

Hoosick Falls & Surrounding Areas

HOOSICK FALLS CSD

7 Teachers Granted Tenure

by Alex Brooks

The stars of the show at the Hoosick Falls School Board meeting on May 18 were the teachers who were granted tenure that night. Many had their families present, and although the extent of the ceremonies was limited a bit by COVID-19 constraints, Superintendent Dailey said he wanted to hold the meeting in person so that he could speak about each of the newly tenured faculty and offer congratulations face to face. It was the first in person meeting held by the Board of Education in about six months.

Tenure was granted to Jacob Trinkle in Mathematics. Trinkle was tenured at Granville, where he worked previously, teaching Algebra 1 and 2 and Geometry. His assignments at Hoosick Falls have been more varied, as he has been involved with AIS work and the Restore U program, as well as coaching girls basketball and soccer.

Jessica Muzio-Coon was granted tenure in the area of Literacy K-6. Dailey said she is a key member of the reading team in the Elementary School, and is known as "The Queen of Spreadsheets." He noted that the reading team makes extensive use of spreadsheets in keeping track of their students' progress.

Rebecca Winn was granted tenure in the area of Special Education, which is her third area of certification, as she was previously certified in Elementary Education and in Literacy. She has a background working in charter schools, and has worked in Kindergarten and 1st Grade previously. Sarah Fleming was granted tenure in the area of K-6 Assistant Principal. Currently serving as Assistant Principal in the Elementary School, she has worked at all levels of the Elementary School, and will become the Middle School Principal next year. Kindergarten teacher Kiersten Lamphere was granted tenure in the area of Elementary Education. Dailey said she has "a calming way with people," and has a particular talent for classroom management and restorative practices. Elementary School Counselor Kailee Whalen was granted tenure, who Dailey described as "an integral member of our counseling team" in the elementary. Also granted tenure was Maurica Manning in Special Education, who was not present.

Superintendent's Report

Dailey said he was worried that the District would not be able to find Business, Health and Tech teachers because there is a shortage of teachers in those areas and with all the State and Federal aid coming in, many districts are hiring. Yet he was happy to announce that all three of those positions had been filled. The Board approved the appointments of Business Teacher



Teachers granted tenure at the Board of Education Meeting on May 18 are (left to right) Kailee Whalen, Kiersten Lamphere, Sarah Fleming, Jessica Muzio-Coon, Rebecca Winn, and Jacob Trinkle. Photo provided by HFCS.

Brandon Trinkle, Technology Teacher Christopher Nelson and Health Teacher Tyler Rondeau.

Dailey said the District held a vaccine clinic the afternoon of the meeting, and "104 kids were vaccinated this afternoon."

Teachers Contract Signed

The Board approved a new contract with the Hoosick Falls Teachers Association. Superintendent Patrick Dailey said it had been "a good negotiation."

Banking Services

The Board voted to award the District's banking services business to Pioneer Commercial Bank starting July 1, 2021. The District business office sought bids for banking services because the bank it has been doing business with for 43 years, Key Bank, has been charging high fees, amounting to \$10,000 to \$20,000 per year. Pioneer was the low bidder.

Business Administrator Emily Sanders said the ability to make deposits by taking a picture of the check and sending the deposit in electronically has made it possible to use a bank that is farther away, and created a competitive situation in what had been a bit of a monopoly situation, as Key Bank is the only commercial bank in Town. Sanders said since they can deposit checks remotely, the only issue is depositing cash, but she said the District doesn't handle very

much cash anymore, and Pioneer bank had agreed to send a free carrier once a week to pick up the cash.

Capital Project

The Capital Project is underway. Project Manager Jim Gray is coming in every day. He arrives about 3:30 and works until about 11 at night. Contractors have been installing the new cabling. Dailey said Paul Baker will be shutting down the boilers this weekend so the pipes can be drained and the contractors can begin working on replacement of the univentilators. Dailey said there will be "an explosion of activity" the day after graduation, as the schedule for getting the work done this summer is "very tight," and the contractors need to get going as soon as possible in order to have the place ready for the opening of school next September.

Graduation Plans

High School Principal Michael Hall talked a bit about plans for the graduation ceremony. He said he expects to hold something resembling a traditional graduation, although the number of people who can attend may be limited. He said the graduating class is 70 students, a bit smaller than usual, which helps.

A lot depends on what guidance the District receives from the State, as COVID-19 protocols are changing fast at this point. He guesses it will be important to hold it outdoors, so if the weather looks bad on the traditional Friday date, it might be rescheduled to a day earlier. But plans cannot be firmed up yet.

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