric Charging Station

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DISTRICT SAFETY PLAN: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board approve the school's District Safety Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was carried by all members present.

INTERNAL AUDIT: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board select the Risk Assessment Update as the option for the Internal Audit to be performed by TST BOCES for 2023-2024. Motion was carried by all members present.

USE OF FACILITIES: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board approve the Use of Facilities Request while following district policy and procedures for the Healthy Kids Program to use a classroom for their before and after school program for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was carried by all members present.

TAX LEVY: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board approve the final School/Library Tax Levy as shown on the final report. Motion was carried by all members present.

SOCIAL MEDIA LAWSUIT: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board approve the Social Media Lawsuit Resolution as stated below:

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health which:

- "calls attention to the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health;"
- emphasized that "now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;"
- "the onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;" and
- "technology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media."

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has further concluded that:

- "Social media use by youth is nearly universal. Up to 95% of youth ages 13-17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media 'almost constantly.'"
- "nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media;"
- "in early adolescence ... brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison;"
- social media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;"
- "in a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel 'addicted' to a social media platform;"
- "over half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;" and
- there is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use "depression among youth."

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is "urgent that we take action."

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, "more than ever, were glued to their cellphones during class.

WHEREAS, it has been reported that "a growing number of educators ... find themselves on the front lines of a fight to change how students use social media" and "there was been a push for more schools to ... develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media."

WHEREAS, the Prattsburgh Central School District (the "School District") has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of social media, which use, among other things: (i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and prevent such use and its results harms; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of its students; and

WHEREAS, the School District is a leader in education excellence whose faculty and administrators care deeply about the education and well-being of its students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

That the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP and Ferrara Fiorenza PC to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek compensation to the School District for damages suffered by the School District and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The School District hereby authorizes its Superintendent of Schools or their designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the School District.

Motion was carried by all members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board goes into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. for CSE Recommendations, Personnel (Substitute List, Resignations, Board Member Resignation, Appointments, Tenure, Club Advisor, Volunteer Program Assistant, Board of Education Seats, Possible Temporary Board Member Interview, Maternity Leave, Long Term Substitute)

Brian Chaffee was invited to attend Executive Session for his Board Member interview. He exited executive session at 8:25 p.m.

Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board come out of executive session at 8:43 p.m.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION: None

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

RECOMMENDATION BY THE CSE: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board 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. Motion was carried by all members present.

SUBSTITUTE LIST: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board approve the Substitute Instructional/Non-Instructional List for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was carried by all members present.

RESIGNATION: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board accept the resignation from Madelyn Belanger, Elementary Teacher and Co-Yearbook Advisor effective August 23, 2023. Motion was carried by all members present.

APPOINTMENT: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board appoint Kelley Louthan of Naples, NY as an Assistant PK-12 Principal effective September 1, 2023. Motion was carried by all members present.

RESIGNATION: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board accept the resignation from Brianna Sick, Assistant Principal/Technology Coordinator effective July 14, 2023. Motion was carried by all members present.

APPOINTMENTS: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board appoint Brenda Button and Christine Brush as Part Time Cleaners effective September 1, 2023. Motion was carried by all members present.

APPOINTMENT: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board appoint Charlotte Burdick as a Full Time Special Education Aide effective September 1, 2023. Motion was carried by all members present.

APPOINTMENT: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board appoint Laura Moore as Student Council Advisor for the 2023-2024 school year. Motion was carried by all members present.

APPOINTMENT: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board appoint Emylee Yusko of Millerton, PA as an Elementary Teacher on Step 1 of the current professional agreement effective September 1, 2023. Motion was carried by all members present.

LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board appoint Becky Jensen as a long-term substitute for Korynne House, Elementary Teacher, on or about September 21, 2023 with a daily base pay being equal to 1/200th of Step 1 of the current professional agreement. Motion was carried by all members present.

BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board accept the resignation of Mr. Mark Bristol from the Prattsburgh Central School District Board of Education effective July 7, 2023. Motion was carried by all members present.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ASSISTANTS: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board approve the following volunteer program assistants:

Denelle Fox-Girls Soccer
Teresa Stockton- Girls Volleyball
Alyssa Moon- Girls Volleyball
Laura Moore- Girls Tennis

Motion was carried by all members present.

TENURE: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board approve tenure for the following employees and their appointed area:

Karl VanAmburg- Physical Education (effective 9/1/23)
Penny Kephart- Administration (effective 9/1/23)

Motion was carried by all members present.

BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board appoint Brian Chaffee as a member of the Prattsburgh Central School Board of Education from August 29, 2023 until May 21, 2024. The member will be required to run in the election on May 21, 2024 to continue the seat. Motion was carried by all members present.

President Sanford asked if there was any further discussion before adjourning the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Stephanie Randall made a motion, seconded by Joseph Castrechino that the Board adjourns their regular meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried by all members present.

Roxanne G. Elward
District Clerk