



HADLEY- LUZERNE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
January 6, 2022

STUART M. TOWNSEND ES LGI 6:30 pm

## MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 6:30PM Mr.Hunt-Absent
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **CORRESPONDENCE**
4. **PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION/ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS**
5. **OLD BUSINESS** (ACTION)
  - A. **Transportation Contract** (PA)  
Resolution #112  
Be It Resolved that, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the Transportation Contract between WSWHE BOCES and HLCSD effective October 26, 2021 through June 10, 2022.  
  
Motion by Mrs. Hoffman      Seconded by Mrs. Braico  
  
Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0
  - B. **Board Meeting Minutes** (PA)  
Resolution #113  
As recommended by the Superintendent, to approve the December 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes.  
  
Motion by Mrs. Hoffman      Seconded by Mrs. Braico  
  
Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0
  - C. **Educational Data** (PA)  
Resolution #114  
As recommended by the Superintendent - BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hadley- Luzerne Central School hereby approves the agreement between the district and Educational Data Services, Inc. effective July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 and directs the superintendent to execute the agreement.  
  
Motion by Mr. Novotarski      Seconded by Mrs. Hoffman  
  
Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0
6. **NEW BUSINESS** (ACTION)
  - A. **Memorandum of Agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension**  
Resolution #115  
As recommended by the Superintendent - BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School hereby approves the Contract between the District and Cornell Cooperative Extension for the purpose of providing educational services to the Hadley-Luzerne

Elementary School, effective October 21, 2021 through May 31, 2022 for estimated contract total of \$8470.00

Motion by Mrs. Braico      Seconded by Mrs. Hoffman

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

Principal Baker explained that Cornell Cooperative Extension is part of the ESD program on Thursdays. He said they come and work with kids doing things like archery, snowmobile safety, snowshoeing etc. He said it's a great opportunity for kids.

**B. Board of Education 2022 Advocacy Priorities Resolution**

Resolution #116

As recommended by the Superintendent - BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School hereby approves the Board of Education 2022 Advocacy Priorities Resolution as received.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffman      Seconded by Mrs. Braico

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

**C. EBLAR Reserve**

Resolution #117

WHEREAS: At the April 25, 2011 meeting of the Hadley Luzerne Central School District Board of Education, the Board established a reserve to be known as the EBLAR Reserve Fund effective April 25, 2011; and

WHEREAS: The above noted reserve fund was created and funded with the intention of reserving funds to help offset accrued benefits due to employees upon termination of service (retirement) for vacation, sick leave and personal leave; and

WHEREAS: The current EBLAR expense for the employees retiring in the next few months is approximately \$16,777.00 all of which shall be paid from this EBLAR Reserve.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes the expenditure of \$16,777.00 from the EBLAR Reserve Fund for payment of the accrued benefits for vacation, sick and/or personal leave due to employees upon their retirement.

Motion by Mr. Novotarski      Seconded by Mrs. Hoffman

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

**7. PERSONNEL (ACTION)**

**A. APPOINTMENTS– Other & Extra Curricular**

Resolution #118

As recommended by the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hadley- Luzerne Central School District that the following persons be granted appointment to the positions listed according to the agreement between the District and HLTA:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Stipend/Wage</u>
Jeremy Insull	Tutor	12/8/2021	\$30 per hour

Motion by Mrs. Hoffman      Seconded by Mr. Novotarski

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

**B. AMENDED APPOINTMENT - HLTA (ACTION)**

Resolution #119

**Taylor Keys- Pre-K-6 Teacher**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Hadley-Luzerne School Board of Education to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Beecher Baker to amend the four-year probationary appointment as a full time Pre-K-6 Teacher in the Early Childhood Education (birth-grade 2) and Childhood Education (grades 1-6) tenure area for Taylor Keys commencing on January 3, 2022 and ending on January 2, 2026. Taylor's salary will be Step 1A as per the HLTA 2021-2022 Salary Schedule as contained in the collective bargaining agreement between the District and the Hadley-Luzerne Teachers' Association and any successor agreement.

Motion by Mrs. Braico      Seconded by Mrs. Hoffman

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

**C. APPOINTMENTS – CSEA/SASTA**

Resolution #120

As recommended by the Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District that the following persons be granted appointment to the positions below pending any clearances.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Carrie Mannino	Sub Monitor	12/3/2021	\$12.50/hr

Motion by Mr. Novotarski      Seconded by Mrs. Hoffman

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

**D. RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS (ACTION)**

**Teacher Aide – Jessika Bovee**

Resolution #121

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District to accept with appreciation the resignation of Teacher Aide, Jessika Bovee, effective December 10, 2021.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffman      Seconded by Mrs. Braico

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

**Teacher Aide – Nicole Quackenbush**

Resolution #122

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District to accept with appreciation the resignation of Teacher Aide, Nicole Quackenbush, effective December 23, 2021.

Motion by Mrs. Braico      Seconded by Mr. Novotarski

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

**Superintendent of Schools – Beecher Baker, Sr.**

Resolution #123

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District to accept with appreciation the resignation of Superintendent of Schools, Beecher Baker, Sr., for the purpose of retirement, effective July 31, 2022.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffman      Seconded by Mr. Novotarski

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

Mr. Baker thanked everyone for everything the Board has done for him and the opportunities they have given kids. He said the community has been great and welcomed him 20 years ago and he has enjoyed his time at H-L and he considers this home. He also said that in considering his replacement it is important to remember the history of successful Superintendents have been those who were promoted from within. He said historically Superintendents that were hired from the outside did not fair well. He said he feels that the best candidate to succeed him is in the room and that's Burgess Ovitt. Mr. Novotarski said he supports Mr. Ovitt and asked how to proceed posting internally vs. externally. Mr. Baker said there are 13 Superintendent vacancies at this moment locally and in any given year you might get 7 or 8 applicants. He said he feels that the pool will be small. He said the Board can choose to appoint internally or externally but that they know how he feels. Mrs. Hoffman said she supports Mr. Ovitt but would like to do a search. She said she feels Mr. Ovitt is the best candidate but what is the harm in proving it and being transparent. She said that people have accused them of being a "good 'ol boys club" and they should be as transparent as possible. Mrs. Braico said she supports Mr. Baker's recommendation and that it holds a lot of weight along with Mr. Ovitt's personal record. She said she also supports transparency and would support an outside search if that is the direction the Board would like to go in. She said she would take Beecher's recommendation. Mr. Ovitt thanked everyone for their support and vote of confidence and said he hopes to retire from H-L and is open to discussion. Mr. Moulton said tonight was about Beecher and not the time to discuss his replacement. He said we know the success of the external candidates in the past and they haven't worked out well. He said that the Board is transparent and no one is part of a "good 'ol Boys Club".

8. **CSEA LEAVE OF ABSENCE** (ACTION)

Resolution #124

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Hadley-Luzerne Central School District hereby approves the request for an unpaid leave of absence requested by Teacher Aide, Kristine Cameron, effective December 6, 2021 through September 2022 Pursuant to the CSEA Agreement Article XVII – Other Leave, Section 2.

Motion by Mrs. Braico      Seconded by Mrs. Hoffman

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

9. **SCHEDULE OF BILLS** (ACTION) (PA)

Resolution #125

As recommended by the Superintendent – to accept warrants #22 (\$155,126.00) #23 (\$742,330.38), #24 (\$757,629.66), #25 (\$143,099.34), #26 (\$156,050.74), #27 (\$378,042.91)

Motion by Mrs. Braico      Seconded by Mr. Novotarski

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

10. **DISTRICT TREASURER REPORTS** (ACTION) (PA)

Resolution #126

As recommended by the Superintendent, for the board of education to accept the November 2021 District Treasurers Report.

Motion by Mrs. Hoffman      Seconded by Mr. Novotarski

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

11. **CSE/CPSE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Resolution #127

As recommended by the Superintendent, for the board of education to accept the CSE/CPSE recommendations dated 1/21/2021.

Motion by Mr. Novotarski      Seconded by Mrs. Hoffman

Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain:0

12. **PUBLIC/STUDENT COMMENTS**

Dave O'Neil – H-L Firehouse- Dave reported that the Firehouse took over Santa Sprint last year and helped 84 kids. He said this year they helped 137 kids/families in conjunction with the Lions Club. He reported that Annie O'Neil-school employee and Lions Club member was handing out gifts to people outside of the school and should have been going through the Fire Department. He said he felt those items should have gone to the Fire Department. He also said that she has created Community Cares and is doing fundraising at the school. He asked for School Board Action.

Annie Horn – School Nurse/Lions Club member – Annie responded to Dave and said due to COVID last year Santa Sprint was different and raising money as usual was not able to happen. She said that many families came to her instead of the firehouse due to confidentiality reasons. She said several families came to her after the firehouse cut-off date and she helped them with what she had. She said they did give out clothing donations because the firehouse was only doing toys. She said she can't help that people still come to her. Annie said as far as Community Cares she does fundraising to provide weekend events and trips for kids and she does it on her own time and gets paid for nothing, it's all volunteer. Mrs. Hoffman said she understood that last year the firehouse took over Santa Sprint and that everyone knows how she feels about the kids not walking and fundraising anymore. She said she thinks it's great that these things are being done for kids but she doesn't think it should be promoted as a school sponsored thing. She also said she believes we should be working with the firehouse for Santa Sprint not against them. Annie said she did work with them and sent out the letters to families because she has knowledge of the families in need. Mrs. Hoffman said we need to give the fireman a shot to run this. She also asked if Community Cares has insurance and what is the school's liability at these events held in the school. She agreed it is not a bad thing but it needs to be handled appropriately. Annie said that Mike Fazio (fire department) was e-mailed everything in regards to Santa Sprint. Mr. Moulton said the point is Community Cares is not a school function and the public sees it as one. Eh said it could be if the school wanted to manage it and the accounts. Mrs. Braico said it seems all of these things come from a place of generosity and you have all made a difference. She said there is room for everyone to help and many good things are being done. She said she sees the need first hand every day and we are all fortunate to have all of these programs.

13. **ADMINISTRATIVE/BOARD COMMENTS**

Superintendent Baker updated every one of COVID and said we are doing pretty well and that Warren County had over 200 cases in one day and are struggling to keep up. He said we had 5 teachers, 2 aides and 10 kids out and many on quarantine currently. He said he was so thankful for the Health Center and gave credit to Greg Novotarski for facilitating getting Hudson Headwaters here. Mrs. Hoffman spoke about athletic teams given new rules regarding quarantines from the County reducing quarantines from 10 days to 5. She asked about the athletes already in quarantine and if they can go by the 5 days now. Beecher said that the County imposes quarantines and releases people from quarantine. Mrs. Hoffman said she thinks the unvaccinated are being discriminated against since they have to quarantine when others do not. Beecher said the County makes that decision. Mrs. Braico said the school board cannot supersede the County.

Sue said she believes they can and it is discrimination pitting vaccinated against unvaccinated. Mr. Ovitt said we have a whole team down for 10 days and a team on pause. Mrs. Hoffman asked if any more quarantines have come from classroom exposure. Beecher said no, not really. He said some quarantines from the bus have happened but only if they were sitting right next to each other. Mrs. Hoffman said it is unfair to discriminate against the unvaccinated and they shouldn't single any group out. She said if the unvaccinated have to quarantine then so should the vaccinated. Beecher said the County makes that decision not the school. Mrs. Hoffman asked for an Executive Session for specific personnel.

Principal Baker thanked Beecher for everything and said it has been a pleasure to work with hi and that he has been incredibly supportive.

Principal Ovitt said the High School is doing well except for COVID. He said they just spent 9hours contact tracing and said most of the exposures are coming from sports. He said the kids are doing everything they should. He thanked Beecher for everything and said he has known him a long time and he has done a lot for education and has been a great leader.

Mr. Novotarski asked if Ski Club was happening and Mr. Ovitt said yes for grades 3-12. Rob Mark said it has been a pleasure working with Beecher and appreciates all his support.

Michelle Taylor said she will certainly miss Beecher when he is gone.

Mrs. Hoffman made a motion to go in to Executive Session at 7:20 for a specific personnel matter. Mr. Novotarski seconded the motion. All were in favor.

14. **ADJOURNMENT** – A motion was made by Mrs. Hoffman to adjourn @ 7:50pm . Seconded by Mr. Novotarski. All were in favor.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk, Mary Visscher