

**SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009**

**HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

**MINUTES**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

President Leonard Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Worth. All Board members were present at the start of the meeting except Steve Morse (7:14) and Jim Wilcox (7:05).

**OPEN SESSION/ROLL CALL**

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

**Board members absent:** none

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

**Others present:** District Clerk Nynette Adams, *Citizen* reporter Alyssa Sunkin, approximately 60 staff and community members

Superintendent Worth opened with a statement that the budget process is in its early stages and the Board would like to hear ideas and suggestions and understand the concerns of the community. She then gave a brief Power Point presentation, showing the three categories in the budget, anticipated revenues and areas where savings have been made in 2008/09.

Audience members then voiced their concerns, with topics including the following.

Can we go to a four day week to save on heat/gas/transportation?

How many students do we have in each building?

The governor's suggestion that districts with fewer than 1,000 students may be consolidated.

Can current contracts be renegotiated?

The closing of the Emily Howland building; sell it to avoid maintenance costs of an empty building.

Declining populations in the district and the state.

Switching from two to one bus run.

Negotiations; sports; seat belts.

BOCES and distance learning.

The School Resource Officer and the CHAD and DARE programs.

Using part-time teachers; offering early retirement.

Courses for college credit; advanced placement classes.

Art and music programs.

Eventually no one will be able to pay.

Utility costs; get facts behind the "why."

What about using retired teachers as volunteers.

Administrators and Board members responded to the questions and concerns. A four-day school week must be approved by Albany. A study is being conducted by the Rural Schools Association. This will not happen for 2009/10. The economy will be bad for at least two years. There are about 825 students housed in the buildings, with others bussed to other locations. Rather than districts being consolidated, some operations may be combined between schools, such as the claims auditor, the superintendent, the athletic director; we have already become a part of the Central Business Office for payroll and accounts payable. Contractual agreements can be renegotiated; Ted Rejman suggested that all should call their legislators regarding the TriBorough and Taylor Laws. Our district chooses to hire the best and brightest we can find and we must be competitive. The recently formed Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee is looking at all options for the district buildings. The administrative staff continues to look at the option of one bus run; the district must provide a seat for every student whether they ride the bus or not. State transportation aid is based on usage; we would have to add buses and drives to go to one bus run. The Board has sent a letter to our representatives, listing school district mandates and suggestions for improving or eliminating them. Distance learning is limited by the different class times at various school districts. Current use is mostly video streaming or video conferencing. The funding for the School Resource Officer position is in the 2008/09 budget and he provides the DARE training for no further cost. Class size and course electives continue to be reviewed; electives may be offered every other year. Early retirement offers minimal benefits and it was noted that in June 2007 the Board agreed to not offer an incentive again for three years. The fund balance needs to be increased and no money was budgeted for a retirement incentive. With or without a timely state budget, the district must still have a budget vote in May and provide education for the district's students. Classes taken for college credit are accepted by most colleges. Staff numbers have been reduced over the past few years. Documents being used by the Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee are posted on the district website home page. Many changes in requirements for education have taken place over the past 30 years. BOCES expects to have a 3% increase rather than a 5% increase in their expenses; small districts cannot survive without their local BOCES. The athletic directors in the IAC have already done some reorganizing for 2009/10, to reduce the travel distances for students attending sports functions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Superintendent Worth thanked everyone for attending, reminding them that another session would be held on March 2; the meeting ended at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nynette Adams, District Clerk