

**SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2009
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ted Rejman called the meeting to order at 7:01. All Board members were present except Teresa Lipfert (7:02).

OPEN SESSION/ROLL CALL

Board members present: President Ted Rejman, Vice President Bruce Kopp, Robb Jetty, Lisa Killian, Teresa Lipfert, Joe Lonsky, Dean Winspear

Board members absent: none

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

Others present: Nynette Adams, Phil Donovan, John Schmitt

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Dean Winspear, seconded by Robb Jetty, the Board of Education approved the agenda.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

Teresa Lipfert arrived.

PRESENTATIONS – none

VISITOR RECOGNITION – none

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION ITEMS – none

Personnel Agenda – none

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORTS – none

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – none

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

-- Discussion of Proposed Capital Project

Robb Jetty opened the discussion with questions and concerns. With three new members now serving on the Board, he feels it is important for them, and the entire Board, to understand the decisions made prior to this school year and reaffirm their commitment to the capital project that was recommended. The Board should keep in mind conditions in the world today, such as the financial environment that is not getting better; NYS may further cut school funding; the state may not receive federal funds; our governor supports small district consolidations; there may be a different educational delivery system within the next four or five years; unfunded mandates are still an issue; this Board needs to own the capital project and be willing to support their decisions in the community. A review should be made of course offerings, staffing and room utilizations, maintenance costs, enrollment projections. When will all students be able to be housed in the Poplar Ridge building and what are the associated costs?

Discussion then turned to enrollment projections. A study was done just last year, showing enrollment at about 700 students for school year 2018/19.

Questions were asked about maintenance at Emily Howland and where the funds will come from to keep it safe before the students are moved to Poplar Ridge. Maintenance funds are put in the annual budget to keep the building going. Much more would be needed if the decision is made to keep the building open into the future. Other options were suggested for space to locate the younger children. Superintendent Worth noted that space is also needed for special/extra programs.

Ted Rejman commented that all school districts are facing the same dilemma. Robb Jetty believes that costs will be spread over a larger tax base in the future, with districts combined in some way to have 20,000 students, still using current facilities, with education programs being delivered in different ways.

Superintendent Worth noted that pre-kindergarten programs are not required and our programs are entirely grant funded; without the grants, we would not be offering them.

Other topics discussed included: modular classrooms; use of planetarium; building aid of 81 percent; options that have been brought forward; the work done by the committees; various options for using current space.

All Board members agreed that the Emily Howland building will need to be closed and all students be housed in the Poplar Ridge building; they would like more information from the architects. Line item costs for all options would be important to see.

Superintendent Worth noted that the urgency of the discussion and putting a project in place is because of the condition of the Emily Howland building. A decision has to be made regarding the future of that campus. Bruce Kopp thought taxpayers might accept a project in the four to five million dollar range. Dean Winspear noted that a decision needs to be made while the state is still providing aid. Superintendent Worth informed the Board that certain items will need to be done with any project that is put forth. She will speak with King & King and give them the Board's questions and concerns.

Robb Jetty suggested that another work session is needed to continue this discussion. A date was set for Monday, September 21, 7:00 pm. Architects from King & King will be invited to attend.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS -- none

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – none

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Rob Jetty, seconded by Dean Winspear, the Board of Education adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,
Nynette Adams, District Clerk