

**Forestville Board of Education Special Meeting
July 9, 2020 4:00PM-Zoom Transcript**

Renee Garrett: Hi, this is Renee Garrett the Superintendent. I would like to welcome everyone and would like to call the Organizational Board of Education meeting to order. Kristin will now begin to record. I'd also like to appoint Kristin Irwin as the clerk of the meeting.

Renee Garrett: Now, at this time, we will administer the oath of office to newly elected board members David Caccamise and Amy Drozdziel.

Kristin Irwin: Real quick, Renee, if I could stop you. I'm going to let Mary Heyl from the Dunkirk Observer come in. Amy and Dave, just so you know, I will be in touch with you so you can fill out the Oath.

Dave Caccamise: Carol and Dave right?

Kristin Irwin: Um, no. David, Amy. Because you are the new board members and then President and the Vice President will also sign the Oath.

Renee Garrett: Kristin, if you have the oath of office, you can put that on the screen.

Kristin Irwin: I can find it quick. One second.

Renee Garrett: So, we will start with Dave Caccamise, if you would just please read I do solemnly swear.

David Caccamise: All set. Thank you, do solemnly swear on that. I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of New York. And then I will faithfully discharge according to the best of my ability. The duties of position of

Renee Garrett: Board of Education member

David Caccamise: Board of Education member

Renee Garrett: Now, Amy Drozdziel.

Amy Drozdziel: I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America and the constitution of the state of the art and that I will faithfully discharge according to the best of my ability. The duties of the position of school board member

Renee Garrett: Please congratulate Dave and Amy.

Michael LoManto: Congratulations.

Amy Drozdziel: Thank you.

Renee Garrett: We will now entertain nominations for the office of President for the school year. Do we have a nomination for the president of Board of Education?

Mervin Fry: I nominate Carol Woodward

Renee Garrett: Mervyn Fry. Thank you.

Renee Garrett: Do we have a second

Michelle Merritt: Second.

Renee Garrett: Thank you. Are there any other nominations for the President of the Board of Education?

Renee Garrett: Since there are no other nominations, they are now closed. All in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Mike LoManto: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Renee Garrett: Any opposed.

Renee Garrett: Any abstain.

Renee Garrett: Motion is carried through a unanimous vote that Carol Woodward is now elected the president of the Board of Education for the 2020 2021 school year. Congratulations.

Carol Woodward: Thank you.

Carol Woodward: Hey I appreciate everybody's support and guidance and you guys are awesome. I can't say enough about you and I appreciate the faith you have in me.

David Caccamise: Of course,

Carol Woodward: It's a very time-consuming job but I really do love it. So, thank you.

Amy Drozdziel: Thank you.

Michael LoManto: Thank you, Carol for doing it for us.

David Caccamise: Yes. Thank you.

Renee Garrett: I will now entertain nominations for the Office of Vice President for the school year. Do we have any nominations?

Sylvester Cleary: I nominate Dave Caccamise.

Renee Garrett: Sylvester Cleary nominated Dave Caccamise. Do we have any other nominations?

Renee Garrett: Dave, do you accept the nomination as board Vice President.

David Caccamise: Yes.

Renee Garrett: Nominations are now closed. All in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Mike LoManto: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Renee Garrett: Any opposed.

Renee Garrett: Any abstain.

Renee Garrett: The motion is carried through unanimous vote Dave Caccamise is now elected as the Vice President of the Board of Education for the 2020 2021 school year. Congratulations, Dave.

David Caccamise: Thank you.

David Caccamise: I am honored to be the vice president and such. Carol and I were talking about what a wonderful board of people that we work with. I mean, we just we get along so well and it's a privilege actually to represent you, community and the board members. So, thank you. Thank you again for voting me as Vice President. I do appreciate it.

Carol Woodward: Yeah, I'd also like to thank Dave because I count on him. Probably more than he wants, but he's always there for me.

Renee Garrett: I will now turn the meeting over to Carol Woodward our new board president

Carol Woodward: Now we have the appointments for the upon the recommendation of the superintendents will approve the following for the 2020 2021 school year. Do you want me to read all the listing here?

Renee Garrett: Carol, typically we just state that it's on the screen.

Carol Woodward: Okay.

Renee Garrett: You just asked for. First, Second. All in favor.

Carol Woodward: Okay, can I have a motion to approve.

Michael LoManto: I move.

Carol Woodward: Second.

David Caccamise: Second.

Carol Woodward: All in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Mike LoManto: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

fCarol Woodward: Any opposed.

Carol Woodward: Or abstain.

Carol: So, we go on to is that designations for the upon the recommendation of the superintendent to make the following designations for 2020-2021 school year.

Carol Woodward: Can I have a motion for designations.

Amy Drozdziel: Move. Okay.

Mervin Fry: Second, Merv.

Carol Woodward: Thank you. All in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Mike LoManto: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Carol Woodward: Any opposed?

Carol Woodward: Anybody want to abstain.

Carol Woodward: We'll go on to the next one, authorizations for 2000

Carol Woodward: Upon the recommendation of superintendent to make the following authorizations: certified payroll and approve staff attendance and conferences conventions and work steps and services.

Carol Woodward: Approved for this. Okay, we keep going here.

Kristin Irwin: You do not. You do not have to read those Carol.

Kristin Irwin: You can just do sub move and motion on the authorized.

Carol Woodward: Okay, can I have a motion for the authorizations

Michelle Merritt: Sub moved.

David Caccamise: Second.

Carol Woodward: okay all in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Mike LoManto: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Carol Woodward: Any opposed

Carol Woodward: Any abstained.

Carol Woodward: Motion is passed

Carol Woodward: Can I have a motion to approve the established rates?

David Caccamise: Move, Dave.

Carol Woodward: Okay, second.

Michael LoManto: I'll second.

Carol Woodward: All in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Mike LoManto: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Carol Woodward: Motion approved

Carol Woodward: We need information of our policies and bylaws for 2020-2021.

Carol Woodward: Can I have a favor of motion to accept those

Mervin Fry: sub move

Carol Woodward: Second,

Michelle Merritt: I can, Michelle.

Carol Woodward: All in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Mike LoManto: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Carol Woodward: Any opposed.

Carol Woodward: Motion is carried.

Renee Garrett: Carol, we're actually on page three of your script
Kristin, do you want to put the script up on the screen that may help us move through it.

Carol Woodward: Yeah.

Renee Garrett: We'll just change up a little bit because it's hard to follow all the text.

Kristin Irwin: Absolutely. Just if you could give me one moment please.

Renee Garrett: And right now, Carol. We're on the standing advisory committee appointments

Renee Garrett: And this is where we typically go through the seven different committees and ask who's interested and you have a list of people that have expressed interest.

Carol Woodward: Okay, yeah, the wrong paper here. I'm sorry. Okay.

Renee Garrett: Kristin, has it up now.

Renee Garrett: Okay, great. Thank you, Kristin.

Carol: Thank you. I'm sorry, is on the wrong piece of paper.

Carol Woodward: Okay, we have seven advisory committees each committee needs to people, not including ex officio please indicate your interest in certain on these committees.

Carol Woodward: Who be willing to serve on this committee for negotiations.

Sylvester Cleary: I will

Amy Drozdziel: Amy Yes.

Carol Woodward: And Dave

Carol Woodward: Yes. Okay, and policy. I will. Also Merv.

Carol Woodward: Yes, Amy.

Amy Drozdziel: Yes.

Carol Woodward: I, myself okay for audit and finance. We have Michael LoManto too.

Michael LoManto: Yes.

Carol Woodward: Michelle Merritt.

Michelle Merritt: Yes

Carol Woodward: Yes, and myself.

Carol Woodward: Okay for budget, all board members are on the budget committee and for the legislative committee, we have Sylvester Cleary.

Sylvester Cleary: Yes.

Carol Woodward: Merv Fry

Merv Fry: Yes.

Carol Woodward: And Michelle Merritt.

Michelle Merritt: Yes.

Carol Woodward: Now we go on to staff recognition.

Carol Woodward: Dave Caccamise

David Caccamise: Yes.

Carol Woodward: Michael LoManto

Michael LoManto: Yes.

Carol Woodward: And Michelle Merritt

Michelle Merritt: Yes.

Carol Woodward: Okay, athletic committee? Dave?

David Caccamise: Yes.

Carol Woodward: Michelle

Carol Woodward: Yes, okay, may I have a motion upon the recommendation of the superintendent to make school safety professional development and technology and wellness committee appointments.

Sylvester Cleary: Sub move

Michelle Merritt: Second.

Carol Woodward: Okay, any opposed.

Carol Woodward: Or abstain. The motion is carried.

Carol Woodward: May I have a motion to approve the agenda.

Merv Fry: Sub move

Carol Woodward: Second.

Carol Woodward: Second, there

Michelle Merritt: I said, second.

Carol Woodward: Okay.

Carol Woodward: Okay. All in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Mike LoManto: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Carol Woodward: Any opposed or abstained.

Carol Woodward: Motion is carried. Is there any public comment?

Carol Woodward: Um, there will be no oral reports today. In your packet, there was a transportation and technology report.

Carol Woodward: Okay, we'll go on to board reports. Okay. I'll read the district goals.

Carol Woodward: The District Goals for 2020-21 are:

- To continue to improve our facilities that provide a clean, safe, and inviting environment that instill school pride.
- To continue providing consistent communications that promote positive relationships.
- To continue to cultivate a culture that inspires and supports excellence in teaching and learning.

The Board of Education Goals for 2020-21 are:

- Annually review Board protocols that maintain a high functioning board culture.
- The Board of Education will review the athletic program to improve overall program quality for our student athletes.
- Continue to create and maintain systems of open and transparent communication.

Carol Woodward: In our letter, when we were asking for more to look into more funding for the schools, since we've been cut so much from a federal level. He does have a bill, he's introducing it, called the smart fund act to provide funding to the state and local school governments, so I was really pleased to hear back from him.

Carol Woodward: So, at least we know our letters were received and read. I had Kristin share that letter for the board members also so

Carol Woodward: Any thoughts or comments on that.

Sylvester Cleary: Well, it's nice that he got back with us. We appreciate that.

Carol Woodward: Yeah, we do.

David Caccamise: Yeah, he heard our voice, they're listening. That's good.

Carol Woodward: Yeah.

Carol Woodward: Um, we, I don't think we have any board committee reports that I know of, unless anybody has something, they found out lately.

Carol Woodward: Okay, let's move on to Mrs. Garrett, could you give your report.

Renee Garrett: Absolutely. So, as you know, this morning I was on a zoom meeting with the Rural Schools Association of New York State, and I have been nominated as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

Renee Garrett: Representing at the head of the state right at the table.

Renee Garrett: I'm really excited about that.

Renee Garrett: Rural Schools has done a lot of great work for us and other districts, our size and they continue to be a real guiding light in this time and it's great to be a part of such a strong, powerful organization, led by our director David, so I'm really excited about that opportunity.

Renee Garrett: The other thing that has been going on is our principals and myself have been working on the reopening plans, you know that each principal is forming an actual reopening committee with teachers and cross sections of our stakeholder groups.

Renee Garrett: As you know, Governor Cuomo has announced that we are going to be able to see some of his guidance on July 13 which is Monday. So, we'll have a sense of what his direction is for schools.

Renee Garrett: By July 31st, schools will be required to submit plans to the state and then somewhere between August 1st through the 7th a decision will be made on reopening; how that will look, when will that happen and details of that nature. So, we are continuing to pair for really prepare for anything and everything. And that's my report.
So, I actually Carol, if you don't mind. I would like to add that I went to the Forestville's farmers market today.

Renee Garrett: And it was a wonderful experience. I left with a bag full of fruits and vegetables and I know that other board members and community members were there today as well.

David Caccamise: Yeah, it was nice.

Carol Woodward: Yeah, well, you know, for a first endeavor getting taken off. I was really surprised at the amount of people that were there patronizing. The people that the people that came.

Renee Garrett: How beautiful is it that we are a Farm to School, School and we have a Forestville's farmers market right on our doorstep. It's so nice to be able to just drive by my house and pick up everything you need.

David Caccamise: For some of you, they said that if sales increase may even keep open to 3pm.

David Caccamise: So if sales get better. You said they might consider staying longer which would be nice accommodating.

Renee Garrett: That's a good point Dave, we should mention it's Thursday's from nine to one o'clock, and it is positioned in the Baptist Church parking lot. Correct. Carol right?

David Caccamise: You can see the pop up tents and stuff like that.

Michelle Merritt: Do you know if they're taking food stamps, because I have some kids that go to the Fredonia one and they accept food stamps. Does anybody know if they are?

Renee Garrett: We can find out for you because I know they are.

Michelle Merritt: Good news. I was hoping they were because they're part of Fredonia so I was hoping because I've referred some clients that live out here to go there instead of Fredonia.

Mervin Fry: The market is organized as what a satellite market is. So all the rules that pertain to Fredonia pertain to them.

Michelle Merritt: So good. Thank you.

Renee Garrett: Just a shout out to the Forestville Imagine group who made this all happen. I'm very proud of their work they do, an amazing job such a small committee with so much power and vision. So, thank you.

Carol Woodward: Yep. And we're down to four birdhouses.

Michelle Merritt: I would like a birdhouse

Carol Woodward: Well, I'll get one out, get one out for you and you can take it. They're awesome. They're beautiful. You know,

Renee Garrett: And Carol. I know. The next thing on the agenda is that this Board convention on my Rural Schools Association. On the call today, they mentioned it, that it is still on for now. But again, that is pending.

Renee Garrett: So, I know that's what you're going to talk about next.

Carol Woodward: I guess my thoughts are due to the cost of the Convention being in New York City. I know it's wonderful, but I feel that maybe we should skip to share. It's not a good climate financially for anybody, and I think we could do our part by helping out. I don't know what everybody else's thoughts are, but that's my thoughts.

David Caccamise: Now, that'd be besides being costly. It's kind of actually a safety and health issue, too. Yeah, the concern until everything quiets down and relaxes a little bit might not be a bad idea.

Carol Woodward: Yeah, it's you know when it's in Rochester, Buffalo. You could drive up there and come back and the cost is not as much but I think New York City is a price tag.
David Caccamise: I'd be surprised if they kept it, actually it's a lot of people in one area.

Michelle Merritt: Yeah it is, when is the date of that again.

Carol Woodward: It's in October. Yeah.

Renee Garrett: It's in your correspondence. Okay, your board packet. But I will say this, you typically do send two board members and what I'm hearing is we do not want to send anyone. I just want to confirm that with each member.

Carol: I just, yeah. Does everybody feel the same way?

Amy Drozdziel: I don't want to go to New York City.

Mervin Fry: I would not be going

Carol Woodward: Okay.

Michael LoManto: I agree, I would not either. Okay.

Carol Woodward: I think we have a consensus that this year we will bow out.

Carol Woodward: Is there any old business.

Carol Woodward: Okay, we will go on to the new business consent agenda.

Carol: Upon the recommendation of the superintendent to approve agenda items eight A through D. Can I have a motion.

Michael LoManto: sub move

David Caccamise: second.

Carol Woodward: Okay, any opposed.

Carol Woodward: Or abstain.

Renee Garrett: Carol back to your script. Do you need Kristin to put that up, or do you have it. We're going to have to do a separate motion because this will actually have an impact on one of our board members whose wife is a bus driver so he'll probably abstained.

Renee Garrett: You'll have to read that one so do you have your script?

Renee Garrett: It is the second to the last page.

Carol Woodward: Sorry. I'm sorry.

Renee Garrett: That's okay. Kristin, has it up for you.

Renee Garrett: And it's the rather long one.

Carol Woodward: Okay, I got it.

Carol Woodward: May I have a motion, for the Forestville Board of Education to casts its vote on that any District-owned school bus being utilized by an outside organization with the approval of the Board of Education will be operated by an individual employed by the District as a permanent bus driver. In the event that none of the District's permanent bus drivers accept this work, it may be offered to other individuals. An individual engaged by the District to operate a school bus utilized by an outside organization will be paid by the District at a rate of \$14.50/hour for time spent operating the bus. May I have a motion on that.

Amy Drozdziel: Amy, move.

Carol Woodward: Second,

Michelle Merritt: I'll second. Michelle.

David Caccamise: Question?

David Caccamise: Is that, is that stipulation for the most senior person to be offered or the most qualified or whoever signs up, how's it, how's it work?

Renee Garrett: Typically, Mr Gajewski asks for anyone who is interested. He solicits interest. This is a set rate outside of the contract and it is only for outside groups.

Carol Woodward: So do I go by name here?

Renee Garrett: No, just an overall vote.

Carol Woodward: All in favor.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Carol Woodward: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Carol Woodward: Any opposed or abstained.

Michael LoManto: Abstain. Michael

Carol Woodward: Okay, thank you, my motion is carried.

Carol: May I have a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of particular persons or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of particular persons. Can I have a motion for that.

Sylvester Cleary: move

Mervin Fry: second

Carol Woodward: All in favor. Aye.

Dave Caccamise: Aye

Michelle Merritt: Aye

Amy Drozdziel: Aye

Mervin Fry: Aye

Sylvester Cleary: Aye

Carol Woodward: Any opposed or abstain.

Carol Woodward: And the motion is carried.

Renee Garrett: So Kristin, will ask you to step out because are going to step out and then when we're ready. I'll text you for you to come back and we'll do the rest of the meeting.

Kristin Irwin: perfect.

Kristin Irwin: Hold on one second. I'm going to stop recording at the moment.

Carol Woodward: May I have a motion to return to regular session?

Sylvester Cleary: motion

Michael LoManto: second

Carol Woodward: May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Mervin Fry: motion

David Caccamise: second

Carol Woodward: The motion has been carried. Adjourned at 5:14pm.