

Vestal Central School District  
Vestal, New York

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

PRESENT:

Mark Browning\*  
Linda Daino\*  
John Hroncich\*  
Lynne Majewski\*  
Dinno Nistico\*  
Mario Nunes  
Christina Pierce\*  
Sylvia Place - ABSENT  
Tony Turnbull\*

ALSO PRESENT:

Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Ahearn  
Asst Supt for Finance, Operations & Personnel Cliff Kasson  
Asst Superintendent for Instruction Laura Lamash  
School Attorney Michael Sherwood  
School Business Executive Matthew Bechtel  
District Clerk Kay Ellis

About 0 Visitors

**\*BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDED VIA WEBEX – A ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE WAS TAKEN**

**THIS MEETING WAS HELD DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. BY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER ISSUED BY THE GOVERNOR ON MARCH 13, 2020, A PORTION OF THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW WAS WAIVED. SPECIFICALLY:**

***“Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed.”***

This meeting was also streamed live on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/uWMs61n244E>

The Board meeting was called to order at 7:06PM by Board President Mario Nunes in the Staff Development Room of the Administration Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

#351-20  
Call to Order and Pledge of  
Allegiance

On motion by Dinno Nistico, second by Linda Daino, the Board voted 8 to 0 to adjourn immediately into Executive Session to discuss the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Pre-School Special Education.

#352-20  
Executive Session

The Board returned to open session at 7:10PM.

On motion by Lynne Majewski, second by Linda Daino, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 10, 2020 as written.

#353 -20  
Approval of Minutes

None.

#354-20  
Public Comment on Agenda Items

Student Government Representative Claire Lee reported on the following: None

#355-20  
Reports

Board President Mario Nunes reported on the following:

The passing of retired Board member David Hanson was announced. He was elected to the Board in 2007 and served for 11 years. Mark Browning remembered David as taking on the least exciting aspect, the audit committee and was not shy to voice his opinion. Tony Turnbull said David was a good man and they agreed on almost nothing. He added David was an independent thinker and if he didn't like something he was not afraid to say so. John Hroncich admired how David cared for his wife as her needs increased; his time and efforts showed how much he loved her. John mentioned a conversation he had with David concerning college for his daughter; David cautioned him that just because his daughter got into a school that would be challenging doesn't mean she should go there. Linda Daino described David as appearing to be analytical and serious but had a tremendous sense of humor and was down to earth. A moment of silence was held in his memory.

Superintendent Jeffrey Ahearn reported on the following:

--Capital Project: conduit construction is ongoing at the high school for the refillable water fountains; the floors are being finished at the AR complex. Demo will begin shortly in the VMS home & careers and art rooms. Work that was scheduled to be done over spring break has been accelerated since the buildings are closed to all.

--Preliminary budget report: NY State plans on presenting their budget on time, which is due April 1<sup>st</sup>. The District is not encouraged that our State Aid will be increased. The current gap between expenditures and revenue is \$111,000. We are looking to just present a maintenance budget; keeping current services the same.

**COVID-19 Mandatory Closure**

--Broome County issued a school district closure until April 14, 2020. NYS issued a closure until April 1, 2020. NYS has waived the 180-day attendance regulation and that could be extended by an additional 14 days. NYS and Federal government have dropped the grades 3-8 testing. The State is looking at Regents testing for this year.

--the District was required to submit plans to the State including continuity of learning and child nutrition plans.

--we have communicated with families and staff via the website with updates on what is happening. Another update will be going out this week. The District phones now have a message that the buildings are closed and refers the caller to the email address of each building/department. The District's website has a banner connecting to the learning resource web page.

--essential employees only are on site and communicating via Zoom, phone, email with staff. Receiving personnel are used as needed. Custodial staff are checking buildings by a daily walk through.

--Food Service staff are being utilized to provide the Grab 'n Go bags that have a breakfast and lunch meal for any student under the age of 18. The sites for pickup are Clayton Avenue and African Road. Our school resource officers are being used to make deliveries where necessary. We are averaging 400-500 combo meals per day. Next week the food schedule will change to Tuesday (3 meals) and Friday (3 meals). Notices about the change will be put in the bags this week. The Backpack program continues as well.

--We have distributed 334 Chromebooks in total, including 40 to staff members. Again, the SROs were used to deliver this equipment to homes where needed. We have created a virtual school district structure to get through this closure. Resource lists for parents are on the website. Elementary classroom teachers are communicating with students and parents weekly and giving suggestions on what things they could be focusing on. Anne Loose and Patrick Clarke are working on middle school assignments by grade level. Dawn Young is working on secondary coursework, using online and interactive sites. This was just the first week and we are confident that going forward we will be very capable of services for the long term.

--with the uncertainty of this years' instruction, we might have to re-think curriculum next year and going forward to ensure students are successful

--Things we don't know yet: The status of the NYS budget and how that will affect us? Will the annual vote/election in May be delayed? Will we use absentee ballots for all? School trips/events like the prom and graduation?

--the administrators, teachers, support staff, custodians have all stepped up to help out during this closure. Special thanks go out to the food service staff for all they are doing to feed everyone. Another special thanks go to the technology staff who have been instrumental in keeping the District going electronically. The District has had a lot of offers from those who want to volunteer to help in any way, such as the bus drivers and SROs. In these changing times the District is very grateful for the flexibility that is being shown by all. Tony Turnbull commended all and expressed his appreciation for all the hard work that is being done. Mario Nunes was impressed by how everything was coming together and stated how remarkable it was to witness all the efforts being made to keep the District moving forward.

--depending on the status of the State budget, there might have to be an additional meeting called to pass the proposed District budget for 2020-21.

**PRIOR TO THE ACTION ITEMS TO BE ADDRESSED, A SECOND ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE WAS TAKEN AGAIN**

On motion by Dinno Nistico, second by Mark Browning, the Board voted 8 to 0 to accept Schedule A – Treasurer’s Report February 2020; Schedule B – Year-to-Date Budget Report February 2020; Schedule C – Schedule of Bills February 2020; Schedule F Travel & Conference and approve Schedule P - Personnel.

#356-20  
Acceptance of Schedule A, B, C, F  
and  
Approval of Schedule P

Under Schedule P the following changes were made:

**SCHEDULE IP 3**

**PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENT:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TENURE AREA</u>	<u>CERTIF</u>	<u>PROBATION DATE</u>	<u>TENURE DATE</u>	<u>SALARY</u>
**Ramos, Marissa	School Psychologist (10-mo)	Special Subject Area: School Psychologist	Pending Certification	9/1/20-6/30/24	9/1/24	\$62,000

To the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law 2509, 2573, 3212 and 3014, in order to be granted tenure the classroom teacher or building principal shall have received composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Education Law 3012-c and/or 3012/d of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years. If the classroom teacher or building principal received an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period he or she shall not be eligible for tenure at that time. For purposes of this subdivision, classroom teacher and building principal mean a classroom teacher or building principal as such terms are defined in Sections 30-2.2 and 30-3.2 of this Part.

**SCHEDULE IP 4A**

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT: INSTRUCTIONAL SUBSTITUTES**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS (SUBSTITUTES):

<u>NAME</u>	<u>INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL</u>	<u>CERTIF</u>	<u>DEGREE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Herringshaw, Alexis	Social Studies	None	BA	3/25/20	

**SCHEDULE IP 4B**

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS: ABOVE CONTRACT**

Attached please find pages 3 of a master list of above contract positions for the 2019-20 school year. We are asking for approval for the person, position and stipend that is underlined and in bold print. Board Meeting: **March 24, 2020.**

<u>AREA OF APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>AREA/BLDG</u>	<u>STIPEND</u>	<u>POSTED</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
<b><u>Lacrosse Varsity B</u></b>	<b><u>Spring Season</u></b>			<b><u>Weist, Maxwell</u></b>	<b><u>3/24/20</u></b>
<b><u>VOLUNTEER</u></b>					

**SCHEDULE IP 6**

**TENURE APPOINTMENTS: INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following INSTRUCTIONAL TENURE APPOINTMENTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>TENURE AREA</u>	<u>CERTIF</u>	<u>PROBATION PERIOD</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Gilligan, Christopher	Art Teacher	Special Subject Area: Art	Professional	9/1/16-6/30/20	9/1/20	
Miller, Malinda	Library Teacher	Special Subject Area: Library	Initial	9/1/16-6/30/20	9/1/20	
Minde, Katelyn	Science Teacher	Academic Area: Science	Professional	9/1/17-6/30/20	9/1/20	Previous NYS tenure
Motell, Kerry	Family/Consumer Science Teacher	Special Subject Area: Home Economics	Professional	9/1/16-6/30/20	9/21/20	
O'Donnell, Colette	Science Teacher	Academic Area: Science	Professional	9/1/16-6/30/20	9/1/20	

Rieben, Amy	Math Teacher	Academic Area: Math	Professional	9/1/17-6/30/20	9/1/20	3/24/20 Previous NYS tenure
Rivera, Valerie	Special Education Teacher	Special Subject Area: Gen Spec Ed	Permanent	9/1/17-6/30/20	9/1/20	Previous NYS tenure
Rizzo, Kyle	Science Teacher	Academic Area: Science	Professional	9/1/17-6/30/20	9/1/20	Previous NYS tenure
Steele, Rebecca	Elementary Teacher	Elementary	Permanent	9/1/17-6/30/20	9/1/20	Previous NYS tenure
Szeliga, Cynthia	Special Education Teacher	Special Subject Area: Gen Spec Ed	Professional	9/1/17-6/30/20	9/1/20	Previous NYS tenure
Walter, Brittany	Special Education Teacher	Special Subject Area	Initial-Ext	9/1/17-6/30/20	9/1/20	Previous NYS tenure
Wilson, Amelia	Music Teacher	Special Subject Area: Music	Professional	9/1/16-6/30/20	9/1/20	
Worsnoop, William	Spanish Teacher	Academic Area: Foreign Language	Permanent	9/1/17-6/30/20	9/1/20	Previous NYS tenure

**SCHEDULE NIP 1**

**RESIGNATIONS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL RESIGNATIONS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SHIFT/SCHOOL</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Rosati, Anthony	Bus Attendant (DIT)	Transportation	3/25/20	
Titus, Jasmine	Cleaner PT/S	Facilities/Operations	3/25/20	
Truxal, David	Custodian PT/S	Facilities/Operations	3/25/20	

**SCHEDULE NIP 4**

**PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SHIFT/SCHOOL</u>	<u>PROBATION PERIOD</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Barnes, Dustin	Cleaner	2 <sup>nd</sup> shift/Clayton Ave	TBD	\$25103	52 wk probation period

**SCHEDULE NIP 8A**

**TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS/SUBSTITUTES: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS SUBSTITUTES:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Fitzgerald, James	Cleaner PT/S	3/25/20	

**SCHEDULE NIP 9B**

**PART TIME NON-COMPETITIVE APPOINTMENTS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL PART TIME NON-COMPETITIVE APPOINTMENTS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SHIFT/SCHOOL</u>	<u>PROBATION PERIOD</u>	<u>SALARY</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Parvez, Md	Bus Attendant (DIT)	Transportation	3/25/20-4/6/21	\$11.80/hr	52 wk probation period

**SCHEDULE NIP 11**

**CHANGES IN STATUS: NON-INSTRUCTIONAL**

The Superintendent of Schools hereby recommends the APPROVAL of the following NON-INSTRUCTIONAL CHANGES IN STATUS:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SHIFT/SCHOOL</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE</u>	<u>REASON</u>
Fedor, Catherine	Senior Typist	Middle School	Change retirement date for 5/4/20 to 4/1/20		
The following employees have achieved satisfactory completion of district probationary period:					
Dennis, Jean	Teacher Aide (Monitor) PT	Clayton Ave		4/15/20	

Santobuono, Bus Driver Transportation  
Dominic

4/13/20

On motion by Lynne Majewski, second by Christina Pierce, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following resolution:  
WHEREAS the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District hereby authorizes the continuation of salary, wages and benefits for any regular, non-substitute employee not covered by a collective bargaining agreement who is able to work but is directed by the Superintendent of Schools not to work during the County mandated COVID-19 closure commencing March 16, 2020 and terminating at the end of the County mandated COVID-19 closure.

#357-20  
Unrepresented Employee Wages  
During Closure  
(COVID-19)

On motion by Tony Turnbull, second by Christina Pierce, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following resolution:  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Vestal Central School District, Broome and Tioga Counties, New York, as follows:

#358-20  
Proposition #2 – Bus Purchase  
2020-21

Section 1. The proposition hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters at the annual school district election to be held in said School District, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

Section 2. The School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to include as a part of the notice of the annual district meeting and election notice (and hereby ratifies the prior inclusion thereof) with reference to the submission of said proposition in substantially the following form:

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at said annual election to be held on May 19, 2020, the following proposition will be submitted:

**BUS PROPOSITION**

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit:  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District, Broome and Tioga Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to pay the cost of the purchase of school buses, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, at a maximum estimated cost of not exceeding \$920,150 and that said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

If necessary, due to space constraints on the voting machines, said proposition may be presented in substantially the following abbreviated form:

**BUS PROPOSITION**

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit:  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District, Broome and Tioga Counties, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase school buses, and that the maximum estimated cost of not exceeding \$920,150, or so much thereof as may be necessary shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said District shall be issued.

On motion by Lynne Majewski, second by Linda Daino, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following resolution:  
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District, Broome and Tioga Counties, New York, as follows:

#359-20  
Proposition #3 – Vestal Public  
Library

Section 1. The proposition hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters at the annual school district election to be held in said School District, on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at said annual election to be held on May 19, 2020, the following proposition will be submitted:

**VESTAL PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to-wit:

Section 2. Shall the sum of \$756,979 be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Vestal Central School District for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the Vestal Public Library?

Section 3. The School District shall also place on the ballot the names of candidates for 3 (three) Library Board Trustee officers to be elected by the voters of the School District for a term of three (3) years and 1 (one) Library Board Trustee Officer to be elected by the voters for a term of two (2) years.

On motion by Christina Pierce, second by Dinno Nistico, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following resolution:  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District participate in Cooperative Bidding with other school districts in New York State for the following bids:

#360-20  
Authorization to Join Group Bid  
for 2020-21

- Grocery – once per school year 2020-21
  - Paper Products – twice per school year; 8/2020-12/2020; 1/2021-8/2021
  - Meat/Cheese/Dairy – 5 times per school year (every two months)
    - May 2020 for August 2020-October 2020
    - September 2020 for November 2020-December 2020
    - November 2020 for January 2021-February 2021
    - January 2021 for March 2021-April 2021
    - March 2021 for May 2021-August 2021
  - Processing of U.S.D.A Commodities (Net Off Invoice) – once per school year 2020-21
  - Milk, Milk Products/Ice Cream/Other Frozen Desserts s – once per school year 2020-21
  - Bread/Bread Products – once per school year 2020-21
  - Smart Snack Products – once per school year 2020-21
  - Small Wares – once per school year 2020-21
  - Geographical Fruit/Vegetables – once per school year 2020-21
  - Breakfast Breaks – once per school year 2020-21
  - Chicken Products – once per school year 2020-21
  - Vending- three (3) school years – 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mark Bordeau, Senior Director of Food Services, Broome Tioga BOCES, or Designee, be authorized to receive and open said bids and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Vestal Central School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

On motion by Linda Daino, second by Tony Turnbull, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following resolution:  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accept the grant funds from the Vestal Hills PTA in the amount of \$828.75 for book exchange materials.

#361-20  
Acceptance of Grant Funds – VH  
PTA

On motion by Christina Pierce, second by Dinno Nistico, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following resolution:  
RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the proposal from Delta Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors PC for the 2020 Building Condition Survey and authorizes the President or Vice-President to sign a contract with Delta Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors PC for said services, per the attached agreement; in an amount not to exceed \$291,145 plus reimbursable expenses.

#362-20  
Contract with Delta Engineers for  
Building Condition Survey

On motion by Tony Turnbull, second by Christina Pierce, the Board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following resolution:  
RESOLVED, that the President or Vice-President of the Board of Education is authorized to sign an agreement with the listed individual to provide interpretation services for District students as needed through June 30, 2020, as per attached agreement.

#363-20  
Service Agreement – Interpreter  
Services (Salih)

Obeidullah Salih

None

#364-20  
Voice of the Public

FUTURE MEETINGS:  
**MONDAY, April 20, 2020 - @ 6:00PM Regular Meeting**  
Board Conference Room – Administration Building  
**Tuesday, May 5, 2020 @ 7:00PM Regular Meeting/Public Hearing**  
Auditorium – Clayton Avenue Elementary School

#365-20  
Future Meetings

**Tuesday, May 19, 2020 ANNUAL VOTE**

Board Conference Room – Administration Building

**Tuesday, June 9, 2020 @ 7:00PM Regular Meeting**

Board Conference Room – Administration Building

On motion by Lynne Majewski, second by Dinno Nistico, the Board voted 8 to 0 to adjourn immediately.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05PM.

#366-20  
Adjournment

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Kay Ellis  
District Clerk

VESTAL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Vestal, New York

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EXECUTIVE SESSION  
Tuesday, March 24, 2020

PRESENT:

Mark Browning\*  
Linda Daino\*  
John Hroncich\*  
Lynne Majewski\*  
Dinno Nistico\*  
Mario Nunes  
Christina Pierce\*  
Sylvia Place - ABSENT  
Tony Turnbull\*

ALSO PRESENT:

Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Ahearn  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Cliff Kasson  
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Laura Lamash  
  
School District Attorney Michael Sherwood  
District Clerk Kay Ellis  
School Business Executive Matthew Bechtel  
Director of Special Education Rosalie Sullivan – dismissed 7:09pm

**\*BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDED VIA WEBEX – A ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE WAS TAKEN**

Executive Session commenced at 7:07PM in the Staff Development Room of the Administration Building.

Recommendations and annual reviews of the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education were on the agenda. Board members had information for each student made available to them prior to the meeting for review. Board members gave due consideration to each case before voting.

On motion by Mark Browning, second by Lynne Majewski, the Board voted 8 to 0 to accept the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for all students considered.

On motion by Dinno Nistico, second by Mark Browning, the Board voted 8 to 0 to adjourn Executive Session and return to open session immediately.

Executive Session was adjourned at 7:10PM.

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Kay Ellis  
District Clerk