

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL

BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 7, 2023

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Ichabod Crane Board of Education was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

Board Members Present:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Kelly Firmbach | Meghan Lafferty-Brown | Matthew Nelson |
| Megan Pelizza | Elizabeth Phillips | Anne Schaefer |
| Christopher Scoville | Jared Widjeskog | |

Board Members Absent: Jennifer Allard

School Officials Present:

Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Lucas Christensen, Assistant Superintendent, Michael Brennan, Business Manager, Craig Shull, High School Principal, Marcella Sanchez, High School Assistant Principal, Anthony Marturano, Middle School Co-Principal, Andrea Williams, Primary School Principal, Peg Warner, Special Education Director, Todd Digrigoli, Food Service Director, and Mindy Potts, District Clerk

Board President Matthew Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Board President Matthew Nelson announced the fire exits and conducted the Pledge

Board Member Jared Widjeskog read the District 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, a desire for life-long learning, a strong spirit of community, and Rider pride."

The District held two Public Hearings on Property Tax Exemptions

Public Hearing on the adoption of the Property Tax Exemption under Real Property Tax Law Sections 459 and 467, for eligible seniors and persons with physical disabilities

- A. The hearing was declared open at 7:04 p.m.
- B. Presentation
Business Manager Michael Brennen gave an overview of the proposed increases to the exemption for eligible seniors and persons with physical disabilities which has been on the books since 2009. Consideration of the resolution for adoption by the Board is under the Consent Agenda item 11(V)
- C. There were no questions or comments from the public or Board members.
- D. The hearing was declared closed at 7:06 p.m.

Public Hearing on the adoption of the Property Tax Exemption under Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, for eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers

E. The hearing was declared open at 7:04 p.m.

F. Presentation

Business Manager Michael Brennen gave an overview of the proposed increases to the exemption for eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers which has been on the books since 2004. Fire Districts would provide rosters to the District for certification. Consideration of the resolution for adoption by the Board is under the Consent Agenda item 11(U)

G. There were no questions or comments from the public or Board members.

H. The hearing was declared closed at 7:08 p.m.

MOTION SCHAEFER 2ND SCOVILLE

To approve the agenda as presented

Carried, 8-0

MOTION LAFFERTY-BROWN 2ND FIRMBACH

To approve the October 3, 2023 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Carried, 8-0

Public Comment

One member of the public commented on student bathroom use

Board Discussion

- NYSSBA Annual Conference Report

Board President Matthew Nelson, Board Member Kelly Firmbach, Board Member Meghan Lafferty-Brown, Board Member Jennifer Allard, and Superintendent Marie Digirolamo attended NYSSBA's annual conventions and reported briefly on workshops attended.

- Committee Meetings

- Policy Committee - Meeting Minutes of 10/3/23

Board Member Anne Schaefer reported briefly on the Policy Committee meeting held on October 3, 2023. The full Board discussed if policy 1220 should be revised or rescinded.

- Discussion 1220 Relations with Community and Business Organizations

The following policies are considered to have had First Readings:

- 1420 Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Materials - revised
 - 1420R Complaints about Curricula or Instructional Materials Regulations - revised
 - 6240 Investments - revised

Student Board Member Report

Student Board member Ewan McComb briefly reported to the Board on activities happening in all the buildings of the district

Reports

Special Education Director Peg Warner and teachers leaders in the district reported to the Board and answered questions regarding the K-12 Special Education Department.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Marie Digirolamo reported to the Board on the following topics

- Congratulations to HS junior, Lauren Stigi, who was chosen for Conference All-State Mixed Chorus as an Alto I
- Congratulations to scholarship recipients
 - UAlbany Multicultural High School Scholars Award Recipients: Kyonna Gordan & Yahir Velasco
 - RPI Rensselaer Medal Award Recipient: David Oldrich
- Congratulations fall season student-athletes, coaches and fans
- Lockout debrief
- NYS 3-8 22-23 Testing Outcomes
 - Assistant Superintendent Lucas Christensen reported to the Board on the Grades 3-8 testing results from the 2022-23 school year

Business Office Report

Business Manager Michael Brennan briefly reported and answered questions regarding the following topics:

- Tax Collection Update
- Expanded Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) - Food Services Funding
- New Tax Exemptions
- Donations
 - Hannaford Fights Hunger Bag Program and Lisa Duffek to Ichabod's Table
 - Booster Club (2)

Consent Agenda

MOTION NELSON 2ND SCOVILLE

To approve the following items contained under the consent agenda:

11(A) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve the resignation of Peter Bashford, Custodian, effective November 3, 2023

11(B) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE (full report in the Supplemental File)

To accept the Treasurer's Report for September 2023 (including Revenues, Appropriations and Transfers and Warrants) as presented

11(C) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept the CPSE and CSE Recommendations for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

Meeting Dates of: 8/16; 9/20; 9/29; 10/5; 10/10; 10/16; 10/17; 10/24; 11/1

11(D) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint the following additions to the teaching substitute listing for 2023-2024 school year:

| Name | Position | Effective |
|-----------------|---|------------------|
| Diana Mattingly | Certified Substitute Teacher and TA | 10/31/23 |
| Timothy Sarno | Uncertified Substitute Teacher and TA | 10/31/23 |
| Paul Shechtman | Uncertified Substitute Teacher and TA and Tutor | 10/18/23 |

11(E) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint the following additions to the non-teaching substitute listing for 2023-2024 school year:

| Name | Position | Effective |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| Elizabeth Briggs | Substitute Bus Attendant | 10/13/23 |
| Kim Williams | Substitute Bus Attendant, Monitor, and Food Service Helper | 10/10/23 |
| Jean Barford | Substitute Monitor | 10/5/23 |

11(F) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, the following Interscholastic Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year:

| Position | Name | Step |
|--|-------------------|---------|
| Varsity Boys and Girls Swimming Head Coach | Dan Funk | Step 9 |
| Varsity Wrestling Coach | Lucas Silvis | Step 2 |
| Volunteer Wrestling Assistant Coach | Hugh Sarno | n/a |
| Modified Wrestling Coach | Dan Cremo | Step 10 |
| Volunteer Wrestling Assistant Coach | Mike Alessi | n/a |
| Modified Girls Basketball Coach | Tahnee Bickerton | Step 10 |
| Modified Boys Basketball Coach | Tom Banks | Step 4 |
| JV Girls Basketball Coach | Phil Leader | Step 10 |
| Varsity Girls Basketball Coach | Bob Allard | Step 1 |
| Varsity Boys Basketball Coach | Chris Muller | Step 1 |
| Volunteer Basketball Assistant Coach | Will Ferguson | n/a |
| Varsity Boys Volleyball Coach | Sean Connors | Step 10 |
| Volunteer Volleyball Assistant Coach | Bob Wheeler | n/a |
| Modified Boys Volleyball Coach | Jefferey Montague | Step 2 |
| Varsity Boys and Girls Indoor Track Head Coach | Devyn Fernandez | Step 7 |
| Varsity Boys and Girls Indoor Track Asst Coach | Pat Sanger | Step 6 |
| Varsity Boys and Girls Indoor Track Asst Coach | Chelsea Bell | Step 2 |
| Volunteer Boys and Girls Indoor Track Asst Coach | John Longo | n/a |
| Volunteer Boys and Girls Indoor Track Asst Coach | Nick Johnston | n/a |

11(G) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

Whereas Kalyn Fleck who is eligible for a New York State Public School Teacher Certificate in the certification area(s) of Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6)

Whereas Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent of the Ichabod Crane Central School District, recommends Kalyn Fleck be appointed to a probationary position, conditionally, pending New York State Education Department certification and safety clearance, now therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School District in compliance with Education Law 3012 and 8 NYCRR Part 30.3 does hereby appoint Kalyn Fleck to the position of professional educator in the tenure area(s) of General Special Education, MO Step 21 for a probationary period of three years to commence on or about November 8, 2023 and to expire on or about November 7, 2026

11(H) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint, upon the recommendation of Superintendent Marie Digirolamo, Barbara Ireland as a short term substitute to fill the position held by Anna Kemp who is on a LOA from her teaching position. Ms. Ireland's appointment will be effective October 5, 2023 and, provided she renders satisfactory service, is intended to continue but no later than December 12, 2023. No term of employment is conferred by this resolution of appointment and Ms. Ireland's employment may be terminated at any time.

11(I) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

To appoint upon the recommendation of Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent, Jamie Stickles having successfully completed a 52 week probationary period which ended October 5, 2023, to the permanent position of Bus Attendant

11(J) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve an unpaid Leave of Absence for Kayla O'Hagan from her Teaching position, effective on or about April 18, 2024 - June 26, 2024

11(K) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve an unpaid Leave of Absence for Mallory Urbanski from her Teaching position, effective on or about April 22, 2024 through May 10, 2024

11(L) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve the establishment of the following club for the 2023-2024 School Year with the following unpaid advisors:

| Club | Unpaid Advisor |
|-----------------|----------------|
| MS Writing Club | Kristyn McHugh |

11(M) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

To approve the following field trip requests and chaperones per Board Policy #4531:

DESTINATION: Carmel NY - All-State Music Festival

DATE: November 17, 2023 and November 18, 2023 (2 trips, not overnight)

PARTICIPANTS: 3 plus Karolyn Eberhardt

11(N) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL (Full listing in the Supplemental File)

To approve per Board Policy #6900-(Disposal of District Property), as Surplus & Obsolete, the attached lists:

- Primary School Media

11(O) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept, per Board Policy #1800 Gifts from the Public, a donation to Ichabod's Table of \$462 from following people into the following Appropriation Code:

- CM2989.400-05-0002 - in the amount of \$112 - Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program
- CM2989.400-05-0002 - in the amount of \$350 - Lisa Duffek

11(P) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

To accept, per Board Policy #1800 Gifts from the Public, a donation to the District's Athletic Program of \$14,503 from ICC Booster Club and approve an increase in the 2023-2024 budget from \$48,594,064 to \$48,608,567 into the following Appropriation Codes:

- A2855.530-00-0000 - in the amount of \$5,738
- A1620.200-00-0000 - in the amount of \$8,765

11(Q) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION

To approve and authorize the Superintendent to make the following budget transfers

| Budget Code | Transfer In | Transfer Out |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| A1964.400-00-0000 Taxes Refund | | \$9161 |
| A2110.400-04-0000 MS Field Trips | \$9161 | |
| A2010.490-00-0000 BOCES Control (Grants) | | \$286,000 |
| A1680.490-00-9000 Network Engineers | \$165,000 | |
| A2630.490-00-9000 Office Integration | | \$367,886 |
| A2630.490-00-0000 Computer Assisted Instruction | \$488,886 | |

11(R) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE (Full Report in the Supplemental File)

To accept the High School and Middle School Extraclass Activity Fund Reports as of the following date(s):

AS OF 9/30/23

Account Balance: \$ 178,183.02

11(S) CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTANCE (Full report in the Supplemental File)

To accept the Internal Claims Auditor's Report for October 2023

11(T) CONSIDERATION FOR AUTHORIZATION (Full MOAs in the Supplemental File)

To authorize the Board President or Superintendent to execute the following:

- MOA - ICTA for MS and HS Yearbook Stipend
- MOA - ICTA for APPR 2023-2024

11(U) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

WHEREAS, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School District desires to offer a school tax exemption on the primary residence of eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers residing within the school district and who have served a minimum of 2- years or have served for 20-years; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on this matter on November 7, 2023; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby adopts the Property Tax Exemption for eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, permitting residential property exemptions of 10% for eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers residing within the School District and who have served a minimum of 2-years or have served for 20-years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a, the Board of Education shall provide a lifetime property tax exemption of 10% on the primary residence of eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers with twenty (20) years of service within the school district and who maintain their primary residence within the same school district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education shall provide a property tax exemption of 10% to eligible un-remarried spouses of deceased eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers, subject to the requirements of Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education shall provide a property tax exemption of 10% to eligible un-remarried spouses of deceased eligible volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who died in the line of duty, subject to the requirements of Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this local law shall be effective immediately, available to eligible volunteer firefighter and ambulance workers for 2024-25 and shall continue until rescinded or amended by resolution of the Board of Education.

11(V) CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL

WHEREAS, the existing income ceiling of \$29,000.00 for the real property tax exemptions for persons 65 years and older and for disabled persons in the Ichabod Crane Central School District (the "District") is no longer effective in protecting the most vulnerable of the District's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Education (the "Board") has determined that it is in the public interest to increase said income ceiling, thereby providing partial real property tax exemptions to a larger number of senior citizens in need of tax relief.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all previous Resolutions in regard to "TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR PERSONS 65 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER" and "TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR DISABLED PERSONS" are HEREBY rescinded and the following to be adopted for granting Real Property Tax Exemptions for persons 65 or older and for disabled persons in the District:

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to the authority granted by Sections 467 and 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law, real property within the District boundaries owned by one or more persons, each of whom is 65 years of age or over, or real property within the District boundaries owned by husband and wife, one of whom is 65 years of age or over, or real property owned by one or more persons, each of whom has a qualified disability, or real property within the District boundaries owned by husband and wife, one of whom has a qualified disability, shall be exempt from the District tax levy according to the following schedule based on income of the owner or

combined income of the owners of the property for the tax year immediately preceding the date of application:

| Annual Income: | % Assessed Valuation Exempt from Taxation |
|--|--|
| Income of \$34,000.00 or less..... | 50% reduction |
| Income of \$34,000.00 or more but less than \$35,000.00..... | 45% reduction |
| Income of \$35,000.00 or more but less than \$36,000.00..... | 40% reduction |
| Income of \$36,000.00 or more but less than \$37,000.00..... | 35% reduction |
| Income of \$37,000.00 or more but less than \$37,900.00..... | 30% reduction |
| Income of \$37,900.00 or more but less than \$38,800.00..... | 25% reduction |
| Income of \$38,800.00 or more but less than \$39,700.00..... | 20% reduction |
| Income of \$39,700.00 or more but less than \$40,600.00..... | 15% reduction |
| Income of \$40,600.00 or more but less than \$41,500.00..... | 10% reduction |
| Income of \$41,500.00 or more but less than \$42,400.00..... | 5% reduction |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all the provisions of Sections 467 and 459 of the Real Property Tax Law shall apply in the administration and interpretation of this Resolution and such exemption shall not be granted unless the applicant qualified thereunder; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

11(W) CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT

Whereas Naomi Carter who is eligible for a New York State Public School Teacher Certificate in the certification area(s) of English To Speakers Of Other Languages

Whereas Marie Digirolamo, Superintendent of the Ichabod Crane Central School District, recommends Naomi Carter be appointed to a probationary position, conditionally, pending New York State Education Department certification and safety clearance, now therefore

Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School District in compliance with Education Law 3012 and 8 NYCRR Part 30.3 does hereby appoint Naomi Carter to the position of professional educator in the tenure area(s) of English as a Second Language, MO Step 3 for a probationary period of four years to commence on or about December 8, 2023 and to expire on December 8, 2027

End of Consent Agenda

Carried, 8-0

Public Comment

No one from the public wished to address the Board at this time.

Meetings

Regular BOE Meetings

- December 5 - Regular Board meeting - 7:00 pm High School Library

Committee Meetings

- December 5 - District Level Committee: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity
- Facilities Committee Meeting - TBD

Executive Session

MOTION NELSON 2ND SCOVILLE

To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:57 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular persons; and to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the Civil Service Law
Carried, 8-0

MOTION NELSON 2ND PHILLIPS

To appoint Kelly Firmbach as Clerk Pro Tem
Carried, 8-0

The District Clerk left the meeting.

Others present in Executive Session:

Superintendent Marie Digirolamo

Assistant Superintendent Lucas Christensen (left at 9:26 p.m.)

Business Manager Michael Brennan (left at 9:26 p.m.)

The meeting was reconvened in open session at 9:50 p.m.

MOTION NELSON 2ND PHILLIPS

To adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m.
Carried, 8-0