



August 31, 2023 ~ 7:30 am
Special Meeting of the ESM Board of Education
ESM District Office, Upstairs Conference Room

III-A-4676
09/11/2023

SPECIAL MEETING

Board of Education Present: Mrs. Diana Abdella, Mr. John Albanese, Mrs. Susan Cain
Mrs. Tracy Callahan, Mrs. Kay Gallery, Mr. D. Paul Waltz.

Board of Education Absent: Mrs. Lori Aird, Mrs. Leah Cushing, Mrs. Debbie Kolod

Administrative Personnel Present: Dr. Donna DeSiato, Supt.; Mr. Greg Avellino, Deputy Supt.;
Mr. Douglas Mohorter, Executive Director of Employee Engagement & Accountability

Other Present: Mrs. Tracy Lothridge, Deputy Board Clerk

Interested Citizens: 0

MR. D. PAUL WALTZ, PRESIDENT, CALLED THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER
AT 7:30 AM AT THE ESM DISTRICT OFFICE.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS: None

FIFTEEN MINUTE PERIOD: No one spoke.

REPORTS:

A. Acceptance of Minutes

None

B. President/Vice President/Board Member Reports

New Teacher Orientation

C. Superintendent's Report

Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies

Elmcrest Early Childhood Center Agreement

Staffing Transfers (FYI):

Name	Position	From	To	Effective
Vacancy	Special Education Teacher	Fremont	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023
Vacancy	Special Education Teacher	Fremont	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023
Vacancy (H. Collins, Resign)	Special Education Teacher	PGMS	CHS	9/5/2023
Jennifer Janack	Special Education Teacher	CHS	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023

Vacancy (E. Rowe, Resign)	Teaching Assistant	Woodland	Fremont	9/5/2023
Vacancy (E. Knowlden, Retire)	Teaching Assistant	Pine Grove MS	Fremont	9/5/2023
Vacancy (B. Aylsworth, Resign)	Teaching Assistant	Pine Grove MS	ESE	9/5/2023
Morgan Bryers	Teaching Assistant	Woodland	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023
Rosalind Day	Teaching Assistant	Minoa	ESE	9/5/2023
Tina Deppoliti	Teaching Assistant	Fremont	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023
Kalysta Donohue	Teaching Assistant	Woodland	Fremont	9/5/2023
Cheryl Fox	Teaching Assistant	Minoa	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023
Anna Grower	Teaching Assistant	Minoa	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023
Susan Jesmer	Teaching Assistant	Pine Grove MS	Minoa	9/5/2023
Lori Kelly	Teaching Assistant	Pine Grove MS	CHS	9/5/2023
Maria Korik	Teaching Assistant	Fremont	ESE	9/5/2023
Cynthia McGuire	Teaching Assistant	Minoa	Woodland	9/5/2023
Jennifer Notaro	Teaching Assistant	Minoa	Fremont	9/5/2023
J. Robin Richardson	Teaching Assistant	ESE	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023
Sharon Schildkamp	Teaching Assistant	Minoa	Woodland	9/5/2023
Stephanie Sponable	Teaching Assistant	Minoa	Pine Grove MS	9/5/2023
Ashley Thomas	Teaching Assistant	ESE	Minoa	9/5/2023
Elizabeth Weekley	Teaching Assistant	Fremont	Woodland	9/5/2023
Vacancy (S. Jesmer, Resign - now a Teaching Assistant.)	Teacher Aide	Minoa	ESE	9/5/2023

“RESOLVED BY MR. ALBANESE, SECONDED BY MRS. CALLAHAN THAT, the Reports A – C, as recommended by the Superintendent be approved.”

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0, Motion Carried

ACTION ITEMS:

A. Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies

“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;"
- "[t]he onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;" and
- "[t]echnology 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;"

- "[s]ocial media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;"
- "[i]n a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel 'addicted' to a social media platform;"
- "[o]ver half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;" and
- [t]here 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, "[m]ore 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 East Syracuse Minoa 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.”

“RESOLVED BY MRS. GALLERY, SECONDED BY MRS. CALLAHAN THAT, the Action Item A, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.”

Ayes –6, Nays – 0, Motion Carried

B. Elmcrest Early Childhood Center Agreement

"RESOLVED THAT, the Agreement, between the East Syracuse Minoa CSD and Elmcrest Early Childhood Center, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 in accordance with the terms of the Agreement as outlined in the enclosure, be approved."

"RESOLVED BY MRS. CALLAHAN, SECONDED BY MRS. CAIN THAT, the Action Item B, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved."

Ayes –6, Nays – 0, Motion Carried

CONSENT AGENDA: None

PERSONNEL ITEMS:

A. Resignations

Antwaun Dixon, Assistant Principal - Central High School, Eff. 9/28/2023
Cassandra Neil, School Transportation Supervisor - Transportation Center, Eff. 8/26/2023
Harmony Collins, Special Education Teacher - Pine Grove MS, Eff. 9/5/2023
Nicole Cawley, Regular Teaching Assistant (Spec. Ed.) Substitute - Woodland, Eff. 9/5/2023
Barbara Aylsworth, Teaching Assistant (Special Education) - Pine Grove MS, Eff. 9/5/2023
Eleanor Rowe, Teaching Assistant (Special Education) - Woodland, Eff. 9/1/2023
Jordan Judd, Custodian I - Pine Grove Middle School, Eff. 9/8/2023

B. Create Positions

"RESOLVED THAT, the following positions will be created, as outlined in the enclosure."

3 - Annual Permanent Itinerant Substitutes @ Central High School
1 - Annual Permanent Itinerant Substitute @ Pine Grove Middle School
1 - Annual Permanent Itinerant Substitute @ East Syracuse Elementary
1 - Annual Permanent Itinerant Substitute @ Fremont Elementary
1 - Annual Permanent Itinerant Substitute @ Minoa Elementary
1 - Annual Permanent Itinerant Substitute @ Woodland Elementary
1 - School Psychologist (1 year only)

C. Appointments

Instructional, Four-Year Probationary Appointment

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education for the East Syracuse Minoa Central School District hereby appoints the following probationary employee(s):

Nicole Cawley, Teaching Assistant (Special Education) - CHS, Eff. 9/5/2023-9/4/2027

The probationary period expiration date will depend on the individual's APPR ratings. To receive tenure, the individual must receive an overall APPR rating of effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years. Probationary employees who receive an ineffective APPR rating in their final year of probation will not be eligible for tenure at that time."

Instructional, Contractual Regular Substitute Appointment

Colleen Forehand, Special Education Teacher - Central High School, Eff. 9/5/2023-6/30/2024

2023-2024 Instructional, Annual Appointments

Emily Russell, Permanent Itinerant Substitute - Fremont, Eff. 9/5/2023-6/30/2024

Eric Verillo, Permanent Itinerant Substitute - Pine Grove MS, Eff. 9/5/2023-6/30/2024

D. Amended Substitute List

“RESOLVED THAT, the enclosed amended substitute list dated August 31, 2023, be approved.

“RESOLVED BY MRS. CAIN, SECONDED BY MR. ALBANESE THAT, the Action Item D, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.”

Ayes – 6, Nays – 0, Motion Carried

POLICY DISCUSSION: None

POLICY ACTION: None

“RESOLVED BY MR. ALBANESE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAIN THAT, THE REGULAR MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 7:55 AM.”

Ayes - 6, Nays - 0, Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Lothridge
Deputy District Clerk

Approved _____

Filed _____



August 31, 2023 ~ 7:30 am
Special Meeting of the ESM Board of Education
ESM District Office, Upstairs Conference Room

AGENDA

- I. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS:** None
- II. FIFTEEN MINUTE PERIOD:**
- III. REPORTS:**
- A. Acceptance of Minutes
None
 - B. President/Vice President/Board Member Reports
New Teacher Orientation
 - C. Superintendent's Report
Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies
Elmcrest Early Childhood Center Agreement
Staffing Transfers (FYI)
- IV. ACTION ITEMS:**
- A. Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies
 - B. Elmcrest Early Childhood Center Agreement
- CONSENT AGENDA:** None
- V. PERSONNEL ITEMS:**
- A. Resignations
 - B. Create Positions
 - C. Appointments
 - D. Amended Substitute List
- VI. POLICY DISCUSSION:** None
- VII. POLICY ACTION:** None