

DATE: October 9, 2025
KIND OF MEETING: **BRS**
PLACE: Board of Education Board Room
AGENDA REVIEW: A Board Review Session was held at 5:30 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Paretto at 5:30 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bass*, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi (entered 5:48p.m.), Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod*(logged on 6:21 p.m.), Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo, Miss Kaur.
Excused: Mr. Capizzi
***remote**

Staff: Mrs. Buchman, Mr. Carella, Mr. Macri, Mr. Schwertfager, Mrs. Jacklin, Mrs. Holody, Ms. Massaro, Mrs. Vilardo, Mr. Wojton, Mr. Granieri, Ms. Glaser.

SPEAK LIFE TWICE Rev. Gene Coplin, Guest
Mrs. Warren, a CES employee who formerly worked at LPS, began the presentation. She spoke about how effective the program was at LaSalle Prep School, where she previously work, and how the staff learned to mirror the techniques Rev. Coplin employs.

Rev. Coplin thanked the District for its partnership.

Rev. Coplin is a motivational speaker who uses Project WITT (Wisdom in Troubled Times) with students, a counseling program to help students share about their mental health. Rev. Coplin works to intrinsically motivate students to succeed and be confident.

He also uses an attitude development, motivational leadership program called Speak Life Twice. It involves utilizing positive affirmatives to affect beneficial changes in attitude and accomplishments.

Students report a major improvement in mental health. Rev. Coplin shared letters written by students attesting to the value of the program.

The Board participated in an exercise with Rev. Coplin. He shared his positive affirmations and invited the assembled persons to repeat them.

The District has contracted with Rev. Coplin's Project L.E.E. Inc., to provide youth mentoring to students at five schools: Abate Elementary, Cataract Elementary, Hyde Park Elementary, LaSalle Preparatory, and Gaskill Preparatory School. Project L.E.E. Inc. facilitates youth mentoring workshops to motivate students to improve their academic outcomes, self-image, and attitude. Project L.E.E. Inc. has extensive experience in mentoring youth and using motivational workshops to reach many students who face difficult life challenges.

He shared the following data:

GPS: 90% of 82 students did not have to go to summer school.
LPS: 97% of 106 students did not have to go to summer school.

Rev. Coplin explained that there are spoken words, written words, body language, and silent words.
He feels silent words are the most damaging; that is, internal talk or recalling negative statements.

Staff has participated in professional development, as well.

REVIEW OF ARP AUDIT

The following were the findings of the ARP audit, which looked at the accountability of use of funds provided to address learning loss due to COVID remote learning. The District is in disagreement with the following findings, and will respond to them.

Audit Finding #1 – Time and attendance: The District’s time and attendance certifications were not in compliance with Uniform Guidance
The forms included the account code of the grant but not the complete grant name “ESSER I/GEER I Cares Act”
The forms were signed twice a year by staff, typically in December and May, but not at the end of the grant period

Once the District was made aware of the changes in October of 2023, it immediately updated the forms to include the complete grant name; the updated forms were utilized in December of 2023. Now the forms are completed in June for the second time, rather than May.

It is important to note that the staff and salary amounts and included within the grants were appropriate (teachers, administrators, instructional coaches).

Audit Finding #2 – PROCUREMENT - The District did not ensure purchases were made in accordance with Uniform Guidance or their own written policies and procedures.
In all 5 instances the purchases were made through the equitable services allocation for non-public schools after consultation with the school officials.
In 4 instances the individual unit cost for the items purchases ranged between \$17.95 - \$978 per unit. Per the District’s purchasing policy these items are below the \$1,500 threshold, therefore judgement/catalog pricing was used.
In 1 instance the non-public school desired to purchase curriculum materials for distance learning per their LEA agreement. These materials were deemed to be a sole source.

All supplies and materials purchased were made per the LEA agreement and were appropriate and allowable expenditures, supporting hybrid learning and safe and healthy schools. The District complied with Uniform Guidance and the District's purchasing policy in all instances.

Audit Finding #3 – ASSET MANAGEMENT AND INVENTORY - The District did not properly monitor and account for technology materials, supplies, and equipment that were tested in accordance with Uniform Guidance and maintained incomplete and inaccurate inventory records.

Prior to the audit there were 3 separate inventory databases. Now, there is one comprehensive asset listing that includes all technology inventory, District inventory (items purchased with individual values in excess of \$500), and all inventory purchased for non-public schools for equitable services.

Additionally, District officials did not arrange for an annual physical inventory of all assets, nor provide documentation that a bi-annual inventory was conducted for compliance with Uniform Guidance.

The District engaged an independent consultant to conduct an onsite physical inventory in August of 2024. This practice will continue biannually. Previously, this was completed every 3 years.

The District will also begin conducting an annual inventory internally and reconciling to the fixed asset listing.

Audit Finding #4 – EQUITABLE SERVICES - The District did not effectively manage and account for equitable services to non-public schools in accordance with the CARES Act §18005(a) and §18005(b).

After consultation with the non-public schools, several non-public schools asked to send the funds directly to their LEA (i.e. Buffalo, Grand Island). The District did not have signed LEA agreements with those public agencies. Given the lack of guidance at the time and the desire to use the funds to help open schools for the 2021-2022 school year the District did not believe these were unauthorized payments.

The District reimbursed non-public schools for costs that were incurred after the grant period began March 13, 2020 but before the district received its allocation and award in April 2020. The costs in question were for cleaning supplies, masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer.

Despite repeated efforts to get non-public schools to provide purchase requests to utilize their remaining allocations, there were a few non-public schools who had minimal balances remaining. The District chose to release those funds directly to the non-public schools.

The District made a conscious good faith effort to interpret guidance and maintains the District was a good steward of the Federal funds.

A review of the agenda was held.

A draft of the audit will be presented to the Audit Committee next week.

There will be an executive session for one personnel matter.

Remove #7 and #9 on STC grid.

Mr. Laurie shared that the November meetings will take place on the 6th and 20th. On the sixth, an update on the Maisto Case (Campaign For Fiscal Equity) will be presented. Five Districts remain as part of the suit. The Board is asked to share any questions in advance with Mr. Laurie, who will share them in advance with the presenters.

The next Saturday Academy takes place at 10 a.m. at Bond this week.

Teacher Silvana Bonura secured \$12,000 in school supplies for Bond.

DATE: October 15, 2025
KIND OF MEETING: **ARS**
PLACE: Board of Education Board Room
AGENDA REVIEW: A Board Review Session was held at 5:30 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Paretto at 5:30 p.m.
MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo
Excused: Miss Kaur, Mr. Capizzi

Staff: Mrs. Buchman, Mr. Carella, Mr. Macri, Mr. Schwertfager, Mrs. Jacklin, Ms. Massaro, Mrs. Vilardo, Mr. Wojton, Mr. Granieri, Ms. Glaser.

2024 2025 External Audit Report - Drescher & Malecki report presented by Mr. Montalbo

This is required by New York State. The report was presented to the Audit Committee immediately previous to this meeting. The firm reported no findings or recommendations. The District will receive an unqualified, or “clean” opinion, the best possible result.

Compensated absences were one area reviewed. There is no change in this area.

Revenue has exceeded expenditures each of last five years. Thus, the District will increase reserves. It is anticipated that it will be difficult to continue this trend. For the time period audited, the District had \$8,113,606 in unrestricted funds available, \$46,831,698 in restricted. \$1,965,046, or four percent, is unassigned. This is the maximum allowed.

The school lunch fund shows a decrease in fund balance. Capital purchases for cafeteria’s account for this.

There were no material weaknesses. No non-compliance was found.

Mr. Laurie noted possible decreases in State aid going forward. Two reserve funds are funded at the maximum allowable amount, including employee retirement funds. He awaits an actuarial study to demonstrate the soundness of the workers’ compensation fund. The plan is to submit the report to NYS on Monday. Thanks to the finance team for its work, as well as the legal team for its skill in handling CVA cases, and mitigating the financial impact of those. This is the sixth consecutive clean audit.

Internal Audit Updates - Mr. Laurie, Mrs. Jacklin, Ms. McCreary
The Superintendent is recommending a new Internal Auditor, Tronconi Segarra & Associates. Their on-site presence is appreciated.

The internal audit will begin January 12, 2026, must be filed April 30, 2026. The firm performed a risk assessment and recommend studying: food service/child nutrition, payroll, and financial reports.

Mrs. Jacklin expounded on the financial reports, explaining that a hot topic with the Office of the State Comptroller is to confirm that the Board is being provided all required reports.

The State Comptroller is due to audit the District on these matters.

Other audit areas include information technology and water testing for lead. The District is ahead of the curve on both these areas, having addressed relevant issues already.

A review of the agenda was held.

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:08 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Vilardo seconded by Mr. Bilson to discuss four separate personnel matters appointments relating to the employment, appointment or promotion on these individuals. All in favor.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:56 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Vilardo seconded by Mrs. Dunn. All in favor.

REGULAR MEETING CALL TO ORDER at 7:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

A reflection was offered by Mrs. Dunn.

Roll Call

Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mr. Capizzi (entered 7:09 p.m.), Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo, Miss Kaur
Excused: Miss Kaur

Letters and Communications

Oral Communications - Public Comment on Agenda Items - None.

Written Communications – None.

Recommended Actions from the Superintendent of Schools - Routine Matters

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo seconded by Mr. Bilson.

Minutes –September 25, 2025 Meetings [\(SG 4\)](#)

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

Not Present at Vote: Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo seconded by Mr. Bilson.

Approval of Budget Transfer - # 3 (SG 3)

WHEREAS, §170.2 of the Commissioner's Regulations authorized the Niagara Falls Board of Education to make transfers within its General Fund Budget; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Niagara Falls Board of Education approve the transfer of \$ 677,229.09 among the following fund, function, object, and location codes:

General Fund:	\$	268,690.00
Cafeteria Fund:	\$	20,200.00
Special Aid Fund:	\$	388,339.09
Capital Projects Fund:	\$	0

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

Not Present at Vote: Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo seconded by Mr. Bilson.
Approval of Bids: Elevator and Lift Maintenance Repair Services – Bid Award Extension

WHEREAS, Funds were appropriated for Elevator and Lift Maintenance and Repair Services in the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Section 103 of the General Municipal Law, public bidding procedures were observed for Bid No. 10 – Elevator and Lift Maintenance and Repair Services; and

WHEREAS, Legal notice was published November 9, 2023 and bid documents were mailed to or secured by five potential bidders; and

WHEREAS, Bid was publicly opened and read on November 28, 2023 and one properly executed bid was received; and

WHEREAS, Bid was originally analyzed by Mr. Earl Smeal, Director of Facilities III, and Ms. Ann Schiro, Purchasing Agent and bid extension option was reviewed by Mr. Michael Macri, Interim Director of Facilities and Ms. Ann Schiro, Purchasing Agent; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the School District of the City of Niagara Falls, New York, award this contract extension, to the following bidder in accordance with specifications, as follows:

Award No.	Vendor	Award Amount
10a	D.C.B. Elevator Co., Inc	Amount in Excess of \$32,040.00

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

Not Present at Vote: Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi

The following were received and filed.

Treasurer's Report –September 2025 (SG 3)

Budget Status Report – September 2025 (SG 3)

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo seconded by Mr. Bilson.
Personnel Report – Certificated (SG 1, 2)

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi,
Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

Not Present at Vote: Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Bass, seconded by Mr. Bilson.
Personnel Report - Classified (SG 1, 2)

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi,
Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

Not Present at Vote: Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo seconded by Mr. Bilson.
Report from Committee on Special Education (SG 1)

The Committee on Special Education met on May 29, 2025; and September 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 2025; and October 1, 7, 8, 9, 2025 to review Annual Reviews, and September 4, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 2025; and October 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 2025 to review and initiate the placement of students with disabilities.

The Board of Education is required by law to act upon the recommendations made by the Committee on Special Education. If no action is taken tonight, the students involved in the recommendations will not begin to receive the services deemed necessary for their education. Furthermore, the parents of the students involved could take legal action against the Board.

This action item was prepared by Cheryl Meteer, Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education. The recommended resolution was approved by Mr. Angelo Massaro, School District Attorney.

Mr. Mark Laurrie, Superintendent of Schools, will answer questions pertaining to this item.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

A motion is recommended for the approval of the following resolution:
Report from the Committee on Special Education

The Committee on Special Education met on May 29, 2025; and September 16, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 2025; and October 1, 7, 8, 9, 2025 to review Annual Reviews, and September 4, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 2025; and October 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 2025 to review and initiate the placement of students with disabilities.; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Committee on Special Education to make known its recommendations to the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is required by law to take action on the recommendations made by the Committee on Special Education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approve the attached recommendations made by the Committee on Special Education for the 2025-2026 school year.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi,
Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod
Not Present at Vote: Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo seconded by Mr. Bilson.
Report from Committee on Preschool Special Education [\(SG 1\)](#)

The Committee on Pre-School Special Education met on September 11, 17,
24, and 25, 2025; and October 2, 3, 7, 8, and 9, 2025; to review and initiate the
placement of preschool students with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Committee on Pre-School Special
Education to make known its recommendations to the Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is required by law to take action on the
recommendations made by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education;
therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approve the recommendations
made by the Committee on Pre-School Special Education for the placement of
students in the LOCAL SPECIAL EDUCATION programs listed for the 2025-2026
school year.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi,
Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod
Not Present at Vote: Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mr.
Vilardo.

Short-Term Contracts

1. New Punjabi Halal-Mirch Masala ENL Parent Orientation \$480.00 F2110 400-098-2825
October 23, 2025
2. Thera-Pony LLC Saturday Academy-Interaction with Miniature Horses \$500.00 A 7310
400 057 A7310 400 061 (\$250 each) October 4, 2025 October 18, 2025
3. LA Movement Fitness Saturday Academy – dancing instruction /activities \$300.00 A 7310
400 057 October 4, 2025
4. SPCA Saturday Academy – hands on educational programming with animals \$175.00 A
7310 400 057 October 4, 2025
5. Autumn's Gate Saturday Academy – hands on educational programming with small farm
animals hobby horses and crafts \$275.00 A 7310 400 057 October 4, 2025
6. She Drums Cheryl Myles Saturday Academy - drum circle experience supporting
movement \$125.00 A 7310 400 061 October 18, 2025
7. LA Movement Fitness Saturday Academy – dancing instruction /activities \$600.00 A
7310 400 056 A 7310 400 049 (\$300.00 each) November 1, 2025 November 15, 2025
8. Mercy Flight Ambulatory Services at football games \$1,012.50 A2355 400 025 September
13, 2025- October 25, 2025
9. She Drums Rhythm-based after school program at Cataract Elementary \$600.00
F2110 450 057 0326 6 weeks every trimester
10. Everway Virtual Overview workshop for special education teachers \$1,197.00 A 2010
400 002 November 4, 2025
11. Curriculum Associates Professional Learning: training for ready reading and phonics
reading intervention programs \$1,200.00 F2110 404 098 0126 October 21, 2025
November 4, 2025
12. Jessie M. Scott Hope Club of Niagara Afterschool mentorship program at Bloneva Bond
\$0.00 Thursdays and Fridays beginning September 18, 2025
13. Perry Ground Native American Storytelling \$500.00 F2110 400 058 0326 November 21,
2025
14. Anne Kent-Kwasniewski 6 book studies \$2,200.00 F2070 400 045 8126 October 14 –
December 6, 2025
15. Father and Son Center Mentoring program for NFHS \$10,000.00 A2330 400 007
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2025-2026

16. Louise Feretti, PhD Independent Neuro-psychological Evaluation for special education student \$1,900 - \$2,200 per evaluation F2250 404 098 0726 As needed
17. Elizabeth Bell TRC Course - Behavior Breakthrough \$2,925.00
F2070 400 045 8126 October 14 – December 6, 2025
18. One Trusted Adult Training for TAs and Associates \$3,087.50 F2110 400 098 0326
November 4, 2025

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Cancemi seconded by Mr. McLeod.

Head Start/ Early Head Start Reports – Attached.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

5. Unfinished Business - None.

6. New Business

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Bass, seconded by Mrs. Dunn .

ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2024-2025 ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT AND FILING THEREOF WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, §170.2(r) of the Commissioner’s Regulations requires that a financial audit of all funds maintained by the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls be performed each year; and

WHEREAS, The firm of Drescher & Malecki LLP has completed the audit and presented it to the Board of Education; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the 2024-2025 Annual Independent Audit as prepared by the firm of Drescher & Malecki LLP; and

RESOLVED, That a certified copy of the resolution and a copy of the audit be filed with the Commissioner of Education; and

RESOLVED, That the District Treasurer be directed to publish the annual Independent audit in a newspaper having general circulation in the School District as required by Commissioner’s Regulations §170.2(s)(1).

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mrs. McLeod.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK AND TRONCONI SEGARRA & ASSOCIATES AS TSA ADVISORS, LLC. FOR INTERNAL AUDITOR SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028

Approval of Contract for professional consultant services by and between the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls, New York (the “District”) and Tronconi Segarra & Associates as TSA Advisors, LLC for internal audit services for period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.

WHEREAS, The Niagara Falls City School District is required to maintain an internal audit function; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education is responsible for overseeing the internal audit function, and in so doing, maintains an advisory Internal Audit Committee("IAC") consisting of Board appointed community members; and

WHEREAS, The State recommends that a Request for Proposal ("RFP") be issued for internal audit services at least every five years; and

WHEREAS, The Erie 1 BOCES Requested Proposals for internal audit services for its component and participating districts; and

WHEREAS, After an additional review of RFP respondents the District recommends engaging the services of the auditing firm Tronconi Segarra & Associates as TSA Advisors, LLC., and

WHEREAS, The District will pay TSA Advisors, LLC for internal audit services upon invoice and enumeration of hours, at the discretion of the District not to exceed \$20,000 in 2025-26; \$21,000 in 2026-27; and \$22,000 in 2027-28; and

WHEREAS, The District reserves the right to terminate its Contract with TSA Advisors, LLC upon thirty (30) days written notice; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Contract by and between the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls, New York (the "District") and Tronconi Segarra & Associates as TSA Advisors, LLC providing for internal audit services for period July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 in accordance with the Engagement Letter, a copy of which is attached, be and is hereby; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Contract shall require that Bonadio & Co., LLP perform all services required of an Internal Auditor, including the identification of errors, fraud or illegal acts that may exist and the securing of all information required to identify risks to the District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the terms and conditions of the Contract are subject to such modifications as the Superintendent and the School District Attorney deem necessary and appropriate; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Niagara Falls Board of Education be authorized to execute said Contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the District Clerk be directed to obtain the signature of the President of the Board.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Cancemi, seconded by Mr. McLeod.

APPROVAL TO BIND CYBER SECURITY INSURANCE WITH GREAT AMERICAN SPIRIT INSURANCE COMPANY THROUGH WRIGHT RISK MANAGEMENT AND NEW YORK STATE INSURANCE RECIPROCAL ("NYSIR"), AS PROPOSED, FOR THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF \$31,111 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2025 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

WHEREAS, the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls purchases property and equipment, general liability, automobile, umbrella, inland marine, crime, cyber security, student accident, excess workers' compensation and builder's risk (for capital construction) insurance to protect the school system from many perils and legal liabilities.; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education acknowledges it has insurance requirements that require specific endorsements and that without those endorsements the District would be exposed to significant out-of-pocket costs; and

WHEREAS, NYSIR provides one million dollars of cyber security coverage included in the annual general liability policy; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to bind an additional two (2) million dollars of Cyber Security insurance with Coalition Insurance Solutions through Wright Risk Management; and

WHEREAS, Coalition Insurance Solutions is the preferred proposal for additional Cyber Security insurance; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, The Board of Education approves binding an additional two (2) million dollars of Cyber Security insurance with Great American Spirit Insurance Company through Wright Risk Management, as proposed, for the dollar amount of \$31,111 for the period October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to bind the aforementioned insurances as described therein.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Bilson, seconded by Mr. Cancemi.

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE 2025/2026 ESEA TITLE I BASIC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, Section 1003(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires that State Education Agencies allocate funds to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for Title I Priority and Focus Schools to meet the progress goals in their District Comprehensive Improvement Plan and School Comprehensive Education Plan/s and thereby improve student performance; and

WHEREAS, District staff prepared and submitted an application for the grant; and

WHEREAS, Official notification of approved of the application and award in the amount of \$875,000.00 has been received; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Acceptance of Funds for the 2025/2026 Title I School Improvement Section 1003(a) Basic School Improvement Grant; and

RESOLVED, that the grant award of \$875,000.00 be credited to revenue account code F4289.030.26 2025/2026 Title I School Improvement Section 1003(a) Basic School Improvement Grant; and

RESOLVED, that the money be expended from the following codes:

Account	Description	Budget
F 2110.140-045-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – NFHS	\$74,000.00
F 2110.140-049-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCHB / PD – GPS	\$48,200.00
F 2110.140-056-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – ABATE	\$54,300.00
F 2110.140-057-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – CATARACT	\$58,600.00
F 2110.140-058-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – HYDE PARK	\$23,000.00
F 2110.140-059-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – KALFAS	\$64,850.00
F 2110.140-060-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – MAPLE	\$51,500.00
F 2110.140-061-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – BBPS	\$30,900.00
F 2110.140-065-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – 79 TH	\$38,300.00
F 2110.140-098-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SCH B / PD – D/W	\$173,250.00
F 2110.167-057-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – HRLY CLSFD – CATARACT	\$1,000.00
F 2110.167-058-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – HRLY CLSFD – HYDE PARK	\$1,050.00
F 2110.167-059-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – HRLY CLSFD – KALFAS	\$625.00
F 2110.167-061-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – HRLY CLSFD – BBPS	\$3,900.00
F 2110.167-065-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – HRLY CLSFD – 79 TH	\$3,000.00
F 2110.167-098-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – HRLY CLSFD – D/W	\$13,392.00
F 2110.400-049-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – PRCHD SRVCS – GPS	\$27,000.00
F 2110.400-056-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – PRCHD SRVCS – ABATE	\$16,000.00
F 2110.400-057-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – PRCHD SRVCS – CATARACT	\$1,400.00
F 2110.400-058-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – PRCHD SRVCS – HYDE PARK	\$5,000.00
F2110.400-059-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – PRCHD SRVCS – KALFAS	\$3,000.00
F 2110.400-060-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – PRCHD SRVCS – MAPLE	\$15,500.00
F 2110.400-065-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – PRCHD SRVCS – 79 TH	\$25,000.00
F 2110.400-098-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – PRCHD SRVCS – D/W	\$119,500.00
F 2110.450-049-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SPLS – GPS	\$7,427.00
F 2110.450-057-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SPLS – CATARACT	\$3,874.00
F 2110.450-059-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SPLS – KALFAS	\$2,420.00
F 2110.450-060-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SPLS – MAPLE	\$189.00
F 2110.450-061-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SPLS – BBPS	\$4,535.00
F 2110.450-065-0326	25/26 SCH IMP – SPLS – 79 TH	\$4,288.00
		\$875,000.00
Revenue Code: F4289.030.26		

ABTRACT

1. School District – Niagara Falls City School District
2. Title of Project – ESEA Title I – Basic School Improvement Grant Section 1003(a)
3. Funding Source – Federal Government
4. Total Budget - \$875,000.00

5. Total Staff – 1.25
6. Number of Clients Served: 6,200
7. Major Objectives / Activities / Evaluation
 - Provide support for the implementation of school improvement activities as required

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Bilson, seconded by Mr. Cancemi.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS AND THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK FOR THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS TO BECOME THE SUBRECIPIENT OF A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2.0 FOR YOUTH SERVICES AND ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM SUCH CONTRACT

WHEREAS, The City of Niagara Falls, New York applied for and received funds from the United States Government under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, The City of Niagara Falls, New York wishes to engage with the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls to be a subrecipient in utilizing such funds; and

WHEREAS, The City of Niagara Falls, New York has appropriated \$32,000.00 to the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls to be used to provide afterhours tutoring for struggling students at its 6 elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, The afterschool tutoring program will be held at 2601 Highland Avenue, and

WHEREAS, The City School District of the City of Niagara Falls wishes to enter into a contract, heretofore attached, with the City of Niagara Falls, New York to provide such tutoring services as outlined in the contract; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education shall act on this item now so that funds may be encumbered; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the contract between the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls and the City of Niagara Falls, New York be hereby approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the contract is subject to such modifications as the Superintendent of Schools and the School District Attorney deem appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute said contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the District Clerk be directed to obtain the signature of the President of the Board of Education, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the funds appropriated in the contract; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the grant award be credited to revenue code F3289.620.26; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the money be expended in the follow function/object codes:

Account	Description	Budget
F2010.400-098-6226	25/26 CDBG – PRCHD SRVCS	\$32,000.00
	Total	\$32,000.00
Revenue Code: F3289.620.26		

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mr. Cancemi.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS AND GAME ON ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR (OCTOBER 16, 2025 – JUNE 30, 2026)

WHEREAS, The City School District of the City of Niagara Falls continuously seeks new and innovative ways to increase academic achievement and provide mental, social, and emotional support services for students; and

WHEREAS, Game on Entertainment teaches coding and the design of electronic gaming to students; and

WHEREAS, Game on Entertainment teaches important life skills such as team work and building self-esteem through gaming; and the organization is able to reach many students who face difficult life challenges and worked previously in the after-school program at LaSalle Preparatory and Gaskill Preparatory Schools; and

WHEREAS, The District wishes to enter into Contract with Game on Entertainment to provide weekly youth mentoring to students for the 2025-2026 School Year; and

WHEREAS, District Administration has negotiated a new Contract with Game on Entertainment to provide such services seven (7) hours per week for thirty (30) weeks at a cost not to exceed \$15,000 for period effective 10-16-2025 and to terminate 6-30-2026; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Contract between the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls and Game on Entertainment for the 2025-2026 School Year at a sum not to exceed \$15,000 for the period October 16, 2025 through June 30, 2026, attached hereto, be hereby approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Contract is subject to such modifications as the Superintendent and School District Attorney deem appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the President of the Niagara Falls Board of Education be authorized to execute said Contract; and

RESOLVED, That the District Clerk be directed to obtain the signature of the President of the Board.

**CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES BY INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR
GAME ON ENTERTAINMENT**

THIS AGREEMENT, made this 15th day of October 2025, by and between the CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, 630-66th Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14304, (hereinafter "District") and Game on Entertainment, 637 60th Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14304.

WITNESSETH:

IN CONSIDERATION OF the provisions and mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties do hereby MUTUALLY AGREE as follows:

1. Engagement of Independent Contractor. The District hereby engages Game on Entertainment as an independent contractor to render to the District professional services regarding electronic gaming and Game on Entertainment hereby accepts such engagement, upon and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

2. Professional services and duties of Independent Contractor: Game on Entertainment shall provide and render to the District the usual and customary services of a contractor for professional services, including:

- Student mentoring to improve confidence and social emotional well-being through computer programming

- Teaching of gaming and the use of coding to students

- Seven (7) hours per week for 30 weeks at the elementary and prep level

All of these functions shall be performed under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, who shall also maintain oversight of the Second Party's performance to ensure that it is performing in accordance with the terms, and conditions specified in the contract. Such evaluation will be aligned to the terms of the agreement, and may include, but are not limited to, on-site visits and observations, participant surveys and/or interviews, and document collection and review.

3. Relationship Between the Parties. Game on Entertainment shall not be an employee of the District. Game on Entertainment is engaged by the District only for the purposes and to the extent set forth in this Agreement and the relationship to the District during the term of this agreement shall be solely and exclusively that of the professional consultant to perform only the services herein before expressly set forth in the exclusive capacity of an independent contractor only and in no event as servant or employee. Game on Entertainment is to maintain all records of employment, payroll services, and to address any matters related to performance concerns.

4. Compensation to Independent Contractor. Upon receipt of a payment invoice, the District shall pay Game on Entertainment for weekly services of seven (7) hours per week at the elementary and prep level hereunder a sum not to exceed \$15,000 paid in three (3) equal installments of \$5,000 on December 31, 2025, March 31, 2026, and June 30, 2026. Payment checks payable to the order of Game on Entertainment shall be deemed full payment to and acquittance by Game on Entertainment.

5. Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Game on Entertainment shall indemnify and hold harmless the District, its agents, servants, and/or employees from and against any and all costs, losses, and damages arising out of the performance of its services under this Agreement excepting, however, the negligent acts or omissions of the District, its agents, servants and/or employees.

6. Taxes and Insurances. Game on Entertainment shall maintain general liability insurance in amounts acceptable to the District. All policies shall name the

District as additional party insured. Game on Entertainment is responsible for all withholding taxes, insurance, unemployment, and Worker's Compensation insurance as required by law.

Certificates of Insurance shall be filed with District prior to the commencement of services and after each renewal date of the policies listed on the certificates. The certificates shall contain provision that coverage afforded under the policies will not be canceled until at least thirty days prior written notice is given to the District.

7. Term of Contract. This Contract shall be effective from October 16, 2025 to June 30, 2026, provided however, that either party may, at any given time, terminate this contract in all respects by giving to the other party thirty days advance written notice of its election to terminate the same.

8. Assignment: The services to be rendered by Game on Entertainment under this Agreement are unique and personal. Accordingly, Game on Entertainment shall not transfer or assign and/or subcontract any of the rights or delegate any of the duties or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the District and any attempted such transfer, assignment delegation and/or subcontracting without such written consent shall be void.

9. Entire Contract. This Contract contains the entire agreement of the parties and may be modified or amended only in writing duly subscribed by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Contract on the date and year first above written.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mr. Cancemi.

**APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL CONSULTING SERVICES
BETWEEN THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
AND HOGHOL (FORMERLY F-BITES) FOR THE FALL SEMESTER (OCTOBER
16, 2025 – DECEMBER 31, 2025)**

WHEREAS, HOGHOL (formerly known as F-BITES and an acronym for "Heart of Gold, Head of Lettuce") has designed a program to give students the chance to learn important life skills and break the cycle of poverty; and

WHEREAS, The program does this by utilizing culinary education and cooking instruction as a vehicle to develop leadership, professional skills and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, The program is a hands-on solution to the problems facing at-risk youth as "Chef Bobby" helps prepare participants for the many obstacles they will face in life; and

WHEREAS, The District contracted with Chef Bobby's organization F-BITES to provide programming at LaSalle and Gaskill Preparatory Schools as well as Niagara Falls High School in previous school years and the program was a tremendous success; and

WHEREAS, District administration has negotiated a new Contract with HOGHOL to provide weekly youth mentoring through culinary arts at the elementary, prep, and high school level at a cost not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid in three (3) monthly installments of \$20,000 on the last date of each month for

October, November, and December 2025 for the period effective October 16, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

RESOLVED, That the Contract between the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls and HOGHOL for professional services at a sum not to exceed \$60,000 for the period October 16, 2025 – December 31, 2025, attached hereto, be hereby approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Contract is subject to such modifications as the Superintendent and School District Attorney deem appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the President of the Niagara Falls Board of Education be authorized to execute said Contract; and

RESOLVED, That the District Clerk be directed to obtain the signature of the President of the Board.

CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES BY INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR
HOGHOL

THIS CONTRACT, made this 15th day of October 2025, by and between the CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, 630-66th Street, Niagara Falls, New York 14304, (hereinafter “District”) and HOGHOL, 1 Symphony Circle, Buffalo, NY, 14213.

WITNESSETH:

IN CONSIDERATION OF the provisions and mutual covenants hereinafter set forth, the parties do hereby MUTUALLY AGREE as follows:

1. Engagement of Independent Contractor. The District hereby engages HOGHOL as an independent contractor to render to the District professional social and emotional student support services and HOGHOL hereby accepts such engagement, upon and subject to the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth.

2. Professional services and duties of Independent Contractor: HOGHOL shall provide and render to the District the usual and customary services of a contractor for professional services for October 16, 2025 – December 31, 2025 including:

- a) Culinary and life skills weekly programming at the elementary, prep, and high school level
- b) The high school program will focus on a food truck culinary project and school catering service
- c) The elementary and prep program will focus on social emotional supports through culinary arts and healthy nutrition
- d) Saturday programming will be offered through the Saturday Academy and open to students and their families to receive hands-on instruction on designing healthy meals with cooking demonstrations
- e) Collaboration with school administration as needed

All of these functions shall be performed under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, who shall also maintain oversight of the Second Party’s performance to ensure that it is performing in accordance with the terms, and conditions specified in the contract. Such evaluation will be aligned to the terms of the agreement, and may include, but are not limited to, on-site visits and observations, participant surveys and/or interviews, and document collection and review.

3. Relationship Between the Parties. HOGHOL shall not be an employee of the District. HOGHOL is engaged by the District only for the purposes and to the extent set forth in this Contract and the relationship to the District during the term of this agreement shall be solely and exclusively that of the professional consultant to perform only the services herein before expressly set forth in the exclusive capacity of an independent contractor only and in no event as servant or employee. HOGHOL is to maintain all records of employment, payroll services, and to address any matters related to performance concerns.

4. Compensation to Independent Contractor. Upon receipt of a payment invoice, the District shall pay to HOGHOL for services hereunder a sum not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid in monthly installments of \$20,000 on the last day of each month for October, November, and December 2025. Payment checks payable to the order of HOGHOL shall be deemed full payment to and acquittance by HOGHOL.

5. Indemnification. To the fullest extent permitted by law, HOGHOL shall indemnify and hold harmless the District, its agents, servants, and/or employees from and against any and all costs, losses, and damages arising out of the performance of its services under this Contract excepting, however, the negligent acts or omissions of the District, its agents, servants and/or employees.

6. Taxes and Insurances. HOGHOL shall maintain general liability insurance in amounts acceptable to the District. All policies shall name the District as additional party insured. HOGHOL is responsible for all withholding taxes, insurance, unemployment, and Worker's Compensation insurance as required by law.

Certificates of Insurance shall be filed with District prior to the commencement of services and after each renewal date of the policies listed on the certificates. The certificates shall contain provision that coverage afforded under the policies will not be canceled until at least thirty days prior written notice is given to the District.

7. Term of Contract. This Contract shall be effective from October 16, 2025 to December 31, 2025, provided however, that either party may, at any given time, terminate this contract in all respects by giving to the other party thirty days advance written notice of its election to terminate the same.

8. Assignment: The services to be rendered by HOGHOL under this Contract are unique and personal. Accordingly, HOGHOL shall not transfer or assign and/or subcontract any of the rights or delegate any of the duties or obligations under this Contract without the prior written consent of the District and any attempted such transfer, assignment delegation and/or subcontracting without such written consent shall be void.

9. Entire Contract. This Contract contains the entire agreement of the parties and may be modified or amended only in writing duly subscribed by the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement on the date and year first above written.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,

Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 17 TO SCRUFARI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY,
FOR GENERAL CONTRACTING WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR
(ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) – RETENTION**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract, dated January 25, 2024, with Scrufari Construction Company for General Contracting work for the A Breath of Fresh Air Capital Improvement Project, which provides for payment to it for services rendered and materials furnished, upon the filing and approval of AIA Document G732, "Application and Certificate for Payment; and

WHEREAS, In order that an official record of expenditures for Capital Projects be maintained, all invoices pertaining to the Capital Project must be approved by the Board, upon approval of the Application and recommendation for payment by the Architect and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, Scrufari Construction Company LLC has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for retention in the amount of \$296,350.20; and

WHEREAS, General contracting work has been reviewed the by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee DBA CPL, and Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants, and work has been determined to be substantially and satisfactorily completed; and

WHEREAS, The Application has been reviewed, approved and recommended for by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee, Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants and Rebecca Holody, Administrator for School Business Services; AND

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract in the amount of \$296,350.20; and

WHEREAS This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the payment of \$296,350.20 to Scrufari Construction Company LLC 3925 Hyde Park Blvd Niagara Falls, NY 14305 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment No 17; and further

RESOLVED, This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 07 TO MKS PLUMBING CORP., FOR PLUMBING
WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT (CIP) – RETENTION**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract, dated January 25, 2024, with MKS Plumbing Corp for Plumbing work for the A Breath of Fresh Air Capital Improvement Project, which provides for payment to it for services rendered and materials furnished, upon the filing and approval of AIA Document G732, "Application and Certificate for Payment; and

WHEREAS, In order that an official record of expenditures for Capital Projects be maintained, all invoices pertaining to the Capital Project must be approved by the Board, upon approval of the Application and recommendation for payment by the Architect and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, MKS Plumbing Corp has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for retention in the amount of \$4,750.00; and

WHEREAS, Plumbing contracting work has been reviewed the by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee DBA CPL, and Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants, and work has been determined to be substantially and satisfactorily completed; and

WHEREAS, The Application has been reviewed, approved and recommended for by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee, Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants and Rebecca Holody, Administrator for School Business Services; AND

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract in the amount of \$4,750.00; and

WHEREAS This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the payment of \$4,750.00 to MKS Plumbing Corp 19 Ransier Drive West Seneca, NY 14224 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment No 07; and further

RESOLVED, This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,

Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 19 TO JOHN W. DANFORTH COMPANY., FOR HVAC WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) – RETENTION

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract, dated January 25, 2024, with John W. Danforth Company for HVAC work for the A Breath of Fresh Air Capital Improvement Project, which provides for payment to it for services rendered and materials furnished, upon the filing and approval of AIA Document G732, “Application and Certificate for Payment; and

WHEREAS, In order that an official record of expenditures for Capital Projects be maintained, all invoices pertaining to the Capital Project must be approved by the Board, upon approval of the Application and recommendation for payment by the Architect and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, John W. Danforth Company has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for retention in the amount of \$104,911.19; and

WHEREAS, HVAC contracting work has been reviewed the by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee DBA CPL, and Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants, and work has been determined to be substantially and satisfactorily completed; and

WHEREAS, The Application has been reviewed, approved and recommended for by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee, Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants and Rebecca Holody, Administrator for School Business Services; AND

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract in the amount of \$104,911.19; and

WHEREAS This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the payment of \$104,911.19 to John W. Danforth Company 300 Colvin Woods Pkwy Tonawanda, NY 14150 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment No 19; and further

RESOLVED, This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 18 TO JOHN W. DANFORTH COMPANY., FOR HVAC WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) – RETENTION

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract, dated January 25, 2024, with John W. Danforth Company for HVAC work for the A Breath of Fresh Air Capital Improvement Project, which provides for payment to it for services rendered and materials furnished, upon the filing and approval of AIA Document G732, "Application and Certificate for Payment; and

WHEREAS, In order that an official record of expenditures for Capital Projects be maintained, all invoices pertaining to the Capital Project must be approved by the Board, upon approval of the Application and recommendation for payment by the Architect and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, John W. Danforth Company has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for retention in the amount of \$122,012.46; and

WHEREAS, HVAC contracting work has been reviewed the by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee DBA CPL, and Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants, and work has been determined to be substantially and satisfactorily completed; and

WHEREAS, The Application has been reviewed, approved and recommended for by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee, Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants and Rebecca Holody, Administrator for School Business Services; AND

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract in the amount of \$122,012.46; and

WHEREAS This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the payment of \$122,012.46 to John W. Danforth Company 300 Colvin Woods Pkwy Tonawanda,

NY 14150 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment No 18; and further

RESOLVED, This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 19 TO FREY ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION CO.,
FOR ELECTRICAL WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA)
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) – RETENTION**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract, dated January 25, 2024, with Frey Electric Construction Co. for Electric work for the A Breath of Fresh Air Capital Improvement Project, which provides for payment to it for services rendered and materials furnished, upon the filing and approval of AIA Document G732, “Application and Certificate for Payment; and

WHEREAS, In order that an official record of expenditures for Capital Projects be maintained, all invoices pertaining to the Capital Project must be approved by the Board, upon approval of the Application and recommendation for payment by the Architect and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, Frey Electric Construction Co. has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for retention in the amount of \$218,960.15; and

WHEREAS, Electric contracting work has been reviewed the by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee DBA CPL, and Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants, and work has been determined to be substantially and satisfactorily completed; and

WHEREAS, The Application has been reviewed, approved and recommended for by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee, Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants and Rebecca Holody, Administrator for School Business Services; AND

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract in the amount of \$218,960.15; and

WHEREAS This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the payment of \$218,960.15 to Frey Electric Construction Co. 100 Pearce Ave Tonawanda, NY 14150 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment No 19; and further

RESOLVED, This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi, Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.
APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 19 TO STARK TECH, FOR TECHNOLOGY WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) – RETENTION

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract, dated January 25, 2024, with Stark Tech for Technology work for the A Breath of Fresh Air Capital Improvement Project, which provides for payment to it for services rendered and materials furnished, upon the filing and approval of AIA Document G732, “Application and Certificate for Payment; and

WHEREAS, In order that an official record of expenditures for Capital Projects be maintained, all invoices pertaining to the Capital Project must be approved by the Board, upon approval of the Application and recommendation for payment by the Architect and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, Stark Tech has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for retention in the amount of \$39,734.21; and

WHEREAS, Technology contracting work has been reviewed the by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee DBA CPL, and Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants, and work has been determined to be substantially and satisfactorily completed; and

WHEREAS, The Application has been reviewed, approved and recommended for by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee, Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants and Rebecca Holody, Administrator for School Business Services; AND

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract in the amount of \$39,734.21; and

WHEREAS This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the payment of \$39,734.21 to Stark Tech 95 Stark St Tonawanda, NY 14150 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment No 19; and further

RESOLVED, This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.
APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 13 TO JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC. FOR LABOR AND ELECTRICAL CONTROLS CONTRACTING WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) – RETENTION

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract, dated January 25, 2024, with Johnson Controls, Inc. for Labor and electrical controls work for the A Breath of Fresh Air Capital Improvement Project, which provides for payment to it for services rendered and materials furnished, upon the filing and approval of AIA Document G732, “Application and Certificate for Payment; and

WHEREAS, In order that an official record of expenditures for Capital Projects be maintained, all invoices pertaining to the Capital Project must be approved by the Board, upon approval of the Application and recommendation for payment by the Architect and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, Johnson Controls, Inc. has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for retention in the amount of \$65,728.02; and

WHEREAS, Labor and electrical controls contracting work has been reviewed the by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee DBA CPL, and Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants, and work has been determined to be substantially and satisfactorily completed; and

WHEREAS, The Application has been reviewed, approved and recommended for by the Architect, Clark Patterson Lee, Construction Manager, Buffalo Construction Consultants and Rebecca Holody, Administrator for School Business Services; AND

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract in the amount of \$65,728.02; and

WHEREAS This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the payment of \$65,728.02 to Johnson Controls, Inc. 6850 Main St Williamsville, NY 14221 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment No 13; and further

RESOLVED, This appropriation will be expended from the Capital Fund and will be submitted as a claim for State Aid reimbursement according to the State formula for school buildings.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Bass, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. SCC-12&14 FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, This change order is needed to amend the original contract; and

WHEREAS, Clark Patterson Lee, Project Architect, and Buffalo Construction Consultants, Project Construction Manager, have recommended that the Niagara Falls Board of Education approve a change order for this purpose; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby approves Change Order No. SCC-12&14 for \$40,162.49 to Scrufari Construction Company 3295 Hyde Park Blvd Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yes: Earl F Bass, Rob Bilson, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi,
Clara Dunn, Anthony F Paretto, Russell Petrozzi, Nicholas Vilardo, Brad McLeod

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Bass, seconded by Mrs. Dunn.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. FEC-01 FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, This change order is needed to amend the original contract; and

WHEREAS, Clark Patterson Lee, Project Architect, and Buffalo Construction Consultants, Project Construction Manager, have recommended

that the Niagara Falls Board of Education approve a change order for this purpose; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby approves Change Order No. FEC-01 for \$2,203.00 to Frey Electric Construction Company 100 Pearce Ave Tonawanda, NY 14150

Review of the Proposed Policy(ies)

Other Communications

Oral Communications - Public Comment on non-Agenda Items:

Mr. M. Barksdale, Independence Ave – Niagara Community Information Group – spoke on the search for the new Superintendent (Mr. Laurrie is retiring June 30, 2026). He read his comments into the record. (Attached).

Information and Reports

Superintendent's Report

The superintendent shared the following:

Reminder: November 6, 2025, the Maisto litigation team will be available to answer questions. Some questions have been submitted by Board members already, please feel free to send more. On November 20, 2025, the Head Start team will present. A federal audit of the program is being undertaken next week.

The next Say Yes, Niagara Falls Saturday Academy will be held at Bloneva Bond Primary School on Saturday, October 18th from 9 a.m. – noon. The program at Cataract was a success, with more than 200 students participating in a fun, well organized morning. All students under 14 years of age are welcome.

Cell phone policy update: some reminders have been issued to students observe the ban; also, Information Services is working on a solution to the fact that some students are chatting through Teams.

The ENL Reception is next week at GJ Mann School.

The Joe Jacob Elementary Mile Run for Elementary School students will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd at 3:45p.m. on the Niagara Falls High School Art Calandrelli track.

Halloween will be observed in the City from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thanks to Mrs. Holody, Mrs. Jacklin, and Ms. McCreary on the fine work on the audit.

Board Members Report and Comments – None.

Advanced Planning
 Future Agenda Items
 Future Meeting Dates

November 6, 2025	November 20, 2025
1.	1.
2. Review of Board Meeting Agenda Items – Nov. 20 th Regular Board Meeting – <i>Mr. Laurrie, Mrs. Glaser, Ms. Massaro</i>	2. Review of Board Meeting Agenda Items – Nov. 20 ^h Regular Board Meeting – <i>Mr. Laurrie, Mrs. Glaser, Ms. Massaro</i>

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned on a motion by Mrs. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Vilardo, in memory of the following:

Jason Beckman, varsity football coach, Amherst Central High School.
 Sada Garijanian beloved mother of Lisa Flinchum (Bloneva Bond Primary),
 mother-in-law of Steve Flinchum (Central Office).
 Tana Migliazzo, aunt of Carol Kajfasz.
 Scott Potwin, husband of Library Director Sarah Potwin.
 MaryKay Reygers, retired music teacher.
 Lena Rochon, former teacher aide.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries
 Yes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mr. Capizzi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo

All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Glaser
 Judith Glaser, District Clerk



Date: October 10, 2025

To:

Mr. Anthony Paretto, President
Members of the Board of Education
Niagara Falls City School District
630 66th Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Subject: Formal Inquiry and Concern Regarding Superintendent Search Process & Board Conduct

Dear President Paretto and Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Niagara Community Information Group (NCIG), we submit this letter for inclusion in the public record. Our organization represents a coalition of residents, parents, and educators deeply committed to the success of all students within the Niagara Falls City School District (NFCSD).

We recognize and appreciate the Board's responsibility in selecting the next Superintendent of Schools. However, given the District's current performance — with nine of eleven schools designated as TSI or ATSI and persistent achievement gaps among Black, multi-racial, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities — the process must exemplify transparency, integrity, and full adherence to New York State standards.

NCIG formally requests that the Board:

1. Clarify the timeline, structure, and scope of the Superintendent search process — including when the Board was notified of the current Superintendent's retirement, the official start date of the search, and the opening and closing dates for the application period.
2. Provide detailed steps of how the Board plans to adhere to New York State standards and best practices for executive recruitment and community participation — specifically, how the process aligns with NYS Education Department (NYSED) and NYS School Board Association (NYSSBA) guidelines and ensures fair access for qualified candidates.
3. Connect the search process to District improvement — outlining how the Board will ensure the selected candidate has a proven record of improving Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) schools and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) designated schools and how measurable goals for lifting NFCSD out of that status will be embedded in the superintendent's contract.

Don't just **TALK** about it, **BE** about it!



This moment presents an opportunity for the NFCSD to rebuild trust, strengthen governance, and demonstrate genuine commitment to the community it serves. We respectfully request a written response within five (5) business days.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

The Niagara Community Information Group (NCIG)

Dr. Tina Gregory Schultz

Founder & CEO

tschultz@niagaracommunityinfo.org