

April 20, 2020 Board Meeting Transcript

<b>JT</b>	<b>James Truillo, Board Vice-President</b>	<b>TR</b>	<b>Toby Riddleberger, Director of Facilities</b>
<b>SR</b>	<b>Sue Reif, District Clerk</b>	<b>NW</b>	<b>Nicole Wolfe, Superintendent</b>
<b>JO</b>	<b>Joseph Ozvold, Board Member</b>	<b>SG</b>	<b>Shannon Gillette, Director of Technology</b>
<b>PR</b>	<b>Pamela Riddleberger, Asst. Supt.</b>	<b>ST</b>	<b>Steve Thesier, IBI Group</b>
<b>LD</b>	<b>Larry Dake, Asst. Supt.</b>	<b>SW</b>	<b>Sharon Wells, Board Member</b>

JT: Good Evening everyone. During the hearing of visitors, if you have a question for the Board of Education, please add it to the chat. Your name and address are needed if you want your questions/comments read at the meeting. Please stand for the pledge of allegiance.

All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

JT: The mission of the Union-Endicott School Community is to develop students who are responsible, self-directed, lifelong learners. The students, staff, parents and community encourage learners to develop a deeper understanding of self, a respect for others, and an understanding of their place in the world community. Roll call.

SR: We have four board members present, one on the phone and one that is absent.

JO: That's six.

Clerk: We have five here, sorry.

JT: Agenda Consideration of Addendum Items. I like to make a motion to approve the agenda and resolutions with a change in general resolution 20-4-G24, for the regular board meeting of April 20, 2020. Dr. Martin and Doctor Wells. All in favor.

Board: Aye

JT: Opposed. Thank you. Minutes from last meeting. I liked to make a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 30, 2020. Mr. Ozvold, Mr. Taylor. All in favor.

Board: Aye

JT: Opposed. Passed. At this time we would like to have our first hearing from any visitors. Toby?

TR: Nobody at this time.

NW: There's no one there?

TR: Nope

NW: Ok. I'll go on. There is not financial Treasurer's Report for this particular meeting, so we are going to move on to the Administrator's Written Reports. Tonight we have several reports from Shannon Gillette who is our Director of Technology and these reports are based on the 2D law. Basically we are looking at fostering the privacy and security of personally identifiable information with regards to technology. So, instead of pulling up each piece of paper here that we have

attached to go through it page by page... we have Shannon Gillette here with us tonight and I am going to turn it over to her for just a few minutes to share with us some highlights of those reports.

SG: Can you hear me Nicole?

NW: Yes

SH: So the Administrator Written Report, the first one is Ed. Law, it's a power point presentation that was provided by the Southern Tier Regional Information Center and it basically gives a background about this particular privacy law. The heart of this law is unauthorized release of personally identifiable information with regards to students and staff. It's a law that is part of an older law and we have added elements to it. The Regent's Board passed it on January 29<sup>th</sup> and the idea is that there are several elements to it and school districts are to be moving toward compliance. This involves not only the digital world but also our traditional analog world when we are talking about paper copies of things as well. And the whole goal it to make sure that we are not releasing unintended information out to the public. The second report is actually a device report that the Board had asked for when we started our one-to-one initiative. Things are a little different now, that school closures have occurred, but I am thrilled that as a District we were able to pull together and get devices into the hands of kids K-5, who were only using them at school, and then our take home one-to-one devices from 6-12. We have an incredible team of people who are working not only to make sure that kids their devices, but when the break, that we have the capability to replace or fix them. Our BOCES managed IT Dept. and our Service Now Department has been doing a fabulous job working with staff, students and families. The report itself shows that we have a small amount of our 5,000 devices that are in the repair or unusable state... and they may not stay there. Some of these we use for parts to fix other ones, some of them we can return if they are under warranty and get them fixed. It was a device report for marking period 2, obviously I haven't done one for marking period 3, but certainly myself, Scott Vosbury, the project manager, we are looking at what does it look like now that the devices are our in the community. When we are talking about getting them back to do maintenance and repair and for the next school year as well. The final piece of written reports was the staff announcement that we sent out to all staff to let them know what this Ed. Law 2D was really about. I am going to read from some of it because I think it is worded well as it is. It says, "The Board of Regents passed this regulation on January 29<sup>th</sup> and over the next few months the District will determine how UE will meet the law's requirements. Please be aware that there will be significant changes to the way we handle data, including but not limited to: communication practices, limiting or removing unnecessary data access and software purchases." Those are really the three areas that we will be looking at. This includes training. It's a requirement to have annual training. I would like to say a big thank you to Joe Ozvold, on the Board, who has an interest in the 2D Law and what it means for us as a District. It's been wonderful to have someone from the Board looking into it and supporting us as we move forward to try and become as compliant as we can, as quickly as we can.

NW: Are there any questions for Shannon? (pause) Thank you. Ok. Our fourth report tonight is from Dr. Larry Dake on the 2020 GASB 75 Interim Report. Is there any information that you would like to share at this time?

LD: Just to update the Board. We do a full evaluation report for every other year and in between there are term reports. It's a full scope of our liabilities for benefits. But this report does show a decrease in those liabilities which this is the first year that some of those negotiated benefit changes are hitting our report. So that is reducing some of our future liabilities, the numbers are still very high obviously, but that was one of the negotiation strategies that we had in the last cycle.

NW: Thank you. For anyone who is listening in, all of this information is available online, on our website. You would go to our website, you would search Board of Education, and you can find all of these presentations under tonight's link. So I just wanted to point that out. Our first presentation is...

PR: We are going to do the Budget presentation first.

NW: Ok. So our first presentation on next year's budget, with Pamela Portland-Riddleberger, our Assistant Superintendent, so I will pull that presentation up. Toby on their screen, can they see it?

TR: I believe so. Shannon said yes.

NW: She can see the bar and everything?

TR: No. She doesn't see this.

NW: So. We also have on their someone who wants to do the First Hearing of Visitors.

TR: Yes. She is just coming in right now.

NW: Ok. (background talking) Do you want to? Alright. We have a message coming in from one of our community members and so before we start this presentation, asking to speak about the battery facility, so she wasn't hear when we announced the first hearing of visitors, and I know she is heading to another meeting, so we can go ahead and jump in on that.

TR: So she can speak now?

MD: Hi. Can you hear me?

All: Yes.

MD: Hi. It's Mary Ann Dorner and Nicole I was actually on when you said that, I just didn't know how to speak.

NW: No problem.

MD: New technology for me. Thank you. So I don't know if all of you are aware of that there is a battery recycling plant that is proposed for Endicott, on the corner of Franklin and Clark Street. Franklin and Robble. It's in the middle of an Endicott neighborhood, ball fields, restaurants, UE school. It impacts all of us in the Village and outside of the Village. This is coming in from a company in South Korea. It's the first one on United States soil. This is new technology and the DEC; Department of Environmental Conservation has given them a permit. With that permit, it says that it will emit high toxicity air contaminates. It lists 25 of those contaminates, which I am not going to read to you. I just want to make you aware of this because as a Board I think it definitely impacts your faculty, staff and students. Right now at 7:00 pm, the Village Board is trying to pass a law to change the zoning in Endicott so that this company can come through without even having to go through the regular zoning and my husband Patrick Dorner is on that Board and he is down there. We are vehemently against it. I have spoken to a scientist and he was on a video that I watched awhile ago. It's online and it's called Endicott Residents charged

up over Battery Recycling Facility. The mayor, Linda Jackson, was against the industry and there was a man on it, Dr. Conant. Dr. Paul Conant. He is a chemist and toxicologist. I was able to find him. He lives in Binghamton and I spoke to him dozens of times this past week. We have a group now who are getting together to combat this. Because after the company, their name is Sun Jeal, from South Korea. They went into speak to Mayor Jackson, she flipped. She changed her opinion and said that this was an ok thing to come into the Village. It is really not an ok thing. When I called and asked her what is in it for Endicott, she said the following: She said, well, no taxes, because they aren't going to be paying taxes, and then she said only 20 jobs. And I said, so ok, so what is in it for Endicott? And she said our reputation. So that we look like we are business friendly. And so, I said that we could work on your reputation and bring in clean businesses, not businesses that are going to spew contaminants all over the Southern Tier. I wrote a list of 20 negatives about this. There are no measurable standards for this because this is brand new technology. And like I said there one on the United States soil. So when the DEC did their permit application, the question is where did they get their testing from? How do you measure contaminates that are located in Korea? Here is the plan. They are planning on bringing in truckloads and truckload of lithium batteries everyday because the facilities needs to do 2,200 pounds of batteries per hour. And then they are telling us that nothing toxic will be coming out of the emissions. That does not stand to reason. So the other thing is that Sun Jeal is the oversight. So their plan is to test this once per year. And then give Endicott the report on how the emissions came out. So, we are concerned for us. We live above it, and we are concerned for everyone in the Village and I called the Fire Chief and asked if lithium batteries are known to cause fires and he said that they will definitely cause fires. And Linda Jackson said to me, well the building is built so that a bomb can go off and it will still be standing. And I said what about the human beings working inside of it. So, there is a lot negatives and in addition to our property values going down, and we are concerned about UE and the children that attend the District. So that is why I just wanted to bring you up to speed on that in case you did not hear about it, because it has been very unpublicized by the Village and by the DEC. And the politician who are all behind it. And mostly all of the politicians are behind it. In our local and state politicians. Thank you for letting me speak.

NW: Thank you Mary Ann and what will happen is our Board will have a conversation and then one of us will get back to you shortly. Thank you for coming on tonight.

MD: Thank you so very much. I appreciate it.

NW: Your welcome.

MD: Bye. Everyone stay well.

All: Thank you. You too.

NW: Jumping back to our budget presentation. As you can see on the cover it says Budget Workshop #3. We have been going through a series of Budget Workshops and tonight we are here to share with you the latest status for where we are at and it's no secret that this turning into a very difficult budget season. The State has expressed a \$15 billion dollar deficit and we are here as a school district working hard to present a budget to you tonight that supports students, that prevents layoffs and that is respectful to our community and so we are going to share with you what we know as of tonight. This is not a vote on the budget tonight, this simply a presentation, so if you have questions, feel free to ask them and we will do our best to respond. So we always start off our presentation by sharing some information about our Board of Education. One of things that is important for the community to know is that we appreciate the full support of our School Board

and they are sitting around the table today, or they are watching from home, but we want to thank them for all of their support, as well as a few other folks. As I said, earlier, Pamela Riddleberger who has been instrumental in working on this process, as well as Debbie Galazyn. If she waves some of you might see her. She is at home watching. And Debbie is our accountant here at Union-Endicott. And then we also have Cynthia Wambold who works at BOCES Central Business Office, who also helps to provide a layer of oversight to our budget. So Cynthia is out there as well. So, thank you for your support. Just to go back in time, the budget process, as far as working with the School Board, started off all the way back in January. So, on January 6<sup>th</sup> we had a Budget Workshop where Kathy Blackman, the Controller from BOCES, came to one of our board meetings to talk to us about Union-Endicott's long range fiscal projection. So you take a look at the school district, where are we at now, where are we going to be five years from now, and in order to be able to exist in five year, looking at the decline of funding, what kinds of adjustments can we make in the process. Then our next Budget presentation was on January 27<sup>th</sup> and that particular presentation was simply a roll over presentation where you take the current year's budget and this year's budget and if we were to roll it next year, what kind of a situation would we be in. What would that look like. On February 18<sup>th</sup> we were able to hear the Governor's proposal. That was the last we were able to come together and actually have a Budget Workshop here. And based on the Governor's proposal we knew we were going to have to make some significant cuts. But, typically, in the past, we have been able to get a little bit more than the Governor's proposal, when we have the enacted State budget come into play. Tonight, we are going to share with you the actual enacted State budget and the budget status as of today. So I am going to turn it over to Pamela and again as you have questions, please feel free to go ahead and ask. Thank you.

PR: So, as we take a look at where we are right now with the budget status, at our first Budget Workshop, we were looking at a first budget draft of 89,810,778. As we started to go through, we started cutting back and starting looking through, and finally in the 3<sup>rd</sup> budget draft what we are looking at right now is 87,289,972. So this an increase of 2.17 percent over the current school year budget and that is with the tax levy limit of 1.88 percent. Now we are going to talk about the tax levy limit. How to we actually get to that number. So, as we take a look when we were in the other budget presentations, there were a number of proposals that were given from the Governor. We want to update you on what we have right now. The last time that we met, we were not in this pandemic. And so we have some new information that we are working with. So the current proposal includes a pandemic adjustment. And basically, what we need to realize is that we are looking at statewide reductions in state aid by 1.1 million dollars and this pandemic adjustment is reflected on our aid. However, one thing to note, is that we do have an offset of this reduction by the federal relief bill. And so what we are looking at in these adjustments is about 1.2 million dollars. That way it is helping us out a bit. But we also need to realize that we do have the continuing, on-going review of our allocations that we will be getting from the State. And with that, we are going to find that they will review us four different times. It will be at the end of April, at the end of June, at the end of December and at the end of March. And what they are going to be looking at is our actual state aid. And they need to be taking some of that money and putting it into other areas so we may not be getting the money that we expect for state aid and therefore our reduction tends to be even more as we move forward. We don't know what those amounts are going to be yet. They haven't actually gone through and done the first one, but we know and are anticipating it. We also, there is something about foundation aid, and what was going to be happening with it, and right now it is looking that foundation aid held flat and were about the same number. So one thing to think about is that we are now more 3.8 million below funding with that formula as we continue to move through. And then we also talked about in the other Budget Presentations that there was going to be some proposals of consolidating the reimbursable and categorically a new foundation aid base and that is no longer in there. Taking

a look at the new building aid here and reduced aidable costs, that is no longer in there and adjusting the transportation aid formula and limited aidable costs. So those particular things did not make it into the final enacted budget. So we just wanted to make sure you were aware of that. We continue to remain at zero for the Community Schools set aside. We talked about it and within our aid they were telling us if it went through the way that it was proposed by the Governor, you would have to spend X amount of dollars on your Community Schools, but that is not, we did not receive any last year and we don't, therefore is nothing set aside that will specifically be spent on that. Also, something to note, is that by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, they are going to ban the sale of Styrofoam products and so there was a meeting with our Food Services and they did let us know that they are aware of this and by this particular date Union-Endicott will be ok. That we will have shifted over our Styrofoam products and they have made allocations for that. And finally, one of the updates, just so you all know, is that we had this whole thing about the paid time off for voting provisions, and there is a repeal on that. And so what was enacted last year, is going to look different for next year. So as we take a look at what our state aid projections are, after we take a look at it, in the first column is where we are currently. So you will see it says budgeted state aid for 19-20. Draft 2 is what we anticipated as we started going to through these Budget Workshops with you. It is kind of what we thought would be happening based on what the Governor proposed. But now what we are looking at in the third column, and that is an actual enacted final state budget proposal. And so it is that third column that we are going to focus in on. And so as you take a look from our current year to what is the actual proposed, you are going to see that there is a decrease in the foundation aid by about \$36,000 and just to put it in perspective, last year when we were looking at this particular time, we were looking at an increase of \$500,000. So there is definitely a shift there. When you take a look at the building aid, it did increase, you can see that, but the expense driven aid, things like the textbooks, the software, the hardware, those did have an increase as well. And so as we start to move forward and we are taking a look at the formula that we need to use in order to figure out our tax levy limit, we need to look at the magic number, at the bottom right corner, which is \$544,452. Take a look at the revenue sources, you are going to see here that we have our tax levy and that is 1.8. The last time we talked, we thought it might be 1.89. So this has been adjusted a bit, but that is the definite number. We also are taking a look at our other revenue and we want to look at are the first two columns. So the 19-20 and the 20-21 numbers. You are going to see that there is a decrease in that particular number. These are the Medicare, Medicaid, rentals, BOCES refunds, but one of the things that we are looking at is our bank earnings. Our interest in earnings, there was a shift there. You will see where that magic number again, the state aid number, shows up. That's our dollar amount. You are going to see where we have 40,154,833 and another number that you might want to take a look at is the appropriated reserves which those help to offset that budget and those we are looking at hoping to have an increase it that with our retirement contributions and unemployment insurance. So, sometimes it is easier to take a look at this whole thing put together when you look at the pie chart. The majority of what we have comes from our state aid, which is about 46%, and our tax levy, which is about 49%. So everything is equally important and we count our community and we count on the state aid as we are moving through and trying to put this budget together. What about our expenditures? We will start to shift our thinking a little bit. Now, we have met a couple of times, and at that very first Budget Workshop, we had put together all kinds of potential enhancements that we would be great for kids, great for programs and that particular number jumped out at us at \$1,609,340. We knew that was a pie in the sky, however, we wanted to make sure that everyone's voice was heard and the things that were needed. We then shifted in the last Budget Workshop to budget enhancements of \$315,000. So we kind of cut back. As we take a look at things today, in this particular proposal, we are looking at no budget enhancements at any of buildings except for one, that affects all four elementary buildings. And this is a 1.0 full time equivalent guidance counselor which is a New York State mandate. And so we said that we need to keep this in. You will see

everything else is not in there. It would be great to have them in there, but at this time we can't do it. So in addition to that, in order to figure out where we can balance the budget, we are looking at the following. We have 8 1.0 full time equivalent positions that we are able to capture due to retirement. And so those span across all levels. We have retirements at elementary, at middle and high school. We also have four 1.0 FTA aid positions and those are going to be reduced with a shift of responsibility. So what does that mean? It means that their current responsibilities of being lab aids, will shift into other programs where we have some openings that we need to fill but they will no longer be specific just with our science labs. So we will be able to capture that. We also have six .4 FTE which are annual appointment positions. So what that means is that we put that out every year. It is a one year position. We keep putting it back out, people re-apply. We are not going to be able to do those .4's for next year. And also our BOCES actual expenses they increased less than anticipated. And therefore that helped us out as well. We did go through some non-mandated budget lines and were able to find some funds there. No each year we have the opportunity for \$100,000 project and in the past what we have been doing is focusing on high school. And at the high school we were working on our lighting and putting in LED lights. That was helpful because with less maintenance and in the long run saving operational costs. What we would like to do with the particular \$100,000 project is to move through and start on our elementary schools. So AGM will be the focus of this lighting project. And we do get aid back on the project and so its one of those things that is beneficial to go ahead and do. Now this is a little bit different from what we looked at at the last Budget Workshop. As we take a look at the benefit changes, now remember, these are agreed upon in our contracts. These are numbers that we can play with, however, we do have differences of the numbers because we now have these 8 FTE positions with attrition and they come out of this cost so therefore we have our medical and dental, it is an increase of 4.88% from our current budget that we have. The teacher's retirement system. It is a decrease of \$3,259 so this is a different number than you saw the last time, and the employee retirement system does remain the same at 5.5%. That stayed consistent from the last meeting. And as you can see this is that chart that we looked at again at the last meeting, this is budget to budget, and you can take a look that you have your medical and dental which is in the upper reddish orange, you have your TRS which is in the yellow line and then you have your ERS in the green line. So now this is where we are going to get into the tax levy information. For Union-Endicott, the tax levy limit is 1.88% and so therefore this means that \$790,677 increase to the tax levy. Again, at our last workshop it was 1.89% and we gave an overview, but now this is a definite number. How is it that we actually get to the tax levy population? This is a great mathematical problem, it is something that Mr. Truillo jumped up and thought it was exciting. But it really is interesting how they come to this particular number. What you do is you start with prior tax year levy and you can see that is the number there. You subtract out any amount placed in the reserve. Then you multiply it by your tax base load factor. And for several years the lowest was one, and this is the amount of your new growth. So now we are at 1.80011. You then add your 19-20 PILOT receivable, and PILOT is payment in lieu of taxes. And you can see the number there. You subtract the 19-20 capital levy, and the capital levy is our voter share of the capital project and the transportation cost, like the buses we have. You can subtract out the 19-20 exemptions for tortes and judgement, we don't have anything in that category. You multiply the allowable growth factor which is otherwise known as the CPI or Consumer Price Index, and that is 1.81%. You subtract the 20-21 PILOT receivable, and you can see there the \$87,668 number and you add any allowable carryover and you come to a tax levy limit, before exemptions, of \$42,171,304. But that is not where it stops. It continues. You add in any allowable TRS exemptions for 20-21, you add in any allowable 20-21 exemptions for tortes and judgements and then you also add in 20-21 capital levy. And so again, we have the number there and you then come out with your total maximum allowable tax levy of \$42,825,363. What does this mean? It means, that it is a 1.88% increase from the 19-20 levy and what does that mean to the community? It is a \$790,677 increase from the 19-20 levy in dollar amounts. And you can see

here the tax levy history. The tax levy started in 12-13 and we staying with that tax levy and so ours from last year to this year it is a lower tax levy limit at 1.88%. So we would hope that after the Board reviews, we are looking to get approved, not at this meeting, but it would be at our next meeting. We would go out to vote and we would have our community voter approval. If for some reason we didn't get that voter approval, we have to move to a contingent budget. Now, on the contingent budget, what would happen is that we would have to cut \$790,677. But you don't get to determine exactly where that money would come from. It is actually is determined for you. So, out of the Administration Programs, so like the Business, Superintendent, Board of Education, Personnel, the District Office, we would have to cut \$81,000. Out of the Program Line, which is instruction and transportation, we have to cut \$490,551 and out of Capital, which is our equipment and building and grounds, we would have to cut \$219,126. So there would have to be further cuts from what I showed you earlier to get to this actual contingent budget. These would be the propositions that voters would see. We don't know if they will see them when they come into vote, we don't know if they will see them in a ballot vote. We aren't sure yet. They don't have that exact direction of what will be happening, under this particular New York State Pause that we are in. However, this first proposition is for the budget and again our budget for the 20-21 school year will be \$87,298,972. The second proposition centers around our school buses. We have this each year. We are looking for the purchase of 3 diesel buses, which are large buses and one of our smaller buses which is a gas bus. So what will this look like? At the time when we actually had to submit this, we did not know that we would be continuing our pause through May 15<sup>th</sup>. The May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will not be at TJW like we had hoped, but it will be another Zoom meeting. At that meeting we are hoping to have the budget adopted by the Board. To be determined. We need to have a Meet the Candidates Night. We will figure out when we will have that. We also need to have the Budget Hearing prior to the vote and we will have to schedule that based on whatever they determine is the vote day. Then we will have to back it up and it has to be within 2 weeks' time. Then we will actually have the budget vote and the member election. So all of those are TBD's because we haven't gotten any direction yet from the State when this will all be happening. And everyone is in the same vote. We are not alone. We are all going through the same type of thing. So, does the Board have any questions at this time for the budget proposal that we have put together for you?

NW: Mr. Testa. Do you have any questions?

DT: No. Not at this time. Thank you.

NW: So. One of the things that has been happening during this presentation is that if any community members wanted to ask questions, they would type those questions in the chat and we have Toby Riddleberger here who is helping to assist with that. So I am going to ask if we have any question?

TR: No we do not at this time.

NW: Not at this time. I just want to let the community members know that you may not want to ask a question tonight. You might want to go home and think about this and realize that "Geez" I was wondering based on the presentation about something in particular. If that is the case, feel free to reach out to me. The easiest way to reach me is through email and I will connect with you, but I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Ok. We are going to move to the next presentation. So, our next presentation is a Capital Projects Update. We have updates regularly. So it was a regularly scheduled presentation. So I am going to turn it over to Tom Bowman from Riordan Group and Steve Thesier from the IBI Group.

- ST: Thank you. So tonight we are going to quickly give you an update on the construction status and then I will go through the new projects of the 2019 Capital Projects both Phase 1 and Phase 2. So, let's start with you Tom.
- TB: Just to let you know where we are at, we are going back to construction tomorrow morning at LWW, HS and CFJ. There has been a 2 ½ week layoff. The Governor shut down non-essential. When we go back tomorrow morning, at the HS they will be working on the pool boiler. They will get that completed. That was started, but shut down. We will have a 2 man crew at the HS. Moving on over to CFJ, there will be a 1 man crew. He will be finishing off the hood ventilators that were placed in the building over the summer. It has been a long process. And then the big thing to finish is LWW. Currently they need to finish off the duct work and piping from the cafeteria and turn the down the elementary wing. They had started that and were well under way when they were shut down a few weeks ago. They will have full manpower back. At least one electrician, 2 gentlemen from Piccianno and 1 or 2 gentlemen from another subcontractor and someone from Evans. They should have that done and wrapped up within the month. They are also going to tear apart the basement. Take out the existing boiler and will replace it with a new boiler, new chiller and pumps to get that new heating system up and running for the next school year. And then District wide we are still working on the building controls with PASCO. They are just about complete with their programing so we can sit down with them and to do a fine tune of what they have completed.
- ST: All right. Moving on to the 2019 Capital Project. So it was divided into Phase 1 and Phase 2. So a quick overview of the Phase 1 scope of work included at GFJ floor replacement in all of the classrooms. There is half carpet and half tile. All that is being removed. All tile in those rooms. At CFJ we are replacing one wing, the roof, on the west side. It was in the worst condition.
- JO: You are putting in 30 years roofs. Right?
- ST: I will get to that in a minute. At AGM and TJW we are doing light replacement as Pamela mentioned. Part of that is going to be in the Capital Project, but that won't be all of AGM. We are still doing some in the larger Capital Project. At TJW we are also doing the gym floor replacement, as well as the exterior stair replacement. This is the one that was discussed at the Town of Owego. That was put into the Capital Project. At LWW the interior of the building we are replacing the floor in the original portion of the building and on the exterior we are adding in 2 additional test ports and are reconstructing the paved play area. At the HS we are replacing the band room carpet and replacing 3 units on the roof. Something I forgot to add on this is the HS Stadium lights. We are also scheduled to replace them. So this work is anticipated to be done in the Summer of 2020. Everything we have been talking to the contractors about to date seems that will still be done. Obviously, construction, there have been a lot of issues with materials and those types of things. To date, we don't know if any problem right now that will prohibit us from getting this done in 2020. Obviously you never know what you are going to run into, but so far so good. Moving on. This is a little different from what you are used to from the past. Particularly it has been a bid situation. Mostly competitive bid. Probably 3, 4 months ago, we started bidding other projects for work that can be started this summer. We really started to see a huge increase in costs and very limited interest. The problem is there is so much construction going on in this area, well really in New York State and there is little interest and those who have interest their bids were very high. So we wanted to try and regroup. What could be do to still salvage a project, a Phase 1 project. So we took a look at could we break it into smaller contracts. We have a lot of flooring. We could get a flooring contract. Side work contract. Roofing contract. Tom called some smaller contractors that would fit into those fields. But there was not any interest from those contractors. They had too much on their plates or they just didn't want to take it on. Then

we started thinking about cooperative purchasing. We haven't done cooperative purchasing for the last 2 or 3 years. It is becoming more and more common for school districts and other governmental agencies. Cooperative purchasing is basically a way to procure instruction by a means of going through some type of cooperative purchasing agency that has already gone through some type of pre-qualification bid process or whatever mechanism they went through. New York state recognizes that process. Again, that is why we are seeing more and more. So we did work earlier in the year with Smith Site Development on another project. It did work rather smoothly and construction started in the summer months. It was a rather smooth process with them. Theirs is a little bit different, then some of the other ones, where you actually do a lot more scope. We can do all of our GC scope and our site work under this particular block. We can't do any of the mechanical or electrical on this. It would give us an avenue to get that particular type of work done. We certainly had a number of discussions with them and we gave them our documents and went back and forth regarding cost. Obviously we needed to feel comfortable with the cost that they were giving us. We did our own cost estimate. Even though the costs are slightly higher than what we both had estimated, we were not figuring in an escalation for the bid market today and if we did factor that escalation our estimate would have been more than what we got back from Smith. So we think that it makes logical sense to move forward with Smith to do the TC and the site work. I also mentioned the stadium lighting. Almost ever stadium lighting job that we have done and many other districts in this area, are going directly to Mosco Lighting. They are the top of the line lighting for stadiums. Believe me, you do not want to get a bad stadium lighting company. You want to make sure you get a good company, so we have done many projects with Mosco, they are a very good outfit, they will do a great job. We received a finalized number today, and it is within our budget, and we are just waiting for a little more detail of the breakdown, and I am hoping to bring it back to you for the next meeting. With the mechanical and electrical contracts, we were pretty confident on the electrical side. We are a little unsure mechanically. If we get the interest and we get the numbers where we want them to be, but we did. There are a number of mechanical contractors and a lot had to do with that it was a relatively simple job. It's equipment costs. I think that is the reason we were able to get good numbers there. Those will be coming over to you and I will take one step back before I continue on. I skipped over with Smith Site Developments, the roofing part. We did talk at a previous board meeting about doing the 30 year warranty roof. I asked Smith to give us both a 20 and 30 year roof number. What is on the docket tonight is a 20 year roof. If you want to go to the 30 year warranty, the cost comes in just under \$18,000. So that is going from a 20 year warranty to a 30 year warranty. I am kind of mixed on it. The longer you go in that process, with roofing contracts, you are just looking for a way to say, sorry that's just not part of it. I am just concerned that 20 years down the road will we be able to get that specific roofing manufacturer to come back and deal with an issue. That certainly is a decision that the district needs to make. Is it worth the extra value now to try and get that warranty? So if you are confident that you can get that roofing manufacturer to step up, after year 21, then it could be well worth it. So again, that is a decision that needs to be made. Moving on to Phase 2. This is our schedule. We have gone through (inaudible) in January and February and that is when we are looking at scope items and most of them have a space renovation and we are sitting down and meeting with stakeholders who would have an interest in that specific space. Going through a work session and then we put together a conceptual design and meet with them again so that we can review it. We can do the necessary changes. Later then we move onto what we refer to is a schematic design. We take the whole entire scope of the project, getting it down on paper and we lock down what we are doing and then we move into design development. It is what we are currently working on right now and we will be wrapping that up soon. Then we will be moving into the construction documents which are detailed documents that the contractor will be using to build the project. That will go until September of this year. At that time it will be submitted to the (inaudible) department and we are hoping we will get approval in the November time frame so we can do procurement. In

the December or January time frame in the hopes that we can get construction started in June of 2021. We still really have to look closely on details of the construction schedule and assume that it is going until 2023, but not get locked into that scope and start looking at that specific construction date. So I just want to quickly share with you some of the items that are in the project. At AGM and TJW we will be replacing cabinets, sinks, drinking fountain and replacing it with new cabinetry, like the image on the left. Also at CFJ we will be replacing all the cabinetry in the rooms like the photo on the right, all the wood cabinetry will be new and the image on the left shows that, and new cubbies and they will now have individual cubbies in this space. Moving on to the Library at CFJ, basically still maintaining the basic space, but it will be a redesign of the space. Perimeter shelving with an open area in the middle, the interactive TVs, seating and circulation desk. This will be a nice new space. All new finishes and nice bright chairs. And lastly at CFJ is the kitchen. We will be expanding the kitchen into some adjacent space. That will allow us to get 2 serving lines in the actual kitchen area. Also to help with the space, we will be taking the metal shed by the loading dock and removing it and putting in a walk-in cooler/freezer in that location. It doesn't take us space within the kitchen area. It will create great function in this area. Over at LWW, similar to CFJ with the cabinetry replacement. A little bit different design than CFJ, but again meets the needs of what they have there. And each wing is different. Again, the kitchen at LWW is a total gut, redo, and we are expanding the kitchen about 4 feet into the cafeteria just to get more room and to do what they really want to do in that space. Moving on to the high school, we are redoing all the art rooms. This is one of the multi-purpose art room spaces. The design is flexible, in order for them to move seating around. Specific storage cabinetry around the perimeter of the room. Moving on to the science rooms, a lot of discussion with the science teachers regarding this, but we came to the common design that meets the need of all the different sciences. So we have a standard design that includes lab stations around the perimeter with an instructional space in the front. Many rooms have center teacher demonstration station as well. There will be specific rooms that might have additional items that all rooms won't have. There will be some subtle differences. The goal was to come up with a way that any science could be taught in the room. And then lastly, Family Consumer Science at the high school. There are two spaces. One will be dedicated to cooking and that's the one on the left. It is kind of flexible as well. It will reflect a commercial grade cooking kitchen. It will be all stainless steel. The center work stations will be movable. There will be a locking wheel. And there will be perimeter cooking stations, stoves, sinks. The room on the left is more geared to instructional space and it was designed to make it easily adaptable for any sewing needs or other functions that need to take place. That's it. Any questions?

JO Is there physical difference between a 30 year roof and a 20 year roof?

ST Yes. So, the membrane itself goes to a much thicker membrane and then a lot of the detailing .. so the sheet of rubber. So there are seams on those sheets of rubber. So there is a different detail, much more complicated detail, a little more labor. And also the perimeter edges, the detailing is quite a bit different as well. From a product standpoint, the majority of it is in additional labor to just do the detailing.

JO So you said it was an \$18,000 difference, between the 20 and 30 year roof. How much is the total baseline for a 20 year roof?

ST What is the actual cost? The roof number itself came in under our budget. The rough cost was \$269,387.

JO So a quarter million dollars and we could get another 10 years for \$18,000.

- ST Correct. Actually, \$17,789.00.
- JO Sounds like a good deal to me.
- ST Yet, again, it would be a great bargain if we just knew that 20 years down the road that we could get that manufacturer down the road to come and repair it. Problem is, 30 year warranties have not been around long enough to have that proven. It has been a gradual progression with roof warranties and the longest time was 10, then 15. The standard was then 20, but when they offered the 30 . . . Thank you.
- JT Next on our agenda is the Board President's Report. Mr. Testa.
- DT Can you hear me? Am I on. Thank you. First I want to start by apologizing for not being there tonight, but I check every single box except cancer patient for the most likely to get the virus, so I am hanging out at home until this is over. First I want to thank the people who helped with the budget, Nicole, Pamela, Larry, Cynthia, Debbie, anybody else who got involved with that. You did a great job. You always do. You make it easy for the board. Thank you very much for doing that. I want to thank everybody else who has come through during this unprecedented time, starting with the district office. I know Nicole, Pamela and Larry , one or more of them have been there every day , assuring the students who are still coming for Chromebooks and food and whatever is needed they are there to take care of them. Toby. The other people who are delivering things. For the people who cannot come to the school to get the food or Chromebooks. I want to thank the Principals and the teachers for the very difficult job that they are performing and I would like to thank the Food Service people who are passing out the food and getting the food available. I want to also thank Endicott/Endwell Rotary, the West Corners Fire Department and New Life Ministries for getting involved and letting us have food at their locations. And I know there is a bunch of other people involved in that part, that I would like Nicole to fill in for me so I don't forget anyone. I also wanted to give a shout out to UE student Abby Winans and the high school teachers Corey Munn and Mike Waskowski for making the masks and donating them. We thank you for that. And I want to thank the Girls (inaudible) club and presidents Madison and Allyssa Stead for making the donations that they have made. And I want to thank everybody for a job well done. A great effort at a very challenging time and situation and on a personal side I would like to thank the five UE employees that made sure that my wife and I are well fed through this and until it's over. I do have something I want to bring up under New Business. Nicole, could you just fill in for who I forgot?
- NW Yes. I will do the best that I can. I have to tell you that we have had so many donations come in and it is so greatly appreciated. And all of these donations are going to a good cause. The families are so appreciative. I started writing down names. If I missed someone's name, please let me know. Please email me and we will add it to the list. But going back to the beginning, we had Danielle Champion who worked with some of her friends to put together food boxes for families. That was one of the very first food box initiative that we have done since this started. And then later Endicott Rotary came in and thanks to Tom Lattini and Sam Lupo we have been able to give out 60 some boxes of food every week, on Fridays from Rotary. We had folks from JFS who are getting ready to do their own backpack program with food, and so that never happened because of the shutdown, they donated all of their food to us as well. I had a parent, Lisa Dailey, reach out to me and expressed interest in her purchasing yearbooks for some of our high school students. We had Terry Lawless, from Support for Girls, in Syracuse, who drove all the way down here to support the Stead girls with feminine hygiene products. Diane Donohue and her husband, they are members at OLGC, and as part of the women's empowerment ministry also donated to the cause. We had Tony Sing donate food to put towards our Friday donations. Anthony Lindsey,

from Pinnacle Homes Development, also submitted gift certificates for families. The West Corners Lions Club this past weekend, David Rutkowski, and his crew came here and donated 63 boxes to Union-Endicott families. Then we had Alex Nichols, who is the owner of Alexander's Café, donate a sizable amount of money towards the food boxes. And Kathy Nichols donated 60 envelopes full of gift cards from McDonalds for each of those boxes. So that each family can get a bunch of gift cards. We had Debbie Kasson, one of our teachers, she made a bunch of masks and these masks were given to the food services crew this morning and they were very appreciative and just today I drove out and met Ruth Moody who is one of our community members who also donated to the Stead girls and their cause and it just keeps coming and we just keep getting more and more donations. So that is who I have on my list. So thank you.

JT Board Advisor Teams reports.

DT Yes. We had an Endicott Proud team meeting this afternoon. It was a zoom meeting and it was very expertly held by Pamela. So I have asked that Pamela report on Endicott Proud.

PR We had a zoom call and we asked that the focus be on what are efforts are in the community with the COVID 19 Pandemic. And so we had updates from the Village of Endicott. We had updates from Endicott Police Department and the Endicott Fire Department. We also had updates from the Town of Union, which also included specific outreach for small businesses and how they can get assistance with business that may be struggling because of being shut down. We had updates from our school district. Nicole and I shared what was going on. Both with the food and with instruction. We talked with Bob Griffin, who is from the Small Business Association and he was able to talk about what is happening and some new opportunities that had just came out. We will be getting them out to our list serve. We had an updated on Vines, community garden and they said that they will be planting more gardens in order to keep up with the need and wants. People want to get out and garden, but people are also worrying about having enough food. So really, it was great meeting and also Donna Lupardo got on and she talked about the efforts that are happening with her, so we were very happy to hear from her.

JT Old Business. (none)

JT New Business.

DT Yes, Jim, I have this letter that the board received from Mr. Gary Locke, and the letter is asking that in 2017 NYS authorized school districts to allow property tax exemptions to veterans. I called Mr. Locke and explained to him that we had received a similar type of request from Joe Materese a few years ago, and at that time the board discussed it in depth and decided it was not in the best interest of the district to do this. What happens is that the veterans get exemptions and the rest of the tax payers have to make up that money because there are not less taxes; it the same amount of taxes are going to be collected. If I am wrong Nicole, please jump in. But it is my understanding that the other taxpayers will have to make up the difference. I checked with Al Buyck at BOCES, and there is no other school district in the BOCES district that has approved this exemption. And so, therefore, I would like solicit the opinion from the other board members on how they feel and I will make final recommendation. Do any of you have any comments that you would like to make on this? Please do so. Not all at once.

JO That's it Dick?

DT Yes.

JO I have some topics. I would like the board to consider changing one of our things that we do. When people pay their school taxes, if they are one day late... generally they have all of September, but if you are one day late, we charge them 2% on their taxes. I can't get 2% for a whole year on my money if I put it in the bank. I think that this will be an exceptional year and I would like to recommend that we drop it from 2% to 1%. For the late fee. I think it would help out people.

NW Do you want me to look into it?

JO Yes. Thank you. And the second thing is the vote. If we have a budget vote and board member vote, even if we re-open, we probably we are going to be on limited contact. Is there any chance that we could close the school district for that vote? For the day of the vote. So we don't have any students or staff ...

NW Are you referring to the November election vote, or the board vote?

JO No. The board vote, the budget vote.

NW Whenever that might be. We don't even know what that is going to look like, if there will be students or not. There has been some talk about making it a mail in ballot, that folks will mail back to us. I'm not sure how that is going to work. We are still waiting for some direction on that.

DT Nicole, I have one other thing that I forgot to mention on the Board President's Report. Can you hear me??

NW Yes.

DT I would like to ask the board again and the administrators to hopefully we can keep a positive attitude and hope that at some point in this year, whenever it may be, that we are able to hold senior night for athletes in some manner, senior prom and hold graduation, even after school is over, I would like to proceed with that thought. We may not be able to do it, but I would like to remain positive and hope that we can honor our seniors and for senior prom and graduation.

NW One of things that, so that I started a series of community zoom meetings and anyone is invited to participate. You can be a community member, a student, a parent, a teacher and we have had four of them and we are now moving into a new set of four coming up this week and next week. So I will be sure to get those dates out. But that topic keeps coming up. And what people are asking is that we want something to be done. We don't know what that might look like, and we understand that social distancing might be a concern; we understand that graduation could look like anything like a virtual graduation, with a ceremony down the road, to, I have even heard the idea of a ceremony on our field, and have a couple rounds of it where you have social distancing, so people are thinking about this and I am generating ideas. So I will be sure to share more from the next meeting. Another thing that came up is that Jostens, they had pushed the date from what I think was originally April 1<sup>st</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>, and now they pushed the date from graduation supplies to May 15<sup>th</sup>. The parents need to know are we suppose to go ahead and make these payments. Will there be some type of ceremony? And from everything that I have heard the board say, they would like there to be some type of ceremony. But we certainly don't want our families to be stuck paying for graduation supplies that they are not going to use. So, that is something that also came up. We still have time, May 15<sup>th</sup> is a ways away. But that is an ongoing conversation. And the other thing that came up on these community zoom meetings is what about 5<sup>th</sup> grade moving up ceremonies. What about 8<sup>th</sup> grade moving up. What about honor

society induction. Like all of those special things that we do at the end of the school year. It's not just the seniors graduating, but it is all of the students who are celebrating special events at the end of the year. And those might look like this. But how can we make sure that we recognize our students. So that is just something to think about.

DT Absolutely. I apologize for not mentioning those other things.

JO What is the prom scheduled for?

NW It's early June.

SW Nicole. Since they order from Jostens for their caps and gowns and things. Do they go to the school or to the children's homes?

NW I don't know the answer to that. I know that for the adults they deliver to here and the school. But I am not sure. Parents are paying for them. They might go directly to the student's home. And we could advise that. That they go to the home. I don't think that is the issue. The issue is that the cut off date is May 15<sup>th</sup> and if that is case then you have to make a decision to pay for it. No, in the meantime, Steve DiStefano, contacted the Arena and they said if you want to kick graduation down the road to July, August, they have availability. It's another option. And there is a comment. Caps and gowns are delivered to the school. So we would have to get them to the homes.

SR They did get delivered. Steve called me and the Jostens' rep said he was going to come down her and get them from Dave and deliver them. So of them are here. Maybe he already got them.

NW More to come on that. We are still in the conversational stages, but we know that we have to figure it out soon. Also, the Superintendents in the region are having a meeting this week and that is one of the topics on the agenda. What are the thoughts on graduation and options. I will share with you later.

JO Are we getting new students in? the district?

NW Shannon, are you there? Can you speak quickly regarding registration process that is motion right now.

SG Yes. Can you hear me? There is a lot of feedback. I'm sorry. The registration process. Is that what you asked me? So there is a quick link to registration from the website. It takes us to our traditional registration page. It now indicates that we are doing registration on line. We are using a company called Family ID, who is 2D compliant and it is similar to sitting down in front of one of our registrars, in terms of the questions. It is up and running; we have help items from both of our registrars, so that process is up and moving.

NW So we just don't want to stop registration.

JO Oh, no.

NW It is still continuing.

JT Anything else? Ok. I would like to make a motion to approve all general resolutions 20-4-G1 through 20-4-G24 to include financial, contractual policy and regulation, bidding matters and

legislative stances, State Education Department Issues or textbook adoptions. Dr. Martin, Dr. Wells. Any discussion? All in favor.

All Aye

JT Opposed? Thank you. I would like to make a motion to approve all certified and non-certified resolutions for personnel changes, that would be resolution number 20-4-C1?  
Approved? Opposed:

JT I would like to make a motion to approve non-certified resolutions, 20-4-NC1 through 20-4-NC10, as attached hereto. Dr. Wells; Dr. Martin. Any discussion? All in favor.

All Aye

JT Moving on to Board Correspondence, and board meeting dates. The next one is Monday, May 11, 2020 at TJW. No. It will be zoom. At this time there is a second hearing of visitors.

NW Do we have anyone?

TR Mrs. Winans made a comment about graduation. Do you want to read it?

NW So we have someone that is saying for the second hearing of visitors a TV station broadcast would be great plan for graduation, and we did talk about that a little bit today. Let the kids walk, let families plan viewing parties. Live and replay recorded. I think that it would be a wonderful way for stations to take part. And then air on public access cable. That is another idea out there as well. Thank you.

TR She wants to speak now.

NW Hold on. Do you have it?

TR Go ahead Mrs. Winans.

AM Hi. Amy Winans, 609 West Wendell Street. I said this to Nicole earlier today, but I actually wanted to speak as being the Executive Director of a local non-profit and say that the hard work that is coming from your staff. You have really eased the burden. A lot of us non-profit directors have been talking about the amazing work that is coming from our schools. So as we are trying to navigate our staff and our focus of our own organizations, the families that we serve are vulnerable and the way that you have eliminated their food insecurities and eliminated their access to technology, all those limitations, you really have made our jobs across the board so much easier than it could have been. So I know that you are focused on students, but when you are focusing on students, you are focusing on families as whole and in some cases it's a multi-generation effect. It's the access to technology; they are able to connect with their grandparents. It really is endless. And I just wanted to make sure that it was communicated. That your work is so far beyond what you are doing for our students. And I am humbly grateful. So a huge thank you to all of you.

NW Thank you very much. It's our whole team. We appreciate it.

AM Be well everyone.

- NW We have another question. Do we think that seniors will have to go to college for their first semester on-line? We have a board member who works for BCC.
- JO I teach at BCC and the staff there is looking to push for all on-line classes. I teach electrical tech. You have to go to lab for that. Some classes you have to be in class for. English, Math...
- NW So maybe like a hybrid.
- JO Yes. That is what they are looking at right now.
- NW Yes Johnny. We just don't know. But thank you for asking. We will certainly keep you posted. And thank you to all of our speakers and folks who have asked questions tonight. We appreciate it.
- JT I would like to have motion to approve the recess of the public meeting into executive session to hear discussion on Medicare Proposal, personnel matter with Employee A. Dr. Wells. Mr. Ozvold. All in favor.
- ALL Aye.
- JT Opposed?