

Transcript – Feb. 10, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

00:28
so
00:50
Brian the link has just been sent to you
00:52
got it
00:55
30 more seconds
00:59
let me just get the flag up before we
01:10
begin
01:24
so
01:34
okay we are live on the site
01:38
good evening everybody and welcome to
01:40
the february 10th virtual business
01:42
meeting of the southern westchester
01:43
boces board of education
01:45
um please begin by rising to join me in
01:48
the pledge of allegiance
01:51
i pledge allegiance to the flag of the
01:54
united states of america
01:56
and to the republic for which it stands
01:58
one nation
01:59
under god indivisible with liberty and
02:02
justice for all
02:09
so tonight since we need to appoint a
02:12
clerk pro tem i'd like to just start
02:14
with that motion
02:15
um so tonight if i could ask bob
02:19
to make the motions and john to do the
02:21
second so i will make the male members
02:23
of the board work hard tonight
02:25
um so a motion please to appoint jim
02:28
i believe right as the clerk pro tem
02:32
all those in favor please say aye aye
02:35
aye
02:36
anybody opposed no abstentions
02:40
okay thank you jim for being willing to
02:41
do that um i will next ask you to call
02:43
the roll
02:44

apparently cath uh please say president
02:47
we call your name katherine draper
02:49
present john philiberti
02:52
present valerie williams
02:55
present robert johnson president
02:59
cheryl brady present and lynn mcbride is
03:04
absent tonight
03:06
thank you jim so before we go into the
03:08
official meeting i wanted to remind
03:10
everybody that while we are operating in
03:11
this virtual environment
03:13
we do not really have the capacity to
03:15
invite members of the public to
03:17
comment so um i will remind you that we
03:21
always welcome your comments by email
03:23
and all of our email addresses board
03:26
members and administrators are on the
03:28
website
03:29
so please feel free to let us know what
03:31
you're thinking
03:32
so we'll begin with the review of the
03:34
minutes of the
03:36
previous meeting which is
03:39
the meeting of january 13th
03:43
and let's see lynn was asking she can't
03:45
do this now
03:46
okay so any corrections to these minutes
03:55
seeing and hearing none all those in
03:58
favor
03:58
please say i i anybody opposed
04:03
and nobody should need to abstain
04:05
tonight
04:07
so moving on to the items for board
04:09
discussion and approval
04:11
the first three have to do with
04:14
revisions to this year's school
04:16
calendars
04:17
so i'm going to ask jackie before we

04:19
vote on those and i think we can
04:20
probably take them as a group unless
04:21
anybody objects
04:23
to explain why we've made some changes
04:25
certainly so
04:26
as you know we've spoken about the fact
04:28
that juneteenth
04:31
which is june 19th is now an official
04:34
holiday
04:34
in new york state and while um we're not
04:38
required to give a day this year because
04:40
the law states
04:42
that juneteenth will be celebrated on
04:44
the day of the week it falls on
04:46
and if it falls on a sunday would be
04:47
celebrated on a monday
04:50
but the board of regents have made the
04:52
decision not to give regents on
04:54
the friday in honor of juneteenth and we
04:57
feel like in support of the holiday that
05:00
we would really
05:00
like to provide that as a day of closure
05:03
so in following years you'll always see
05:05
it as a day of closure the only time it
05:07
doesn't automatically lead to a closure
05:09
is when it falls
05:11
on the saturday of the week
05:14
so we just are bringing forward the
05:16
calendar in order to go ahead
05:18
and make that change for this year i did
05:22
get some questions from folks about
05:24
does that affect our total days we had
05:27
186
05:28
seven days this year this takes us to
05:30
186 so we're still well above the 180
05:33
requirement
05:36
thank you jackie anybody have any
05:37

questions comments on this no i
05:39
i just want to say that i appreciate
05:41
that we are recognizing
05:42
you know the holiday as a closure so
05:44
thank you
05:46
okay in that case all those in favor of
05:49
these three
05:50
that i'd like to say together please say
05:51
hi
05:54
anybody opposed any abstentions
05:58
okay moving on to item d revised
06:01
resolution to accept the corrective
06:02
action report for independent auditors
06:04
reports
06:06
steve i'll ask you to introduce this
06:08
item if i
06:10
see you there sure um good evening
06:12
everyone
06:13
uh so last month we did approve the
06:16
reports
06:16
and they were submitted to new york
06:18
state for their
06:20
approval through the sed portal and they
06:22
came back with a couple of comments
06:25
um that if we could put end dates or or
06:28
dates of expected implementation on the
06:31
reports
06:33
that would be helpful for them to be in
06:36
order to approve it
06:37
uh subsequent to that harold supported
06:39
me an email today
06:41
um from the superintendent group saying
06:43
that
06:44
the controller's office would give a
06:46
little leniency for this year
06:48
but since our comments are only two of
06:50
them
06:51
um we decided to still present the

06:52
report for acceptance one of the
06:54
recommendations we've already
06:56
implemented
06:56
and then the other one would be part of
06:58
the graduation so we are
07:00
putting it forth to the board again this
07:01
evening for their consideration for
07:03
acceptance
07:05
thank you steve and i will say that the
07:07
audit committee which consists of
07:09
cheryl lynn and i um
07:12
have already reviewed this and are very
07:14
comfortable with it
07:16
so are there any questions for steve
07:20
no in that case all those in favor
07:22
please say hi all right
07:24
anybody opposed any extensions
07:28
okay thank you um so i again i'd like to
07:32
take the next
07:33
four together i think they all have to
07:35
do with the
07:36
2021 2022 calendar the school calendar
07:40
the office closing calendar
07:42
and the two teamsters union calendars
07:46
um jackie is there anything more to say
07:48
about this or
07:50
is it self-explanatory the only thing
07:52
that i would explain is
07:54
often a lot of our districts have their
07:56
calendars published by this time of year
07:58
and this year um they seem to be coming
08:00
at a little bit different pace
08:02
so they're bet as best aligned as we can
08:04
we always look at the
08:05
the districts that we have the most
08:07
students in programs we do the student
08:09
program
08:10

calendar so if we see any need for
08:13
revision we might come back in the
08:15
future but right now
08:16
they're as lined as they can be um at
08:18
this point for the coming year
08:20
thank you and i can see it was a
08:22
challenging year given the late labor
08:23
day and
08:24
where the jewish holidays fall september
08:26
must have been sort of difficult to put
08:27
together so it looks like you did a
08:28
really good job
08:30
so any questions comments
08:34
in that case i'd like a motion to
08:35
approve items e g and h
08:38
all those in favor please say aye hi hi
08:41
hi anybody opposed
08:45
any abstentions okay seeing none
08:48
we are unanimous moving on to the next
08:51
item which is the approval of
08:53
personnel items and i hope you all had a
08:56
chance to look at this late today
08:57
because as usual there were some
08:59
additions we'll begin with certified
09:02
personnel
09:03
and the resignations we have a couple of
09:06
retirements
09:07
that i'd like to acknowledge tonight the
09:09
first is peter
09:10
de santolo who is retiring after 15
09:14
years
09:14
as a teaching assistant and the other
09:16
one is julia roth
09:18
who is retiring after 21 years as a
09:21
teaching assistant
09:23
so we wish them both the best and thank
09:25
them for their
09:26
numerous years of service to the boces

09:30
then we have some appointments
09:34
a couple of leaves of absence extending
09:37
previous ones
09:38
lots of additional assignments having to
09:40
do with the summer program
09:44
a few other adjustments in unpaid intern
09:48
and that's it for the um certified
09:51
personnel are there any questions on
09:52
that portion
09:55
any comments from staff that anybody
09:58
needs to make
09:59
okay move on to the classified personnel
10:03
some civil service status changes
10:07
again one of the resignations is for the
10:10
purpose of retirement
10:12
that is um anna marie dinapoli
10:16
after 34 years as a teacher age so
10:19
we thank her for her four years of
10:21
service and wish her the best in
10:23
retirement
10:24
um a couple of appointments
10:27
again many hourly rate assignments looks
10:30
like it's
10:31
pretty much all for the summer program
10:34
other adjustments
10:36
one elimination of position and
10:38
reduction in force associated with that
10:41
any questions comments on the personnel
10:44
agenda
10:49
sing none all those in favor please say
10:51
aye
10:52
aye anybody opposed
10:56
any abstentions okay
11:00
moving to the business agenda
11:03
and there was an addendum tonight for
11:06
kids so we will start with the
11:10
treasurer's report
11:13

any questions comments
11:18
i know there will be something to say
11:19
about the accounts receivable
11:21
report good evening since the
11:24
materials were posted we received
11:27
approximately
11:28
7.5 million dollars
11:31
picatico hills and white plains paid
11:34
their october through december balances
11:37
irvington and yonkers paid november and
11:41
december
11:42
the following districts paid december
11:46
artley dobbs ferry east chester
11:50
edgemont harrison hellam
11:54
tuckahoe in valhalla
11:58
thank you any questions comments for
12:01
john
12:03
thank you you always bring us exactly up
12:05
to date and we really appreciate that
12:07
thank you next moving on claims audit
12:11
report
12:12
looks good as usual questions comments
12:18
um special aid projects mckinney vento
12:21
homeless
12:22
sixty five children dollars perkins
12:26
for career services
12:30
questions comments one
12:33
equipment lease purchase agreement for
12:36
[Music]
12:37
edgemont and some
12:41
a couple of contracts pretty light
12:43
agenda i have to say not
12:44
that many this time of year um
12:47
additional contracts
12:49
we just have one i think and then the
12:52
addendum has the the one bit
12:55
any questions comments on the business
12:57
agenda

13:00
good okay
13:03
seeing none all those in favor please
13:05
say aye aye
13:07
aye anybody opposed
13:10
any abstentions okay
13:13
we have really gotten through this
13:14
quickly so we will move right on to the
13:16
report of the district superintendent
13:33
a brief overview of the uh the uh things
13:36
that have been happening in our region
13:37
uh first of all i want to point out if
13:39
you haven't noticed
13:40
we're aware uh we have a new
13:42
commissioner of education
13:43
dr betty rosa was appointed on monday
13:46
she is now the new commissioner of
13:48
education
13:49
uh and the president of suny um
13:53
also there's an amount something to make
13:55
to that um
13:56
mark your calendar uh this 20 uh 2021
14:00
boces advocacy day
14:01
opening ceremony that's usually the
14:03
first uh beginning of the day on a
14:05
wednesday following uh
14:07
the boces district superintendent's
14:09
meeting that's going to be in an evening
14:11
time period to be virtual
14:13
it'll be on february 22nd uh from four
14:16
o'clock to 5
14:17
30. if you're interested in
14:19
participating in that
14:20
please let my office know and they will
14:24
send you the link
14:25
to be able to register to be able to
14:26
come it
14:28
uh it's a nice opportunity this year
14:30

because in the past you have to
14:31
physically being present to
14:33
be there and being virtual this year
14:35
it'll allow opportunity for our board
14:36
members that
14:37
have not been able to travel to get up
14:38
there to be part of the opening ceremony
14:40
and it's be from four o'clock to 5 30.
14:43
uh wednesday february 23rd is going to
14:45
be the date that we selected for the
14:47
virtual legislative tours we're in the
14:49
process of setting those scores up
14:51
um because they're virtual this year
14:53
we're looking at trying to create
14:55
opportunities for our students to get
14:57
an opportunity to be able to meet and
14:59
speak with the
15:00
legislators personally through zoom uh
15:03
so
15:03
we're looking forward to them being able
15:05
to communicate uh the wonderful things
15:07
that they're experiencing at our boces
15:09
um the six next thing is that uh
15:12
beginning this past
15:14
week i was tuesday night last night um
15:17
jim and i began the second phase of our
15:19
next round of uh
15:21
superintendent interviews for the
15:22
districts that we're doing interviews
15:23
for
15:24
uh we did port chester last night we're
15:26
going to be doing
15:27
rye neck tomorrow night and valhalla
15:29
will be doing in a couple weeks
15:32
second round means that we're getting
15:33
the board's prayer to meet with the new
15:35
candidates
15:36
we had a tremendous candidate pool come

15:38
forward for the districts that are
15:40
current that are interviewing and
15:41
looking forward for them to be able to
15:42
uh
15:43
find choose this selected superintendent
15:46
that will best fit with their school
15:48
district
15:49
i just want to end with uh saying that
15:51
um
15:53
last week we were a couple weeks ago we
15:55
went up receiving
15:56
a notification from pleasantville asking
15:58
for information about our superintendent
16:00
search
16:01
and on monday night jim and i did a
16:02
virtual meeting with the board
16:04
to present to them our process in
16:06
working through
16:07
selecting superintendents and looking at
16:09
how we can be a thought partner with
16:11
them as we look forward to the
16:12
superintendent so
16:14
it was a positive meeting looking
16:15
forward to hearing back from them
16:17
and um that's it for my report for
16:20
tonight
16:26
thank you any questions for harold
16:28
comments
16:31
this is going to be a very quick meeting
16:34
jackie you are up next
16:35
i might have a really long report okay
16:39
i'm prepared i don't have a really long
16:41
report but what i do have is a lot of
16:42
good things to say
16:44
um we have been trying to change our
16:48
focus it's been an
16:49
unusual year and we've tried to stay
16:51

true to our goals and
16:53
and true to our vision and
16:57
we have sometimes found ourselves
16:59
spending a lot of our time on copic
17:01
related issues
17:03
even though we've tried to balance these
17:04
other balls so we're starting to see a
17:06
little decline
17:08
in those kobe related issues in fact jim
17:10
i think i could say that
17:12
we don't have any programs remotely at
17:13
this point right or any classrooms and
17:16
we have it times over the last few
17:18
months had at least one program or one
17:20
classroom out remote at a time
17:22
and we're starting to to see um
17:26
the decline but even prior to that
17:29
we've really been working with the
17:30
leadership team
17:32
digging in deep bringing in our new
17:34
leaders
17:35
for weekly trainings now to make sure
17:38
that all of the good foundation that
17:40
we've laid over the
17:41
past five years that they have an
17:42
opportunity to go through the same steps
17:45
and the same learning
17:46
so we continue to speak in one voice
17:49
continue to keep our focus
17:51
um and continue to build our boces
17:54
so those have been really great sessions
17:57
were
17:58
through four sessions in a series of
18:01
eight
18:02
so uh we're going to continue to work
18:05
our way through
18:06
the other thing that we've been doing is
18:08
really looking at our gaps and getting a

18:10
good sense of the baseline of where we
18:12
are at now
18:13
and starting the process of bringing
18:15
stakeholders together
18:16
to plan our action plans and steps
18:20
for the coming year steve's been out and
18:23
about with the budget
18:24
he presented to the superintendents last
18:28
week and steve i think you've already
18:29
presented to the business officials
18:32
that's correct
18:32
as we uh prepare financially to get
18:35
ready for next year
18:37
and in may all of our directors will be
18:39
here to talk to you
18:40
about what they see on the horizon and
18:42
we'll do our
18:44
annual meeting where they come in and
18:45
they dream with you
18:47
about where we are headed so i'm just
18:49
really excited about the work that's
18:51
being done
18:52
uh one of the things that we're going to
18:54
launch is we're going to start a new
18:55
district-wide
18:57
committee that is really focused on
18:59
culture and identifying any gaps
19:01
that might be keeping us from being the
19:04
connected learning environment that we
19:06
have sought to bring and bringing
19:08
stakeholders
19:10
together to increase our own learning
19:12
and address any issues we have as we
19:14
move ahead
19:15
so we're just really excited about the
19:17
movement forward
19:19
and i'm already looking forward next
19:21

month
19:22
careertech will be here um for the last
19:25
instructional report of the year
19:27
um i've been trying to highlight some of
19:28
the programs and bring them into you
19:30
those of you who are new to the board
19:32
um when we get back to in-person
19:34
meetings we always like to follow those
19:36
by a tour of the facility to
19:39
really see the magic that happens in
19:41
those programs so hopefully next year
19:43
we'll be back to that
19:44
but next month we'll have our last
19:46
instructional report and then in may
19:49
the entire cabinet will be coming
19:51
together to paint a picture of where
19:53
we're headed
19:53
so um that's it my report for tonight
19:56
just to let you know what we're up to
19:58
and uh where we're going and um it's
20:01
exciting hopeful times and we're looking
20:03
to identify what's really working
20:06
this year and the lessons that we've
20:07
learned and preserve those good things
20:09
and
20:10
continue to keep our focus on the
20:12
forward direction that we established
20:14
through our collaborative problem
20:15
solving
20:18
thank you jackie um it's nice to have
20:20
some good news
20:22
any questions comments for jackie
20:28
okay hearing none i will move along to
20:31
the next phase which is comments from
20:33
members of the board
20:34
and i will invite you starting in the
20:36
order in which you appear on my personal
20:38
screen which means we start with you

20:39
valerie
20:44
okay uh good evening everyone um
20:47
i'm glad to see that everyone is well
20:50
and
20:50
um happy black history month
20:54
and um i'm excited about
20:57
um juneteenth in june
21:02
have a wonderful rest of the month thank
21:05
you
21:06
okay let's see uh cheryl
21:11
just to thank you for all the the hard
21:14
work on
21:14
the part of you know administrators
21:17
faculty
21:18
staff um everything that you're doing
21:20
for for our students so thank you
21:24
thank you john
21:27
yeah i'll echo what cheryl just said to
21:29
keep it short
21:31
thank you to everybody for all the work
21:32
that they're doing and stay safe
21:36
and last but not least among board
21:38
members bob
21:41
you're muted
21:46
uh just to again just uh
21:49
commend everybody for their hard work
21:51
and you know we're halfway through the
21:52
year
21:53
and we know how uh that there's light at
21:56
the end of the tunnel here
21:58
uh with the pandemic so it's also all
22:01
staying positive and
22:03
uh thank you again for all the work that
22:05
you do
22:07
i think we're all sort of unanimous in
22:09
terms of our
22:10
needing to express our thanks to the
22:12

administration and the
22:14
entire staff for all of the work that
22:16
they have done this year in difficult
22:17
circumstances
22:19
and you know i'm hearing a lot every day
22:21
from
22:22
parents and districts who are unhappy
22:24
because their kids aren't back in
22:26
full-time school and i think we have
22:28
done an amazing job
22:29
of making sure that to the maximum
22:32
extent possible
22:33
our students are getting what they need
22:35
and some of them really need to do it in
22:37
person
22:37
and i'm so impressed by the fact that
22:40
we've managed to do that to the extent
22:42
we have
22:42
so thank you especially for that because
22:44
i think it's been really important this
22:45
year to make sure that those
22:47
kids get that human contact on a regular
22:49
basis with their
22:51
their teachers and other people that
22:52
they work with so thank you
22:54
so moving on to comments from members of
22:57
the staff
22:59
i will start with you jim if you'd like
23:01
to say something
23:05
um no just coming with jackie said we do
23:07
now have everybody
23:09
in school those that are choosing to
23:11
come to school there's certainly a
23:12
student uh
23:13
population of families who are choosing
23:15
to stay fully remote
23:16
but as of today all
23:20
programs that are able to be in person

23:21
fully in person and that
23:23
we have a handful of hybrid programs
23:25
that are
23:26
operating on a hybrid basis so it's all
23:29
very very good news thank you
23:33
good news suzanne
23:37
no i just thank you for all your support
23:39
um about a year ago now
23:41
you approved a new position in hr and i
23:44
couldn't be more thankful for that
23:46
during this year because it has been
23:48
immensely helpful
23:50
so it was good for thinking good timing
23:53
huh
23:54
and let's see kathy good evening
23:57
everybody
23:58
um the lyric is in the midst of meeting
24:01
individually with districts each year we
24:04
try we bring our leadership
24:07
team for all of our departments and we
24:09
meet with the
24:10
leadership of each individual district
24:13
that we support
24:14
we're in the midst of that and i it's
24:16
just been very gratifying
24:18
here how hearing how grateful the
24:20
districts have been
24:21
for our ability to pivot and to support
24:24
them
24:25
in different ways this year and um
24:28
it's been you know consistently very
24:31
grateful for the support so
24:33
in turn you know it bulgo comes back to
24:35
the board support so thank you
24:38
thank you uh let's see john miller
24:43
evening nothing thank you thank you
24:46
steve
24:48

i'm no nothing thank you wow you guys
24:50
are very quiet tonight
24:52
brian i too have nothing thank you
24:57
thank you and victor nothing thank you
25:01
all right so the next item on my agenda
25:04
is adjournment so i will give one last
25:06
opportunity in case anybody has anything
25:08
they forgot to say and
25:09
or would like to say at this point
25:13
and i don't see any raised hands or
25:15
anything out there so
25:17
um a motion to adjourn please all those
25:19
in favor please say aye
25:21
all right anybody opposed
25:24
okay we are adjourned until i think next
25:27
month
25:28
so have a good