

Hoosick Falls & Surrounding Areas

HOOSICK FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hoosick Falls Elementary Going to 4 Days In Person

by Alex Brooks

The Hoosick Falls School Board approved a return to in-person schooling for elementary school students at its regular meeting on Thursday April 22. It will be in-person four days a week, and Wednesdays will continue to be remote learning days. The return to school was made possible by the State changing social distance guidelines from 6' to 3'. All hygiene protocols will remain in place and face masks will continue to be worn at all times by both students and staff, except when eating.

Students in UPK through 2nd grade began coming in to school on Monday April 26. Students in grades 3-6 will begin coming into school on Monday May 3.

Parents still have the option to choose remote learning.

The school will no longer be taking temperatures when students arrive at school and is asking parents to do so. Students with a temperature above 100 degrees should not go into school. The District is not currently doing COVID-19 testing. District health care staff will refer symptomatic students to their primary care provider for testing. Current Rensselaer County DOH quarantine protocols remain in place for any students who test positive for COVID-19.

Four tents are going up on the school grounds to provide space for socially distanced student activities, including eating snacks outside. Some new aides are being hired to help with moving kids outside for snacks or other activities. Lunch schedules and bus schedules have been adjusted to accommodate social distance requirements.

The Jr./Sr. High School will not be able to go back to in-person learning 4 days a week under the current regulations from the State Education Department, because the social distance was reduced from 6' to 3' only for students who stay with the same group of classmates all day, which works in the elementary but does not work for the high school.

2021-22 Budget Adopted

The Board also approved the budget for next year, which remains exactly as described in last week's *Eastwick Press*, as no changes were made after the workshop meeting held a week earlier. The budget contemplates spending \$24,061,805 in the 2021-22 school year, which is an overall spending increase

of 3.2%, but it comes with no increase at all in the tax levy.

The budget includes funding for four new full-time teachers and four new teaching aides.

The School will also be seeing a temporary increase in staff for several years through funding from the federal government dedicated to reversing learning losses that occurred because of disruption to schools caused by the pandemic. This funding will be about \$1.1 million over three years for the Hoosick Falls District, and it is not included in the regular budget because it will be in a special aid fund where Federal grant money is tracked, which does not mix with the regular budget. Thus the District will have additional resources for the next three years equal to about 1.5% of the regular budget to be dedicated to addressing the already fairly well-documented problem of students who have fallen behind in their education because of school disruption caused by the pandemic.

There will be a Public Hearing on the proposed budget on Tuesday May 11 at 6 pm, and the public vote on it will be held at the school on Tuesday, May 18, from 9 am to 8 pm. The vote will be held in person, but anyone who is uncomfortable coming to the school because of the threat of disease can get an absentee ballot. Absentee ballots will not be mailed out automatically - if you would like to vote by absentee ballot you must request one from the school. The District requests that those who would like to request an absentee ballot by mail do so as soon as possible, and in any case at least 7 days before voting day, in order to allow enough time to send out the ballot to the voter and have the voter send in the completed ballot.

Also on the ballot on May 18 is re-election of School Board members Bridget Foster and Emily

Marpe, and a bus proposition which proposes to buy three buses at a cost of \$312,000. Although the wording of the bus proposition makes it sound as if this sum will show up in your property tax bill, approving the bus proposition actually has no impact on this year's local tax. 90% of the cost of the buses is paid by aid from New York State, and the remainder of the cost is paid from a bus reserve which already has enough money in it to cover this purchase. The bus reserve must be replenished occasionally and this is usually done from fund balance when there is an adequate surplus of funds at the end of a school year.

The Board accepted the resignation of Guidance Secretary Tiffany McMahon, and accepted resignations for retirement purposes from High School Social Studies Teacher Eleanor Danforth, High School Health Teacher Colleen Corcoran, and Custodian Dennis James.

Superintendent Pat Dailey said an employee from the Company hired to be Construction Supervisor for the Capital Project, Jim Gray from U. W. Marx Construction, has started coming to the school in the afternoon and evening to familiarize himself with the building and work on plans for managing the construction. Contractors will soon start doing some preliminary work running cables through the building at night when no one is there.

Dailey said the summer school will take place at Hoosac School and plans for the summer school are being developed right now.

The next regular School Board meeting on May 18 will begin at 7 pm and will be held in person so that the Board can honor retirees and teachers who are awarded tenure this year.

HOOSICK FALLS

Center's Employees Of The Month

The Centers for Living and Rehabilitation is proud to announce Celia Brambley as April's Employee of the Month. Celia is a wonderful employee who is always willing to learn new things and help out her co-workers with no questions asked. "The residents at CLR love her as she is a caring, compassionate person who would give you the clothes off her back if you were in need," stated a co-worker. We are very lucky to have Celia as an employee of CLR!

The Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation at Hoosick Falls is proud to announce Gail Deluca as



Celia Brambley, CLR Employee of the Month. Gail Deluca, CNT Employee of the Month. Photos Contributed.

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April's Employee of the Month. Gail is always willing to go above and beyond and accommodate getting rooms cleaned for last minute admissions and room changes. Gail has even been willing to stay past her shift to make sure the rooms are cleaned and ready for the next resident. The Residents at CNR enjoy spending time with her! We are lucky to have Gail as an employee of CNR!