

Mohawk Valley School District #17

Minutes

REGULAR MEETING April 15, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Ann Taylor, President
Mrs. Gina Richmond, Vice-President
Mr. Howie Jorajuria, Clerk
Mr. Tristan Wright, Member
Mr. Julian Rinehart, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Shanna Johnson
Mrs. Delia Salcido
Mr. Michael Silva
Mrs. Teresa Yegohian
Ms. Kim Hand

I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Mrs. Ann Taylor called the Board Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- ❖ The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mrs. Ann Taylor.

III. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- ❖ Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to adopt. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion, motion carries.

IV. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- ❖ There were no comments.

V. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Matters about which the Board may engage in discussion but will take no action.

1. Administrator Reports

a) Enrollment Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ It looks like we will be losing 10-15 students for FY25. Projected enrollment is 135 students.
- ❖ We will be losing a high needs student that will cost the district approximately \$30,000.

b) Budget Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ If all goes well, we are looking at a carry-over of about \$100,000-\$150,000.
- ❖ Due to losing enrollment for FY25, we will attrition two paraprofessional positions since they have stated that they will not be returning for FY25.
- ❖ The social studies teaching position will also be eliminated. This position was paid out of ESSER funds, which we no longer have. The position is filled by a long-term substitute teacher.
- ❖ Federal title grants across the state have been reduced by over half for most districts.
- ❖ There is still no news on the state budget. Hopefully it will have at least a 2% inflation rate.

c) Academic Report

➤ Mrs. Johnson stated the following:

- ❖ NJHS was held on Friday, April 12, 2024. Two new students were inducted.
- ❖ We have been busy with end-of-the-year field trips and events.

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- ❖ The inspection for the Preschool Licensing is set for May 13, 2024.
- ❖ We have a field day coming up. It will be May 15, 2024.

d) Bond and Facilities Report

- **Mrs. Johnson stated the following:**
 - ❖ Sprinklers are being installed throughout campus. All sprinkler heads had to be replaced due to being broken during the construction.
 - ❖ Fencing by SK has repaired the broken gates by the cafeteria and parking lots.

e) Water Plant Report

- **Mrs. Johnson stated the following:**
 - ❖ We are working through the design of Phase II.
 - ❖ It is taking more time to complete because the engineer working on the project is doing additional water sampling to get a clear picture of water quality before the last design is finalized.

f) General Items

- **Mrs. Johnson informed the board of the following:**
 - ❖ Auditor General Performance Audit Update:
 - They are digging deep into things. Many of the questions asked are requiring us to go back several years to find answers.
 - Questions in regards to Teacherage:
 - Does the District have authority to rent to non-employees?
 - How is income and expenses tracked?
 - How are costs of repairs and maintenance paid?
 - They are really questioning the Water Treatment Plant.
 - Questions in regards to the Water Treatment Plant:
 - Seeking clarification about the “grade” of the plant. We are a grade II, just a few points from being a grade III. In the new design, the engineer is being diligent and cognoscente about not exceeding the point limit of a grade II operator.
 - They are questioning Sternco and how they were procured, who approved their contract, and why a new engineer.
 - They are also questioning how the design was approved and determined it was okay.
 - ❖ The capital lawsuit is reemerging and Mrs. Shanna Johnson has been disposed again. The trial is set to begin in June.
 - ❖ Teacher-of-the-Year Banquet will be on April 25, 2024. As president of the Yuma Education Foundation, Mrs. Johnson will be the MC of the entire program.
 - ❖ Mrs. Johnson stated that the Antelope position she applied for was offered to someone who can be at Antelope every day. She stated that it is a brand new superintendent and that Hyder hired a new superintendent also. She hopes to bring all the new superintendents together and work collaboratively again.
 - ❖ Mr. Howie Jorajuria and Mr. Julian Rinehart are both up for election. They both have stated that they will not be running again.

2. Governing Board Member Comments

- ❖ No comments

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VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

These items are adoption of a routine nature and those that normally do not require deliberations on the part of the Governing Board. A board member may pull items, which will then be discussed and voted on separately.

1. Minutes

- a) March 12, 2024 – Regular Board Meeting
- b) March 20, 2024 – Special Board Meeting

2. Expense Vouchers

- c) Expense #25 \$ 64,878.66
- d) Expense #26 \$110,676.08
- e) Expense #27 \$ 74,026.53

3. Payroll Vouchers

- f) Payroll #19 \$70,479.61
- g) Payroll #20 \$70,603.61
- h) Payroll #20.1 \$ 2,038.98
- i) Payroll #21 \$68,059.33

4. Student Activity Reports

- j) March 2024
- k) Year-to-Date – 03/24/2023

5. Bank Account Reconciliations

- l) Student Activities/Revolving Fund/Cafeteria Fund – March 2024

6. Other

- m) Sarah Rodriguez's Resignation

Mrs. Johnson stated that Mrs. Rodriguez has resigned. She stated that she will be hiring a new 4th grade teacher.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked if anything need to be pulled and for a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Tristan Wright seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Employee Insurance Compensation Package for 2024-2025

Mrs. Johnson stated she is proposing a switch from ASBAIT to EMI (Educators' Mutual Insurance). She stated that it will be Blue Cross Blue Shield Network, which is a much better plan and an annual projected savings of \$3,833 to the district with the current number of staff taking the insurance. With ASBAIT it would be an 8.8% increase. With the new plan the employee monthly cost would be as stated below.

- Copay Plan = \$50 or HDP = \$25
- Dental = \$37.50 (\$12.50 less)
- Vision = \$7.80 (\$1.40 more)

Mrs. Johnson also stated that the family and children plan is a killer for a couple of employees. Mrs. Johnson asked if the board wanted to offset the cost for the two employees. After discussion, the board's consensus was that it would be best to not offset the cost for employees.

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Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve Employee Insurance Compensation Package for 2024-2025. Mr. Howie Jorajuria made the motion to approve EMI (Educators' Mutual Insurance). Mr. Tristan Wright seconded.

There was no further discussion. Motion carries.

2. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2024-2025 Certified Salary Schedule

Mrs. Johnson stated there are no changes to the base of the salary schedule. She stated that it is best practice to increase the base by less (half) than pay raises. We have been increasing the base the same as the pay increases, which will eventually create an offset between new hires and continuing teachers, so it needs to be frozen for a few years.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve 2024-2025 Certified Salary Schedule. Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

3. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2024-2025 New Hires Hourly Rates

Mrs. Johnson stated that the only changes being made to the new hires rates is the bus drivers/custodial/maintenance from \$17.00 to \$18.00 and bus driver and sub bus driver from \$16.00 to \$17.00. She stated that bus drivers at other districts have gotten significant raises to \$18.00 and above.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve 2024-2025 New Hires Hourly Rates. Mr. Tristram Wright made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

4. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2024-2025:

- Certified Employees (Teachers)
- Salaried Employees
- Notices of Appointment

Mrs. Johnson stated that she is proposing a 2% increase for certified, classified contracts and for notices of appointment except for one employee. She is proposing a 5% increase for that employee, Mr. Eleazar Munoz. She explained that there are two teachers, Mrs. Amanda Talamantes and Ms. Estefania Talamantes, that need to be put on the certified salary schedule. Mrs. Amanda Talamantes has completed her teaching degree and Ms. Estefania Talamantes will complete hers in December. They currently have been paid a long-term substitute pay. She also stated to the board that one employee, Mrs. Kathy Rogers, will be a return to work and will be taking a 10% reduction.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve 2024-2025 certified employee contracts, salaried employee contracts and notices of appointment. Mr. Julian Rinehart made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

5. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve 2024-2025 Contract for Superintendent

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve 2024-2025 contract for Mrs. Shanna Johnson, with a 2% increase. Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

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6. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Disposal of Assets

Mrs. Johnson stated that the assets are items that need to be sold so they can be taken off the inventory. They are nice oak desks. A list of the items were presented to the board.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve disposal of assets. Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

7. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Housing Plumbing and Roof Project with Tax Levy – Amended Request

Mrs. Johnson stated that she had to go back to the Yuma County Board of Supervisors to request additional tax levy for the kitchen repairs. Mrs. Johnson inadvertently left the kitchen quote out of the original request to the Yuma County Board of Supervisors. The cost to the tax payers was increased by \$103,002. She also stated that for best practices, this needs to be board approved. The Yuma County Board of Supervisors approved it on April 15, 2024.

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve housing plumbing and roof project with Tax Levy – Amended Request. Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve. Mr. Howie Jorajuria seconded.

There was no discussion. Motion carries.

8. Discussion and Possible Action to Approve Policies 763-786, Second Reading

Mrs. Johnson went over the policies once more. The following policies were discussed:

- No. 763 Policy BEDB – Agenda
- No. 764 Regulation BGC-R – Policy Revision and Review
- No. 765 Policy BGE – Policy Communication/Feedback
- No. 766 Regulation CCB-R – Line and Staff Relations
- No. 767 Policy CFD – School-Based Management
- No. 768 Regulation EB-R – Environmental and Safety Program
- No. 769 Policy EBAA – Reporting of Hazards/Warning Systems
- No. 770 Policy EBC – Emergencies
- No. 771 Policy ECB – Building and Grounds Maintenance
- No. 772 Policy EEAA – Walkers and Riders
- No. 773 Regulation EEAE-R – Bus Safety Program
- No. 774 Policy GBEF – Staff Use of Digital Communications and Electronic Devices
- No. 775 Policy GDC – Support Staff Leaves and Absences (Removal/Reference Only)
- No. 776 Policy IHA – Basic Instructional Program
- No. 777 Policy IKA – Graduation Requirements
- No. 778 Policy IMA – Teaching Methods
- No. 779 Policy JFABDA – Admission of Students in Foster Care
- No. 780 Policy JH – Student Absences and Excuses
- No. 781 Regulation JHD – Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
- No. 782 Regulation JIH – Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests
- No. 783 Policy JJE – Student Fund-Raising Activities
- No. 784 Exhibit JK-EB – Student Discipline
- No. 785 Exhibit KB-EB – Parental Involvement in Education
- No. 786 Policy KEC – Public Concerns/Complaints About Instructional Resources

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to approve Polices 763-786, Second Reading. Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to approve. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded.

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There was no discussion. Motion carries.

VIII. FUTURE ITEMS

- Next Board Meeting – May 14, 2024

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mrs. Ann Taylor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tristan Wright made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Julian Rinehart seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

A copy of the agenda background material provided to the Governing Board members (with the exception of material relating to possible executive sessions) is available for public inspection at the District Office, 5151 South Avenue 39E, Roll, Arizona.

Dated this 19th day of April, 2024
Delia Salcido, Governing Board Secretary

Designated Board Member

Date

Delia Salcido, Board Secretary

Date