

Zoom meeting Of the Ichabod Crane Board of Education
April 21st 2020 at 7 p.m.

District Clerk logged everyone on and did a brief sound check prior to the start of the meeting.

District Clerk: I will let Matthew take over.

Matthew Nelson: Great, thanks, Mindy. Yeah, Elizabeth should be joining us shortly. She had a work obligation at 6:30 that she hopes will wrap up shortly and then she'll be dialing in so if you'll just keep an eye out for her to let her in when she joins.

Alright with that it's 7:03 p.m. and we will call to order the special meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School District. And as we did last time behind Jason is a flag so if you would all in your present please stand and we'll do the Pledge of Allegiance

All: recited the Pledge of Allegiance (a little overlapping)

Anthony Welcome: Oh my God that was upsetting

[laughter]

Matthew Nelson: Alright I'll read our mission statement: The Ichabod Crane Central School District is dedicated to preparing students to become contributing members of society in an ever-changing world by valuing diversity, providing a safe environment, and promoting unique talents and a desire for life-long learning, a strong spirit of community and Rider Pride.

Just as we did at our last meeting via Zoom, we will do a roll call vote for each item for which we need board member consent and approval. So we'll start that here with item 4 on the agenda, which is the approval of the present agenda. I'll make the motion to adopt the present agenda. May I have a second, please?

[Overlapping voices]

Matthew Nelson: Okay we'll go with John for the second. Any discussion about the agenda as presented? Okay. Hearing none, I'll call for the 'yeas' first and I'll just go through on the order it shows up on my screen so no particular order. Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: yea

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: yes

Matthew Nelson: John?

John Antalek: yes

Matthew Nelson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: Yes
Matthew Nelson: Susan?
Susan Ramos: yes
Matthew Nelson: Regina?
Regina Rose: yes
Matthew Nelson: Jessica?
Jessica Berner: yes

Matthew Nelson: and Elizabeth has not joined us so we'll mark her as absent. Otherwise we have a full vote there 8 to 0.

Okay number 5 on our agenda, consideration for approval of the minutes of the April 7th, 2020 Regular board meeting. Draft of the meeting minutes were sent with the agenda for your review in advance. I'll move to adopt the minutes as presented. May I have a second please?

Susan Ramos: Second

Matthew Nelson: Who was that? Susan? No, Tammy.

Susan Ramos: yeah

Matthew Nelson: All right I saw Tammy's hand go up. We'll take Tammy for the 2nd on that one. Any discussion about the meeting minutes as presented?

Matthew Nelson: Okay. I'll go through the list again and ask for the yeas. Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: yes.
Mathew Nelson: Jeff?
Jeffrey Ouellette: yes
Matthew Nelson: John?
John Antalek: yes
Matthew Nelson: Tony?
Anthem Welcome: yes
Matthew Nelson: Susan?
Susan Ramos: yes
Matthew Nelson: Jessica?
Jessica Berner: yes
Matthew Nelson: Regina?
Regina Rose: yes

Matthew Nelson: Okay, great. The motion carries. The minutes are approved. And we'll mark Elizabeth as absent for this vote as she hasn't joined us yet. Okay as you know under state law we are required to meet this evening to adopt the administrative budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal

year for Questar III BOCES for which we are a component District. So I'll start with the budget vote and then we will follow that with the election of members to the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene County Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

So be it resolved that the board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer Columbia and Greene County is authorized to extend the sunset for in the 2020 - 21 tentative administrative budget document in the amount of \$6,710,997

May I have a, I'll move to to adopt the resolution and I'll ask John for a second.

John Antalek: second

Matthew Nelson: okay any discussion on the tentative administrative budget for Questar III BOCES?

Regina Rose: This is just occurred to me but if I understand it right, their budget, do they get any state aid or is it all dependent on the school districts kicking in?

Matthew Nelson: Based on what I reviewed and Jason or others, maybe Mike, know better and can answer differently if I'm wrong, but based on my review of their administrative budget proposal, they do get state aid but they don't get all of the aid for their budget. This is just the administrative component of their budget. It's not the everything of their operating budget. This goes towards our contribution for the services they provide to us as a component District on a pro-rata share.

Susan Ramos: this is just for Ichabod?

Regina Rose: the component districts all have to chip in for the \$6 million?

Matthew Nelson: right so it's a 6.7 million dollar administrative budget of which Ichabod Crane and 21 other component districts contribute and it's based on a daily use pro-rata share for each district so our share is not equal to others because obviously our enrollments different across the board but it allows us access the same general set of services from superintendent searches to conferences and trainings and everything else in between

Regina Rose: all right I get that I'm just worried because of the current situation like any any financial obligation that we have is a concern now so I just wondered about that but thank you.

Matthew Nelson: Are there any other questions or comments on Questar III BOCES budget? okay hearing no other comments or questions I'll move to the vote and will just begin as we have before Tammy Crawford?

Tammy Crawford: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jeff Ouellette

Jeffrey Ouellette: yes

Matthew Nelson: John Antalek

John Antalek: yes

Matthew Nelson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: yes

Matthew Nelson: Susan Ramos?

Susan Ramos: yes

Matthew Nelson: Regina Rose?

Regina Rose: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jessica Berner

Jessica Berner: yes

Matthew Nelson: Great, and I'll cast my vote in favor as well and Mindy, Elizabeth hasn't joined us, has she?

Tammy Crawford: she is

Elizabeth Phillips: I'm here, yes

Matthew Nelson: Welcome, Elizabeth, and that's yes for you, great. So the motion carries 9 in favor and 0 against.

Anthony Welcome: there she is

Matthew Nelson: ok will move on now to the election of members. Tony, did you have something you wanted to say?

Anthony Welcome: no I hit Elizabeth and she was filling my whole screen. I hit her picture and I had a big picture of her

[laughter]

Anthony Welcome: not a bad thing

Matthew Nelson: No, not at all

Anthony Welcome: I'm all set

Matthew Nelson: all right we'll move on to the next part of the agenda here, election of members of the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene County Board of Cooperative Educational Services. There are four nominees for four BOCES board positions. Four expiring terms so these are replacement candidates if you will. Each component district is entitled to one vote for each position to be filled. So again there are four positions and for candidates so this should make for a fairly easy vote. And I'll present them one at a time.

Resolved: that the Board of Education cast its vote for the election of Ms Mary Daly Hudson New York District of residence is the Hudson City School District as a member of the board of Cooperative Educational Services Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene counties.

John would you like the second the motion?

John Antalek: second

Matthew Nelson: okay any discussion?

Regina Rose: I would like to say something because I know Mary. I don't think anybody on the board now, maybe Tony, would but at one point in time we tried to resurrect the the Columbia

County School Board Association so I got to know Mary that way and I'm really happy that she is she is a very cool person. if you ever boarded your dogs down on 9H down toward Meadow Greens down that way there was a place and that was Mary's business. So I know her to the school board and I also boarded my dog there a lot. She's very cool and will do a great job.

Matthew Nelson: Great. Any other comments on the nomination for Mary Daly? Okay, we'll call for a vote. Tammy Crawford?

Tammy Crawford: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jeff Ouellette?

Jeff Ouellette: yes

Matthew Nelson: John Antalek?

John Antalek: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Tony Welcome?

Anthony Welcome: yes

Matthew Nelson: Susan Ramos?

Susanne Ramos: yes

Matthew Nelson: Regina Rose?

Regina Rose: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jessica Berner?

Tammy Crawford: her sound's off again

Matthew Nelson: Jess? Okay, Elizabeth Phillips?

Anthony Welcome: I don't even know where

Elizabeth Phillips: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: yes

Matthew Nelson: Okay, great all right and with my vote that's 9 to 0 for Mary Daly. Next

Resolved: that the Board of Education cast its vote for the election of Mr. Joseph Garland Cocksackie, New York, District of residence Cocksackie-Athens Central School District as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene counties.

John, for a second.

John Antalek: second

Matthew Nelson: alright and any discussion on this nomination? Hearing none, I'll call for the vote. Tammy Crawford?

Tammy Crawford: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jeff Ouellette?

Jeffrey Ouellette: yes

Matthew Nelson: John Antalek?

John Antalek: yes

Matthew Nelson: Tony Welcome?

Anthony Welcome: yes

Matthew Nelson: Susan Ramos?

Susan Ramos: yes

Matthew Nelson: Regina Rose?

Regina Rose: yes

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth Phillips?

Elizabeth Phillips: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jessica Berner?

Jessica Berner: yes

Matthew Nelson: I will cast my vote in favor as well 9 to 0 for Mr. Joseph Garland. The motion carries.

Resolved: that the Board of Education cast its vote for the election of Mr. John C. Hill, Valley Falls, NY, District of residence Hoosic Valley Central School District as a member of the board of Cooperative Educational Services Rensselaer Columbia Greene County

John for the second?

John Antalek: second

Matthew Nelson: Any discussion on the nomination? Okay, Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffery Ouellette: yes

Matthew Nelson: John?

John Antalek: yes

Matthew Nelson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: yes

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: yes

Matthew Nelson: Regina?

Regina Rose: yes

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: yes

Matthew Nelson: I'll cast my vote in favor as well. The motion carries 9 to 0. And last but not least

Resolved: that the board of education casts its vote for the election of Ms. Mary Yurista, Castleton, New York, District of residence, Schodack Central School District, as a member of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services Rensselaer Columbia Greene County

John, for the second

John Antalek: second

Matthew Nelson: Any discussion on the nomination? Okay hearing none we'll call for the vote.
Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: yes

Matthew Nelson: John?

John Antalek: yes

Matthew Nelson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: yes

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: yes

Matthew Nelson: Regina?

Regina Rose: yes

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jessica?

Jessica Berner: yes

Matthew Nelson: And I'll cast my vote in favor as well. So this motion also carries with a vote of 9 to 0. Congratulations to the four members of the Rensselaer columbia-greene County Board Cooperative Educational Services

Susan Ramos: can I ask a question?

Matthew Nelson: Yes, go ahead Susan

Susan Ramos: How long are the terms for these positions?

Matthew Nelson: I believe they are three years

Susan Ramos: 3 years?

Matthew Nelson: I think right, yeah.

Susan Ramos: oh okay it just seems like we just voted for some of these folks.

District Clerk: one was filling an unexpired term last year

Susan Ramos: who was?

District Clerk: last year Mary Yurista filled an unexpired term. it was a short term so this is the full term

Susan Ramos: oh, okay because I just recognized the name

District Clerk: You're right.

Matthew Nelson: and I think last time there was also more candidates than there were slots so some people are renominated. okay any more questions on that? Okay so if you would be so kind, Mindy, as to unmute Mr. Thomson I'm going to turn it over to him for superintendent report. There you're good now, Jason, you look to be unmuted now.

Jason Thomson: Good evening, everybody. Not a lot of updates. We have the bid opening 4/23 at 3:30 p.m. We've also scheduled a meeting at 5:00 to look for guidance and direction from CS Arch and Turner in regards to what's our best course of action moving forward. We're going to talk through this intelligently and make the right decision. I'm confident in that regard. Recent updates from SED and the Governor's Office, Cuomo and I don't know if you guys have been following it but basically stated that there is no plan at this point in time to open a schools. That kind of makes me guess, if I have it in my crystal ball, it's going to take a monumental effort in order to do so. So my my best guess is that we probably will be closed but at this time it's you know it's not an invitation to begin begin summer recess. To that regard, we just sent out a letter to all the parents about fourth quarter grades that we're working on a grading system and the key is to participate. We've been noticing several students that have been dropping off in participation and so I'm trying to encourage, along with the other administrators, for all of our students to participate. It goes without saying this is a very long time out of of in-person instruction, stress level is very high, people are getting cabin fever. Everything that we're all experiencing together, right? So just be patient and work together. Mr. Wilary and the teachers have been wonderful and outstanding to work with. I can't praise them all enough. The next step is I'm writing letters to our congressmen and women in Washington DC to encourage funding for schools. I see that they are they just approved another package however that didn't really address schools so my hope and expectation is that the next round will address funding for schools. Again we're still like I said last week we're still working together on the on the online learning at home, the remote learning, and sincerely appreciate all of your support. Any questions or thoughts? Or Suzanne, is there something that I may have missed? Michael, is there something I may have missed? I know you're going to talk about the the budget here and the three different phasing.

Michael Brennan: Yeah, I'll just expand on what you're talking about regarding funding

Jason Thomson: Suzanne did I miss anything from an academic standpoint?

Suzanne Guntlow: No I don't think so. I just I want to thank all the teachers for all they're doing, being flexible and really raising up to, rising up to the occasion. None of us expected this and probably we weren't really prepared speaking from an online learning point of view but they've quickly adapted. They've taken every opportunity for the PD we've been offering and it's great to see how they're supporting the kids at home. So thank you absolutely to the Teachers Association for all their hard work that they're doing to keep our kids engaged.

Jason Thomson: Thanks, Suzanne, thanks, Michael. Does any board member have any questions or thoughts on on my brief...

Tammy Crawford: I have a general question. if we're closed for the rest of the year there are a lot of other districts that have already made that call, not right here in our state but other states and I seen some really unique things for graduation I'm sure, are you guys talking about that?

Jason Thomson: Yeah I know that's a great question Tammy and as an administrative team we're hopeful to move, and this was Craig Shull's idea, So praise Craig on this one, to postpone prom and or graduation and host it sometime over the summer, with the hope that we can do it in person. but you know that may not be an option either so we'll certainly look at all the different ideas and collectively come up to somehow have our children not miss out.

Tammy Crawford: yeah, other places have just thought of something special in lieu of

Jason Thomson: right

Suzanne Guntlow: yeah lots of ideas out there Tammy. so we've been brainstorming already and I know Craig meets regularly with the regional principals and I'm meeting regularly with the assistant superintendents and Jason with a superintendents and it's definitely been a topic of discussion so we're all sharing ideas and you know kind of getting our plan B plan C Plan B inline for just in case

Jason Thomson: any other board members have any questions? Regina?

Regina Rose: I do. Jason I would just like to follow up on and just really clarify it the bids are going to be opened at 3:30 on Friday

Jason Thomson: yes ma'am

Regina Rose: but there won't be any contracts awarded yet correct?

Jason Thomson: no

Regina Rose: Okay so cuz I talked to Matthew this afternoon to so but there's a deadline once you open the bids there's a deadline where you have to then award them?

Jason Thomson: yes ma'am

Regina Rose: okay and is that May 7th?

Jason Thomson: do you have that offhand Michael?

Michael Brennan: I don't have that in front of me but I can get the date.

Matthew Nelson: I think the, I don't think the deadline is May 7th. I think the deadline is 45 days from bid opening. May 7th is our next public scheduled board meeting, The next earliest point at which we would award the bid as a board, If the project is going to proceed at this time and maybe the latest we can do it without going into June that's in a special meeting so that we

award in advance of the currently scheduled or anticipated start time based on the current project scope

Regina Rose: okay but we could delay that for 45 days? Or 44? I'm thinking that actually gives us another month and a half to try and get a better idea of what the state aid might look like am I correct?

Matthew Nelson: yes so the March or the May 7th date is not we're not held to to that date for

Regina Rose: excuse me, is that Matthew or is it Jason?

Matthew Nelson: it's Matt

Jason Thomson: pardon me?

Regina Rose: I was asking Jason, but I'm not sure I'm getting Jason I can't cause I don't

Anthony welcome: it's Matthew

Jason Thomson: no Matthew is describing it perfectly

Regina Rose: ok so we don't need to award any contracts any sooner than 45 days I guess it's my question right?

Jason Thomson: correct

Regina Rose: okay so

Jason Thomson: so when you and I spoke on the phone the other day we're doing this in tandem with Jay garvens office and Patrick Fitzgerald will be there as well

Regina Rose: right right so I mean I'm just trying to follow this out so we will have another meeting on May 5th right? Will we have an opportunity then to decide whether or not to that we should award a contract.

Jason Thomson: our next board meeting is May 7th

Regina Rose: May 7th okay and when exactly were you thinking that you would choose the contract

Jason Thomson: well that's to be determined at this point and at 5:00 maybe that's where the 5 and 7 got kind of confused a little bit on the 23rd we're going to have a meeting at 5 with President Nelson and vice president Antalek and the rest of the administrative team and Patrick Fitzgerald NCS Arch Turner am we're going to talk through all this Regina at 5 to get a good

sense of what is the best course of direction Based on the information that we have at this time and hopefully we'll have some more guidance there are so many anomalies out there right now but we we're going to make the best decision with the best information that we have and put all our heads together at 5 on April 23rd to discuss that

Regina Rose: okay but I guess my I guess my thinking and maybe I'm not correct but and I appreciate Matthews Because I'm on the facilities committee to dial in to that meeting at 5 and maybe I'll feel a lot better but right now I'm thinking that the full board should get all of that information I mean it seems like it's the board responsibilities to take this risk in my mind this is a risk it's a Gamble

Anthony Welcome: the voters approved an amount of money they committed to paying that money

Matthew Nelson: yeah let me just can I take a second to

Regina Rose: they committed to paying 27% of that money they didn't commit to paying 100% or 50% we don't know what percent of that money we're going to get now

Matthew Nelson: right we don't know that now and we may not even know that on Thursday but if I can just take a minute to just take a step back so right now we're in the middle of a process that's been underway for a year. So the bids are out the due date for the bids is Thursday. the bid opening is 3:30 on Thursday if anybody on the zoom chat now and anybody else in the public wants to either go in person and sit six feet away from everybody else in the High School auditorium or dial-in you are more than welcome to listen as per public procurement this is I lowest reasonable bid arrangement so we're not picking a contractor the contractor that submits the lowest reasonable bid is who will be eligible for us to award a contract to. The whole board will have a conversation if not as a special meeting at the next regular meeting of the board of education on May 7th To be presented with full recommendation of how to proceed based on all of the information that we have available at that time

Regina Rose: alright

Matthew Nelson: and as you and I discussed earlier that's going to change everyday between now and May 7th because the world around us is changing instantly so

Regina Rose: exactly that's what I was asking for that the full board get all that information

Jason Thomson: yeah the only thing that I would suggest is at 5 meeting we have no more than four board members on that call otherwise it's a quorum

Tammy Crawford: but can we sign in like as a bystander and be muted? and just listen?

Jason Thomson: I don't think for this Zoom call meeting

Tammy Crawford: oh because at the facilities committee meeting you could have other people you could have other people come in and not contribute

Matthew Nelson: yeah but so it's not technically a facilities committee meeting this is a meeting this is an administrative team meeting with cs Arch as our architect and the Turner Construction folks and Council and it's an internal meeting which is why it's not publicly advised. whatever is discussed in there is not going to be private it's just

Jason Thomson: correct

Matthew now: it will be presented when they're going to go through all the scenarios and talk about all the concerns Regina's raised and other concerns that we may not even know about right now a lot can change between now and then and so to Regina's question before about do we have to vote on something before 45 days of the day of opening? no but also yes because if we were to agree to move forward with the scope as currently planned out there is a scheduled start date of work for the project as currently conceived in late May and you have to award far enough in advance of that for the contractors to get lined up to start that. so could we wait until the 45th day? sure but that means that everything that follows that a word of bid then gets pushed out. so those are the considerations that we have to walkthrough and think about and get legal guidance and there's a lot of moving pieces on this so not any that we can frankly answer tonight because we just don't we don't even know if people are going to bid right I mean maybe construction contractors say no thanks I don't want to do school projects so we'll find out Thursday that's really the next day that we learn anything that we don't know today

Jason Thomson: so Tammy, my thought was in my Friday letter this coming Friday I would provide a summative of what was discussed

Tammy Crawford: ok ok

Jason Thomson: any other questions?

Michael Brennan: I know but just do you mind? I'll just comment on one piece of that and I'm going to talk a little bit more in depth about the state aid.any of the capital project just for clarification the capital project is under Capital funds versus General funds so we would be if the project the bids go through and the contracts are awarded we will begin the loan process. the a piece of that doesn't factor in until the project completion which is already been factored in and because of when this project is past the amount of aid is not going to change so perhaps a slow, they're slowing down cash flow but and this and we were moving forward in June as scheduled we would be beginning the loan process and the ban and the bonding process and the aid would then Kick in after project completion. so the fact that were in the state is in a financial

crunch right now would not necessarily be an impact on a decision if we were to move forward at this time.

Regina Rose: because Michael you think that by the time we does that mean that we don't have to start making payments until the end like when do we have to start

Michael Brennan: no will start making payments but based on when this project was passed it was passed under the aid ratio 572 and a half percent that is our Aid ratio for this project

Regina Rose: right

Michael Brennan: that would not change

Regina Rose: so we have to make the payments out of our actual money and then we get reimbursed. Is that how it works?

Michael Brennan: yeah and once we start the loan process which we have planned out will start making interest payments an hour ban after 1 year so it wouldn't be in this budget coming up it'll be enough following budget the 21 22 which could factoring but this is something that we've had planned out as far as through our debt service fund so I don't see I wouldn't see at this time the financial position that the states in I don't see that as a factor of whether to start or not start

Regina Rose: ok. all right I don't pretend to understand the financial and legal aspects but when I hear the governor say he can't promise delivering even our foundation Aid it makes me think how are they ever going to come up with capital project Aid or projects where that the ground hasn't even been broken so it's not like the school thats in the middle of something where they have to finish it you know I mean that just Common Sense thinking without all the other information but that sounds a little better because hopefully Dear God the state well and the economy will bounce back by the time we're in a position of having to make those payments is that is that right is that what I'm hearing?

Michael Brennan: I mean well it's going to have you know a factor on interest rates and so forth but that's been built into our Financial loan model already and it's been conservative we have a conservative rate for our loans so I mean I think when were talking about and I'll talk about this a little bit further that the possibility of a being cut you're looking at Foundation Aid not the expense driven expense driven AIDS

Regina Rose: have they said they're going to definitely pay the expense driven Aid?

Michael Brennan: the only thing I've heard as far as being cut is the foundation Aid they can change ratios going forward on the expense driven aid but seeing this project was already passed they're not going to change our Aid ratio

Regina Rose: but we don't know for sure

Michael Brennan: well I'm sure they could cut back further on Foundation Aid or they could change say the transportation aide ratio going forward but I've never seen a case where a school passes a project at a certain aid ratio and then that money is withheld

Regina Rose: we've never seen the whole economy shut down before either these are not normal times

Michael Brennan: the Gea was a pretty significant hit and they didn't change any of the expense driven Aid

Regina Rose: ok all right and we have more time we still have time at least till May 7th I just if there's any any kind of Gamble I mean to me this is a risk I mean I'm an old lady I've seen it all I've seen JFK get shot I seen Vietnam I've seen all of it I've never seen anything like this ever in my 76 years and what could happen What might happen we have no idea and if we are committed 27 million dollars and we don't get that 73% back we're gambling or gambling on getting that and that's what it feels like to me because this is nothing like this has happened in my lifetime where the whole economy in every state and every nation

Anthony Welcome: Georgia opens up on Friday

Regina Rose: I've said my piece so you know we'll see what happens thank you all for listening to me again

Jason Thomson: no I appreciate your comments Regina

Tammy Crawford: we and we'll get more information before that it's changing all the time

Regina Rose: I know

Matthew Nelson: Okay anything else on that if not we'll move on to item 8 and turn it over to Mike for Budget update if there is anything to update us on

Michael Brennan: yeah I'm Mindy is going to throw up a PowerPoint and as she's putting that up there aren't a lot of changes and there's only like 12 or 13 slides here and there's not a lot of changes to the there's no changes to the budget and not a lot of new information we're still waiting on a lot of information but I wanted to expand on a few items and just reiterate and remind people of some things that have come out already so just taking a look at the topics that will take a look at

[Long pause]

Michael Brennan: Mindy you can advance it
[Long pause]

Anthony Welcome: easy for you to say

[Long pause]

Tammy Crawford: is she still on?

District Clerk: I'm advancing but maybe you can't see that it's advancing?

Michael Brennan: no you're still on the first slide

District Clerk: hang on
[Long pause]

District Clerk: give me one second

Michael Brennan: all right so just going to go over again vote dates little bit on state aid the summary of Revenue I will get a little more detail on potential other state aid adjustments and then Where we are on Appropriations things were going to have to look at in the coming weeks

[long pause}

District Clerk: Is it advancing?

Michael Brennan: no

John Antalek: did you try enabling editing?

District Clerk: I mean I'm advancing you guys aren't seeing it?

Overlapping: no

District Clerk: I'm so sorry

Michael Brennan that's all right I can just pull up the presentation talk from that

John Antalek: you can use flashcards Michael

Michael Brennan: yeah

Matthew Nelson: Mike can you share your screen?

District Clerk: No, I'm the only one that can share screens I'm not sure why it's not happening

Matthew Nelson: Mindy at the top of your screen there's a yellow bar and it says enable editing that's what John was talking about before maybe if you click that it'll make some change I'm not sure.

District Clerk: all right let me try something different

[Long pause]

Anthony Welcome: so you look so comfortable

Susan Ramos: yeah not really

[Laughter]

[long pause]

District Clerk: all right we're going to try again to share screen

Anthony Welcome: from the beginning

District Clerk: are we advancing

Michael Brennan: yes we are.

District Clerk: so sorry everyone

Michael Brennan: no problem

Thank you Mindy

Just taking a look at vote dates and there hasn't been anything new since we met last on April 7th we talked about the executive order postponed budget vote to no earlier than June 1st and we're waiting on a confirmation of the final date and format of that. yeah every meeting I'm in I feel like I asked the same question any updates on the vote because that's really going to be what's going to trigger when we adopt the budget, property report card, the hearing. So Once we have that will get that information out and that'll trigger a lot of things for us with the budget. This is a carry over as well. Just that foundation aid was flat from 19-20. The expensed based aid there was no changes in the formulas and they're not being rolled into foundation aid; They were carved back out. There is that new item of the Pandemic Adjustment and the Federal

Cares Restoration. For us it was \$214 thousand. Currently our revenue budget includes that restoration of funds.

Here's just a snapshot of our state aid in detail. You can see where we're basically overall including our expense based aids that we are relative we are basically flat from last year and you see the Pandemic Adjustment has been taken out and then restored through the Federal Cares Act.

And here's another carryover. This is a snapshot of the revenue based on what our property tax cap maximum is that 2.57%. The state aid which we just took a quick look at. Then one other item. It's a small amount. But we have that "other" category which includes refunds, tuitions, rent, interest rate interest and so forth. That's a little over \$1.1 million. Every year I budget this on the conservative level. Usually we end up getting a little bit more than that but I continue to budget that conservatively and that's particularly important this year. And the overall is a 1.89%.

What I do want to talk about that's new. Not new. Just in a little more detail. I mentioned it in the last time we met. I've been waiting to get more clarification. We really haven't had much more clarification. But part of the enacted budget authorizes the department of budget, the director to adjust state spending throughout the year and that includes school aid. So it's not just school aid but it's all of the budget. If the actual state revenues decrease or expenditures increase beyond a certain level. If this occurs the budget director can make adjustments. In our case it would be an adjustment to our foundation aid and if this occurs, legislators have a 10 day period to make changes to those adjustments. Now what they're looking at throughout this year, they're looking at three different measurement periods in which the state revenues will be evaluated. Those dates, one's coming up now, April 1st through April 30th, second period May 1st though June 30th and then the third July 1st through December 31st.

And so when would they make an adjustment? So basically, they're going to take a look at those three measurement periods and if the revenue is less than 1% of what's been estimated of the tax receipts, they could make an adjustment. Or if our disbursements or expenses on a state level exceed 1%, they could make an adjustment. Or both.

So they put this out there this is what I've been waiting for some clarification because there's a lot of unanswered questions. You know what will be that mechanism for future adjustments? What will that look like? How much percentage? Is it going to be on a pro rata basis? Based on district size and expenses? None of that information has been put out. The other question is will there be additional federal aid, because this could be this adjustment and these measurement periods could be dependent upon if the state receives additional federal aid in the coming months. Is there going to be a second stimulus package for the states? We don't know that. There's a lot of unanswered questions. We're going to need to remain flexible and need to create plans as this information is disseminated from the state.

So how would we address additional reductions in aid after these measurement periods? Would it you know if it created deficits? If we had aid pulled? What would we what would we do? An initial plan and I would look at these as in this particular type of order. Is there additional Federal funding that's coming in that could close that gap? We could look to district reserve funds. Obviously this is a stop gap measure and it's something that you would want to do for one year to fill a hole and then make new plans after that. Next you could look at a reduction of equipment and supplies in your current budget, reduction of program and last line of options which I don't think would be necessary in this particular year but perhaps in future years, you would need to look at reduction of staff if the other measures didn't close the gap.

Just a reminder looking at our current budget, we have no cuts to staff, maintained all of our programs. It includes all union contract updates and includes the retirement and replacement of 4 teachers.

This is the same snapshot just taking a look at our non-instructional budget versus our instructional budget. You can see there that there's the 1.89% increase and 53% of our budget is instructional on the instructional side.

So our next step is that you know the assessment period of April 30th is coming. I did receive notification that the April payments that are scheduled to be made in aid are of no changes but we are waiting to see what that first measurement period looks like and what, if any, result in any actions by the state. Once we have a vote date we're going to need to revise our budget timeline, establish new meeting dates, obviously adopt the budget and then create any new or different voting plans and protocols.

So there is a lot of unknown but we are constantly each day looking for updates and once I think we get some initial information on the vote that's really going to put a lot of things into cycle for us. Do we have any is there any questions from the Board?

Regina Rose: I guess I do have one, Michael.

Michael Brennan: sure

Regina Rose: So if you can't have a budget vote the fiscal year ends July 1 or June 30th, right?

Michael Brennan: right

Regina Rose: So what happens if there's no budget vote and you go into the next school year?

Susan Ramos: I didn't get that question, could you say it again?

Michael Brennan: yeah, I missed part of that

Regina Rose: Okay, so what happens if there is no budget vote and we go into the next fiscal year without a new budget vote?

Michael Brennan: That's what we're waiting on guidance on that. I don't know.

Regina Rose: Okay

Michael Brennan: yeah

Tammy Crawford: I mean every school district is in the same boat. We're all waiting for information.

Michael Brennan: And as I was just on a call today with all the business officials in our BOCES and no one is everyone is holding off on adopting a budget until they have further guidance

Regina Rose: yeah. It's bizarre

Michael Brennan: oh yeah

Regina Rose: and that's why I'm worried because we just don't know anything

Michael Brennan: No we don't. There's a lot of wait waiting going on right now.

Jason Thomson: My advice is we stay positive and good news will be coming soon.

Anthony Welcome: mmmhmmm

Hope so

Regina Rose: I'm a realist. I'm not a pessimist and I'm not an optimist. I'm just a realist.

Jason Thomson: Keepin it real

Regina Rose: Keeping it real, yup.

Jason Thomson: Mike and I have talked at length about this. We think they're probably going to push it out as far as they can and they're still waiting on that another federal stimulus package that addresses schools specifically. I think once that occurs, Regina, we're going to have some good news.

Regina Rose: that would be

Jason Thomson: All the budgets will get passed

Regina Rose: yup

Jason Thomson: I think next year is not the biggest challenge year as Michael has indicated, it's the subsequent years that we have to really really fine tune and take a look at

Michael Brennan: Yeah I'm thinking 2021-22 not to get ahead of ourselves because we don't have a lot of answers for the here and now but the 21-22 is going to be I think for a lot of people difficult and I think there'll be a need for a lot of planning on our part

Regina Rose: yup and that's why I'm concerned about going into big big debt

Jason Thomson: We'll be getting some guidance soon so keep smiling and stay positive. Good news is on its way.

Matthew Nelson: From your lips to God's ears. Alright so on that upbeat note that positive line of thinking is there anything else for Mike or Jason on Superintendent Report or Budget Office, Business Office rather?

Regina Rose: Just a big thank you for struggling with the responsibility that all this brings because we could just sit back and have our opinions and voice our opinions but you guys have to actually deal with it. Just like the teachers are working hard I'm sure for their students so thank you.

Jason Thomson: Thank you

Michael Brennan: Thank you

Matthew Nelson: Okay, thanks, Regina. So we'll move on then to the Consent agenda item 9. This encompasses items 9(A) through 9(D) so 4 items on the consent agenda. As a practice we don't discuss items on the consent agenda, we adopt them as a block. I'll make a motion to accept the consent agenda and I'll ask Tony for a second

John Antalek: Second

Matthew Nelson: Sorry John

Anthony Welcome: second

Matthew Nelson: Alright, with that I'll call for the vote. Tammy?

Tammy Crawford: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jeff?

Jeffrey Ouellette: Yes

Matthew Nelson: John?
John Antalek: yes

Matthew Nelson: Tony?

Anthony Welcome: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Susan?

Susan Ramos: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Regina?

Regina Rose: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth?

Elizabeth Phillips: Yes

Matthew Nelson: and Jessica?

Jessica Berner: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Very good, the motion carries. The consent agenda is adopted. We do have an item on our discussion action agenda for this evening, item 10(A) consideration for ratification. Attached to the agenda that went out to the Board prior to the meeting was the MOU and salary schedule that coordinate with this resolution. Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School District hereby approves the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the District and the CSEA Columbia County Local 811 Unit #6502-00 otherwise known as "CSEA" dated April 15, 2020, for a successor collective bargaining agreement, in effect from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024, authorizes the Superintendent to execute the agreement and ratifies and approves the payment of money contained therein. John, I'll ask you for a second on this one

John Antalek: second

Matthew Nelson: Okay, we presented the terms of the negotiated agreement between the district and CSEA to the members of the Board in a prior executive session so I'm not prepared to go through the details of it tonight since we've gone through it but are there any questions or comments that anybody has on this item on the agenda? Okay I will just make one comment

before the vote. I just want to thank the CSEA representatives, Tami, Tami and Tom, who did a fantastic job negotiating on behalf of their membership who are as we all are working very hard right now to keep things moving particularly in the food service sector of the school district operations at the moment. Did a great job and I think we collectively negotiated a very fair agreement and I'm grateful to them and to everybody else involved for their efforts to get us to this point and to get them on track for another three year agreement. So with that I'll call for the vote. This a vote in favor of the motion to adopt and ratify the agreement. Tammy Crawford?

Tammy Crawford: yes

Matthew Nelson: Tony Welcome?

Anthony Welcome: Yes

Matthew Nelson: John Antalek?

John Antalek: yes

Matthew Nelson: Jeff Ouellette?

Jeffrey Ouellette: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Susan Ramos?

Susan Ramos: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Regina Rose?

Regina Rose: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Jessica Berner?

Jessica Berner: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth Phillips?

Elizabeth Phillips: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Great. The motion carries as voted 9 to 0. Thanks everybody involved for that. That concludes our business agenda for tonight. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is May 5th 2020, 7pm. That will be on Zoom again as we know the district is closed for all purposes regarding facilities through the 15th of May at the earliest. So we will meet once again here from the comfort of our own homes or where ever you find yourself and as a reminder a discussion

point from earlier, Thursday the 23rd is the bid opening for the capital project and Mindy will be sending around to the Board members the dial-in information should anybody want to dial-in and listen to the bid opening. You'll hear some tearing of paper and reading of numbers. It's very exciting. Otherwise we have no other scheduled committee meetings or other Board meetings at this time. So I will call for a motion to adjourn.

John Antalek: so moved.

Anthony Welcome: second

Matthew Nelson: I heard John and Tony in both the roles and we'll work from back to front this time. Jessica Berner?

Jessica Berner: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Elizabeth Phillips?

Elizabeth Phillips: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Regina Rose?

Regina Rose: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Susan Ramos?

Susan Ramos: Yes

Matthew Nelson: Jeff Ouellette?

Jeffrey Ouellette: Yes

Tammy Crawford?

Tammy Crawford: yes

Matthew Nelson: With our first second and my approval, I will call this meeting concluded and I thank you all for your time tonight and look forward to being in touch electronically over the next couple of weeks and seeing your smiling faces again on cinco de mayo. Thank you everybody. Have a great night.

