

**DATE:** February 13, 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. Petrozzi at 5:33 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mr. Capizzi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilaro  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**Other staff in attendance:** Ms. Massaro, Mrs. Jacklin, Mr. Schwertfager, Mr. Smeal, Mrs. Buchman, Ms. Doerr, Mr. Wojton, Mr. Carella, Mrs. Buchman, Mr. Granieri, Mrs. Glaser. Attorneys Mr. Massaro and Mr. Roscetti.

#### **PRE-K – 2 APPLE PRODUCT PRESENTATION**

*Mr. Granieri, Mr. St. Onge, and Mr. Maynard, Kim Maynard; and Phil Miano, from BOCES.*

Following an introduction by Mr. Granieri, Mr. Maynard led a demonstration and discussion of iPads and Apple applications.

The adoption of Apple products for these grade levels was agreed upon following research with focus groups, discussion with Apple, vendors, and other District entities. They were piloted at 79<sup>th</sup> Street School beginning a year ago. iPads are faster and easier than personal computers.

Physical advantages of iPads as opposed to laptops for early learners include an intuitive touch interface which mirrors natural interaction; direct manipulation, which reduces cognitive load; and better suited for developing motor skills

The Apple classroom offer real-time student monitoring; guided access to keep students focused on specific tasks; easy content sharing through air drop; and maintaining an organized and productive learning environment.

iPads include extensive built-in accessibility options that support diverse learning needs, such as voice-over for visually impaired students, closed captioning for hearing impaired learners, assistive touch for students with motor skill challenges. These features make iPads more inclusive and adaptable to individual student needs.

Additionally, iPads are lightweight and easy for young children to carry And the touchscreen interface is intuitive and user-friendly for small hands.

Multi-sensory learning benefits include built-in cameras for documentation and creative expression, as well as high-quality speakers for audio learning. iPads feature microphones for voice recording and language development and other integrated tools to enable rich, interactive experiences that support different learning styles and developmental needs.

iPads facilitate easy sharing and collaboration among students. Group activities and projects are more interactive with iPads.

Activities like drawing and tracing letters are more natural on an iPad help develop fine motor skills.

At this time, iPads offer the largest range of educational apps designed for young learners. iPads offer significant advantages for early education through age-appropriate physical interaction, a robust educational content ecosystem, comprehensive management tools, superior accessibility features and long-term cost benefits.

These benefits make iPads a superior choice for creating engaging, effective learning environments for young students.

Board members were able to see examples of education in action using the iPads as part of the presentation, including viewing a demonstration video created by grade two student Malachi Stonebeck.

Parenthetically, Mr. Maynard shared that NFHS was the first school to use iPads to score a swim meet.

Teacher Miss Larock shared that her students love working with the iPads.

Next steps include purchasing these through Erie 1 BOCES. This will be on the agenda February 27, 2025. They will replace the personal computers, which are at the end of their life cycle. iPads could be in classrooms and in use by September. The cost is about \$1,000,000 for 1,700 units; this is BOCES-aidable.

#### **2025-2026 General Fund Budget – Mr. Laurrie/Mrs. Jacklin**

Revenues include: State Aid True Up \$1,345,679  
Foundation aid \$7,030,627; Building aid for ABOFA of \$ 2,317,059

Appropriations include a projected 13% increase in general liability insurance cost;

Estimated 9% increase in health insurance costs for active and retired employees;

“Staff to Grants” refers to taking funds out of reserved federal money and using it. This is to protect the funds. Other considerations include the need to fund summer programming formerly funded by ARP funds and the loss of grants which are expiring.

Total increase in appropriations versus current year of \$ 11,154,309

Current funding gap: \$3,255,571 with use of reserves (\$ 4,171,126 before reserve). Mr. Laurrie is hopeful that Foundation Aid will increase once the legislature starts its work on the budget.

Budget considerations include Budget Considerations include:  
Judgements and claims (CVA)  
ELP and Camp Wolverine \$303,827

Other items not yet funded in this budget include a salt truck, additional summer programs, and other items that will be discussed in future.

Reserves available include:

Fund Balance \$7,639,682

ERS Reserve \$12,012,766

TRS Reserve \$6,143,542

EBALR Reserve \$12,076,880

A review of the agenda was held.

#### COMMENTS:

Students from NFHS joined with students from North Tonawanda and Niagara-Wheatfield Monday to visit the Museum of Tolerance. This is the third year this collaboration has been in place.

The ramifications of the PowerSchool data breach are now out of our hands.

Those affected will be notified by PowerSchool/Experian.

Congratulations to Bloneva Bond Primary Assistant Mrs. Dorothy Brundidge, who has been selected to receive a Black Achievers Excellence Inc. award from Buffalo Construction Consultants. She will be honored at a Red Carpet Gala Reception on Saturday, March 15th, 5:30pm at the Niagara Falls Convention Center.

Both NFHS Bowling teams won the league; the boys' record is 14-0 and the girls' is 12-2. Ally Ventry is the highest scoring female bowler. Swimmers also are going to competition. All the NFHS wrestlers will be competing in the State competition.

Mr. Laurie shared his thoughts on the possibility of the federal Department of Education being eliminated. We do not know yet if that will happen, as it would require a congressional action. It may happen, so the District is preparing. There could be an impact of many millions of dollars in funding, including that designated for special education and Head Start. Perhaps the states would administer those funds on behalf of the federal government, but would it be the full amount? There is a concern that entitlement dollars and grant dollars could go away.

On the other hand, some State testing is required in order to get federal money. Hopefully those regulations also would go away, as some of those tests are not useful or indicative of anything pertinent to students. For example, the NAEP national assessment hopefully be eliminated. It is useless.

Furthermore, there are federal rules in conflict with State rules. It all remains to be seen.

Regarding National Grid, the District still is working on the needed easements. LPS is not an issue because the required land is District property. The easement at GPS requires the use of City-owned land; the City Council will address the matter at its February 26, 2025 meeting.

Thank you to Mr. Smeal, who has worked to secure multiple sources for rock salt to keep our walks and lots safe. Consequentially, the District has no salt shortage.

Niagara Falls High School students took part in an Environmental Summit on Thursday in Erie County and captured first place out of seven schools from WNY. Kudos to our NFHS Environmental students.

District prep school robotics teams competed last week for a chance to enter the NYS Robotics Championships on March 5, 2025 in Syracuse, New York. Seven District teams qualified, five from Lasalle Prep and for the first time two teams from Gaskill Prep. We are proud of all of our students with special recognition to the up and coming teams at Gaskill.

Monday, February 17, 2025 is President's Day with no staff or students in attendance.

It was a difficult week for our District family, as 44 year-old parent Nea Crockett suffered a fatal heart attack while attending Senior Night at NFHS. The District offers its support, blessings, and love to NFHS. Support for her son, Nashaun, is everywhere and growing as District staff comes together to offer what it can. Today, Ms. Crockett is the most important person to remember. Her services will be held Monday at Christ Redemption Tabernacle.

The Board entered executive session at 7:56 p.m. to discuss the appointment or employment of a person or corporation on a motion by Mr. Vilardo, seconded by Mr. Cancemi. All in favor. The Board exited executive session at 8:41 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Paretto, seconded by Mr. Bilson. All in favor.

**DATE:** February 27, 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. Petrozzi at 5:30 p.m.  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson (entered 6:53 p.m.), Mr. Cancemi, Mr. Capizzi Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo  
**MEMBERS ABSENT:** (excused)

#### **2025-2026 General Fund Budget – Mr. Laurie/Mrs. Holody/Mrs. Jacklin**

Adjustments to budget planning document include the following.

To revenues:

Hardware, Textbook, Software decreased by 12,000

#### **OTHER REVENUE ADJUSTMENTS:**

Interest increased by \$10,000

Tax Collection increased by \$ 38,100

#### **Budget Considerations**

Judgements and Claims (CVA) TBD

2 Salt Trucks 220,000

ELP 240,286

Camp Wolverine 68,541

Other potential sources of revenue include :

Increase the Tax Levy by \$1,421,769. It would be possible to raise the tax cap 5.5%; the Superintendent does not recommend this. Each one percent would yield \$258,290.

Grant Carryover \$409,086 remains in federal grants

To Appropriations:

Staff To Grants (818,958)

Expiring Grants 40,000

Supplemental Nursing 135,000

TUITIONS (CHARTER AND OUT OF DISTRICT)

583,197 Estimated 5% rate increase, 8% increase charter

BOCES

488,049 10% increase SPED tuitions, other services

PROJECTED APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS \$11,376,404

PROJECTED 25-26 APPROPRIATIONS \$202,368,453

CPI 2.95% as of January 2025 NYSOSC

Before Use of Reserves or Fund Balance

\$(4,358,113)

GAP: Total Revenue - Total Appropriation

This represents an increase of 3.93% without ABOFA project  
And 5.96% increase including ABOFA.

A simple majority vote in favor would pass the budget in May.

Mr. Laurrie commented that at least one district is moving employee salaries from federal grant money-funded lines back to the general fund. He feels it is pre-mature to do so at this time.

The Tax Cap was presented and is attached. The BAN to pay for ABOFA caused a \$1.3million interest to be paid this year.

The Board used reserves to balance the budget last year; Mr. Laurrie believes that will need to happen again. There are concerns that replenishing the funds may not be as easy as it had been.

Regarding the possibility of the federal Education Department being resolved, Mr. Laurrie commented that about \$12 million comes to the District through Title I, \$2.3 million through IDEA; \$2.3 million to fund Head Start an Early Head Start; and an additional \$1 million in grants. While he hopes it does not happen, it would remain to be seen whether funds would come through the State or whether they would be impacted.

A review of the agenda was held.

The Board entered executive session at 6:02 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Paretto seconded by Mr. Bass, for the purpose of discussing the employment of a person and pending litigation between the District and CVA cases. All in favor.

**REGULAR MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Pledge of Allegiance  
Reflection  
Roll Call

**Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson ,Mr. Cancemi, Mr. Capizzi (entered ), Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo**  
**MEMBERS ABSENT: (excused)**

**Letters and Communications**

Oral Communications - Public Comment on Agenda Items  
Mr. Cancemi shared a reflection written by a boy in Minnesota.

Written Communications – None.

**Recommended Actions from the Superintendent of Schools - Routine Matters**

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

**MINUTES – January 2025 (SG 4)**

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFER - #7 (SG 3)**

RESOLVED, That the Niagara Falls Board of Education approve the transfer of \$ 1,580,619.82 among the following fund, function, object, and location codes:

General Fund:	\$	867,463.37
Cafeteria Fund:	\$	8,000.00
Special Aid Fund:	\$	175,040.50
Capital Projects Fund:	\$	530,115.95

**The vote was as follows:**

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**  
**Nays: None.**  
**Carried.**

Approval of the Bids – (SG 3) None

The following were received and filed:

**TREASURER'S REPORT – JANUARY 2024 (SG 3)**

**BUDGET STATUS REPORT – FEBRUARY 2025 (SG 3)**

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

**PERSONNEL REPORT – CERTIFICATED (SG 2)** (Attached).

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**PERSONNEL REPORT - CLASSIFIED (SG 2)** (Attached).

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION (SG 1)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Committee on Special Education met on November 13, 19, 20, 25, 2024; and December 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 2024; and January 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31, 2025; and February 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 2025 to review Annual Reviews, and November 21, 2024; and December 11, 20, 2024; and January 6, 8, 15, 16, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 2025; and February 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 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 2024-2025 school year.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION (SG 1)**

The Committee on Pre-School Special Education met on January 14, 16, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, and 31, 2025; and February 4, 5, 10, 11, 13, and 19, 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 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

#### **SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS (SG 1)**

1. 1. First Choice Travel NFHS Band travel to Boston, MA \$8,000.00  
A2110.409.045.2280 May 30 – June 1, 2025
2. Four Winds Domestic & Int'l Tours and Travel HBCU College Tour  
\$28,804.00  
A2110.409.045.2280 April 8-10, 2025
3. Fight Night Boxing Gabe Gonzalez Wellness Boxing – Stress Relief  
NFHS Staff \$100.00 F2070.400.045.8125 February 14, 2025
4. Fight Night Boxing Gabe Gonzalez NFHS/Prep Students Boxing  
Program \$12,000.00 A2110.400.045.2280 February – June,  
2025
5. Reverend Gene Copelin Project L.E.E./Project W.I.T.T. Speak Life  
Twice Mentoring - Abate \$17,500.00 A2110.400.056.2280  
February – June, 2025
6. Rick and Allison Moore Judah Deliverance Ministries Corp.  
Mentoring Men and Women of Color Grade 9 – NFHS \$20,000.00  
A2110.400.045.2280 February – June, 2025
7. Rev. Bishop Kevin Dobbs Christ Redemption Tabernacle  
Community Mentoring NFHS Big Picture Students \$15,000.00  
A2110.400.045.2280 February – June, 2025
8. Elizabeth Bell 3 TRC Courses Enhancing ELL Instruction Executive  
Function Grit \$2,925.00 F2070.400.045.8125 February 20 – April  
4, 2025
9. Stephan Hueller ZuZu Acrobats, Inc. GPS Cultural Celebration  
\$1,000.00  
A2110.400.049.2280 February 19, 2025
10. Stephan Hueller ZuZu Acrobats, Inc. BBPS Cultural Celebration  
\$750.00  
A2110.140.061 February 19, 2025
11. Sharon Holley African American Storytelling  
\$300.00 A2110.140.061 February 27, 2025



12. Noah Falck HP Black History Month Performance \$1,000.00  
A2110.400.058.2280 February 19, 2025
13. Ironworkers Local 9 Apprenticeship Fund Introduction to  
Welding \$4500.00 A2110.400.045.2280 February – June  
2025
14. Duncan Kirkwood Top Youth Speakers On-site workshops for Big  
Picture Students \$12,592.00 A2110.400.045.2280 February –  
April 2025
15. Eric Horwitz Lift Enrichment Program, LLC Healthy Culinary  
Mentor Workshops Abate and Hyde Park \$20,000.00  
F2110.400.098.9325 February – June 2025
16. Modie Cox Because I Tried Enterprises Mentor Classes at Abate  
\$12,400 F2110.400.098.9325 February – June 2025
17. Over the Falls Tours Bus transportation to and from Robotics  
tournament  
\$2395 A.2330.400.007 March 5, 2025

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**  
**Nays: None.**  
**Carried.**

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Bilson seconded by Mr. Bass .  
**HEAD START REPORTS** Attached.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**  
**Nays: None.**  
**Carried.**

**Unfinished Business**  
**None**

**New Business**

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

**APPROVAL OF RECEIPT OF GIFT FROM TOTALLY BUFFALO CARES**

WHEREAS, Totally Buffalo Cares has donated more than \$25,000.00 to the Niagara Falls City School District families; and

WHEREAS, This donation will be used to purchase gifts, food, and clothing for families; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Niagara Falls Board of Education gratefully accepts the donation of more than \$25,000.00; and

RESOLVED, That the District Clerk be directed to send a letter of appreciation to:

Paul Friona  
40 Center Ridge Road  
East Aurora, NY 14052

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**  
**Carried.**

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Bilson seconded by Mr. Cancemi.  
**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE 2024/2025 STATEWIDE  
UNIVERSAL FULL-DAY PRE-KINDERGARTEN (SUFDPK) GRANT**

WHEREAS, The New York State Governors Office has allocated \$289,131.00 to the Niagara Falls City School District to implement the Statewide Universal Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten (SUFDPK) program; and

WHEREAS, Through the funding of the SUFDPK Grant, the Niagara Falls City School District is slated to service at least 30 children; and

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

WHEREAS, Official notification of approval of the application and award in the amount of \$289,131.00 has been received, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the Acceptance of Funds for the 2024/2025 Statewide Universal Pre-K (SUPK) Grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the grant award in the amount of \$289,131.00 be credited to revenue code F3289.320.25, and be it further

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

Account	Description	Budget
F 2510.133-058-3225	24/25 SUPK - TCHR - H/P	\$152,150
F 2510.177-058-3225	24/25 SUPK - CLASS ASSOC - H/P	\$73,085
F 2510.450-058-3225	24/25 SUPK - SPLS - H/P	\$14,000
F 2510.800-096-3225	24/25 SUPK - ERS	\$7,394
F 2510.802-096-3225	24/25 SUPK - TRS	\$15,383
F 2510.803-096-3225	24/25 SUPK - FICA	\$17,231
F 2510.807-096-3225	24/25 SUPK - HEALTH INS	\$9,888

Total \$289,131

Revenue Code: F3289.320.25

#### ABSTRACT

1. School District – Niagara Falls City School District
2. Title of Project –Statewide Universal Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten (SUFDPK)
3. Funding Source – New York State Legislature
4. Total Budget - \$289,131.00
5. Total Staff – 4.5
6. Number of Clients Served: 30
7. Major Objectives / Activities / Evaluation
  - Four-year old students will develop a positive self-concept and attitude toward learning and life.
  - They will understand and respect social and cultural diversity, develop relationships of mutual trust and respect with adults and peers.
  - Demonstrate increasing independence.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**  
**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE 2024/2025 ESEA TITLE III - ELL, PART A GRANT**

WHEREAS, the proposed use of Title III funds is to expand on and supplement the existing program for ELL students; 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 \$18,266.00 has been received; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Acceptance of Funds for the 2024/2025 ESEA Title III – ELL, Part A Grant; and

RESOLVED, that the grant award of \$18,266.00 be credited to revenue account code F4289.290.25 ESEA Title III – ELL, Part A Grant; and

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

Account	Description	Budget
F 2259.132-098-292524/25	TITLE III ELL - PER DIEM	\$1,600
F 2259.140-098-292524/25	TITLE III ELL - SCH B	\$10,280
F 2259.151-059-292524/25	TITLE III ELL - DEPT CHAIR STIPEND	\$4,196
F 2259.167-098-292524/25	TITLE III ELL - HRLY CLSFD	\$1,190
F 2259.400-098-292524/25	TITLE III ELL - PRCHD SRVCS	\$1,000
Total		\$18,266

Revenue Code: F4289.290.25

**ABTRACT**

1. School District – Niagara Falls City School District
2. Title of Project – Title III - ELL
3. Funding Source – The State Education Department
4. Total Budget - \$18,266.00
5. Total Staff – 0.00
6. Number of Clients Served: 200 ELL Students
7. Major Objectives / Activities / Evaluation

- Parents, administration and teachers will be informed of any changes made in assessment, accountability and new testing requirements for LEP students. Information will be relayed both by letter and at parent information meetings. Letters will be translated into target languages – Spanish, Punjabi, Urdu, Arabic, Vietnamese, Wolof, and Tamil – as needed.

- Support core content area through after-school tutoring
- Practice and review for ELA and EMA

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FOR THE 2024/2025 ESEA TITLE III - IMMIGRANT, PART A GRANT**

WHEREAS, The Title III State Formula Grant Program, administered by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, is designed to improve the education of English language learners; and

WHEREAS, Title III funds may be used to provide supplemental services that improve the English language proficiency and academic achievement of English Language Learners; and

WHEREAS, All services provided to English Language Learners using Title III funding must supplement the services that must be provided under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Educational Opportunities Act of 1974, and other state and local laws; and

WHEREAS, The State Educational Agency (NYSED) receives funds for Title III Immigrant children and youth based on the number of English Language Learners and immigrant children and youth in the state; and

WHEREAS, The Lead Educational Agency (NFCSD) receives a small percentage of this grant to carry out state-level activities and implement programs designed to help English Language Learner students to achieve both English language proficiency and academics standards in reading/language arts, math and science; 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 \$23,149.00 has been received; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approves the Acceptance of Funds for the 2024/2025 ESEA Title III – Immigrant, Part A Grant; and

RESOLVED, that the grant award of \$23,149.00 be credited to revenue account code F4289.280.25 ESEA Title III – Immigrant, Part A Grant; and

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

Account	Description	Budget
F 2110.140-098-2825	24/25 TITLE III IMMIGRANT - SCH B	\$4,512
F 2110.400-098-2825	24/25 TITLE III IMMIGRANT - PRCHD SRVCS	\$11,800
F 2110.409-098-2825	24/25 TITLE III IMMIGRANT - TRAVEL	\$2,261
F 2110.450-098-2825	24/25 TITLE III IMMIGRANT - SPLS	\$4,576
	Total	\$23,149

Revenue Code: F4289.280.25

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

#### **APPROVAL ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY REPORTS – 2024/2025**

WHEREAS, §807-a of the Education Law states that it is the duty of the Board of Education to cause their buildings to be inspected at least once per year for fire hazards; and

WHEREAS, The fire inspections have been completed as specified in §807-a of the Education Law; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the annual Fire Safety Reports for the school year 2024/2025; and

RESOLVED, That the Board direct the Director of Facilities to file copies of the fire safety reports in his office; and

RESOLVED, That the Board direct the District Clerk to cause public notice that the fire safety reports were completed and to specify the location of the filed reports.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mr. Capizzi, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENT OF VOTING MACHINE CUSTODIANS FOR 2025**

WHEREAS, Each election poll requires the use of one or more voting machines, which in turn require the services of voting machine custodians for the necessary services; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Niagara Falls Board of Education appoint as Voting Machine Custodians for 2025 the following four people:

John Szczepczenski, Head Custodian  
1246 89TH ST  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Sami Grawe  
762 4th St.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Andrea Zaccarella  
668 69th Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Edward Charles "Skip" Metzler  
1428 95th Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

RESOLVED, That Head Voting Machine Custodian John Szczepczenski be paid \$600.00 for his services, and therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Voting Machine Custodians Edward Charles "Skip" Metzler, Sami Grawe, and Andrea Zaccarella each be paid \$450.00 for their services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Head Voting Machine Custodian John Szczepczenski is authorized, if needed, to assist the District Clerk at workshops to be held for election inspectors on Monday, May 19, 2025, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Head Voting Machine Custodian John Szczepczenski be compensated \$25.00 for each workshop.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

## **APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REGARDING THE STATUTORY MEETING**

WHEREAS, The Annual School Election/Budget Vote will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025; and

WHEREAS, §2610, subdivision 4, of the New York State Education Law requires that the Board of Education shall meet after the canvass of votes on the day of the election or at eight o'clock in the evening of the day following such election to officially examine and announce the results of the election; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Board of Education to comply completely with the provisions of the law; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Niagara Falls Board of Education will hold the Statutory Meeting, as required by law, on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 8:00 P.M., E.D.S.T., at the usual place of meeting, 630 66th Street, to officially examine and announce the results of the Annual School Election/Budget Vote held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

## **APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK AND PRIDE HEALTHCARE STAFFING, LLC (PHC)**

WHEREAS, The District is obligated to provide appropriate special education services to students with special needs in the least restrictive environment; and

WHEREAS, The District has provided qualified RNs for special needs students upon request, on an as needed basis in the past and will continue to provide RN services through a contract with Pride Healthcare Staffing, LLC ("PHC") who will provide qualified RNs to the District; and

WHEREAS, the agreed upon fee for the services rendered pursuant to the terms of the proposed amended contract are the standard rate of \$60.00-\$70.00 per hour dependent on the RN certifications; and

WHEREAS, The amended contract shall be effective for a term commencing January 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2025; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board hereby approves the amended agreement attached here to with Pride Healthcare Staffing, LLC ("PHC"), to provide qualified RNs for special needs students upon request, on an as needed basis, a copy of which is attached, which provides, among other things, for payment of the standard rate of \$60.00-\$70.00 per hour dependent on the RN certifications; for a period commencing January 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2025; and

RESOLVED, That the Agreement 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 Agreement; and

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



**AMENDMENT AGREEMENT**

**THIS AMENDMENT AGREEMENT** ("Amendment") entered into as of January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, hereby amends and incorporates the Staffing Services Agreement, dated June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ("Master Agreement") by and between Pride Healthcare Staffing, LLC ("Pride") and Niagara Falls School District. ("Client").

**WHEREAS**, Pride and Client entered into the Master Agreement wherein Pride agreed to provide Client with temporary placement services; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties now desire to amend the Master Agreement as provided herein; and

**NOW, THEREFORE** in consideration of the foregoing recitals and the mutual promises and covenants contained herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

**1. The following bill rates shall be added to and/or deemed Schedule A for certain positions/ duties as follows:**

- Registered Nurse- \$60-\$70/hour

In all other respects, the terms of the Master Agreement shall remain as written and shall be incorporated herein. For the convenience of the parties, this Amendment may be signed and exchanged in faxed or emailed counterparts. The parties agree that photocopies, PDF copies and/or facsimile copies of this Amendment may be used as originals.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have caused this Amendment to be executed by their respective duly authorized representatives as of the latest date shown below.

**PRIDE HEALTHCARE STAFFING, LLC**

**NIAGARA FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT, INC.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**  
**Nays: None.**  
**Carried.**

The following was approved on a motion by Mr. Cancemi seconded by Mr. Vilardo.  
**APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH ERIE 1 BOCES TO FURNISH CERTAIN COMPUTER SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

RESOLVED, The Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Niagara Falls hereby agrees to enter into the attached contract with the Erie 1 BOCES for a three-year period commencing on or about February 27th, 2025 to

authorize the Western New York Regional Information Center to furnish student iPad devices to the district pursuant to Education Law 1950 (4) (JJ) for a principal amount not to exceed \$1,045,728.72. The IPA will require the District and Erie 1 BOCES to adhere to a 36-month payment schedule of \$29,048.02 per month for a total not to exceed \$1,045,728.72; further be it

RESOLVED, That the IPA will be financed through BOCES. However, the

District is obligated for the entire contractual amount immediately, regardless of the length of financing to be financed through the Erie 1 BOCES for a term of three years which financing is hereby approved; and further be it

RESOLVED, That the Agreement with BOCES to purchase the computer services be approved; and

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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

The State Education Department

Bureau of School District Organization

#### CONTRACT FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Date: February 12, 2025  
2025-2027

SCHOOL YEARS:

BEDS Code: 400800

The Board of Education of the Niagara Falls City School District desires to enter into a three-year contract with the Erie 1 BOCES in order for the Western New York Regional Information Center to furnish certain computer services listed on project number MPN 406-11-25C to the district pursuant to Education Law 1950 (4) (JJ) and both parties are in agreement on the following:

1) Computer services to be rendered through Erie 1 BOCES will require the purchase of hardware by Erie 1 BOCES.

2) Erie 1 BOCES will finance this service agreement through an installment purchase agreement (IPA) to fund the purchase of equipment and software necessary to deliver the computer services. The IPA will require Erie 1 BOCES to adhere to a 36-month payment schedule of approximately \$29,048.02 per month for a total not to exceed \$1,045,728.72.

3) The Niagara Falls City School District hereby agrees to pay a total IPA cost not to exceed

\$1,045,728.72 to the Erie 1 BOCES. The district further acknowledges its responsibility to make each and every one of the 36 payments under the terms of the IPA to Erie 1 BOCES to cover principal and

4) In the event that Niagara Falls City School District desires to prepay the outstanding balance prior to the completion of the term of this agreement, any applicable penalties and/or interest charges accruing to Erie 1 BOCES under the terms of the IPA will also be a liability to the School District.



5) In the event that the School District terminates the service, or returns the equipment prior to the completion of the term of the agreement, all unpaid balances, including but not limited to

applicable principal, interest and penalties shall be paid to Erie 1 BOCES. Interest and unpaid

principal will be paid within 30 days of written notification to the district by Erie 1 BOCES.

6) The hardware and so ware acquired under terms of the IPA are the property of Erie 1 BOCES.

Upon final payment of the IPA, the District shall, at no additional cost, have continued use of the

equipment for as long as the District subscribes to the service, through the Western New York

Regional Information Center. At the conclusion of the service, or if the equipment is being

replaced, but no sooner than three or five years from the date of original purchase by Erie 1

BOCES through the IPA, the district may purchase the equipment from Erie 1 BOCES at fair

market value in accordance with board policy.

7) It is further agreed that the district will pay all Erie 1 BOCES invoices in full and within 30 days of the invoice date. Appropriate credits and/or charges for any given billing period will be applied to the subsequent month's invoice.

In witness whereof, the parties have set their hands the day and year written.  
For: Erie 1 BOCES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of President or BOCES Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

For: Niagara Falls City School District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of President or District Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Board Resolution:

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Niagara Falls City School District hereby agrees to enter into the attached contract with the Erie 1 BOCES for a three-year period commencing on February 12, 2025 to authorize the Western New York Regional Information Center to furnish certain computer services to the District pursuant to Education Law 1950 (4) (JJ) for an amount not to exceed \$1,045,728.72 and authorizes 36-monthly payments to be made to Erie 1 BOCES in the amount not to exceed \$29,048.02 per month.

Be it further RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Niagara Falls City School District hereby authorizes the Board President or the District Clerk to execute the contract on behalf of the District.

Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_ Second By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. SCC-10 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 Board approve a change order for this purpose; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Education hereby approves Change Order No. SCC-10 for \$15,705.03 to Scrufari Construction Company 3295 Hyde Park Blvd Niagara Falls, NY 14305

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. SCC-11 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-10 for \$26,806.50 to Scrufari Construction Company 3295 Hyde Park Blvd Niagara Falls, NY 14305



## Change Order

<b>Contractor:</b> Scrufari Construction Company, LLC 8426 Seven Springs Road Batavia NY 14020	<b>Contract No:</b> 22022.001
	<b>Job Name:</b> NFCSD ABOFA
	<b>Contract Description:</b> C100 General Trades & Concrete
	<b>SCO No:</b> 011
	<b>SCO Date:</b> 2025-02-16
	<b>Location:</b>
	<b>Reason:</b>

### REVISION TO THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT

The terms and conditions of the original contract for the above work shall govern this change.

<u>PCI</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
051	C100 - Scrufari	\$26,806.50
		<b>Total: \$26,806.50</b>

### Scope Description: PCI-051

In consideration of the above, the Contract value is increased in the amount of \$26,806.50. The contract completion date will not be affected by this Change Order unless specifically noted below.

<b>Original Contract</b>	\$5,570,000.00
<b>Changes by Previous SCO's</b>	\$261,983.28
<b>Contract Sum Prior to this SCO</b>	\$5,831,983.28
<b>Amount of this SCO</b>	\$26,806.50
<b>New Contract Sum to Date</b>	\$5,858,789.78



## Change Order

This Change order shall not constitute a change to the Contract until fully executed by all parties. Therefore, please acknowledge acceptance of this Change Order by signing in the space provided below. All original copies shall be returned to Buffalo Construction Consultants, Inc. for final processing and distribution.

**Buffalo Construction Consultants, Inc.**

Accepted: Stuart H. Lowe

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Digitally signed by Stuart H. Lowe  
DN: cn=Stuart H. Lowe, o=Buffalo Construction Consultants, email=stuart@buffaloconstruction.com, c=US  
Date: 2025.02.19 09:29:45 -0500

**Scrufari Construction Company, LLC**

Accepted:

Date: 2/16/25

**Architect**

Accepted:

Date: 02.18.2025

**Owner**

Accepted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Potential Change Issue

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Job No: 22022

Job Name: NFCSD ABOFA

Subject: Gaskill Boiler Modifications

Date Issued: 2025-02-06

RE: PCI #051 - Gaskill Boiler Modifications

Respond By:

**\*\*\*Please ensure that all correspondence includes the above referenced project information and PCI number.**

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**Distribution:**

C100 - Scrufari

**General Description:**

C100 - shall provide all work associated to the attached PCI.

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Provide the following action in regards to the general description as stated above:

- ☐ Proceed with change(s) & are to provide quote.
- ☐ Proceed with change(s) on a Time & Material basis.
- ☐ Proceed with change(s) on a Time & Material basis not to exceed the amount stated above.
- ☒ Proceed with change(s) as per your approved quote amount stated above.
- ☐ DO NOT to proceed with change(s) and provide a quote as stated above.
- ☐ As stated above.

The Contract Time will not be affected by this authorization to proceed.

\*Contractors are advised that if proceeding on a time and material basis (T&M), you are responsible to obtain daily verification of work performed from the Buffalo Construction Consultants, Inc. representative at the end of each work day.

Respectfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Mannarino Jr.

496 Kennedy Road ■ Buffalo, New York 14227 ■ 716.302.4040 ■ [www.buffaloconstruct.com](http://www.buffaloconstruct.com)



3925 Hydra Park Blvd  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
716 282-1225 Phone  
716 282-7609 Fax

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February 12, 2025

Mr. Stu Lowe  
Project Manager  
Buffalo Construction Consultants  
496 Kennedy Road  
Buffalo, NY 14227

Niagara Falls Central School District Breath of Fresh Air Project

Job #224006

Proposed Change Order #43 Boiler Retubing

Dear Mr. Lowe,

We respectfully furnish this proposal to provide labor, equipment and materials to perform scope of work as outlined below on a time and material basis. The budgetary cost for this work will be \$26,806.50 Twenty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred Six Dollars and Fifty Cents.

1. Proposal to retube boilers per PCI 051
2. Please see K&E Quote number 25-1583 for scope of work, clarifications and exclusions

<b>TOTAL BUDGETARY COST</b>	<b>\$26,806.50</b>
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Respectfully,

Peter Greiner  
Project Manager



GREATER NIAGARA MECHANICAL, INCORPORATED

7311 WARD ROAD ∞ NORTH TONAWANDA, NEW YORK 14120

PHONE 716.695.3600 ∞ FAX 716.695.3700

## CHANGE ORDER PROPOSAL

CPR #: 3

Date: 2/7/2025

Job Name: City of NF School District ABOFA Cataract Boilers

Architect: CPL

Contract #: 123A

RE: PCI #051 - Gaskill Boiler Modifications

### Description:

Per PCI #051, proposal to re-tube boilers at Gaskill School. See attached proposal for further details.

### GREATER NIAGARA MECHANICAL:

LABOR COST:		\$0.00	MATERIAL COST:		\$22,200.00
15%	OH & P:	\$0.00	15% OH & P:		\$3,330.00

See attached proposal

LABOR TOTAL:		\$0.00	MATERIAL TOTAL:		\$25,530.00
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**OVERALL PROPOSAL: \$25,530**



**BOILER DIVISION**  
Ph. 716-829-1829 / Fax 716-829-1828

40 STANLEY STREET, BUFFALO, NY 14206

**FABRICATION DIVISION**  
Ph. 716-823-7464 / Fax 716-823-2183



work sheet.xlsx

February 7, 2025

Niagara Mechanical Contractors  
Gaskill Prep School  
910 Hyde Park Ave  
Niagara Falls NY 14301

**Attention: Samuel Prezioso:**

Re: Lower Pass Retube Cleaver Brooks Boiler

**Quote Number: 25-1583**

Thank you for considering K&E Fabricating Co., INC. for the aforementioned project. We are pleased to provide for your review **a Budgetary Time and Material Quote** to perform the following scope of work based on our site visit with you. A Written **Purchase Order** must be received prior to the start of work.

- Mobilize men and equipment to job site.
- Locate boiler power sources and LOTO.
  - Remove 46 lower pass tubes.
  - Clean tube Sheets and tube holes.
    - Install 46 new tubes
  - Roll to manufacture's specifications.
    - Hydrostatic test of boiler.
- Clean work area and demobilize from job site
- Provide customer with required ASME and NBIC paperwork.

- **BUDGETARY TIME AND MATERIAL PRICE \$22,200.00  
(TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS)**

**Tubes from Cleaver Brooks 4-6 weeks ARO**

[www.kefabricating.com](http://www.kefabricating.com)



**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF Payment No. 11 to Scrufari Construction Co. Inc. for General Contracting Work for the A Breath of Fresh Air (ABOFA) Capital Improvement Project (CIP)**

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, the Construction Managers and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, Scrufari Construction Company has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for services rendered and material furnished in the amount of \$198,113.72; and

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

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract and is inclusive of the required 5% retention in the amount of \$9,905.69; and

WHEREAS, The amount of payment the District will issue shall be \$198,113.72 less the required 5% retainage (\$9,905.69) as outlined in the contract, \$188,208.03; 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 \$188,208.03 to Scrufari Construction Company 3925 Hyde Park Blvd Niagara Falls, NY 14305 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment #11; 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.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 11 TO JOHN W. DANFORTH FOR HVAC CONTRACTING WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) CONTRACT 123B**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract dated January 25, 2024, with John W. Danforth for HVAC work on 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, the Construction Managers and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, John W. Danforth has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for services rendered and material furnished in the amount of \$29,044.50; and

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

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract and is inclusive of the required 5% retention in the amount of \$1,452.22; and

WHEREAS, The amount of payment the District will issue shall be \$29,044.50 less the required 5% retainage (\$1,452.22) as outlined in the contract, \$27,592.28; 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 \$27,592.28 to John W. Danforth 300 Colvin Woods Parkway Tonawanda, NY 14150 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment #11; 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.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT NO. 11 TO JOHN W. DANFORTH FOR HVAC CONTRACTING WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) CONTRACT 123C**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract dated January 25, 2024, with John W. Danforth for HVAC work on 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, the Construction Managers and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, John W. Danforth has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for services rendered and material furnished in the amount of \$41,405.16; and

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

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract and is inclusive of the required 5% retention in the amount of \$2,070.26; and

WHEREAS, The amount of payment the District will issue shall be \$41,405.16 less the required 5% retainage (\$2,070.26) as outlined in the contract, \$39,334.90; 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 \$39,334.90 to John W. Danforth 300 Colvin Woods Parkway Tonawanda, NY 14150 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment #11; 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.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF Payment No. 11 to Frey Electric Construction Co. Inc. for Electrical Contracting Work for the A Breath of Fresh Air (ABOFA) Capital Improvement Project (CIP)**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract dated January 25, 2024, with Frey Electrical Construction Corp. for Electrical work on 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, the Construction Managers and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, Frey Electrical Construction Corp. has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for services rendered and material furnished in the amount of \$72,279.21; and

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

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract and is inclusive of the required 5% retention in the amount of \$3,613.96; and

WHEREAS, The amount of payment the District will issue shall be \$72,279.21 less the required 5% retainage (\$3,613.96) as outlined in the contract, \$68,665.25; 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 \$68,665.25 to Frey Electrical Construction Corp. 100 Pearce Ave Tonawanda, NY 14150 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment #11; 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.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENT PAYMENT NO. 11 TO STARK TECH FOR TECHNOLOGY CONTRACTING WORK FOR THE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR (ABOFA) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP)**

WHEREAS, The Board of Education executed a Contract dated January 25, 2024, with U&S Services (Stark Tech) for Technology work on 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, the Construction Managers and Administrator for School Business Services; and

WHEREAS, U&S Services (Stark Tech) has submitted an Application and Certificate for Payment, AIA Document G732, for services rendered and material furnished in the amount of \$21,869.00; and

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

WHEREAS, The Application is in accordance with the Contract and is inclusive of the required 5% retention in the amount of \$1,093.45; and

WHEREAS, The amount of payment the District will issue shall be \$21,869.00 less the required 5% retainage (\$1,093.45) as outlined in the contract, \$20,775.55; 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 \$20,775.55 to U&S Services (Stark Tech) 95 Stark St Tonawanda, NY 14150 in accordance with the Application and Certificate for Payment #11; 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.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

The following was removed from the table on a motion by Mr. Cancemi seconded by Mr. Bass.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

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

### **Review of the Proposed Policy(ies)**

5840 Artificial Intelligence

1 of 4

SUBJECT: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) Overview

The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, especially generative AI (GenAI), pose unique challenges and opportunities for learning environments. As these technologies integrate deeper into everyday life, the district must proactively address the implications of AI usage to ensure it enhances educational outcomes without compromising academic integrity or equity. This policy outlines the district's commitment to responsible AI integration in educational practices, balancing innovation with the core values of the district's educational mission. Further, it sets forth guidelines designed to evolve as new technologies and methodologies emerge, ensuring the district remains at the forefront of academic excellence and technological responsibility.

### **Scope and Application**

This policy applies to all District students, personnel, volunteers, and contractors. It integrates with, and complements, existing policies on data privacy, acceptable use, and student conduct. This policy aims to provide clear guidelines on the use of AI within the District's schools, ensuring that its application supports the district's educational goals and adheres to its privacy and security standards.

### **Definitions**

a) Generative AI (GenAI) represents a dynamic subset of AI technologies that can create new, human-like content from extensive data training sets. This content spans across text, images, audio, and more, often mimicking human creativity and adaptability.

b) Traditional AI refers to systems that operate on fixed algorithms and predefined rules without altering their behavior based on new data after their initial deployment.

### Risks and Limitations

The use of GenAI comes with some risks and limitations which include, but are not limited to:

a) Hallucinations/Confabulations

GenAI can generate plausible, but false or inaccurate, information, a phenomenon known as a hallucination/confabulation.

b) Biases

GenAI tools learn from data created by people, which means any biases, prejudices, and stereotypes in that data can be reflected in the outputs produced by GenAI. For example, GenAI has been found to generate images and text that reinforce existing gender and racial biases. It is essential to recognize that these biases exist and to critically assess the outputs of GenAI tools to prevent the perpetuation of stereotypes and unfair treatment.

The impact of GenAI biases is particularly significant in the context of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives. DEI initiatives aim to create environments where all individuals have equal opportunities and are treated with respect and fairness. Biased AI outputs can undermine these goals by perpetuating inequality and exclusion, which can be detrimental to the educational mission of the district.

GenAI can also suffer from response bias, where the AI generates answers tailored to what it predicts the user wants to hear based on its training data or specific tuning.

c) Copyright

GenAI may pose copyright issues as it may have used copyrighted material within its training data without explicit permission from the copyright holders. As a result, there are unsettled legal questions about the ownership and copyright status of GenAI's outputs, which can closely mimic or incorporate elements of existing copyrighted works.

### Data Privacy and Security

Information entered into GenAI may be accessible to others due to data sharing or breaches. All users should exercise caution when utilizing GenAI. Under no circumstances should any sensitive, copyrighted, confidential, or proprietary information be entered into GenAI or any other AI platform, consistent with relevant state and federal laws and District policy. This includes, but is not limited to, data protected by:

a) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA);

b) Education Law Section 2-d (Unauthorized Release of Personally Identifiable Information);

c) Labor Law Section 203-d (Employee Personal Identifying Information);

d) State Technology Law Section 208 (Notification of Security Breach of Private Information).

Further, if the information would not be disclosed in response to a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, it should not be entered into GenAI.

The district permits teachers to determine whether students in their class may use GenAI for assignments. However, the District recognizes that disparities in access to GenAI technologies may exist and will work with teachers to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by their inability to use or decision not to use GenAI.

If teachers allow their students to use GenAI, they are expected to communicate their expectations regarding the use of GenAI clearly to their students. Further, the teacher must discuss the appropriate and responsible use of GenAI with the students. This includes talking to students about the risks and limitations of GenAI, emphasizing how students are accountable for the accuracy of their work, and, when relevant, ensuring proper citation of sources.

Student use of GenAI that conflicts with teacher instruction, District policy, regulation, procedure, or other document, such as the District's Code of Conduct, may result in investigation and/or disciplinary action.

The precursor to any AI use in-district is accomplished, vetted training.

This training can be acquired from higher education institution course work or other accreditations.

The District and the Teacher Resource Center is developing and scheduling AI specific coursework to ensure that AI is employed in the most efficient, guarded manner.

AI use will be fully integrated into the Instructional and District Technology plans.

#### District Personnel Use

District personnel may utilize GenAI in accordance with this policy. However, regardless of the tools used to enhance their work, personnel are ultimately responsible for the accuracy and integrity of all work they produce. AI is intended to support, not replace, an employee's responsibility for their own work.

#### Training, Awareness, and Support

The district will provide training, awareness, and support to teachers in navigating the evolving use of GenAI in the classroom. This may include professional learning opportunities, workshops, and resources to enhance teachers' proficiency and confidence in using GenAI to enrich student learning. The goal is to equip teachers with

the knowledge to critically assess GenAI technologies and guide students in understanding the complexities associated with these tools. Additionally, the District may extend training, awareness, and support regarding GenAI to other District personnel who may benefit from understanding and utilizing GenAI in their roles.

#### Compliance with Other Documents

When using GenAI, all personnel and students must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and District documents. This includes Education Law Section 2-d, which requires the District to ensure that whenever it enters into a contract or other written agreement with a third-party contractor under which the third-party contractor will receive student data or teacher or principal data from the District, the contract or written agreement will include provisions requiring that confidentiality of shared student data or teacher or principal data be maintained in accordance with law, regulation, and District policy.

Applicable District documents may include the district's policies on data security and acceptable use, as well as the District's Code of Conduct.

NOTE: Refer also to Policies #3310 -- Public Access to Records  
#3320 -- Confidentiality of Computerized Information  
#5672 -- Information Security Breach and Notification  
#5673 -- Employee Personnel Identifying Information  
#5674 -- Data Networks and Security Access  
#5676 -- Privacy and Security for Student Data and Teacher and Principal Data  
#6410 -- Staff Acceptable Use Policy  
#7240 -- Student Records: Access and Challenge  
#7315 -- Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)  
#7316 -- Student Use of Personal Technology  
#8271 -- Internet Safety/Internet Content Filtering  
#8350 -- Use of Copyrighted Materials District Code of Conduct

#### Adoption Date

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilardo.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**

#### Information and Reports

Oral Communications - Public Comment on non-Agenda Items

Mr. Barksdale Independence Ave – Niagara County Information Group- spoke on his desire to see a paradigm shift in the District to further embrace the highest standards of learning and teaching. He objects to Reading Recovery and purports that it banned in several states. He feels the schools are safe and inclusive; he feels the District needs to make families aware of the social-emotional opportunities that are offered in the District. He offers his assistance and others are willing to help, as well.

Mr. Blaber – 38<sup>th</sup> St. – self – Spoke on the graduation rate and reading levels. He questions the statistics. He questions how students can succeed without proper



reading skills. He accuses the District of creating poverty by graduating students who do not have skills to succeed.

#### Superintendent's Report

Mr. Laurie:

Nurses Gregg and Merante, two of our employees, performed the Heimlich maneuver on our students. Thanks to them for their heroic efforts.

The District will celebrate "PI DAY" on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at NFHS in the Auxiliary Gym. This is our first foray into celebrating "PI Day" as a PTech and STEM activity at NFHS. Thank you to Ronni McGrath, Kate Johnson, Madison Dalporto, Bhawna Chowdary and our partners at SUNY Niagara and Moog Industries. Our students will build catapults, eat pie from SUNY Niagara Culinary students and hopefully consume pizza pies as well. Students from all levels will participate and be engaged.

We have 99 scholar athletes participating across seven winter sports this season. These students are participating in a varsity sport while maintaining a 90% or better class average.

Congratulations to the NFHS Robotics program under the direction of coaches Alan Stockings and Richard Clark. Three teams have qualified to compete at the state level based on their robotics driving skills. GPS is sending two teams. Best of luck!

In addition to Mrs. Dorothy Brundidge, the Niagara Falls Black Achievers Dinner will also recognize Board member Earl Bass and one of our accountants Markasia McCreary who works on our finance team. Markasia is a skilled accountant and a wonderful asset to Central Office. The dinner is on March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Niagara Falls Conference Center.

Our PreK 3 and 4 applications will be out and available beginning March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Congratulations to Lady Wolverine wrestlers Emma Beckles and Emma Ponzi who qualified for the New York State wrestling championships. Next Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> in Albany, New York they compete to win state championships. Congratulations to 3<sup>rd</sup> place finisher Selene Torres and 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher Miley Geschwender. We are very proud of these competitors.

Congratulations to men's New York State wrestling qualifiers Cameron Crumpler and Jayden Feagin on their bids to the state championships next Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> in Albany, New York. Reggie McCreary, a freshmen had a tremendous tournament finishing 3<sup>rd</sup>. Outstanding perseverance from these young men.

Our NFHS Student Trauma Informed Champion Team presented to the Niagara Falls City Council and Mayor at yesterday in City Council Chambers.

The men's Basketball team suffered the loss of a player's parent. At the funeral service for this mom, it was touching when the student spoke

about his mother and it was touching to see the basketball team seated together front row, offering support for the teammate. Carlos Bradberry has helped to mold 12 fine men.

Schools are making progress, overall and in most cells. We are all working to move all students forward. Some targeted subgroups or cells in some schools are not making adequate yearly progress, be we are working to get this accomplished.

Say Yes money is beginning to come in and Say Yes will be in Niagara Falls Status September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

#### Board Members Report and Comments

Mr. Bass: Black History celebrations at Hyde Park and Gaskill were good programs, not just regurgitating facts, but involving students.

#### Advanced Planning

##### Future Agenda Items

<b>BRS</b> <b>Thursday, March 13, 2025</b>	<b>ARS/Regular Mtg.</b> <b>Thursday, March 27, 2025</b>
1. Booker College	1. Head Start Policy Council
2. 2025-2026 General Fund Budget	2. 2025-2026 General Fund Budget
3. Review of Board Meeting Agenda Items – March 27 Regular Board Meeting – <i>Mr. Laurrie, Mrs. Glaser, Ms. Massaro</i>	3. Agenda Review
	4. Regular Meeting

##### Future Meeting Dates

Motion to re-enter Executive Session Vincent Cancemi, second by Anthony F Paretto.

Motion Carries

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

Adjournment in memory of the following who recently passed away:

Motion to exit executive session at 8:35 p.m. and adjourn.

Motion by Brad McLeod, second by Nicholas Vilardo.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

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

Meeting Adjourned in memory of:

1. Dorothy A. Andrejczak, mother of Michele Brocious.
2. Robert Brewer, uncle of Bertha Tarvis.
3. Dorothy Chiappone, 91, of Niagara Falls, NY, passed away peacefully on January 16, 2025. Dorothy worked for the NFCSD for 30 years in various guidance departments. She is the mother of Carol Kajfasz (Cataract Elementary School) and grandmother of Alyssa DeRosa (Bloneva Bond Primary School).
4. Nea Crockett, mother of NFHS Senior Nashaun Farrell.
5. Long-time District cook Regina Jones passed away on January 24, 2025. She was with the District for about 22 years. sister of Tanya Adamson, who retired from the District about a year ago, aunt of Shanika Jones, a cleaner for the District.
6. Laurie Jane Luick, former substitute teacher.
7. Nicholas Marchelos, retired administrator.
8. Joseph Pinzotti, father of Christine Lodovico.
9. Judith A. Ptasiuk, retired English teacher, LSHS.
10. Mildred Robinson, retired teacher.
11. Ellen Scavulli, mother of Theresa Brockman.
12. Zelda M. Smith, sister of retired principal Sheila Smith.

**Ayes: Mr. Bass, Mr. Bilson, Mr. Cancemi, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Paretto, Mr. Petrozzi, Mr. Vilaro.**

**Nays: None.**

**Carried.**