

**MINUTES OF THE RETREAT OF THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION
AMBOY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #272
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.
AMBOY KSB MEDICAL CENTER COMMUNITY ROOM**

President Jones called the Retreat of the Board of Education to order at 8:30 a.m. All board members were present except White. Also present were Joshua Nichols, George Schwamberger, Andrew Full, Katie Bulfer, Janet Crownhart, and Joyce Schamberger.

George Schwamberger, High School Athletic Director, shared projected participant numbers for the 2020-2021 school year. He reviewed the proposal to move to 8-man football. Junior Varsity games will be played 8-man for the 2020 football season. This will be an action item at the March board meeting. Based on projected numbers, volleyball should be able to have varsity and junior varsity games for the 2020 season. Student participation rate is in line with other area school districts. Fall participation sits at 28%, winter participation at 31%, and spring participation at 30%.

Al Quest joined the meeting at 8:37 a.m. and Elizabeth Hennessey, from Raymond James, joined the meeting at 8:49 a.m.

Andrew Full, Junior High Athletic Director, also reported on the future of junior high athletics and mentioned allowing fifth and sixth grade students an opportunity to participate in volleyball, girls and boys basketball. He projects a total cost of \$12,000 to cover transportation, uniforms, coaches, officials, etc. to accommodate the addition. This will be an action item at the April board meeting.

Elizabeth Hennessey from Raymond James presented and discussed financial projections.

Transportation Director, Al Quest, shared information on the bus fleet, including the possibility of replacing the spare buses (7, 10 and 11). Al recommends replacing the two Chevy Uplanders with one new vehicle and leasing another bus to replace the one coming off the lease this year, in addition to leasing two activity buses. Costs associated with this proposal will be available at a later date.

Superintendent Nichols presented the maintenance report in the absence of Maintenance Director, Ken Willey. All A-list items on the Health, Life, and Safety Survey have been completed. Many of the remaining B and C items will be dealt with during the construction process in the next two years. Added to the list of recommendations to Central School maintenance is repairing the steam tunnel leak discovered this winter.

A discussion about summer help prompted a request to look into the hiring policy, how students learn about the opportunity and if there is validation in filling these spots with high school athletes first (who are working off the fees associated with athletic participation).

Janet Crownhart, Joyce Schamberger and Andrew Full showed a powerpoint presentation that contained a plethora amount of information such as goals, schedules, percentages and numbers of students in advanced placement classes, dual enrollment, Whiteside Area Career Center, extra-curricular activities, school/parent communication, and professional development. They focused on the WIN programs at Central School and the Junior High, new curriculum K-8 in math and ELA, teacher trainings, and professional developments. The board discussed the pros and cons of self-contained classrooms versus departmental learning at the elementary school.

At 11:00 a.m., a motion was made by Schnaiter and seconded by Payne to move to executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance and/or dismissal of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting or specific volunteers of the public body; and student expulsion. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Schnaiter and seconded by Stenzel to return to open session at 11:21 a.m. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Leffelman and seconded by Stenzel to uphold the expulsion of student #23078 for a period of ten months, effective immediately and lasting until January 4, 2021, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

The principals continued their reports discussing growth benchmarks, state testing and ESSA / College and Career ready at the high school.

Discussion regarding the student absence policy prompted a direction to review the current attendance policy and provide direction to the board moving forward. Currently, students are allowed 10 days absence plus five days for vacation. According to the state mandates, students must be in school 95% of the time, only missing 7.7 days in one school year.

Superintendent Nichols shared his State of the District presentation, which included student enrollment projections, fund balance review, state testing trends, and future plans regarding buildings, finances, student engagement, and education quality.

Janet Crownhart, Joyce Schamberger, Andrew Full, and Katie Bulfer left the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

The board discussed board self-evaluation processes and how to update board policy. Section 1 of board policy will be reviewed at the March board meeting. Katie will create a board self-evaluation survey to share.

A motion to move to executive session at 2:37 p.m. was made by Payne and seconded by Schnaiter in order to discuss matters relating to the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, and/or dismissal of specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting or specific volunteers of the public body; and student expulsion. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Leffelman and seconded by Schnaiter to return to open session at 4:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Schnaiter to grant tenure to fourth-year probationary teachers, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Leffelman and seconded by Payne to grant contract renewals to tenured teachers, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Schnaiter and seconded by Stenzel to grant contract renewals to non-tenured probationary teachers, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Leffelman and seconded by Payne to approve non-certified support staff contract renewals, as presented. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

A motion was made by Payne and seconded by Stenzel to approve the employment of summer help, as presented in the maintenance report. Motion carried with five yea votes. One vote was abstained by Leffelman.

A motion was made by Schnaiter and seconded by Payne to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously upon roll call.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsa Payne, Secretary Pro Tem

Nicole Jones, President

Approved: _____