The Iroquois Central School District, in being responsive to the students and parents it serves, will promote innovation and change in a continuous search for more effective and efficient ways of meeting our mission as an institution of teaching and learning.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
IROQUOIS CENTRAL SCHOOL
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
GIRDLE RD., ELMA, NY
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 AT 6:30 PM.

PRESENT
Mrs. Jane Sullivan
Mrs. Sharon Szeglowski
Mr. Charles Specht
Mr. David Lowrey
Mrs. Michele Hovey (departed meeting @ 7:05 PM/returned meeting @ 7:48 PM)
Mr. Gunnar Haberl
Mrs. Louise Toth

EXCUSED

ALSO PRESENT
Mr. Douglas Scofield  Superintendent
Dr. Mary Jo Dudek  Assistant Superintendent
Mr. John Wolski  Business Administrator
Mrs. Cindy Sadowski  District Clerk

CALL TO ORDER
The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Mrs. Jane Sullivan at 6:42 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
A motion was made by Mr. Specht, seconded by Mr. Lowrey, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment of a particular person and legal matters.

Motion carried. (Ayes 7, Noes 0)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOTION OF SILENCE
A moment of silence was held for former teacher Edward Barszcz.

APPROVAL OF CONSENSUS AGENDA
4.1 In accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent, upon a motion by Mr. Specht, seconded by Mrs. Hovey, the Board voted to approve the consensus agenda items 4.2 – 4.4.8.3.

Motion carried. (Ayes 7, Noes 0)

FINANCIALS
4.2 FINANCIAL MATTERS

MINUTES
4.3 MINUTES
4.3.1 Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting and Budget Work Session held on April 8, 2020.
PERSONNEL 4.4 PERSONNEL

RESIGNATIONS 4.4.3 RESIGNATIONS

4.4.3.1 The acceptance of the resignation of Ryan Keem from his position as High School Science Teacher at the end of the day on June 30, 2020.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE 4.4.5 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4.4.5.1 The approval of unpaid leave for Timothy Schierer, Head Custodian, from March 28, 2020 through June 2, 2020.

4.4.5.2 The approval of unpaid leave for Wendy Muscarella, Teacher, from April 28, 2020 through June 2, 2020.

APPOINTMENTS 4.4.8 APPOINTMENTS

4.4.8.1 The approval of the appointment of Christine Gozelski, who has professional certificates in Early Childhood B-2 and Childhood Education 1-6, to a 1.0 F.T.E. non-probationary position in the Childhood Education tenure area effective April 28, 2020 through June 2, 2020 or upon the return of Wendy Muscarella, whichever is sooner. Salary $37,952.00 pro-rated based on Bachelor Step 1 (2018-2022 IFA Negotiated Agreement)

4.4.8.2 The approval of the following resolution:

Resolved, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Elizabeth Dombrowski is hereby appointed to an additional year of probation in the Special Education tenure, said year beginning September 1, 2020 and ending September 1, 2021, in accordance with an Agreement which the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to sign on behalf of the Board.

4.4.8.3 The Superintendent recommends the authorization of the recommendation by the:

- Committee on Special Education for the annual reviews of 65 children.
- Committee on Special Education for the reevaluation/annual reviews of 17 children.
- Committee on Special Education for the new referrals of 5 children.
- Committee on Special Education for the amendments of 3 children.
- 504 Committee for the accommodation plan of 13 children.
- Committee on Preschool Special Education for the preschool annual review of 24 children.
Mr. Scofield reported that on May 1 the Governor issued an executive order rescheduling the annual meeting and election to take place remotely on June 9, 2020. Mr. Scofield explained that all voting would be done by absentee ballot. All registered voters will be mailed an absentee ballot which must be returned to the district clerk by 5:00 PM on June 9. The budget hearing will take place, remotely, on June 2 at 6:30 PM. Mr. Scofield noted that all information pertaining to the vote and budget hearing can be found on the district website.

Mr. Scofield reported that the newsletter containing budget information is presently at the printer and should be mailed out to all district residents next week. Mr. Scofield stated that he included data on staff reduction noting that in the last ten years, the district has reduced general education staff by 15% and administration by 5%.

Dr. Dudek reported on the results of a parent survey regarding remote learning. The survey indicated that 76% of respondents felt very good about the distance learning and 86% believed the amount of work was manageable. Regarding the rate of effectiveness of the programs being used to connect with the classroom, 87% responded positively.

Mr. Scofield shared that he believed some people are questioning whether the district is saving hundreds of thousands of dollars due to the building closure. Mr. Scofield reported that the buses are still running delivering breakfasts and lunches, maintenance and buildings and grounds are here to keep the buildings running and a rough estimate shows that the savings has been about $80,000.

Mr. Scofield shared that in reviewing the Erie County website, it appears that there are 44 cases of COVID-19 throughout the District which he considered very good compared to other areas. Mr. Scofield thanked everyone for practicing social distancing guidelines. Mr. Scofield continued discussing the Governor’s requirements for beginning Phase I in reopening our region.

Mr. Scofield reported that the date for graduation remains June 26 with alternate dates of July 16 and August 16. Mr. Scofield stated that if graduation was unable to be held in the traditional manner, a back-up
plan is in place where graduation would take place at Iroquois. In addition, Mrs. Muskopf has reserved July 17 and August 7 as alternate dates for the prom. Senior awards, athletic awards and eighth grade moving up will be videotaped and distributed. Discussion and planning is also taking place for 8th and 4th grade transition.

Mr. Scofield reported that the full maintenance staff has been called back to begin summer cleaning which will help with the amount of staff hiring needed for summer.

Mr. Scofield reported that there are many concerns over the Governor’s ideas of reimaging education and state aid reductions for the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Scofield noted that even with the reduction of the aid, because the district has always been conservative and prudent, we will be able to put forth a budget, using reserves, to keep all educational programs intact.

Mr. Scofield reported that he received an email from a resident questioning who was paying for the meal program being provided to all children living in the district since the State went on Pause. Mr. Scofield explained that the program is being paid for through State and Federal funds. Mr. Scofield noted that 425 breakfast/lunch packages are being picked up and 161 breakfast/lunch packages are being delivered to 66 locations every day. The meal program will continue through the end of June, and there is a possibility that the Governor will extend it through the summer.

Mr. Wolski reported that the board approved plan of refinancing old bonds issued from 2012 was put on hold because of the sudden change due to COVID-19. Since that time, there has been a sudden change and we are able to move forward. The savings to the district will be approximately $25,000 per year for 7 years.

Mr. Scofield congratulated senior Leah Streety for being named a scholarship winner from the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra for excellence in music education.

Mr. Scofield shared that on May 28 at 2:00 PM there will be a slow roll to honor the 2020 high school seniors. The procession will begin at the high school and travel to the newly erected billboard which recognizes the seniors on Transit Road.

Mr. Scofield announced that the annual Erie County School Boards Association Hodgson Russ LLC Collaboration Award recipient is It Takes a Community (ITAC). The criteria for the award includes partnership with a school district and at least one other partner within the community, an educational program that propels the school district, a program that is unique and serves as an inspiration.

Mr. Scofield congratulated and presented a certificate to Mr. Specht in recognition of earning the NYSSBA Level 2 Board Excellence Award.
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<td>6. NEW BUSINESS</td>
<td>6.1 In accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent, upon a motion by Mr. Haberl, seconded by Mr. Specht, the Board voted unanimously to accept $2,025.00 from various donors, to establish the Carolyn Guinn Sheideman Scholarship Fund. TECS (2705)</td>
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<td>DONATION – CAROLYN GUINN SCHOLARSHIP</td>
<td>Motion carried. (Ayes 6, Noes 0)</td>
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<td>DONATION – AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>6.2 In accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent, upon a motion by Mr. Specht, seconded by Mr. Lowrey, the Board voted unanimously to accept $500.00 from the American Heart Association to Jill Peresan, for commitment and support of the Jump Rope for Heart for the 2019-2020 school year at Marilla Primary, raising $14,651.64 for the American Heart Association to be used for the prevention, education, and treatment of cardiovascular disease and stroke. The $500.00 will be used to purchase new equipment for the students of Marilla Primary.</td>
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<td>PROPERTY TAX REPORT CARD 2019-20</td>
<td>Motion carried. (Ayes 6, Noes 0)</td>
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<td>BOCES COMMITMENT STATEMENT</td>
<td>6.3 In accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent, upon a motion by Mr. Specht, seconded by Mrs. Toth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Property Tax Report Card for the 2019-2020 school year.</td>
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<td>Motion carried. (Ayes 6, Noes 0)</td>
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<td>POLICIES – FIRST READING</td>
<td>6.4 In accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent, upon a motion by Mr. Specht, seconded by Mr. Haberl, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:</td>
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<td>WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Iroquois Central School District has reviewed the Commitment Statement from Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES for services to be provided during the 2020-2021 school year, and</td>
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<td>WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Iroquois Central School District agrees that such services are required to complement the existing educational program, therefore,</td>
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<td>BE IT RESOLVED that the services to be provided and the cost proration are acceptable to this district.</td>
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<td>Motion carried. (Ayes 5, Noes 0, Abstain 1)(Mr. Lowrey abstained)</td>
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<td>POLICIES – FIRST READING</td>
<td>6.5 In accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent, upon a motion by Mr. Haberl, seconded by Mr. Lowrey, the Board voted unanimously to approve the first reading of the following amended policies:</td>
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<td>#5676 Privacy and Security for Student Data and Teacher and Principal Data</td>
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<td>#5720 Transportation of Students</td>
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RESCHEDULE BOE JUNE REGULAR MEETING

6.6 In accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent, upon a motion by Mr. Specht, seconded by Mrs. Szeglowski, the Board voted unanimously to reschedule the date of the regular meeting of the Board of Education on June 10, 2020 to June 2, 2020 to accommodate the 2020-21 budget hearing timeline.

Motion Carried. (Ayes 7, Noes 0)

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Haberl requested to make a comment to reiterate to the community that, although our school buildings have been closed, education isn't closed, and education hasn't stopped. Education and learning is continuing every single day within the homes in our community. Our faculty and staff are continuing to provide the education here at Iroquois and so it's just important that as we go into this budget season that we continue to reiterate that although our school buildings are closed, education is not closed and education continues and that education takes funding.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Specht, seconded by Mrs. Toth, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment of a particular person.

Motion carried. (Ayes 7, Noes 0)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board of Education, upon a motion by Mr. Specht, seconded by Mrs. Toth, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried. (Ayes 7, Noes 0)

The Board meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Sadowski
District Clerk