

REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING October 13, 2022

The Cambridge Central School Board of Education held their regular Board of Education meeting on October 13, 2022 in the Secondary Library Media Center. Mr. Price called the meeting to order at 7:00PM Board of Education members in attendance were President-David Shay Price; Vice-President- Jessica Ziehm; Caleb Breault(absent); Neil Gifford(absent), and Dillon Honyoust; Dr. Douglas Silvernell, Superintendent of Schools (absent) and Kate Canini, District Clerk. Also present were; Jerry Gibson, Elementary Principal; Caroline Goss, High School Principal; Ralph Harrington, Associate Principal; Darlene King PPS Admin/Associate Elementary Principal; press and public.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting September 8, 2022. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Public Comments:

A community member spoke about a book written by a Harvard Graduate pertaining to data on Transgender students.

Superintendent/Administrative Reports

The Audit Report was presented to the Board by Jeff Beecher. There were no findings.

Dr. Silvernell: absent

Mr. Gibson:

- Parent Information Nights were well attended.
- We got 20 to 30 parents to sign up for a PTA.
- Elementary students took part in Fire Prevention week today. Some of the events were cut short due to an actual emergency so the Fire Department was called away.
- Cambridge Valley Readers program is back up and running.
- Grades k-2 will have a Halloween Parade on the 31st.
- School Bus Safety Week is next week and Cheryl Benson has some events planned for our Elementary students.
- The School Store will have a new location and will be opening by the end of the month.
- We sent 10 teachers away to have Orton Gillingham training. We will also have different days for some in-house Math Professional Development. Testing for the Elementary will all be computer based this year. There has also been a shift with Science. The test will go from a 4th grade test to a 5th grade test.

Mrs. King:

- A snapshot of the Special Education numbers was shared with the Board.
- We are holding revision meetings to address IEP's and to get a breakdown of where we are.
- We currently have 9 ELL students so we will be looking to increase those services.

Mrs. Goss:

- We had the best start of school since before COVID.
- The new cell phone policy has been well received by the students and is being universally enforced by the teachers and support staff.
- Field trips are back and certain grades recently went to Christ the King for some team building for the day. Our Spanish I students went to UAlbany, and the 8th grade went to Career Jam.
- The health & Wellness Committee is sponsoring a Blood Drive here on November 1, 2022. They will not be opening it up to the community just yet due to COVID numbers climbing back up. They will look at opening things up to the community maybe in the Spring.
- November 2nd we will have proctors on the Go here at CCS and the ELA classes will attend an assembly.
- We had a low turnout for open house. We are looking to reimagine it for next year to bring the numbers up.
- PSAT's were offered to the 11th grade students.
- National Honor Society tapping will take place soon with the Induction Ceremony to take place on November 10th.
- We will have Spirit Week next week and the Elementary and Secondary will have the same themed days K-12.

BOE/Committee Reports:

Mr. Price announced that the vote that occurred in July to reserve the Boards right to appeal the decision on the Mascot, that the Board has chosen, by majority vote, to move forward with the appeal.

Mr. Honyoust mentioned that it is Native American Heritage month and he knew of Joe Brushac possibly coming to school as a guest speaker and hoped he could provide more education to the students regarding Native American history.

Mr. Honyoust read a personal statement on why he voted to appeal the decision on the Mascot. See attached statement from Mr. Honyoust.

New Business:

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mr. Honyoust to approve the consent agenda for personnel and the consent agenda with regard to new business. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to approve the Budget Transfer in the amount of \$20,227 to align Budget Codes to current staff salaries and cover negative balances. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to approve the MOA between the Cambridge Central School District and the CSEA regarding hourly wage increase and HRA accounts. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to approve the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Cambridge Central School

District, the Audit Committee recommends that the attached 2021-2022 Financial Statements, Independent Audit report as presented by the district's independent auditor, Beecher & Bethel, LLP, be and is hereby approved. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mr. Honyoust to approve the appointment of Michele Hogan to a four-year probationary appointment as a School Business Administrator, in the tenure area of School Business Administrator, commencing October 14, 2022 and ending October 13, 2026, with a prorated annual salary of \$109,000. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to appoint Kate Canini as the Alternate Purchasing Agent for the period of October 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to appoint Michele Hogan to the following for the period of October 14, 2022 through June 30, 2023: District Treasurer; System Administrator for the Glens Falls National Online Banking System; Purchasing Agent. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mr. Honyoust to designate signatures of Michele Hogan, District Treasurer on district checks for the period October 14, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to authorize Michele Hogan as the Official Designee for corrected tax bill purposes for the period October 14, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to create the following positions retroactive to July 1, 2022: 2-.5 AIS Math Teachers-Elementary; 1-AIS Math Teacher-Elementary; Speech Teacher; 2-Teaching Assistants-Elementary; 1-Teaching Assistant-Secondary; Special Education Teacher-Secondary. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mr. Honyoust to amend the appointment of Christine Eldred to read as follows: BE IT RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints Christine Eldred to a probationary appointment as a Teaching Assistant in the Teaching Assistant tenure area, retroactive to August 31, 2022, for a four-year term tentatively scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2026, contingent upon her successful completion of the probationary term and having received composite or overall APPR ratings of either "Effective" or "Highly Effective" in at least three of the four preceding years and a rating higher than "Ineffective" at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year and pending certification. She is to be placed on Step 3 of the CFA TA salary schedule for an annual salary of \$21,402 plus \$600 for a prorated annual salary of \$22,002. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to hereby approve the agreement dated October 7, 2022 between the District and employee 01984 and authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to execute the same on the District's behalf and to take action consistent with its terms. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Public Comment:

A community member commended the Board for the restructure of the administrative team, the mental health coordinator. He also spoke about the Board not being transparent in the vote on the appeal.

At 7:41PM Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Ziehm to adjourn the meeting. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Breault & Mr. Gifford absent)

Kate Canini
District Clerk

Consent Agenda-Personnel

- Accepted the letter of resignation from Paul Larson from his job as a Bus Driver retroactive to September 21, 2022.
- Amended the stipend amount for the PSP's to be \$2,150 per year for the following individuals for the next two years beginning with the 2022-2023 school year: Megan Lozier; John Mooney; Hillory Hamilton; Daryl Reiter; Minnette Cummings; Kristy Jeffords; Penelope LaPointe; Audrey Brownell; Aimee Smith; Heidi Record.
- Amended Megan Lozier's PSP Coordinator stipend to be \$1,200 per year for the next two years beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.
- Approved the following mentor/mentee pairing for the 2022-2023 school year with the mentor to receive a \$1600: Mike Bentzen will be mentored by Kristen Narkiewicz; JT Sawyer will be mentored by Derek Srygley.
- Appointed Aydin O'Hearn as the District Mental Health Director starting with the 2022-2023 school year. She is to be paid a \$4,200 stipend.
- Accepted the letter of resignation from Jillian Reilly from her position as a Special Education Teacher retroactive to October 10, 2022.
- Appointed Aydin O'Hearn as the co-advisor if the Yearbook. She is to be paid a \$2040 stipend.
- Appointed Wyatt Whitman as the Rifle Club advisor for the 2022-2023 school year with a \$3,200.
- Appointed Melissa Johnson as the Modified Girls Soccer coach with a stipend of \$2367 retroactive to September 1, 2022.
- Appointed Chris Gibson as the JV Baseball coach with a stipend of \$2491.
- Approved the FMLA maternity leave for Lourdes Nigro to begin on or about December 12, 2022 with an anticipated return date of on or about February 16, 2023.
- Approved an 8 week FMLA Paternity Leave for Stephen Marquart.

- Approved John Meerwarth Jr. as a substitute Bus Driver retroactive to September 27, 2022. He is to be paid \$19.00 per hour.
- Accepted the resignation from Jackie Hall from her position as the modified girls' basketball coach effective immediately.
- Appointed Cindy Bohley as a substitute Bus Adie to be paid \$13.50 per hour retroactive to September 21, 2022.
- Appointed Roger Mathers to a full time Bus Driver position with the District retroactive to September 19, 2022. He will be paid \$15.31 per hour.
- Adjusted the following Substitute rates to be \$13.50 per hour retroactive to September 6, 2022: Bus Aides, Teacher Aides, Food Service Helpers.
- Approved the following Graduate Credits at \$74 per credit:
-Andrew Lapitsky-9 Credits from Southern New Hampshire University
- Appointed Denise McAuley as a Substitute Teacher Aide retroactive to September 19, 2022.
- Appointed Denise McAuley to the position of Teacher Aide retroactive to October 1, 2022. She is to be paid \$13.50 per hour.
- Appointed Brittany Clairmont as a Substitute Teacher Aide retroactive to September 19, 2022.
- Appointed Brittany Clairmont to the position of Teacher Aide retroactive to October 1, 2022. She is to be paid \$13.50 per hour.
- Accepted the resignation of Karen Esposito from her position as the Elementary Newspaper advisor effective immediately.
- Appointed Jen Wagner and Michaela Parker as the Elementary Newspaper advisors with each to
- Appointed Sara Casey to Substitute Dishwasher retroactive to September 26, 2022. She is to be paid \$13.50 per hour.
- Accepted the resignation of Crystal Navioan from her position as a part time Dishwasher retroactive to September 26, 2022.
- Appointed Sara Casey to the position of part-time Dishwasher retroactive to October 1, 2022. She is to be paid \$13.50 per hour.
- Appointed Treavor LeBlanc as the 3rd Grade Wrestling coach. He is to be paid \$75.
- Appointed Sherman Trinkle as the 4th Grade Wrestling coach. He is to be paid \$75.
- Appointed Frank Fronhoffer as the 5th Grade Wrestling coach. He is to be paid \$75.
- Appointed Chris Fronhoffer as the 6th Grade Wrestling coach. He is to be paid \$75.
- Accepted the letter of resignation from Brian Cofresi from his position as the Boys Modified Basketball coach effective immediately.
- Appointed Brian Cofresi as the Girls Modified coach for Teams A and B. He is to be paid \$3,215 for coaching Team A and \$3,537 for coaching Team B.
- Appointed Timothy Howe as a Substitute Building Maintenance Worker retroactive to October 5, 2022. He is to be paid \$15.00 per hour.
- Appointed Brooklynn Lee and Mackenzie Stahler as TCIS Coordinators retroactive to September 1, 2022 with each to receive a \$2,150 stipend.
- Appointed the following Teachers for IST/BST for the 2022-2023 school year as per the Cambridge CFA contract with each to receive a \$500 stipend: Colleen Lemieux, Deborah Wright, Jennifer McGreevy, Jennifer Wagner, Jeremiah Andrew, Jessica Kirk, Kelly

Toleman, Kiera Ahern, Michaela Parker, Penelope LaPointe, Shannon Celani, Sue Varone-Walsh.

- Approved Patrice Wright as a Substitute Nurse retroactive to October 7, 2022. She is to be paid a per diem rate of \$130.00.

Consent Agenda - New Business

- Accepted the Treasurers Report for the month of August 2022.
- Approved the Student Activity Report dated September 30, 2022.
- Approved the Special Education Report dated October, 2022.
- Approved the Walking Program to run from November 7, 2022-May 5, 2023 excluding weekends and holidays.
- Accepted an anonymous donation in the amount of \$100 to be used for the Cambridge Closet.
- Accept the donation from the Greenwich Elks #2223 for their \$300 donation for the Cambridge Closet Fund.
- Declared the list of weeded books from the Elementary Library Media Center as surplus.
- Approved the late transportation request from Nicole Daunic to transport her child to Southshire School in North Bennington, VT for the 2022-2023 school year with transportation to be from a central pick up point.
- Approved a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC as well as the Cloisters Museum on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 for 8th-12th grade Latin students.
- Approved a 7th grade field trip by the Latin students to the Clark Art Institute on Tuesday, Nov. 22 to Williams College in Massachusetts.
- Approved the late transportation request from Shelly Landmesser to transport her children to Grace Christian School in Bennington, VT for the 2022-2023 school year with transportation to be from a central pick up point.
- Approved the late transportation request from Scott and Jennifer Petell to transport their child to Grace Christian School in Bennington, VT for the 2022-2023 school year with transportation to be from a central pick up point.
- Declared the following list of items as surplus:

# of items	Make of item	Type/description of item
4	Misc.	Charging carts
1	HP	Chromebook
1	Planar	Monitor
1	HoverCam	Document camera
10	KDS	Monitors
10	Google	Chromeboxes
26	SMART	Interactive panels
4	Apple	MacBooks
2	Apple	iPads

1	Dell	Monitor
7	Cisco	Access points

DRAFT

Statement read by Dillon Honyoust at the October 13, 2022 Regular Board meeting:

Through the past two years I have been directly connected to the “mascot” debate through unique circumstances. For starters, I am Native American. My family has lived intermittently between the Onondaga, Oneida and the Cambridge area since the 40’s. My great Grandmother Ginnie, an Oneida woman of the Wolf Clan, participated in the annual Indian Village at the Elmher Estate in nearby Hoosick Falls some 80 years ago. Each summer there would be a group of Indians who would travel from many different surrounding reservations to come participate in reenactments of battles fought through history. There was also a village set up that displayed how our ancestors had once lived peacefully for centuries. It was this unique opportunity that ultimately brought my family to this area.

Her son David, my Grandfather, grew up working in the pulp wood industry based out of Hoosick Falls. He earned a good reputation for himself as a hard worker and man of his word. He established many life-long relationships with his friends, and truly loved this area. Not all was well and good, as his sister Joyce was murdered one night in Hoosick Falls, in a case that never found justice served. She was only 26. He would often times travel to Oneida and Onondaga to visit his many Aunts, Uncles, and cousins. Eventually, he met my Grandma Velda Homer, an Onondaga Beaver Clan, and Faith Keeper of the nation. They married and had children together, one of them being my Dad, Duane. The children were raised on the Onondaga reservation during their early years, but the family would eventually move to Buskirk NY in the early 60’s. My Dad and Uncle Dave both attended CCS until the mid 70’s, which is when my Grandfather was called upon by the Oneida clan mothers to become War Chief of the nation. There had been a calling from the people that the tribal government was drifting away from traditional ways, which was based upon a matriarchal society. So the Clan Mothers, knowing that my Grandfather David was fit for the role, appointed him as War Chief and head of the Oneida Indian Warrior Society.

When my Grandfather was done fulfilling his role as Chief, he would move back to Buskirk. As did my Dad and Uncle Dave, who would both start families of their own. All of their children including myself would attend CCS, and many of our children are either Alumni or current students at CCS. All in all, the Honyoust family has enrolled 22 children at CCS since the 1970’s. Not one of them, has ever felt any harm or offense from the Cambridge Indian symbol. In fact, the statements made by my Grandfather in 2001 still echo today when he said “We would be offended if you were to remove the logo”...”This is part of our history, it depicts honor and courage.” Much of his belief in these statements is why he went on to help the school update their imagery in 2001, in choosing the current imagery that has been used most recently and is under attack today. Updating it from the Western Plains Indian to the Eastern Woodland Indian. This was true **progress**. Removing such a symbol, while fully knowing that the local American Indians wish for it to remain, is an **insult**. This is the exact opposite of what the schools recent diversity, equity, and inclusion policy is supposed to prevent. How is this inclusive to the local Native Americans? Who gets to decide who is truly harmed and who is not? Or who is harmed the most? And how do we move forward? Which brings me to my two main points of this message...

Starting with the basic fundamental principles of democracy, it is imperative that we all understand the influence and impact of the Iroquois Great Law of Peace. The Great Law was

established centuries before the European settlers came to North America. Within the Great Law, there are several key points that attributed toward how the Haudenosaunee 6 nations became one of the most influential and powerful democracies ever. One being the priority and spirit of compromise. When the chiefs of the six nations would meet over the council fire in Onondaga, the meetings would often start with different ideas and perspectives and wouldn't end until all 6 nations agreed on a resolution or outcome. This process could take days, weeks, months or even years. But the priority was always to find a unifying consensus. Another being the principal of fair and equal treatment. Just because one Nation may be more powerful or resourceful doesn't give them the right to use threats or forceful tactics. We are all brothers and sisters under the creator and must work together. A Chief or clan mother must never strong arm an individual group or person to gain political or personal gain, this would be considered abuse of power and subject to removal. Another that may be the most obvious but worth mentioning is honesty. The leaders must hold the upmost honesty and transparency when making decisions on behalf of the people.

These key principles and bylaws of the Great Law were so influential, that the original founding fathers of the united States used many of the same ideas and thoughts when creating the United States Constitution. Unfortunately today, our leaders in higher power have forgotten many of the basic fundamentals. Government Bureaucrats have displayed a disconnect from the principals and values that stand as a foundation of this country. Lawmakers and politicians have sought after personal gain and power above representing the people as a whole. Lies and deceit have become commonplace and often times swept under the corporate rug of shame. Accountability and acknowledgment of wrong doing has been removed from any sort of expectation or resolve. The true Democratic Process is being lost within the selfishness of the few at the top...at the expense of the people holding them up.

In the case of the Cambridge Indians name and imagery, we have witnessed many of these same issues. We have seen NYS Commissioner of Education, Betty Rosa, a downstate bureaucrat who happens to be in an appointed position, overrule a duly elected local School Board on a matter that directly involves the support of a large majority of the taxpaying community as well as the local American Indians who wish to retain a piece of their history that they are directly connected to. Furthermore, Mrs. Rosa used her unwarranted power to choose sides in a matter that had no winners outside of a compromise, and threatened to remove school funding and cut school officials if the district did not comply. Setting a contradictory example to all of NYS and beyond, claiming to protect our children while simultaneously threatening to cut school funding, which would stifle the learning environment for those very children. The hypocrisy is sickening.

Lastly, in the latest ruling of the districts appeal to the Albany County Supreme Court, acting supreme court justice Sara McGinty stated within her decision piece "...Instead of objective evidence, the July resolution relied on the urgings of David Honyoust, a District resident, a member of the Haudenosaunee Nation and the grandfather of a board member. Honyoust, however, only spoke for himself. He was not an elected or appointed representative of the Haudenosaunee Nation, whose ancestors occupied the lands now used by the district..."

This statement is a clear example of pushing a one sided narrative and avoiding any nuance that is relevant to the case at hand. The fact of the matter is that my Grandfather David Honyoust **was** an appointed War Chief of the Oneida Indian Nation. He wasn't speaking for himself, he was speaking for his family and Grandchildren attending the school at the time, as well as the vast majority of the community. There was no need to provide tribal support, he was the tribal support on a matter that he was very aware of and truly understood its significance. This is the precedent that was set 20 years ago, and the fact that the district has been forced to move forward with zero compromise is a complete neglect of leadership by Commissioner Rosa and a blatant abuse of power. It is for all of these reasons, that I respectfully vote to appeal the Albany County Supreme Courts decision. I welcome any members of the community or anyone interested to read an invitation from The Governors Interstate Indian Council directed to Chief David Honyoust.

DRAFT