

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE SPENCERPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: March 9, 2021  
Spencerport, New York

Members Present: Mr. Bracken (via Zoom), Ms. Czarnecki, Mr. Gibbardo, Mr. Hutton,  
Mr. Kincaid, Mr. Miceli, Ms. Stone

Absent:

Others Present: Ms. Clapper, Dr. Kissel, Ms. Lissow, Mr. Wood, Mr. Zinkiewich

The Study Session of the Board of Education of the Spencerport Central School District was called to order at 6:05 p.m. E.D.S.T. by the President, Mr. Hutton, in the Board of Education Conference Room in the Administration Building and via Zoom.

**1. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The Board of Education members and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mr. Kincaid and seconded by Mr. Miceli that the Board of Education approve the Business Session Agenda.

Vote of the Board: 7

Yes: 7

No: 0

**3. BOARD RECOGNITION**

Music in Our Schools Month – Mr. Kincaid thanked the music and band educators for all they do for students. To help celebrate Music in Our Schools Month, he presented a proclamation from the Board. Ms. Stone also acknowledged the Spencerport music program and their history of excellence. She recognized that students are working hard and educators are working even harder. Spencerport has a tradition of excellence when it comes to music and she looks forward to seeing students on the stage, very soon.

SPENCERPORT CENTRAL SCHOOLS  
Board of Education

WHEREAS, the Month of March has been designated as National Music in Our Schools Month;

WHEREAS, our music educators dedicate themselves to bringing music into the lives of students every day. They are committed to ensuring that our district provides students with:

- A well-rounded education;
- A critical tool for social and emotional well- being;
- An opportunity to work to their full potential;
- Life skills needed to make decisions and juggle multiple tasks;
- Months of practice and rehearsals, and the process of learning that takes place in the music classroom—whether virtual or distanced in person.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Spencerport Central School District thanks the music and band educators for dedicating themselves to reaching all students with wonderful music experiences, and be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Spencerport Central School District hereby acknowledges, with deepest appreciation, the passion and commitment our music educator's exhibit on a regular basis to provide a quality music education for the Spencerport school community.

Adopted this day, March 9, 2021

Kevin Hutton, President  
Greg Kincaid, Vice President  
Gary Bracken  
Katherine Czarnecki

David Gibbardo  
Michael Miceli  
Lori Stone

**4. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Parent, Sandro Belpanno of Carolotta Drive spoke before the Board. He is the parent of two Spencerport students, one at Bernabi and one at Cosgrove. He expressed that the hybrid model does not work for his children. He presented his view that the current 2-day hybrid plan is flawed and feels that mask use with less than 6 foot spacing in the classroom is sufficient. Mr. Belpanno asked the Interim Superintendent to develop a reopening plan for full time instruction using masking with 3 foot spacing.

Parent, Greg Macomber of Sagewood Drive spoke before the Board. He is the parent of three Spencerport students at Bernabi. He thanked those on the Board that responded to his emails. He feels strongly that students need to be back in school as much as possible. He commented on the recent parent survey and hopes that parents will be patient with the new plan. He expressed that parents feel that they have not been heard and urged patience. He asked that we re-open school 4 days per week by the end of spring break.

Community member Art Stoler of Amity Street spoke before the Board. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak and thanked Dr. Kissel and Mr. Zinkiewich. He referenced recent black lives matter signs and how they are an expression of political and social situations. He feels that schools districts are bedrocks of their communities. He commented on the disproportionality of staff members to students of color and asked how can black lives matter when we do not have black professionals working here. He referenced the poet laureate Amanda Gorman and her piece a Hill to climb and asked that we commit to bring back diversity.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

### 5.1 Old Business

- 5.11 Approval of the Board of Education meeting minutes held on February 23, 2021, February 24, 2021, February 25, 2021 and March 2, 2021.

### 5.2 New Business

5.21 Approval of First Budget Notice

LEGAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING, BUDGET VOTE AND ELECTION  
SPENCERPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Budget Hearing and Information Meeting (Presentation of Proposed Budget) will be held in person at the Spencerport Administration Building, Room 15 and via a Zoom meeting at 6:30 p.m. EDST on Tuesday, May 4, 2021. Information regarding virtual attendance will be posted on the District's website at [www.spencerportschools.org](http://www.spencerportschools.org).

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN, that the annual meeting of the qualified voters of the Spencerport Central School District, budget vote and election will be held on Tuesday May 18, 2021 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. EDST at the Spencerport Administration Building, 71 Lyell Avenue, Spencerport, NY to vote upon the following items:

1. To adopt the annual budget of the School District for the fiscal year 2021-22 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation of property of the District.
2. To elect two (2) members of the Board of Education for three 3-year terms (commencing July 1, 2020) to succeed Mr. Kevin Hutton and Mr. Michael Miceli.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that a list of persons to whom absentee ballots are issued will be available for inspection upon request on the day of the election and on each of the 5 days preceding. Any qualified voter may object to the voting of the ballot upon appropriate grounds for making his/her challenge and the reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN, that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote at said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is: (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen years of age or older, and (3) a

resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days next preceding the annual vote and election.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that copies of the proposed budget for the 2021-2022 school year may be obtained by any resident in the district during the fourteen (14) days immediately preceding the School Budget Vote on the district website [www.spencerportschools.org](http://www.spencerportschools.org). If you are unable to access the statement from the District website, please contact the District Clerk.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that nominating petitions for candidates for the office of member of the Board of Education must be filed with the Clerk of the School District not later than Monday, April 19, 2021 by 5:00 p.m. (EDST). Each petition for nomination must be directed to the District Clerk; alternatively, candidates can complete and submit forms (available on the District's website) via email to the District Clerk, [mclapper@spencerportschools.org](mailto:mclapper@spencerportschools.org). The petition must state the name and address of the candidate, and must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) voters or 2% of the number of voters from the 2019 election, whichever is greater. The number of petitions necessary for 2021-2022 is twenty-five (25). Required signatures are computed in accordance with the resolution duly adopted at the Annual Meeting of the school district held on June 10, 1969.

AND NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that military voters or a spouse, parent, child or dependent of a voter as described above, accompanying or being with such voter who are qualified voters of the School District may apply for a military ballot by requesting an application from the District Clerk at 585-349-5101 or [mclapper@spencerportschools.org](mailto:mclapper@spencerportschools.org) as soon as possible, as military ballots must be transmitted by the District by April 23, 2021. The District Clerk must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 18, 2021. In a request for a military ballot application or ballot, the military voter may indicate his/her preference for receiving the application or ballot by mail, facsimile transmission or electronic mail.

Marcela Clapper  
School District Clerk

Dated at Spencerport, New York  
March 9, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Kincaid and seconded by Mr. Miceli to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote of the Board: 7

Yes: 7  
No: 0

## **6. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **6.1 President's Report and Communication**

Mr. Hutton commented on the superintendent search and the recent announcement of the four great candidates. The candidates will meet with community and staff next week as well as with the Board. The Board will then make their choice and are confident in selecting an excellent candidate.

### **6.2 Board of Education Members' Reports**

Mr. Kincaid shared that he attended the Budget Focus Group where the tax levy and tax rate were reviewed. He also attended the MCSBA President and Vice President meeting where shared COVID challenges were discussed, as well as the importance of communicating with the community about moving forward on fully re-opening schools. Mr. Hutton also attended that meeting and discussed shared frustrations with the limitations with NYSED. Mr. Gibbardo attended the Rotary meeting. Mr. Bracken commented that MCSBA is actively advocating on how to conduct budget vote and elections safely. The desire and hope is to go back to in person voting.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **7.1 School Re-Opening Update**

Mr. Zinkiewich introduced Mr. O'Connor, the Director of Student Services and Ms. Adam, the District Medical Director. Mr. O'Connor provided an overview of safety elements, testing, and

Ms. Czarnecki left the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

vaccinations to update our efforts on re-opening schools fully. We are looking to the County and State for guidance as well as reviewing current guidance from the CDC. Indications regarding community transmission, testing protocols and vaccinations indicate that Spencerport is doing a

Ms. Czarnecki re-entered the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

good job at using layered mitigation strategies. The correct use of masks, physical 6 foot distancing and hygiene have made the return to school successful. The facilities department has done a wonderful job with frequent and consistent cleaning. Mr. O'Connor shared when there are positive cases, we work directly with the Monroe County Department of Health to work through possible exposure and contact tracing. In addition, he shared that there is no evidence of transmission occurring in our schools. Ms. Adam spoke regarding the indicators of community transmission, the total number of cases in the last 7 days and the positivity rate. The district recently provided the parents of K-5 students a learning model survey regarding a 4-day hybrid schedule. There were 1,200 responses, with 84% choosing the 4-day model, 11% chose the remote option and 5% are already in a 4 or 5-day model. Ms. Adam commented on the demand for vaccinations and that it should not affect the opening of schools. Dr. Mendoza has prioritized vaccinations for staff, and he has asked for data regarding the number of teachers who have been vaccinated, have an appointment, or choose not to be vaccinated. Mr. Gibbardo asked if the survey had an option to remain at the 2-day hybrid schedule. Mr. Zinkiewich indicated that it wasn't included because we wanted to be mindful of Dr. Kissel's charge to explore increasing in-person instruction for K-5.

Several scenarios are being considered as well as full remote, for those students who choose to remain at home. The ad-hoc committee is comprised of teachers and administrators. Each building is in the process of finding creative ways to utilize space differently to increase in-school instruction. Dr. Kissel shared the importance of students returning to school. She thanked everyone for their hard work in developing a plan and finding creative ways to use space. She appreciates that parents are advocating for their children but stressed the importance of treating people with respect and working collaboratively. She shared that even though transmission rates are lower, and more teachers have been vaccinated, we will still need to maintain the 6-foot spacing until the guidance changes. A recommendation will be finalized tomorrow, and we are hopeful that it will be a 4-day model. Items such as operations and transportation still need to be worked on. Dr. Kissel shared that Spencerport is an amazing place. Most parents want their students in school and this collaborative work is a testament to the quality of education here in Spencerport.

### 7.2 K-5 Report Card Update

Mr. Zinkewich introduced Ms. Kristen Paolini, Ms. Caroline Bodensteiner and Mr. Tom Burger to present the new elementary report cards. He shared that the process was set to roll out a year ago but was put on hold due to the pandemic. He thanked Ms. Paolini, Ms. Bodensteiner, Mr. Burger and Ms. Lori Faas as well as the K-5 team leaders and principals for all their hard work on this project. Parents were also involved in the decision on how we assess student progress. The new report card will better align assessment practices to curriculum and the next generation learning standards. All grades will have fewer scored elements, but Mr. Burger shared that grades K and 1<sup>st</sup> will have more skills that need scoring compared to the other grade levels. Ms. Bodensteiner explained that a social emotional development section will replace the behavior section. Teachers will be able to focus more on student strengths. The comment sections have been increased, with double the number of characters. Ms. Paolini shared that language has been clarified, mostly in math. Comments regarding RtI (Response to Intervention) and ENL (English as a new language) will have a section, in those students with the services. This will reduce the need to send multiple progress reports. Mr. Burger shared that guidance documents were revised for the ELA and math portions. This is a tool for k-5 teachers to look at scored elements with state standards. Ms. Paolini explained that a large shift for the report cards is standards-based grading. This shifts the point in time grading to end of year benchmark. Next steps were presented, which includes finalizing the guidance document and communicating to parents. The new report card format will be rolled out in the fall. Ms. Czarnecki asked about feedback regarding social emotional health and learning and the different ways to respond to it. The Board thanked everyone for all their efforts.

### 7.3 Special Education Report

Mr. Zinkewich introduced Ms. Andrea Pascuzzi, Mr. Michael Sorbera, Ms. Maria Dougherty, Ms. Brianne Eason, Ms. Kathy Wilson and Ms. Tammy Lopatka to present the special education report. Ms. Pascuzzi shared that students with a disability were able to attend four days per week, beginning in November 2020, as they needed more support. At the elementary level 90% returned, 60% in the middle school and 40% at the high school. She also shared that the transition from self-contained classes to co-integrated in grades 2 through 6 was expanded this year from the pilot in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Bernabi last year. This is a major shift in philosophy, providing access to general education. The transition is so successful that the goal is to expand from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Ms. Eason provided a glimpse of her co-integrated classroom where she

partners with a special education teacher. Items such as purposeful balancing of sections, classroom placement and pairing with general education students provides confidence for students. Special education teacher Ms. Wilson shared that she and general education teacher Ms. Lopatka piloted the transition last year at Bernabi. They shared ideas of things that did and did not work as well as professional development for teachers. Ms. Lopatka shared the importance of working as a team and that all students can benefit from this type of instruction. Ms. Wilson commented on the positive effect on a student's social emotional development. Mr. Sorbera explained that it was a huge undertaking and thanked the team at Cosgrove for implementing the change in 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Ms. Czarnecki left the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

A video was presented from the middle school. Mr. Sorbera shared that there were challenges with the pandemic and the middle school schedule, with daily transitions. Considerations for the 2021-2022 school year are being developed, including allowing common planning time for teachers.

Ms. Czarnecki re-entered the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Ms. Dougherty, gave a brief overview of the Orton Gillingham reading approach with RtI and students with a disability. This is a systematic multi-sensory experience, used primarily at the elementary level but can be used at the secondary level. There are five components to the

Mr. Bracken left the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

program and students would complete some blend of all these parts every day. Teacher feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. Students are showing significant growth. Teachers will receive training through half day and mini sessions. Ms. Pascuzzi presented next steps for the department. Dr. Kissel reiterated the importance of having students in the least restrictive

Mr. Bracken re-entered the meeting at 8:00 p.m.  
environment. Mr. Hutton and Mr. Kincaid thanked the team for their awesome work and collaborative effort.

#### 7.4 4000 Series Policy Review

Mr. Saltzberg presented the 4000 policy series which, had been reviewed by the administrative

Mr. Bracken left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

team and Superintendent. This series includes ten school administration policies. By combining several policies, it was suggested that Policy 4110 School Administration, eliminate language regarding a 30-60 day timeline on abolishing a position. There is no legal requirement for this and we will always give 30 days' notice.

Mr. Bracken re-entered the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Administration Operations policies 4210, 4220, 4230 and 4240 were considered to not refer to an interim superintendent but by an acting superintendent. Policy 4260 Evaluation of the

Superintendent or Other Admin Staff was recommended to convert to the Erie 1 Policy 4260 and move the due date of annual superintendent evaluation from August to September. There were minor clerical revisions to Policy 4310 Superintendent of Schools. Policies 4212 Organizational Chart, Policy 4410 Professional Development Opportunities and Policy 4420 Compensation and Related Benefits were recommended to be deleted. Mr. Hutton shared that he would like to continue to share the organizational chart in some way. Policy 4410 will be covered under Policy 6160 and Policy 4420 was not totally accurate. Many contracts are multi-year and would not be approved every year. Erie 1 recommended these policy removals. The Board agreed with these recommendations. Dr. Kissel thanked Mr. Saltzberg for all his work.

#### 7.4 Budget Update

Mr. Wood provided an update on the budget. Local revenue sources increased \$328,416 due to a PILOT change in the Town of Greece, raising the total to \$6.1 million. A decrease was made to transportation aid based on comparative year-to-date spending. Mr. Wood shared that the bus company reached out to the district regarding purchasing a year old, new bus for the pre-K program. It was a great opportunity to purchase a pre-K bus at a good price, but recognize it changed the tax cap exclusion amount. Overall, revenues are down \$188,735, for a total of \$84,341,574. On the expenditure side, under general support, there is an increase of 3.45% or \$277,235. He reminded the Board that the district is currently negotiating with five bargaining units. There is an increase to equipment of 75.43% or \$76,750 for the purchase of a lift truck and additional facilities cleaning equipment. The Facilities Director, Mr. Drake, has been tasked with looking for further reductions. BOCES services are up 5.20% or \$87,098. There will be an increase in legal expenses and software for social media, as well as slight overall increases in all services. Transportation reflects an increase of 4.92% or \$189,917. Salaries will see an increase of 4.54% or \$105,775 and the addition of the new bus adds \$81,680. He will begin to analyze and most likely have to make further reductions.

#### 8. MEETING EVALUATION

Mr. Hutton was happy to be back and it was great to see faces.

Mr. Bracken left the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Gibbardo and seconded by Mr. Kincaid to allow Privilege of the Floor to Ms. Patricia Vicaretti.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6

No: 0



**9. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Community member, Patricia Vicaretti of Silent Meadows Drive spoke before the Board. She apologized for being late and thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. Ms. Vicaretti has been an employee for 21 years. She wanted to speak on behalf of our students to re-open schools. She spoke about the importance of school versus sports. She shared that she has worked with students and that in-person learning is more beneficial. She made a few suggestions on how changes could be made and shared that if we work together, anything can be accomplished.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Ms. Stone and was seconded by Mr. Miceli at 8:39 p.m. to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the employment history of particular persons for tenure and the employment history of a particular person

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6  
No: 0

Mr. Bracken re-entered the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Hutton moved the Board out of Executive Session and returned to the Study Session at 9:58 p.m.


**11. ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Ms. Stone and seconded by Mr. Gibbardo to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

Vote of the Board: 7

Yes: 7  
No: 0

As there was no further business, Mr. Hutton declared the meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

  
District Clerk

  
Board President