

**SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Leonard Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. All Board members were present at the start of the meeting except Jim Wilcox.

OPEN SESSION/ROLL CALL

Board members present: President Leonard Jordan, Vice President Dean Winspear, Teresa Lipfert, Joe Lonsky, Steve Morse, Ted Rejman

Board members absent: Jim Wilcox

Administrators present: Superintendent Mary Kay Worth, Martha Stevermer, Luke Carnicelli, Mary Lou Cronin, Patricia Reilley

Others present: Nynette Adams, Jamie Bailey, Mark Bailey, Matt Bennett, Tom Bianconi, Glen Botsford, Sharon Botsford, Pat Brennan, Mary Burns, Becky Davis, Heather Davis, Bernie DeGraw, Joseph Doeing, Phil Donovan, Doug Elser, Thomas Fessenden, John Gloss, Sandy Groth, Bob Haight, Peg Herstine, Terese Hetherington, Jennifer Jones, Carin Kopp, Doug LaFave, Linda Mandel, Rose Mandel, Dan McGarry, Rick McKane, Andy Miller, Richard Mix, Lisa Morris, Peter Morris, Cathy Mullarney, John Nedza, Bradley Pattington, Cathy Shiels, Dean Stevens, Michael Sullivan, Ann Teeter, Julia Tolosky, Terry Underwood, Larry VanDeValk, Tanya VanSlyke, Jim Walker, Patricia White, Rachel Yale, Tom Yale

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Ted Rejman, seconded by Dean Winspear, the Board of Education approved the agenda. The calendar was reviewed.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

PRESENTATIONS –

-- Safety Video: A video was shown to all assembled, which was a simulation of a shooting in a public high school. All agreed that safety must be a priority. School Resource Officer John Nedza noted that the district will continue to review and revise our school safety plan.

VISITOR RECOGNITION –

- Elementary Principal Mary Lou Cronin noted that the elementary students found last week's Ag Fair to be the "best ever."
- Rose Mandel read a statement in support of the art and music programs.

Consent Agenda Action Items: Motion was made by Dean Winspear, seconded by Ted Rejman, to approve the following items.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

- Minutes: – BOE Regular Meeting, March 23, 2009
The Board of Education approved the minutes of the BOE regular meeting of March 23, 2009.
- CSE Recommendations: The Board of Education approved the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education.
- Scholarship Stipend: The Board of Education approved the \$1,000 stipend to Nynette Adams for serving as Secretary to the Koon Scholarship Committee for the 2008/09 school year.
- Resignation: The Board of Education accepted the resignation of Nynette Adams as Secretary to the Koon Scholarship Committee, effective June 30, 2009.
- Donation: The Board of Education accepted an anonymous donation, in the amount of \$500 to be used in conjunction with the swim funds for the rower.
- Donation: The Board of Education accepted the donation of a keyboard and a guitar, with a combined value of \$300; from Matthew Stapleton, an SCCS graduate who is now a performing actor in New York City.
- Policy, Second Reading: The Board of Education reviewed for a second reading, and adopted, **Policy #5540, Publication of District's Annual Financial Statement**, as reviewed and edited by the Policy Committee.
- Policy, Second Reading: The Board of Education reviewed for a second reading, and adopted, **Policy #5570, Financial Accountability**, as reviewed and edited by the Policy Committee.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION ITEMS

- Drivers' Education: The Board of Education discussed the student drivers' education program for the 2009/10 school year. Board members discussed the options and agreed on a **\$450** fee for this program for the 2009/10 school year, including the summer session and the fall and spring semesters. A future revision to the student handbook will consider this: "Students with outstanding obligations to the district will not be allowed to participate."

-- Proposition: We have received a request from the Aurora Free Library and Hazard Library trustees to approve an increase of the library tax levy from \$30,000 to \$33,000 per year, to provide increased support for their operations. On a motion by Ted Rejman, seconded by Steve Morse, the Board of Education agreed to place a proposition on the ballot at the May 19, 2009, district vote, as follows.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

RESOLVED that the Board of Education for the Southern Cayuga Central School District is hereby authorized to raise the tax levy from \$30,000 to \$33,000 for the support and operation of the Aurora Free Library and the Hazard Library, and such sum shall be split equally and paid annually to the trustees of said libraries.

Personnel Agenda

RESIGNATION –

-- School Psychologist: On a motion by Dean Winspear, seconded by Ted Rejman, the Board of Education accepted the resignation of **Patricia Hamlin** as School Psychologist, for personal reasons, effective June 30, 2009. They thanked her for her service to the district.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT STATUS -- none

APPOINTMENTS -- Resolution: The Board of Education hereby gives notice of its intent to appoint the following individuals to the designated positions with an emergency conditional appointment in accordance with Policy #6170, subject to their submission of clearance for employment by the State Education Department Office of School Personnel Review and Accountability (OSPRA). Upon the receipt of conditional employment clearance, the appointment shall be changed to a conditional appointment and upon receipt of final clearance for employment granted by the State Education Department, the appointment shall be changed to a regular or substitute appointment as designated below.

Consent Agenda Personnel Items: On a motion made by Ted Rejman, seconded by Dean Winspear, the Board of Education approved the following personnel items.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

-- Co-Curricular: The Board of Education approved the following.

-- Resignation: Lindsay Birmingham, Co-Coach, Modified Softball

-- Appointment: David Hewitt, Co-Coach, Modified Softball, \$975

-- Appointment: Nathaniel Bareham, recreation aide, \$7.15 per hour

-- Appointment: Nicole Corcoran, Volunteer Athletic Assistant, with Kathy Perez in the softball program

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Minde Trust Information; information was provided to Board members. A proposal will be on the April 22 agenda.
- 2009/2010 Budget Discussion: The draft budget being proposed represents a 0.83% increase on the tax levy and is a budget to budget increase of 0.19%. Superintendent Worth and Business Administrator Martha Stevermer reviewed the recommendations, with the district expecting to receive \$555,537 more in state aid than in the first draft of the budget.
- Superintendent Worth also reviewed the reserves and fund balance history. An unappropriated fund balance is like a “rainy day fund” to be used for unexpected expenses. There is currently enough in this account to be able to set up or increase allowable reserve accounts, which have had no money added for many years. In anticipation of future needs, it is recommended that the Board approve a resolution to go before the voters. A capital reserve can only be set up and spent by voter approval. The current balance in a capital reserve fund (\$38,317) is being declared defunct and will be used to reduce outstanding bonded indebtedness.
- Board members then reviewed a list item by item, with a “straw poll” vote on each, giving or withholding their support of the proposed recommendations. They agreed with the recommendation to not fill the position of retiring **custodian**, to reduce one **nurse** position, to reduce the number of issues of the *Rambling Reporter* to five, to reduce one **English** teacher position, to restore an **art** teacher to a 0.6 FTE position, to restore a **music** teacher to a 0.5 FTE position, to restore a **LOTE** teacher position, to restore an **elementary** teacher position, to realign department **coordinator** positions, to restore the third **drama production** (with more participation by middle school students), to fund adjustments associated with **programming needs and space moves**, to reinstate participation in the **Arts in Education** program, to restore funds for **summer staff development**, to restore funds for **staff development during the school year** and to provide some funding for the summer 2009 **Camp Oswegatchie** program for FFA students.
- After much discussion, Board members also agreed to restore funding for a 0.5 FTE **School Resource Officer** position, to restore a 1.0 **science** teacher position and to restore a 1.0 **CTE** teacher position.

Questions were asked and more discussion took place. Leonard Jordan expressed a desire to have the local tax share at 1% below what it was last year. Ted Rejman would like the ag teacher position restored. Leonard Jordan asked about the operating costs of the Emily Howland building if it is closed. Much discussion took place on the ag program and the need to keep the teacher.

Steve Morse brought up the topic of the retirement incentive that was defeated at the last meeting when he was not here. He would like it brought up again when all Board members are in attendance, as the Board agreed to do with important votes. Leonard Jordan insisted that a retirement incentive should be offered to all employees, not just a few. On a motion by Steve Morse, seconded by Ted Rejman, the Board of Education agreed to discuss the original retirement incentive again at their meeting on April 22. Motion carried: Yes – 5 No – 1 (JL)

Superintendent Worth reminded them that it is important for an adopted budget to have the full support of all Board members. The final budget on April 22 must be adopted with a 7-0 vote.

Leonard Jordan asked to have the revised budget sent to Board members in an update this week, showing the tax levy increase and the budget to budget increase.

-- Capital Reserve: On a motion by Teresa Lipfert, seconded by Ted Rejman, the Board of Education adopted the following resolution.

CAPITAL RESERVE RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Southern Cayuga Central School District, that the following proposition providing for the establishment and funding of a capital reserve fund be presented to the voters of the District at the May 19, 2009, annual budget vote and election:

Proposition #4

Capital Reserve Fund

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Southern Cayuga Central School District is hereby authorized to establish a capital reserve fund to be used to finance in whole or part the cost of acquisition, construction or reconstruction of District buildings and grounds and of other capital projects in accordance with Education Law section 3651, in an ultimate amount not to exceed \$1,500,000. The fund shall have a probable term of five (5) years. The Board of Education is further authorized to transfer to such fund the entire remaining balance of the capital reserve fund established by the voters on May 19, 2009, and to pay into the fund (1) in the 2009-10 school year and annually thereafter funds of the District in an amount determined by the Board not to exceed \$300,000 per year, (2) state aid reimbursement to the District on account of capital projects to the extent determined appropriate by the Board for the purposes of the fund, and (3) such other monies as the voters may direct.

The Clerk of the District is authorized and directed to include notice of such proposition in the legal notice of the annual vote and election.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Kindergarten Screening Registration; there were 60 children registered.
- Non-Resident Student Tuition; discussion took place; the 2008/09 rate is \$2,831; some feel it is too much for a family with more than one child; maybe the district could adjust the rate if the family owns property in the district. A rate will be on the reorganization agenda in July. Superintendent Worth will research and present other options.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

- BOCES Annual Meeting Report; the April 2 event was an excellent program.
- BOE Committee Reports
- Cayuga Onondaga School Boards Association (COSBA) Executive Committee Representative; Leonard Jordan; **next meeting** is May 4.
- District Audit Committee; Joe Lonsky, Dean Winspear; no report
- Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee; Ted Rejman, Dean Winspear, Len Jordan
- Policy Committee; Ted Rejman, Dean Winspear
 - **Next meeting** is April 27
- Wellness Core Committee or SubCommittees; Teresa Lipfert; Dean Winspear; no report
- Transportation Committee; Jim Wilcox, Dean Winspear; no report
- Athletics; Steve Morse
- SCCS/Union Springs Merged Sports Committee; Ted Rejman, Jim Wilcox, Dean Winspear; no report.
- SCCS/Wells Partnership; Dean Winspear; **next meeting** is April 9 at SCCS;

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

- Tom Yale thanked the Board for restoring the ag teacher position; he noted the Ag Advisory Board would be glad to help grow the program (if they are asked); he suggested that student numbers are down because they do not have room in their schedules for ag with the newly required 9th grade success and 10th grade success classes.
- Bob Haight from Cornell University noted a letter that had been sent to Board members; FFA participation increases performance in college and careers; he asked what would be the cause of fewer students taking an ag class; he would be willing to help educate the BOE and administrators.
- Superintendent Worth noted that the summer FFA camp is above and beyond the school year curriculum and is not required by NYS.
- Doug LaFave asked if the SED requires the 9th and 10th grade success courses.

- Tonya VanSlyke spoke in support of the ag program; she was concerned that 9th and 10th grade students do not already have the study skills they need.
- Julia Tolosky from Cornell noted her participation in summer FFA and how it helped her.
- Kathy Shields suggested that students educated in agriculture are not at a loss for job opportunities.
- Joseph Doeing spoke about his positive experience in the ag program when he was an SCCS student.
- Rachel Yale said her sister is going to college because of ag and the FFA in school.
- Patrick Brennan suggested that the district use a vacant room for the fitness center.
- Linda Mandel wondered why the ag position was considered to be cut; Superintendent Worth commented that not enough students had signed up to justify a second teacher.
- Tanya VanSlyke spoke again, suggesting that the program lost administrative support; there is not enough time for the students to take the courses, therefore the enrollment declines.
- John Gloss spoke about the lack of a librarian at the Emily Howland building; he sees a difference in his daughter.
- Phil Donovan believes retirement incentives make financial sense and should be offered to as many employees as possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Joe Lonsky, seconded by Ted Rejman, the Board entered executive session at 10:45 pm for discussion of a personnel matter.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Steve Morse, seconded by Dean Winspear, the Board of Education returned to open session at 11:04 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ted Rejman, seconded by Joe Lonsky, the Board of Education adjourned at 11:05 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,
Nynette Adams, District Clerk