

RENSSELAER CENTRAL SCHOOLS CORPORATION  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023

RENSSELAER CENTRAL SCHOOLS CORPORATION ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM

REGULAR SESSION

The Board of School Trustees of the Rensselaer Central Schools Corporation met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at the Rensselaer Central Schools Corporation Administrative Offices Board Conference Room. Board Members present were Janice Deno, Cole Buschman, Gary Braasch, Courtney Wilcox, Emily Lyons, Rick Odle and Mark Jordan.

President Braasch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Braasch determined a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

President Braasch stated that there were (4) additions to the agenda, Item K.1 – Proposal to revoke on Board Decision to release students to Lifewise Academy religious instruction for Van Elementary students. Item K.2 –Additional 2023-2024 Student Transfer Request – Ethan Kelly – Twelfth Grade. Item L.2 –Additional 2023-2024 Teacher Recommendation – Katie Ferrer – Middle School English/Language Arts Teacher. Item L.5 – Approval of Leave Request – Maggie Hickman – Maternity Leave. Mrs. Deno made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The minutes of the June 20, 2023 Regular Session Meeting and July 5, 2023 Re-Organizational Meeting were presented for board approval. Mr. Odle made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Buschman seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

President Braasch asked for comments from the RCCTA. Denise Yentes spoke about the teachers concerns regarding Lifewise Academy. She stated that RCCTA sent out a teacher survey and shared the survey data with the board. She informed the board that they will be conducting a substitute teacher training session soon and host a new teacher orientation boot camp.

President Braasch asked for patron comments. Kimberly Voss spoke in support of Lifewise Academy. Lana Zimmer and John Groppe spoke regarding their concerns about Lifewise Academy. Caleb Voss and Debbie Voss spoke in support of Lifewise Academy. Bill Zimmer and Kathy Staddon spoke regarding their concerns about Lifewise Academy. Emmett Booher spoke in support of Lifewise Academy. Anita Risner and David Staddon spoke about concerns regarding Lifewise Academy. Debbie Rodibaugh spoke in support of Lifewise Academy. Ote Wood spoke about concerns with Lifewise Academy. Rachel Hendrix spoke in support of Lifewise Academy.

President Braasch stated that he appreciations everybody's participation on the subject of Lifewise Academy.

Superintendent Craig presented 2023 SAT and I-Learn results.

Superintendent Craig updated the board on several projects that are planned and that have already been completed within the corporation.

- New Roof at the High School is progressing.
- Pool lockers are installed.
- Old pool lockers are going in the High School boy's locker room.
- Welding shop is getting a new ventilation system.
- Van Office furniture is replaced.
- Maintaining and sealing cracks in parking lots.

Claims dated July 18, 2023 were presented for board approval. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the claims. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig presented, to the board, a Financial Report showing expenditures through June 30, 2023.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of Proposal to Revote on Board Decision to release students to Lifewise Academy religious instruction for Van Elementary students. Mr. Odle made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote of the board was the following: Aye – Mr. Buschman, Ms. Lyons, Mr. Odle, Mr. Jordan. Nay – Mrs. Deno, Mr. Braasch, Mrs. Wilcox. Mr. Odle made the motion to take a revote. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion. After further discussion, Mr. Buschman made the motion to table the subject. Mrs. Wilcox seconded the motion. Mr. Jordan made the motion to amend the motion to table until a Special Session could be held on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. The vote of the board was the following: Aye – Mr. Buschman, Mr. Braasch, Mrs. Wilcox, Ms. Lyons, Mr. Odle, Mr. Jordan. Nay – Mrs. Deno.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval 2023 TAG (Teacher Appreciation Grant) Award Policy. Mr. Odle made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of the following 2023-2024 Student Transfer Requests:

- Elijah Bartley – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- Ethan Kelly – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ms. Lyons made the motion to approve the request. Mrs. Wilcox seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of Resolution to Modify the Rainy Day Fund. Mr. Odle made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion. The vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of 2023-2024 Student Handbooks for Rensselaer Central High School, Rensselaer Middle School, Van Intermediate School and Rensselaer Central Primary School. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Buschman seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of 2023-2024 Non Certified Employee Handbook and 2023-2024 Administrator Handbook. Mr. Odle made the motion to approve the request. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval 2023-2024 Student/Adult Breakfast/Lunch Prices (Free Breakfast and Lunch for Students. Adult Breakfast \$2.85, Lunch \$4.85 No charging allowed for anyone for Al carte milk or food). Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the request. Mrs. Wilcox seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of Susan Traynor Chastain, Attorney with Lewis Kappes, to Represent Rensselaer Central Schools Corporation during Negotiations. Mr. Odle made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of the following Teacher Resignation:

- Debra Spangler – Middle School English/Language Arts Teacher

Mrs. Deno made the motion to accept the resignation. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of the following 2023-2024 Teacher recommendations:

- Brant Schmid – Building Trades Teacher
- Isaac Woolace – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher
- Katie Ferrer – Middle School English/Language Arts Teacher

Ms. Lyons made the motion to approve the request. Mrs. Wilcox seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of the following Extra Curricular Activities Resignation:

- Megan Sterk – Middle School Newspaper Sponsor

Mr. Odle made the motion to accept the resignation. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of the following Coaching Recommendations:

- Fall 2023-2024

- Spring Cotner – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Coach
- JV & Asst. Volleyball Coach Recommendations:

Combine the 2 position's stipends and divide it as follows:

- Tara Hammond – JV Volleyball Coach (combined stipends minus \$250)

- Katie Bilyeu – Asst. Volleyball Coach (combined stipends minus \$250)
- Beth Hege – Asst. Volleyball Coach (\$500)
- Winter 2023-2024
  - Brandon Crimmons – 6th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Buschman seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Craig requested board approval of the following Leave Request:

- Maggie Hickman – Maternity Leave

Ms. Lyons made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion and the vote of the board was unanimous in favor of the motion.

President Braasch stated that the New Teacher Meeting will be held Monday, August 7, 2023 9:00-11:00 a.m., Board Conference Room.

President Braasch stated that the Staff Orientation Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 8:00 a.m. in the High School Auditorium.

President Braasch stated that Teacher In-Service Day will be held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023.

President Braasch stated that Thursday, August 10, 2023 will be the first student day.

President Braasch stated that the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 7:00 p.m. in the Board Conference room.

Being there was nothing else to come before the board at this time, President Braasch adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Jordan and a second by Mr. Odle.

SIGNED AND APPROVED BY  
BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES  
RENSSELAER CENTRAL SCHOOLS CORPORATION
