

MINUTES

<p>President Treffeisen called the meeting of the Unatego Central School District Board of Education to order at 7:15 p.m. in the cafeteria at the Middle/Senior High School.</p>	<p>Call to Order</p>
<p>Downey, Gould, McDermott, Reyda, Salisbury, Stockert and Treffeisen answered roll call.</p> <p>Absent: None.</p>	<p>Roll Call</p>
<p>Administrative members present: Supt. Dr. Richards, Bus. Mgr. Loker and Clerk French.</p> <p>Visitors/Staff: Approximately 50.</p>	
<p>President Treffeisen led the Flag Salute.</p> <p>President Treffeisen read a statement to the public stating the purpose of the public comment section and guidelines for speaking as per Board Policy.</p>	<p>Flag Salute</p>
<p>Motion by Stockert, seconded by Salisbury, to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2017 as presented. Yes-7 No-0. Carried.</p>	<p>2-6-17 Reg Brd Mtg Min</p>
<p>Motion by Stockert, seconded by Reyda, to adopt the Agenda as presented. Yes-7 No-0. Carried.</p>	<p>Adopt Agenda</p>
<p><u>Public Comment</u></p>	
<p>B. Hesse – addressed the limitation of time for the public to speak. Representing CPEST and ACCESS they feel it is a violation of the first amendment. Their constitutional rights were affected.</p>	
<p>C. Byrnes – gave the Board a proposed floor plan for the layout of the middle/senior high school and how it could accommodate grades 3,4,5. She also gave the Board a sheet for the rationale for closing Unadilla Elementary and keeping Otego Elementary open. Some of the reasons were; save on flood insurance, no disruption to grades K-2, larger after school program, more land, bus garage in Otego, seating in auditorium, pickup and drop off safer in Otego, electric & water cost savings, Otego not on a flood plain, emergency services response, etc.</p>	
<p>Another area of concern was that there was no plan in place and the vote should be held off at this time until one was in place.</p>	

<p><u>Presentations</u> Business Manager's Report – P. Loker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues to work on the budget in preparation of the Board Workshop to be held on February 27th. 	<p>P. Loker</p>
<p>Superintendent's Report – Dr. D. Richards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Superintendent looked into recovering our losses due to errors and omission. Our insurance company, NYSIR, said that we are not covered as there was no loss of actual money. As to the bonding issue, the district could only pursue the cost of the auditor that was recently hired to confirm the mistake that was made by a previous auditor, BOCES and previous administration. Financially this would not be cost effective. The plans that Mrs. Byrnes gave the Board were reviewed. Board member Downey, Ms. Lambiaso, Brian Trask and Supt. Richards did a walk through to look at her recommendations. Some areas were inadequate for classrooms as the rooms were office spaces or storage areas. There was limited excess to other classrooms and the area did not meet the minimum square footage per student. Other areas of concern were sinks for K-3, bathroom for the smaller children, PE is required every day for K-4, feeding of all the students and playground area. There would be no room for a Pre-K program. There was 14 spaces available for classrooms and 28 spaces are needed. After School Program and Summer Program – the summer program would be in Otego this summer as well as the summer feeding program. In September the program would be held at the Unadilla building. The Superintendent will meet with Ms. Hewlett and discuss the program so that the needs of the children are met. Mr. Downey said that many of the rooms were too small for classrooms, 28 rooms were needed and only 14 were available, other issues included plumbing, wiring, electricity and doors to the rooms. 	<p>Dr. Richards</p>
<p><u>Administrative Action</u> Motion by Stockert, seconded by Reyda, to approve resolutions 4.1-4.3 as presented. Yes-7 No-0. Carried.</p>	
<p>Warrants were given to the Board for information only.</p>	<p>Warrants</p>
<p>Budget Status reports were given to the Board for information only.</p>	<p>Budget Status Reps</p>

<p>RESOLVED; upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that this Board does hereby approve the Treasurer's Reports for all funds for the month of January as presented.</p> <p>The following motion was moved, seconded and read by the District Clerk.</p> <p>Discussion by Board members prior to reading of the resolution.</p>	<p>Treasurer's Reports</p>
<p>RESOLVED; upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools the following resolution is presented:</p> <p>Whereas, loss of enrollment, substantially decreased state aid, and the property tax cap have resulted in a loss of revenue to the school district, and</p> <p>Whereas, increased unfunded mandates in the form of higher assessments for the Teachers and Employees retirement system and the increased costs of mandated health insurance and minimum wage have resulted in higher expenses, and</p> <p>Whereas, the transition to the information economy requires our school district to expend resources on the acquisition of the technology tools which our graduates will encounter in college and the workplace, and</p> <p>Whereas, the physical plant must be upgraded to accommodate the increased use of technological resources in the buildings, and</p> <p>Whereas, the enrollment of the District has sustained a significant decline, and</p> <p>Whereas, all of the foregoing factors have coalesced to place great strain on the fiscal health of our school district, and</p> <p>Whereas, a stakeholder committee consisting of community members, parents, teachers, support staff and administrators has met six times and assisted in the development of a facilities study, and</p> <p>Whereas, available evidence demonstrates that substantial savings can be realized by closure of a building,</p>	<p>Closure of Otego Elementary School</p>

Now Therefore, after having carefully considered the expert report produced by Castallo and Silky, Educational Consultants recommending building closure and the Board of Education having held public meetings to listen to the members of the school community concerning the recommendation to close the building, and after extensive deliberation, and on motion by Stockert, seconded by Downey, it is

RESOLVED; the Otego Elementary School Building shall be closed on August 31, 2017. The grades housed there shall be transferred to the Unadilla Elementary School for enrollment in the 2017 to 2018 academic year.

District Clerk French called for a roll call vote:

Downey	Yes
Gould	Yes
McDermott	Yes
Reyda	Yes
Salisbury	No
Stockert	Yes
Treffeisen	Yes

Motion carried.

Public Comment

B. Hesse – spoke that in his opinion the heart of the community was ripped out by the Boards decision. The CPEST/ACCESS then submitted a directive to the Board to immediately make a motion to rescind the vote to close the Otego Elementary School.

Other comments from the public were; a proper study had not been made, there was no care for the public's feelings or comments, commit to closing Unadilla school, go back to a junior/senior high school and elementary school-no middle school and questions on the plan going forward. Lew Keyser, previous Board member and President from Otego, discussed when the Board began talking on closing the Otego School. Mr. Keyser suggested keeping the Otego building for a year before marketing the school.

Round Table Discussion

R. Downey – the plan as he sees it is to close Otego school in August and have a flexible time to close Unadilla depending on SED. The community will be involved serving on a facilities planning committee. The Board will seek advice on the repurposing of the building.

F. Reyda – the Board reads all correspondence that is sent to the Superintendent. He told the audience to keep sending suggestions and they will consider them seriously.

J. McDermott – noted that the Otego building would be kept secure and the grounds would be taken care of. They will work with the community on the repurposing of the school. The district is not alone with our problems.

Motion by Salisbury, seconded by Stockert, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Yes-7 No-0. Carried.

Adjournment

Joan M. French
District Clerk