

2778 The first May meeting of the Corinth Central School Board of Education was held on May 12, 2020. President Lozier called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Board Member Roll Call: Trustee Freebern, Trustee Baker, Trustee Bourdeau, Trustee Kelley, Trustee Lueck and Student Board Member Tevendale;; Absent: Trustee Sullivan; and Present: Mark Stratton, Superintendent; Susan Foley, Business Administrator; Jennifer Bardin, District Clerk; Also Present: Eric Schenone, Renee Young, Brian Testani, Jill Cheney-Bovee, Jessica Valente, Lisa Tevendale, Dan Miller, Roger Tripp,, Pat Siano, Christine Delaney, Pattie Saunders, Amy Enekes, Melanie Jones, Michael Goot, Sam Honaker, Sandy Flint, Sarah Graham, Tammi Lemelin, Tony Miele, Zachary Freemire, Adrienne Shayne, Andrea Miele, Brenda Hoult, Kerry Giumarra, Jovani Mosca, Lauri Pritchard, Marnie Freemire, Rebecca Robarge, Sonja Harris, Allison Millis, Shari Mann, Donna Briner and Hillary Haskell.

Pledge of Allegiance: Those present were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by President Lozier.

Approval of Minutes: Trustee Kelley made a motion second by Trustee Baker and passed 6-0 to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020, Board of Education meeting.

Public Participation on agenda items was offered. Andrea Miele commented on the agenda item E.12.f resignation of Kristina Tucker. Andrea stated that she was not interested in knowing the reasons, she just wanted to state that she was very disappointed to see this on the agenda and hearing of it. She hopes that our district would do everything in our power to keep Kristina Tucker and that it is a tremendous loss. President Lozier Thanked Andrea for her comments.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Stratton stated that he did not have anything new to share, however he wanted to introduce Sue Foley for her Budget Presentation and Eric Schenone for his Graduation Presentation. Dr. Stratton stated that he knows that graduation is on a lot of families minds and that he wanted Eric to share the tentative plans.

Budget Presentation: Sue Foley Business Administrator gave a budget update stating that at the end of February we had an expense budget of \$23,260,405 as proposed and the governor had a proposed revenue of \$22,991,500 leaving a gap of \$68,905. We then were waiting in March for the state to adopt the budget and the pandemic hit. Then in the beginning of April the state adopted their budget. As part of the adoption the Foundation Aid was frozen at the current years level. It also included a Pandemic adjustment and a Federal Care Restoration. The other piece of the budget for us is that the state took away their share of maintenance cost for residential placements, district share went from 38.424% to 56.848% . As part of the pandemic adjustment in the state budget it gives authorization for the Budget Director to adjust state spending if actual state revenues decrease/increase beyond certain levels. Legislators have a 10 day period to make changes to adjustments. If they don't act on it then whatever the budget director proposes gets done. The budget director has three measurement periods where he can take and evaluate where the revenues and expenditures are, the first one was April and we all know that the revenues for the state are down, they delayed state income taxes until July. We have not heard anything yet . The second period is May 1-June 30th, the third July 10-December 31. Anytime after the 2nd and 3rd the state can come in and make adj and take state aid away from the districts. Where we are at with the new state adopted budget, the expenditures are the same but the revenues are about \$200,000 less than what was originally proposed back in February under the governor's proposal. So now we have a gap of about \$470,000. So know we have to bring our proposed budget down and inline with our revenue budget. We had to get to \$22,791,863 for our proposed budget. How did we get there? The administration has been working hard trying to figure about \$470,000. We have looked at decreasing the amount of CTE slots originally proposed. The Director of Technology duties have been reassigned to an administrator. Due to decrease in class size we were able to abolish an Elementary Teaching Assistant Position and Teaching Position. Instructional Coordinator stipends as well as retirements and attrition. So then our proposed revenue budget is at \$22,791,863 to balance out with the expenditure budget. With the revenue budget we have not used reserves or fund balance to budget at this point. Because of the uncertainty of the pandemic adjustment and unanswered questions we do not know what will be the mechanism used for any future adjustments and how will the adjustment process work and what is the direct impact to State Aid for school districts? During a daily briefing the governor mentioned that if the federal government doesn't give more state aid that he could cut 20% of state aid to school districts. What is 20% to the district? What is based on, is it based on all aid or just foundation aid. We don't know, but 20% of our foundation aid is \$1.9 million and all state aid \$2.5 million. If this was to come to fruition, after the budget is in place and after July 1, what would we have to do for future cuts, we could reduce expenditures, use fund balance for future reduction, or a combination of fund balance and reduction of expenditures. Current reserves were shown, and it was stated that the Capital Project and Bus Reserves we cannot touch. Tax Certiorari we cannot touch. The reserves that we have available to us are the unemployment, ERS/TRS Reserve, EBLAR Reserve and unassigned fund balance. These are what we have available for future cuts that more than likely will be coming down the road. It was asked if the board members needed to see any more information, they stated that they were all set. President Lozier asked for Sue to state the tax gap so that the public knew. Sue stated that the tax gap is 2.24 and in the revenue budget what we are looking at is 2.09. President Lozier stated so that the public knows that this is the 3rd year in a row that we have stayed under the tax gap. Dr. Stratton complimented Sue on the tremendous job

that she has done with the budget. When Sue first came we had a deficit of over a million dollars. The 2nd year we reduced that to half a million dollars and last year was about 250,000, this year the state is expected to cut upwards of 20% and yet despite those cuts we are still at a balanced budget. That is an absolute great job. Thank You Sue. President Lozier asked if there were any more questions about the budget. There were none.

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**Graduation Presentation:** A presentation of what is being proposed for graduation was given by Eric Schenone. Eric stated by giving a Thank You to the public, teams, teachers for all their support. He stated that he met with the Seniors last Friday virtually to discuss some of their thoughts to discuss what we could potentially put into place. . He also spoke to the Health Department and it doesn't look like we will be able to have a large gathering at this time. Here in the Capital District we are not set to open Friday like some other regions. We don't want to put anyone at risk. The biggest thing is the safety of our students. This is a very challenging time. They did share a couple ideas. and the one that they took a liking to is that they will push out a digital ceremony. We will conduct a video with speakers, Dr Stratton Salutatorian Valedictorian and Mr. Schenone. with We will with the student help get a picture of each student in their cap and gown and read their names, then push that out to the public at a certain date and time just before the original scheduled graduation ceremony, probably the Friday before. It was decided to get together and still obey the health department. We will have a celebratory parade at the time of the graduation , we will have the seniors dress in cap and gown in their cars or family cars. Told them to celebrate as much as they want, decorate their cars out as much as they want. He wants this to be gaudy. We would have a set route and would parade the line of cars around town. The district will push the route out to the public and community so they could come out cheer and celebrate all that the students have accomplished.. We obviously would not get to hit everyone on the outskirts but with sharing ahead of time maybe those could come into town. Dr Statton and Schenone would be able to present them with their diploma and awards. Then have a place set up for them to take pictures. While it is not perfect, it at least meets the needs of the student body being together in this time of need. The health dept was most onboard there are a few concerns to work out. The students were overwhelmingly positive of it. Caps and gowns came in the office and they are looking to set up a distribution next week. Students wanted to make sure that anyone military or class officers would be recognized as well. It is a milestone for them. The students have been so extremely positive over this. We are really really happy with the positive thoughts. Dr statton wanted to add that we have all read about some small schools that are forging ahead with the normal graduation even if it is putting all of us other districts at a very difficult situation. Just wanted to say that we will not improvise the health and safety of the families and students here at Corinth that what we are planning is healthy and safe for the families of Corinth. We will not go without a lot of acknowledgement for our student of Corinth. Andy Kelley stated that he thinks that we have done an exceptional job and kudos to everyone.

**Consent Agenda:** President Lozier if there were any questions or concerns on the agenda items, Trustee Bourdeau expressed that she received many emails and phone calls with concerns over seeing the Resignation of Kristina Tucker. Bourdeau stated that she did forward them on. She also stated that we are not actually abolishing the position of Director of Special Education and Director of Technology that Jill Cheney-Bovee will actually be doing those jobs under the Assistant Superintendent position. Dr. Stratton stated that the actual positions are being abolished but Jill will have those job responsibilities under the Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services position.

**Business Items:**

**Accept Certification of Internal Claims Auditor:** A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to accept the certification of the Internal Claims Auditor for the following warrants: A-39 \$271,997.95; A-40 \$326,276.39

**Accept Donation:** A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to accept the donation of a \$50 check from Wendy Russell, Amethyst Springs, for the Angel Fund.

**Budget Adoption:** A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to adopt the annual budget of the School District, in the amount of \$22,791,863 for the fiscal year of 2020-2021 and to authorize the requisite portion thereof to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

**Property Tax Report Card Adoption:** A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to adopt the annual Property Tax Report Card of the School District for the fiscal year of 2020-2021.

**Personnel Items:**

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Abolish Director of Technology: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to abolish the position of Director of Technology, effective 7/1/20.

Approve the Authorization of Superintendent : A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to approve the Authorization of Superintendent to enter in an MOA with the Administrative Unit.

Abolish Director of Special Education: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to abolish the Director of Special Education, effective 6/30/20.

Create Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to create the position of Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services, effective 7/1/20.

Appointment: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to appoint Jill Cheney-Bovee, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services, effective 7/1/20.

Extra-Curricular Appointment: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to approve the extra curricular appointment of Katherine Maynard, Elementary Yearbook, for the 2019-2020 school year, payable as per the CTA Contract.

Accept Resignation: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to accept the resignation of Valerie Anatriello, MS/HS Health Teacher, effective 6/30/20.

Approval of Employee Free Tuition: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to approve the Employee Free Tuition for the 2020-2021 school year as per Appendix A.

Accept Resignation: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to accept the resignation of Robert Saumell Jr., 7th Grade Science Teacher, effective 8/31/20.

Accept Resignation: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to accept the resignation of Ann Carpenter, School Social Worker, effective 6/30/20.

Accept Resignation: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to accept the resignation of Kristina Tucker, Second Grade Teacher, effective 8/31/20.

Administrative Business Items:

Approval of Agreement between Corinth Central School District and The State University of New York: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to approve the agreement between Corinth Central School District and The State University of New York for a Social Worker Intern, for the 2020-2021 school year.

ASU Contract: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to approve the Authorization for the Superintendent to sign the ASU Contract effective 7/1/20 through 6/30/24.

30 Day Review: A motion was made by Trustee Lueck second by Trustee Freebern and passed 6-0 to approve the 30 day review of Policy #5676 to replace #7243.

Comments from the Board of Education: There were none.

Comments from the Public: Shari Mann asked if the parents could ask a few questions. President Lozier stated go ahead. Wanted to know if the date of graduation was still going to be June 27th. Some families are trying to plan family picnics and small gatherings. Would like to know the date and time, some people do not have computers at home. Dr. Stratton stated that he is very confident that June 27th will be the graduation date, however there is a chance that the governor could say that we continue to "x" date. Dr. Stratton does not expect that to happen. He just wanted to say that publically. Mr. Schenone stated that the parade will be on Saturday June 27th., starting at 10am. Based on the route he figures that we will be parading about 45-50 minutes, then will be returning to distribute those diplomas. Mr. Schenone stated if he thinks that if you based on about an hour and a half would be a good time, He stated that he has never done this before so don't hold him, but will do our best to stick to that. Ceremony will be about 20-25 minutes that will be pushed out the night before to families. We will send something out to the public and will make it available to every avenue that we can. Mrs. Mann stated that her daughter is also part of BOCES, do we know anything about the BOCES graduation. Dr. Stratton stated BOCES is completed separate from us. They organize their own graduation. He stated again there are so many unknowns, they are waiting to see what is

acceptable and what is not. He stated that he meets with Jim Dexter head of BOCES and he will emphasize the concerns of parents and grandparents. Mann stated that it is just helpful to know as far as people needing time off and what not. There has been very little contact and she knows that the school is doing the best they can. A Lot of parents are limited on when they can make calls and when they can receive them. . Other parents wanted to know about Senior awards night and if they will be able to get a copy of that. Schenone stated that typically that is done the Thursday before memorial day but will be pushed back to the first week in June. Schenone wants to give every student the opportunity to earn the scholarships. Once we have a final date we will push that and will also give the opportunity to get feedback from the community and families. They will be saved and loaded to the website so that they will always be available to parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to come together and recognize seniors. Another parent asked if the parade is the only option, off the top of her head there are 3 seniors that are not on board with this option and that it doesn't feel anymore special to them. She stated that she heard the governor would approve drive ins and could be done within social distance, not just parade options, doesn't seem that there are any other options at this time. Schenone stated that they have looked at a number of options, drive-ins were brought up and public health was not on board. . Trying to control the gathering would be the issue there and the quality of the speakers and would you even be able to hear your sons or daughters' names being read. Another option was brought up with spacing out the football field. Battled out with the public health dept. The parade has been the best plan and checks the most boxes. Nothing checks them all but this checks the most. Seniors all had the opportunity to get online with Schenone, had a little less than half on line and we are listening to the seniors and input. Mrs. Mann asked when it is concluded will you let the parents know. Parent asked if SPAC has been considered. Schenone stated that there are several schools that use SPAC and they are being told at this point that they are not going to be able to use that at this point. President Lozier asked if there were any other questions. Mrs Mann asked if at any point will the seniors be able to come back and have a normal ceremony? Schenone stated that he would love to try but it will depend on schedules and college. President Lozier Thanked the administration team for all the hard work that they have put in. Mrs. Mann stated that we have a great community and that if it is shared then the community will embrace. A parent stated that maybe we can take out a few pages in the local first about the seniors to show how proud we are. Dr Stratton stated that we have a lot of bells and whistles and we are trying to surprise our seniors.

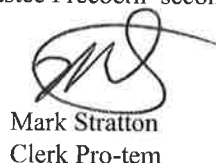
Comments from the CTA, CSEA & ASU: There were none.

With there being no further regular business a motion was made by Trustee Kelley second by Trustee Baker and passed 6-0 to adjourn to Executive Session at 6:39pm.

  
Jennifer Bardin  
District Clerk

The Board reconvened at 6:55pm.

With there being no further regular business a motion was made by Trustee Freebern second by Trustee Lueck and passed 6-0 to adjourn at 6:55pm.

  
Mark Stratton  
Clerk Pro-tem