

**DOLGEVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL**  
**Dolgeville, NY 13329**

**Approved 1-16-2024**

December 19, 2023

Regular Meeting

James A. Green School

**PRESENT:**

S. Hongo, President  
J. Williams, VP  
J. Schmid  
C. Williams  
J. IZZO (left 6:42 pm/returned 6:49 pm)  
T. Rutkowski  
J. Fredericks

**ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

J. Gilfus  
C. Chrisman  
M. Primeau  
B. Manley (absent)  
J. Radley (absent)  
Alexandra Halverson, Student BOE Member (absent)

**PRESIDING OFFICER:**

Scott Hongo, President

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr./Sr. high school cafeteria.

Call to Order

President, Scott Hongo, asked everyone to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge to  
the Flag

**MINUTES**

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second by Ms. C. Williams, to approve the minutes of November 21, 2023 (regular meeting), as presented.

Approve  
Minutes  
11/21/2023

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

**CORRESPONDENCE – None**

Correspond.

**FINANCIAL**

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second by Mrs. J. Williams, to approve the following financial items:

Approve  
Financials

That General Fund Schedule #A-31 in the sum of \$371,687.17; General Fund Schedule #A-32 in the sum of \$508,118.69; General Fund Schedule #A-33 in the sum of \$459,972.49; School Lunch Fund Schedule #C-10 in the sum of \$721.90; School Lunch Fund Schedule #C-11 in the sum of \$13,672.14; Capital Fund Schedule #HB-10 in the sum of \$1,237,584.97 and Capital Fund Schedule #HB-11 in the sum of \$746,821.82 be approved and ordered paid pursuant to review of claims auditor, Jacqueline Hill.

Approve  
Payment  
of  
Warrants

To accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2023 as presented.

Accept  
Treas. Rept.  
11/2023

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

**CURRICULUM PRESENTATION – Mental Health Team**

Mrs. Lynne Licari, Mr. Kristopher Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Vanessa Boyer outlined their roles as School Psychologists and School Social Workers in the district in supporting the psychological, academic and social development of students, as more fully described in the attached power point presentation.

Mental  
Health  
Team  
Presentation

**REPORTS**

Reports

Elementary School Report – Mrs. Chrisman – Attached

In addition, Mrs. Chrisman reported that students were totally captivated by the therapy dog that was visiting the district at the 7-12 Career/Wellness Day.

Elem. Rept.

**Ms. Izzo left the meeting at 6:42 p.m.**

High School Report – Mrs. Primeau – Attached

HS Rept.

In addition, Mrs. Primeau reported that the Career/Wellness Day was well attended with students being able to explore many different career opportunities. Mrs. Primeau thanked the many vendors who volunteered their time and thanked the faculty and staff for their assistance in making this event possible for our students. Mrs. Primeau is looking forward to increasing the number of vendors and offering it gain in two years.

**Ms. Izzo returned to the meeting at 6:49 p.m.**

Mrs. Primeau noted that the Board of Regents and State Education Department have been reviewing graduation requirements and the various types of diplomas that are awarded. Mrs. Primeau reviewed with the board the current graduation requirements and options as per attached document.

Director of Pupil Personnel Services Report – Mrs. Manley – AttachedDir. Of Pupil  
ServicesDean of Students/Athletic Director Report – Mr. Zilkowski – Attached

Dean/AD

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Gilfus – No additional comments, but Mr. Gilfus did respond to questions from board members pertaining to the warrants.

Supt. Rept.

Buildings & Grounds Report – Mrs. Radley – Attached

Build/Grounds

Transportation Report – Mr. Stack – Attached

Transport.

Food Service Report – Mr. Dupuis – Attached

Food Serv.

Technology Report – Mr. Dy, Mr. Randall – Attached

Technology

Revenue Analysis/Expenditure Analysis Reports for November, 2023 – Mrs. Radley – Attached

Rev/Expend.

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second by Mrs. J. Williams, to accept the above building reports as presented.

Accpt. Bldg.  
Reports

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Government students in attendance offered the following comments:

Ella Shaut – Learned about the elevator inspections

Kathy Serman – Did not realize that we have summer school here in our building

Charles King – Was surprised at the many issues the board discusses

Jacob Lamphere – Found it interesting about the dropping grades

Privilege of  
Floor

Mrs. Alicia Rice asked that the school board again review supporting a Tax Exemption for First Responders, noting that County of Fulton and Town of Stratford have now passed resolutions and local laws allowing for same as attached. Mrs. Rice also asked that the board consider supporting an increase in the income based Senior Citizen Exemption as well.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Old Business

a. Capital Project Update – Mr. Gilfus/Mrs. Radley

- Roof – Fascia has been completed – found a couple of leaks which have been addressed
- Work on the grandstand is almost complete. Still need to install seats and accessibility ramps
- Bus Garage – Renovation is ready to begin
- HVAC, ceiling tile and light work continues – working in classrooms after school hours

Capital  
Project  
Update

- With the recent heavy rain, the drains by the relocated dumpsters were overwhelmed and flooding occurred. Mr. Congdon was able to resolve the issue without having to contact Smith Site Development, Inc.
- Minor asbestos abatement will begin this Friday and continue through our winter break.

**NEW BUSINESS**

New Business

a) Resolution Authorizing Litigation Against Social Media Companies

Resolution  
Authorizing  
Litigation  
Against  
Social Media  
Companies

Motion by Mrs. J. Williams, second by Ms. C. Williams, to adopt the following resolution:

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 has been a push for more schools to...develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media.”

WHEREAS, the Dolgeville 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 see 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 see 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.

Vote: Mr. Hongo – Aye Ms. Izzo – Aye  
Mrs. J. Williams – Aye Mrs. Rutkowski – Aye  
Mr. Schmid – Aye Mr. Fredericks – Aye  
Ms. C. Williams – Aye

Motion Carried

b) Approve Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding Perch Place LLC and DCS for the R4K Program

Perch Place LLC and DCSD  
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Book Program

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second by Ms. Izzo, to approve the **Addendum** to Memorandum of Understanding between Perch Place, LLC and the Dolgeville Central School District for the Ready For Kindergarten (R4K) Program for the Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library Book Program as attached covering the period January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024.

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

c) Authorize Clerk to Unseal and Open Ballot Box

Resolution Open Ballot Boxes

Motion by Ms. C. Williams, second by Mr. Schmid to adopt the following resolution:

Be it resolved that pursuant to Education Law Section 2034 (6)(b), the Board of Education of the Dolgeville Central School District hereby authorizes the district clerk to unseal and open the ballot box and remove all of the ballots cast, spoiled and unused in the May 16, 2023 annual district budget vote and board election. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

d) Accept Donation – Uniforms for Varsity/JV Boys Basketball Program

Accept Donation Uniforms

Motion by Ms. Izzo, second by Mrs. J. Williams, to accept the donation of basketball uniforms to the Varsity/JV Boys’ basketball program from Gehring-Tricot Corporation.

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

e) BOE Policies – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and Review

BOE Policies 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

The following policies were presented to the board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading and review:

- Policy No. 5010 – Workplace Violence Prevention Policy
- Policy No. 6404 – Rights of Nursing Employees to Express Breast Milk
- Policy No. 7068 – Limitations on the Use of Timeout and Physical Restraints

**INFORMATION ONLY**

Information Only

- a. The Council of Superintendents – School Aid 2024-25 Current Law Estimates
- b. Herkimer BOCES Facilities Committee – Notes from November 13, 2023

- c. Building Use Requests by outside groups approved by Superintendent
  - 1) Kathy Winkler (Dolgeville Girl Scouts) – Use HS Kitchen Classroom – GS Leader Mtg. 12/13/23
  - 2) Sarah Williams-Herringshaw (CCS) – Use Auditorium for Movie Night – 12/13/23
  - 3) Ben Rutkowski – Men’s Basketball- Use Gym – Sunday evenings 12/10/23 – 4/28/24
  - 4) Officer CJ Jones – Use Gym 1 – Defensive Tactics for Women – 1/15/24
  - 5) Officer CJ Jones – Use Gym 1 – Taser Training for Police Department – 2/19/24

**BOARD FORUM**

Board  
Forum

The board members offered the following comments during Board Forum:

- The Winterpalooza was very well done - kudos to the music department and students
- Thank you to the Mental Health Team for their informative presentation
- The Career/Wellness Day was great and the therapy dog was fantastic
- The winter concert was wonderful
- Thank you to Allicia Rice for her comments on a proposed tax exemption for first responders
- Thank you to the government students for attending
- Thank you to the administrators, faculty and staff for all they do for our children
- Congratulations to our Scholar Athletes
- Thank you to Gehring-Tricot Corporation for their donation of uniforms
- The Art Club trip to New York City was great
- Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to everyone

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Enter  
Executive  
Session

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second by Ms. C. Williams, to enter executive session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss items related to the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person(s) or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person(s); and to discuss student issues, litigations and student safety.

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second by Mrs. J. Williams, to return to regular session at 8:25 p.m.

Return to  
Regular  
Session

Ayes All - Motion Carried 7:0

**CSE/CPSE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

CSE/CPSE  
Min. & Rec.  
11/15/2023-  
12/12/2023

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second by Ms. Izzo, to approve the CSE/CPSE Minutes and Recommendations covering the period 11/15/2023 through 12/12/2023 as attached.

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

**PERSONNEL**

Personnel  
Actions

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second by Ms. C. Williams, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to accept and approve the following personnel actions:

To accept the resignation of Tyler Gilfus as Long-Term Substitute Teacher (secondary special education), effective January 5, 2024.

Accpt.Resign  
T. Gilfus  
LT Sub Tea.

To grant an unpaid leave of absence to Bonnie Kirchofer as Long Term Substitute 12:1:1 Aide effective December 5, 2023 with a return date to be determined.

Grant LOA  
B.Kirchofer  
LT Sub Aide

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| To grant a permanent appointment (civil service) to Jon Nellis as Cleaner, effective January 5, 2024.   | Perm. Appt.<br>J. Nellis<br>Cleaner        |
| To approve the appointment of Alicia Warner as substitute Teacher/TA, Substitute Nurse, Substitute K-12 Aide and Substitute Monitor.  | Appr. Appt.<br>A. Warner<br>Substitute     |
| To approve the appointment of Brandi Mosenthin as Substitute Credit Recovery Teacher for 2023-2024.   | Appr. Appt.<br>B. Mosenthin<br>Sub CR Tea. |
| To approve the appointment of additional Extraduty Coaching positions for 2023-2024 as follows:<br><br>JV Baseball Coach – Daniel Fox<br>Unpaid JV Baseball Coach – Riley Nagle | Appr. Appt.<br>Additional<br>Extra Duty    |

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

**ADDITIONAL NON RESIDENT STUDENT REQUESTS FOR 2023-2024**

Additional  
NonResident

Motion by Ms. Izzo, second by Ms. C. Williams, to approve the following non resident student request for school year 2023-2024:

Stacey Ellerby  
for child (foreign exchange student) – Jamilah Ba-Wuthrich – Grade 11 – OESJ (Home District)

Ayes All – Motion Carried 7:0

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Future  
Meetings

- a. January 16, 2024 – Facilities/Building Projects Committee – 5:00 p.m. in Supt. Conf. Room
- b. January 16, 2024 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m. in Cafeteria – Connected Community Schools Presentation
- c. February 7, 2024 – Audit/Finance Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m. in HS Library
- d. February 13, 2024 – Health and Safety Committee Meeting – 5:00 p.m. in Supt. Conf. Room
- e. February 13, 2024 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m. in Cafeteria – Budget Presentation
- f. March 19, 2024 – District Code of Conduct/Athletic Code of Conduct Committee Meeting 5:00 pm  
Policy Manual Meeting
- g. March 19, 2024 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m. in Cafeteria
- h. April 10, 2024 – Audit/Finance Committee Meeting – 6:00 p.m. in HS Library
- i. April 16, 2024 – Food Service Committee Meeting – 5:00 p.m. in Supt. Conf. Room
- j. April 16, 2024 – Regular Meeting – 6:00 p.m. in Cafeteria – Tenure Recognition
- k. April 17, 2024 – Special Meeting – BOCES Budget Vote & Top Senior Recognition

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Schmid, second Mrs. J. Williams, to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Ayes All – Motion Carried 6:0

Sandra L. Allen  
District Clerk