

## **REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING January 11, 2023**

The Cambridge Central School Board of Education held their regular Board of Education meeting on January 11, 2023 in the Secondary Library Media Center. Mrs. Ziehm called the meeting to order at 7:00PM Board of Education members in attendance were President-David Shay Price (absent); Vice-President- Jessica Ziehm; Caleb Breault (absent); Neil Gifford, and Dillon Honyoust; Dr. Douglas Silvernell, Superintendent of Schools and Kate Canini, District Clerk. Also present were; Michele Hogan, Business Administrator; Jerry Gibson, Elementary Principal; Caroline Goss, High School Principal; Ralph Harrington, Associate Principal; Darlene King Interim PPS Admin/Associate Elementary Principal; press and public.

### **Public Comments:**

A community member spoke about the mascot and how it should be used to teach as we are an educational institution.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Mrs. Ziehm made the motion, seconded by Mr. Gifford to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting December 8, 2023. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Price & Mr. Breault absent)

### **Superintendent/Administrative Reports**

#### **Dr. Silvernell:**

- The Fitness Center is open to the community and so far we have about 30 people using it.
- The Rural American Medical Group is trying to bring medical services to those without health insurance. They would like to use the school. We are working on a date in the Fall for this to happen.
- The construction project vote will take place March 21, 2023. The proposition and SEQRA are on the agenda for approval tonight.
- February 16 there will be a Budget and Building Project presentation as well as on March 2, 2023. We will also present at the Faculty meetings.
- The annual Legislative Priorities are on the agenda for approval.
- We will be posting for the Associate Elementary Principal/Pupil Personal Service position by the end of the month. If the search does not go well we will post again with a July 1, 2023 start date.
- Rifle Team is up and running.
- Unified Sports program is back again this year with the Best Buddies Program.

#### **Mrs. Hogan:**

- In December we submitted the ESSA Transparency Report.
- We have done the certificate of substantial completion for Project 2020.
- We had the bid opening to lease buses. We will get the new buses in March.
- We put out an RFP for Construction Manager for the District.
- On the agenda tonight is the UPK Memorandum of Agreement.
- Also on the agenda for tonight is a Budget Transfer to mover copy paper from Buildings & Grounds into the proper code.
- A preliminary report for next year's Budget was presented to the Board.

**Mrs. Goss:**

- Field Trips are back in full swing. Seniors will have their annual trip to SUNY ADK for their research project.
- We would like to schedule college tours for students next year.
- Joe Bruchac and son Jesse were here to present to 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. They shared some information and insights about their Abenaki culture.
- Robotics is back. The team has an upcoming competition in Ballston Spa.
- Course selections are starting. The hope is to have them completed by February break.
- January 24-27<sup>th</sup> is Regents testing. The ELA regents will be given to all 11<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Mr. Gibson:**

- Winter Concerts are back and they were great. Mrs. Chadwick did a great job.
- Yo Re Mi Yoga Company was here and presented to K-2 students and staff. All really enjoyed it and they all participated.
- Bentley Seeds has partnered with grades 3-6 to help design their seed packets for this year.
- We will be having a Too Good for Drugs assembly for grades 3-6 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Dental Hygiene presentations for pre k-6<sup>th</sup> grade will take place prior to the mobile unit coming to school to give students dental care.
- Benchmark Testing will take place this month. We will have CBT in Math and ELA for grades 3-6.
- Awards Ceremonies are back this year. They will take place at various times throughout the year.

**Mrs. King:**

- We are working on Annual Review Meetings to begin for all CSE, CPSE, and Section 504 students
- Visits to special education preschools planned for January 18, 2023- to assist in planning for needs of incoming K students
- Budget needs for special education are under review- reviewing current out of district placements, projecting for additional programming/ staffing needs based upon student needs, reviewing 1:1 aide and shared aide needs, Review of contracted services through private agencies and BOCES, etc.
- Assessing PD needs of Special Education staff
- We are monitoring ELL numbers and monitoring / assessing instructional needs of ELL population.

**Board Reports:**

Mr. Gifford inquired on the status of the Emergency Gym floor project. Dr. Silvernell told the Board we had not hear back from SED. Mr. Gifford also asked about the status of the appeal. Dr. Silvernell said he thought it had been put in and Mrs. Ziehm thought it was paused. Dr. Silvernell told Mr. Gifford he would look into it and get back to him.

Mrs. Ziehm reports about a recent field trip with students to visit other schools that have Ag Programs to see what they offer. They had students from 6-11<sup>th</sup> grade in the group and they visited Greenwich and Schuylerville.

Mr. Honyoust praised Mrs. Schraver for her great work on the Longhouse Project the 4<sup>th</sup> grade had done.

**Old Business:**

The Second Reading of the following policies was done: 2310-Regular Meetings; 2340-Notice of Board Meetings; 2360-Minutes; 2330-Executive Session; 2160-School District Officer and Employee Code of Ethics

**New Business:**

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

Mrs. Ziehm made the motion, seconded by Mr. Honyoust to approve the following resolution regarding the Board of Education's 2023 Advocacy Priorities:

**RESOLUTION DATED January 11, 2023 CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Cambridge Central School District strives to provide an outstanding education and post-secondary pathway for each and every student; and

WHEREAS; the district recognizes the deep commitment shown by the legislature and the Executive to fully fund the foundation formula; and

WHEREAS, the District works diligently to meet the needs of all students while still fulfilling its core mission, even while in our third year of a pandemic, and

WHEREAS, the District is facing significant increased costs due to inflationary factors for labor, fuel and goods; and

WHEREAS, property tax levy legislation at the state level has provided an increased need for State Aid to maintain quality programs; and

WHEREAS, public schools are being asked to do more for students than ever before, so they are prepared for college, military or a career; and

WHEREAS, each child in Cambridge Central School District only has one opportunity to go through the full elementary and secondary educational experience;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cambridge Central School District Board of Education calls on the New York State Legislature and Governor Kathy Hochul to act upon the following priorities:

1. Fund and Adjust the Foundation Formula
  - A. Include a due minimum increase for all districts, regardless of Foundation Aid phase-in level.
  - B. Maintain the "SAVE Harmless" provision.
  - C. Fully fund expense based aids.
  - D. Support for an initial evaluation of the current cost to educate a successful student.

2. Increase the \$30,000 threshold on BOCES Aid for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers.
3. Support universal free meals for students by maintaining the availability of universal meals at no cost to families.
4. Workforce Development
  - A. Increase flexibility in teacher certification requirements to allow districts to more effectively utilize those teachers that they are able to hire.
  - B. Make adjustments to Tier 6 of the retirement system to help districts retain staff by making longevity more valuable.

Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Price & Mr. Breault absent)

Mrs. Ziehm made the motion, seconded by Mr. Gifford to approve the Budget Transfer in the amount of \$18,000 to cover the cost of copy paper and put it in the proper code. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Price & Mr. Breault absent)

Mrs. Ziehm made the motion, seconded by Mr. Honyoust to approve Change Order GC-01 with Akros Management Inc. for a decrease in the amount of \$1,377. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Price & Mr. Breault absent)

Mrs. Ziehm made the motion, seconded by Mr. Gifford to approve the following resolution:  
WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of the Cambridge Central School District (the “District”) is proposing to undertake a capital project (collectively, the “Project”) consisting of the reconstruction and improvements of the auditorium and rooms adjacent to the auditorium in the Cambridge Main School Building, site work, acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings, facilities and sites are to be used and the payment of incidental expense related thereto (the “Project”); and  
WHEREAS, the proposed Project entails the construction, maintenance, repair, replacement, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation involving no substantial changes or expansion beyond 10,000 square feet of existing structures and/or facilities; and  
WHEREAS, the proposed Project is a routine activity of the District; and  
WHEREAS, the Board has considered information and documentation which describes the design and intent of the Project;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the District, based upon the record before it, including the general, specific and detailed knowledge of the Board of the proposed Project, and under the applicable standards of New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) and 6 NYCRR Part 617.5, hereby determines that the Project is a Type II Action, and that no further action is required to satisfy the requirements of SEQRA.  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution takes effect immediately.

Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Price & Mr. Breault absent)

Mrs. Ziehm made the motion, seconded by Mr. Gifford to approve the following resolution:  
RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 11, 2023 OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT AUTHORIZING A PROPOSITION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS AT A SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CAMBRIDGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (the "School District") that a special meeting of the qualified voters of the School District be and the same is hereby called to be held in the Auditorium of the Cambridge Main School Building, 24 South Park Street, Cambridge, New York, on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m. prevailing time for the purpose of voting on the following proposition:

**PROPOSITION**

Shall the Board of Education of the Cambridge Central School District be authorized to: (1) reconstruct and improve the Cambridge Main School Building and site, including, but not limited to, reconstruction and improvements of the auditorium and adjacent rooms. acquire original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such building is to be used and pay costs incidental thereto, at a maximum aggregate cost of \$11,760,000; (2) expend such sum for such purpose, including the expenditure of \$930,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, taking into account State aid and the amount to be expended from the Capital Reserve Funds, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$10,830,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

The vote upon such proposition shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the polls shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. prevailing time or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 8:00 p.m. to cast their ballots.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote at said special meeting of voters. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the special meeting of voters. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at special meeting of voters to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applications for absentee ballots may be applied for at the Office of the School District Clerk from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. Applications for absentee ballots must be received by the School District Clerk by or prior to 3:30 p.m., on March 14, 2023 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter; or prior to 3:30 p.m., on March 20, 2023 if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. All absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk not later than 5:00 p.m. on March 21, 2023.

The Education Law makes special provision for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these rights should be directed to the Clerk of the board. A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection on each of the five (5) days prior to the day of the vote (except Saturday and

Sunday) and on the day of the vote in the Office of the School District Clerk, during regular office hours between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Any qualified voter may challenge the acceptance of the absentee voter's ballot of any person on such list, by making his challenge and the reasons therefor known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission not later than twenty-five (25) days before the vote. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 p.m. on the day of the vote.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a notice of such meeting in two newspapers of general circulation within the School District, four (4) times within the seven (7) weeks next preceding such School District meeting, the first publication to be at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Price & Mr. Breault absent)

The First Reading of the following policies: Policy 0115 Student Harassment and Bullying; 4810 E-Teaching About Controversial Issues.

At 8:02PM Mrs. Ziehm made the motion, seconded by Mr. Gifford to go into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to proposed, pending or current litigation. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Price & Mr. Breault absent)

At 8:40PM Mrs. Ziehm made the motion, seconded by Mr. Hounyoust to adjourn the meeting. Vote 3 yes, 0 no; motion carried. (Mr. Price & Mr. Breault absent)

Kate Canini  
District Clerk

### **Consent Agenda-Personnel**

- Appointed Wes Clark as the mentor for Michele Hogan to be paid \$50 per hour retroactive to October 21, 2022.
- Approved the following Substitute rates: Certified Teacher-\$120.00 per diem; 4-year degree/no certification-\$105.00 per diem; Less than 4 years/no certification-\$100.00 per diem.

- Appointed Stephen Haviland as a Substitute Bus Driver retroactive to December 20, 2022 and he is to be paid \$19.00 per hour.
- Accepted the letter of resignation from Mary Jane Young from her position as a School Nurse effective July 28, 2023.
- Accepted the letter of resignation from Trudy Nesbitt from her position as a Teaching Assistant effective June 30, 2023.
- Appointed Hosanna Davis as an Elementary Building Substitute for the remainder of the school year retroactive to January 3, 2023. She is to be paid A prorated Step 1 BA Salary of \$42,875.
- Appointed Stephen Haviland as a full time permanent Bus Driver retroactive to January 9, 2023. He is to be paid a prorated annual salary of \$12,244.
- Appointed Stacy Haviland as a Substitute Bus Aide retroactive to January 9, 2023. She is to be paid \$14.20 per hour.
- Appointed Hunter Day as a volunteer wrestling coach.

#### **Consent Agenda - New Business**

- Accepted the Treasurers Report for the month of November 2022.
- Approved the Student Activity Report dated December 31, 2022.
- Approved the Special Education Report dated January 2023.
- Accepted the anonymous donation of \$100 for the Cambridge Closet Fund.
- Accepted the donation of \$250 from William and Kelli Codner for the "Helpful Harry Fund".
- Approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Cambridge Central School District and the Saratoga Regional YMCA for the 2022-2023 school year.
- Approved the agreement between the Cambridge Central School District and Advanced Therapy.
- Approved an additional Petty Cash bag in the amount of \$300 retroactive to January 3, 2023 until the end of Basketball Season during the 2022-2023 school year.