

BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

Date of Meeting: February 26, 2025
 Type of Meeting: **REGULAR MEETING**
 Location: Carroll Hill School
 Time: 5:30 PM Executive Session
 6:00 PM Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

- | | | |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 1. Members Present: | Mrs. Ann Apicella
Mr. Joshua Chiappone
Mr. Matthew Flowers, Jr.
Mrs. Diana Heckman | Mr. Tom Mayo
Mr. Donald Miller
Mrs. Ebony Pompey-Conway
Mrs. Anne Wager-Rounds |
| 2. Members Absent: | Mrs. Elizabeth Poletto | |
| 3. Others Present: | Mr. John Carmello, Superintendent
Mr. Adam Hotaling, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mr. Imran Abbasi, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources
Mr. Frank Barile, School Attorney | |

B. Executive Session

At 5:31pm, Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the appointment of a particular person. This was seconded by Mrs. Pompey-Conway and carried by a vote of 8-0.

C. Public Session

At 6:00pm, Mrs. Wager-Rounds called the regular meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance, which was led by three Carroll Hill students.

D. Public Input on agenda and non-agenda items non-action items:

1. Dan Phiffer, School 14 parent - Concerned about the executive orders that have been issued and how they will affect families within the district. Building administration has not addressed the concerns. Mr. Phiffer is asking the District Administration to provide clarification.
2. Angela Beallor, School 14 parent - Concerned about recent executive orders and impacts on our schools. Is asking what plans the district has to keep families safe.
3. Rhea Drysdale, School 14 and TMS parent - Concerned about recent executive orders and district communication to parents and families. Building administration seems to be looking for District Administration communication.

II. Non-Action Items

A. State Budget Update - Assemblymember McDonald

Assemblymember McDonald gave a brief State budget update. He spoke about this budget coming at a difficult time of unknown financial stability. He predicts that the one house budget resolution will be passed by March 13th. In that budget, members are pushing for doubling the 2% aid amount for school districts. Part of the

challenge that districts face across the state are that families are not as big as they used to be and many districts do not have as many students as they had in the past. The Assembly is fighting against that stance and advocating for the need to increase foundation aid for schools. The only other items in the education field are recruitment efforts to hire teachers and have been relying on retirees who have a salary cap, which has been waived and we are pushing to have that again this year. We would like to increase the amount in the PreK lottery system. Also, the assembly would like to increase the cap for aid on students in the BOCES programs for students who are interested in a career within the trade fields. In the 2022's budget an electric bus mandate was included, but we are now rethinking the mandate in future years. Transportation bids will significantly increase in future years and it may not be able to be implemented fully in 2027. Mr. Carmello thanks Assemblymember McDonald for speaking tonight but also for always being accessible for the Troy district. Mrs. Wager-Rounds also thanks Assemblymember McDonald for always lending a helping hand.

B. Safety and Security of all Students and Staff - J. Carmello

Although the Board does not typically address public concerns at the meeting, Mr. Carmello planned on updating the public with the school district's policies. Mr. Carmello acknowledged that in almost every message to the community it is stated that the safety and security of all students and staff is our number one priority. He explains that he has had multiple meetings with principals and administration to clarify that if something happens at the building level, they have been directed to call the Superintendent's office and then he will reach out to our attorney's office. He goes on to say that we all share the same feelings and assure you we are on the same page. Recent changes to Federal policies have created worry and confusion, but he explains that all students and staff are safe while they are at school. Our Troy policies around protecting students have not changed. The NYS policies that regulate our operations have not changed. All principals and administration have been reminded of their legal rights and responsibilities and have been told to call the Superintendent's office should something arise at the building level and then Mr. Carmello will reach out to our attorney's office. Mr. Carmello reiterated that although the Federal policies have changed, Troy's have not and we remain committed to the wellbeing of all of our students and families and we will continue to provide a safe, secure and supportive environment for all.

C. Carroll Hill Principal Presentation - S. Dinardo

Ms. Dinardo begins the presentation with Troy's mission statement to provide a strong education and social foundation to graduate all students college and career ready. Carroll Hill's mission is to foster partnerships between school, families and the community to provide a variety of student centered learning experiences. Carroll Hill is committed to increasing proficiency on ELA and Math NYS assessments, decreasing behavioral referrals, increasing family partnership and decreasing the percentage of students who are chronically absent. This year's equity goal is to increase proficiency on NYS assessments for our black students. For the last three years, Carroll Hill has continued to increase proficiency on the NYS ELA and Math assessments. Carroll Hill's faculty and staff have many committees that work on specific areas such as attendance, Building Leadership Team, Character Ed, Equity, MTSS and Restorative work. Carroll Hill is committed to creating a responsive environment that promotes academic independence and self regulations for all students. They also are committed to strengthening and maintaining partnerships with our families and school facilities. Their final commitment is increasing growth and achievement on district and building assessments for our black students. Suspension data has been decreasing since 2022.

D. December Financials - A. DiNovo

All accounts are reconciled. General fund expenses and revenues are on par with last year. As April approaches, we will free the entry of new purchase orders to help us prepare for the fiscal year end process.

E. Budget Discussion Draft 1 - J. Carmello

Mr. Carmello begins with stating that Troy's mission is at the forefront of all of the decisions this year. We continue to be proud of all that is happening throughout the district. The district proficiency rates are well above the pre-pandemic rates in both ELA and Math. Many of our schools have recorded their highest proficiency rates in Math. School 16 outperformed the State proficiency rate in both ELA and Math and School 2 has been removed from Receivership. Once again, we want to develop a budget that sustains progress and builds on

success by meeting the needs of all of our students in the most fiscally responsible way possible. Mr. Carmello reviews the tax cap and tax levies for over the last ten years, stating that the last four years the district chose a 0% increase to the tax levy. He also proposes a transfer to capital which will supplement the THS tech wing work. An attrition plan began this year to reduce positions through retirements and we are currently anticipating no layoffs. We need to consider our tax levy options for this budget as we continue to monitor the State budget process. The One House budgets were released late yesterday and we are still reviewing. Draft 2 is scheduled to be presented at the March 26th board meeting.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve minutes from February 5, 2025.

Second: Mrs. Pompey-Conway

Discussion: None

Carried: 8-0

1. February 5, 2025

B. Superintendent's Recommendations - Human Resources - Staff Matters - Unclassified and Classified

(Reviewed by D. Watson and I. Abbasi)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, NY, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following unclassified and classified personnel actions:

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Items 1-10 as a consent agenda.

Second: Mrs. Pompey-Conway

Discussion: I'd like to welcome Brian Dunn for coming back to Troy to help us out. Welcome!

Carried: 8-0

Unclassified Items 1-9 (within linked document)

10. Unclassified Employees - Intern/Student Teacher/Observation Hours (Unpaid)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COLLEGE</u>	<u>AREA OF STUDY</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>SUPERVISOR</u>	<u>ASSIGN.</u>
Arianna Rue	Russell Sage	Childhood Ed.	3/1/25-3/31/25	Tina Dzialo	CHS
Alexcia Koonz	Siena College	Education	4/1/25-4/30/25	Thomas Carroll	PS16
Amelia Dubben	Russell Sage	Early Child Ed.	3/1/25-3/31/25	Taylor Wiley	CHS
May Tolley	Maria College	Occ. Therapy	3/31/25-6/20/25	Darcy DiCaprio	PS16
Michaela Hewitt	Maria College	Occ. Therapy	3/31/25-6/20/25	Tulin Ture	PS18
Madison Albanese	Russell Sage	Childhood Ed.	3/1/25-3/31/25	Amy Fraser	PS16
Shanley Deridder	Russell Sage	Childhood Ed.	3/1/25-3/31/25	Mariana Brunell	PS16
Mara Little	Russell Sage	Childhood Ed.	2/27/25-3/26/25	Hope Seymour	PS2
Allison Lockrow	Brunswick CSD	Occ. Therapy	2/27/25-3/31/25	Holly Lockrow	PS16

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Items 1-8 as a consent agenda.

Second: Mrs. Pompey-Conway

Discussion:

Carried: 8-0

Classified Item 1-7 (within linked document)

8. Classified Employees - Volunteers

Regeneron STEM Volunteers

Kenoye Eke	Caitlin Zautner	Meryl Lindsay
Linsday Sherwood	Lauren Nolet	Rebecca Farinacci
Ashley Gibbons	Dianne Valera	Geena Jackson
Grace Matthews	Diya Vimal	David Tannenbaum
Maya Vanderhorst	Kaitlin DeLoria	Phillip Yunginger
Caitlin Callaghan	Mat Ovadias	Chrissy Smith

Staff Matters (Unclassified and Classified)

C. Superintendent Recommendations - Programs

(Reviewed by D. Watson)

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Items 1-6 as a consent agenda.

Second: Mrs. Pompey-Conway

Discussion: None

Carried: 8-0

1. SBC Instructional Consulting, LLC (2024-2025 Contract)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a contract with SBC Instructional Consulting, LLC for district-wide English Language Learners (ELL) professional development for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost not to exceed \$5,800.00 to be paid from the Title III grant funds.

[SBC Instructional Consulting, LLC \(2024-2025 Contract\)](#)

2. Parsons Child and Family Center (2024-2025 Contract)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a contract with Parsons Child and Family Center for special education services for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$46,569 per student from September through June and \$7,761 per student from July and August to be paid from the Special Education grant funds.

[Parsons Child and Family Center \(2024-2025 Contract\)](#)

3. Northeast Parent and Child Society (2024-2025 Contract)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a contract with Northeast Parent and Child Society for special education services for the 2024-2025 school year at a rate of \$47,315 per student from September through June and \$7,885 per student from July and August to be paid from the Special Education grant funds.

[Northeast Parent and Child Society \(2024-2025 Contract\)](#)

4. KIDZ 1st (2024-2025 Contract)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a contract with KIDZ 1st for afterschool programming at Troy Middle School from February 2025 through June 2025 at a cost not to exceed \$4,642.50 to be paid from the Stronger Connections grant funds.

[KIDZ 1st \(2024-2025 Contract\)](#)

5. Legacy Empowering Adolescent Development Center L.E.A.D. (2025 Contract)

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve a contract with Legacy Empowering Adolescent Development Center L.E.A.D. for an adolescent wellness program at Troy Middle School from February 2025

through June 2025 at a no cost to the district.

[Legacy Empowering Adolescent Development Center L.E.A.D. \(2025 Contract\)](#)

6. Out of Country Field Trip

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy, hereby accepts the recommendation of the Superintendent to approve the following out of country field trip:

Field Trip:
Italy
February 2026

Attendees:
Italian Class Students

Cost/Paid By:
Paid by Families

D. Superintendent Recommendations - Business Finance

(Reviewed by A. Hotaling)

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Items 1-2 as a consent agenda.

Second: Mrs. Pompey-Conway

Discussion: Thank you to the family who donates to our students.

Carried: 8-0

1. Change Order

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the following change order:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>C/O #</u>	<u>Original Amount</u>	<u>Change</u>
<u>Duncan & Cahill</u>	GC-01 (TMS)	\$173,000.00	\$4,125.50
<u>Bonacquisti Brothers Construction</u>	GC-08 (PS16)	\$779,800.00	(\$3,170.00)

2. Donations

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby accepts the following donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
TMS Families	TMS - Field Trip Transportation \$904.75
Kim Jones	Digital Keyboard for a THS Music Classroom - est. \$2,500.00

E. Board Resolutions - Employee Contracts

Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to approve Items 1-2 as a consent agenda.

Second: Mrs. Pompey-Conway

Discussion: Tom - Thank you both for being here and for everything you do for the TCSD please keep it up.

Carried: 8-0

1. Assistant Superintendent for Business

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, hereby approves the Employment Agreement for Adam Hotaling for the period of February 27, 2025 through June 30, 2029.

2. Superintendent of Schools

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Enlarged City School District of Troy hereby approves

the continuation of John Carmello as Superintendent of Schools, upon the terms and conditions set forth in a written Agreement between the parties commencing February 27, 2025 through June 30, 2029, and hereby authorizes the President of the Board of Education to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Board.

F. District Announcements

1. Future BOE Meetings - All meetings will take place at 6:00pm.
 - a. March 12, 2025 at TMS - Budget Discussion Draft 2
 - b. March 26, 2025 at TMS - TMS Principal Presentation, Budget Discussion Draft 3 (if necessary)
2. Good News
 - a. Carroll Hill staff and faculty who attended the Board meeting were invited to stand and introduce themselves.
 - b. TMS is hosting Black History Month Assembly for students on Friday. The program starts with a short video put together by our My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper programs and concludes with a Q and A session with faculty members.
 - c. School 2 hosted their annual Black History panel discussion yesterday, bringing black community leaders to share their experiences and answer questions from students.
 - d. Our student-athletes have been busy lately - Varsity Girls Basketball continues their Sectionals run after getting a first-round win against Amsterdam at home on Monday. Friday night, the girls go on the road to face Columbia. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 pm.
 - e. The Varsity Boys entered the Section 2 tournament as the #3 seed, and they'll host #11 Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake on Saturday at Hudson Valley beginning at 1 pm.
 - f. The CBA-Troy-Columbia Varsity Swim team finished in second place at the Sectional Championships earlier this month, and Troy's Rocco Jabour qualified for the state championships in the 100 breaststroke and as part of the 200 medley relay team. The state championship meet will be held March 6-7 in Utica. CBA-Troy-Columbia enters the meet ranked 20th in the state. Congratulations and good luck to all!
 - g. Three of our winter sports teams were named Scholar Athlete teams by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association. The Girls Basketball, Boys Swimming and Bowling teams all received this designation honoring teams and individuals that excel in the classroom. To be named a scholar-athlete team, the average GPA of the top 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.

G. Adjourn

At 7:35pm, Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to adjourn the public session. This was seconded by Mrs. Pompey-Conway and carried 8-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



Theresa Kaniff
District Clerk