

**SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008
HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ted Rejman called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm. All Board members were present at the start of the meeting.

OPEN SESSION/ROLL CALL

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

Board members absent: none

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

Others present: About 150 students, staff and community members

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Leonard Jordan, seconded by Dean Winspear, the Board of Education approved the agenda.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Ted Rejman reviewed the calendar, noting the FFA banquet to be held on June 4.

PRESENTATIONS – none

VISITOR RECOGNITION –

-- Many members of the audience voiced opinions, concerns and suggestions regarding the budget. Topics included the elementary library, the music and art departments, the School Resource Officer, the sports programs, support for the administrative team, the nursing staff, a proposal to move grades 5 & 6 to the Emily Howland building, how taxes hurt those on fixed income.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION ITEMS --

Minutes: On a motion by Dean Winspear, seconded by Leonard Jordan, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the **May 19**, 2008, regular meeting.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Minutes: On a motion by Dean Winspear, seconded by Michelle Dean, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the **May 20**, 2008, annual meeting and budget vote.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Minutes: On a motion by Michelle Dean, seconded by Dean Winspear, the Board of Education approved the minutes of the **May 27**, 2008, special meeting.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

CSE Recommendations: On a motion by Dean Winspear, seconded by Leonard Jordan, the Board of Education approved the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORTS --

-- Financial Report: On a motion by Dean Winspear, seconded by Leonard Jordan, the Board of Education accepted the Financial Report as reviewed by the Audit Committee on May 21. Both Board members who serve on the Audit Committee (Jim Wilcox and Dean Winspear) approved the financial report and the budget transfers.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

-- Budget Transfers: On a motion by Dean Winspear, seconded by Michelle Dean, the Board of Education approved the budget transfers as listed in the Financial Report and reviewed by the Audit Committee on May 21.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Budget Transfers:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
\$13,000	Unemployment Insurance	Legal Expenses	Anticipated thru 6/30/08
\$2,000	Claims Auditor	Postage	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$4,900	Operation of Plant OT	Operation of Plant Sub Salary	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$41,900	Occ Ed Salary	O/M Fuel Oil HS	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$46,100	Special Ed Salary	O/M Fuel Oil EH	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$1,700	Supervision Salary	Supervision Clerical	Extra hours to complete Regents scheduling, year end honors preparations & miscellaneous assigned tasks
\$1,810	Supervision Student Trainee	Supervision Sub Clerical	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$10,400	Teaching Subs; Staff Dev	Teaching Subs	Anticipated thru 6/30/08
\$7,542	Long Term Subs	Teaching Subs	Anticipated thru 6/30/08
\$3,000	Home Teachers	Teaching Subs	Anticipated thru 6/30/08
\$4,000	Nurses-Doctors Physicals	Special Ed Other Professional	1:1 aide @ Gavras Center under-budgeted
\$723	Special Ed BOCES Services	Library/AV BOCES Services	Reallocate BOCES services to correct code
\$49,752	Special Ed BOCES Services	CAI BOCES Services	Reallocate BOCES services to correct code
\$25,000	Special Runs BOCES	Transportation Diesel	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$4,000	Supervision Contractual	Transportation Diesel	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$3,500	Garage Electricity	Transportation Diesel	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$2,500	Transportation Contractual	Transportation Diesel	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$22,000	Other Benefits	Transportation Diesel	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$4,500	Finance Contractual	Transportation Gas	Estimated thru 6/30/08
\$1,100	Bus Drivers Salary	Transportation Clerical	Additional hours during transitional period; update bus driver handbook

-- Claims Auditor Report; included for BOE review

-- Transportation Supervisor: Business Administrator Martha Stevermer introduced Brett Johnson, the new transportation supervisor. He began his duties on Tuesday, May 27. He spoke briefly, noting that he is honored to be here; we have a good transportation department; we need more drivers (anyone interested?), his job is to run an efficient department; safety is a priority; his office is open, call with concerns.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS -- none

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT –

-- Budget Discussion

President Ted Rejman began a discussion, noting that he and Michelle Dean had met with the superintendent over the weekend and were bringing forth a proposal to be considered. This proposal would move the 5th and 6th grade students to the Emily Howland building, close the middle school cafeteria, lay off middle school cafeteria workers, the middle school principal, one typist, one nurse and close much of the middle school wing for energy savings and possibly reduce some busing.

Michelle Dean reviewed her thoughts in this process. She met with the administrators and faculty today. Listening to the teaching staff about proposed changes opened her eyes to their views. She realized people don't want to cut faculty or programs. Her thinking, while it had minimal impact on staff and program as it was presented, did not consider other impact and other possible options.

Ted Rejman then noted that since the May 20 vote, we have heard from the SED that we owe them almost \$200,000, which they want back right now. He has spoken to Senator Nozzolio about this and the \$181,000 that the state owes us.

Superintendent Worth then reviewed the proposals that have been brought forth, emphasizing that when she was given another option to consider, it was clear that administrative options and impact would be considered as quickly as possible. For the 5th and 6th grades to be moved to the Emily Howland building, we would need seven classrooms; there are six available. It would put a strain on the building. There would be safety concerns. Eliminating the middle school principal is a big concern; a person is needed to help with discipline, state testing, the improved teacher evaluation process, athletic director duty. There would be no savings by closing the cafeteria; lunch times would have to be extended, adding staff hours. There may be minor savings with heat and electricity by closing the middle school wing. We have a good middle school; there needs to be time to think about a reconfiguration.

Jim Wilcox asked about safety code problems at Emily Howland. Why would we move more children there now?

Ted Rejman noted that this is also not the time to bring the elementary students to the Poplar Ridge building.

Jim Wilcox believes two nurses in the Poplar Ridge building is a duplication of services. Leonard Jordan called the plan a stop gap measure until all students can be housed in the Poplar Ridge building.

Superintendent Worth commented that planning time is needed for a sound long-range plan, educational and facilities. This is the time to begin the process. Decisions must be made; items at Emily Howland must be addressed. They also looked at moving only the 5th grade to Emily Howland; schedules for next year are already about in place.

After much discussion, Board members began to make specific suggestions for a budget to adopt. They began with the amount that was defeated on May 20, \$16,448,192. The loss of state aid has to be added in. We do qualify for a three-year repayment schedule. Ted Rejman then read through all the options listed in the packet given to Board members. Superintendent Worth noted that all teacher aides will be needed and may need to hire more, now that the CSE review meetings are nearing completion and new referrals have come in. In answer to a question, Martha Stevermer reviewed the information provided for going to a single bus run. Brett Johnson noted that he will look at all routes; maybe some can be consolidated.

Board members noted their support or no support for adding back in the half music teacher position, the adjustments to the athletic budget, the driver education program subsidy, the additional elementary teacher, the School Resource Officer, cutting one nurse position. Staff members questioned the cost of renovating a room for the high school nurse to move closer to the middle school wing; it was also noted that there may be no privacy and any restroom renovations must be handicapped accessible. Questions were also asked about contingency budget figures and Superintendent Worth responded that the maximum allowable amount for next year would be \$16,473,429, with the Board determining what are "ordinary contingent expenses."

After long discussion, on a motion by Steve Morse, seconded by Michelle Dean, the Board of Education adopted a budget in the amount of **\$16,373,330** for the 2008/09 school year. This figure includes repayment of state aid, adding back a half-time music teacher position, eliminating the summer school enrichment program, eliminating the driver education subsidy (all students will pay the same \$450 to participate in program), adjusting the athletic budget by an additional \$20,000 and not filling a vacant math teacher position.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS –

-- Deb Lampman asked about fuel purchases (done on state contract; will explore other options). Phil Donovan asked why we owe money to the state. It was noted that discrepancies were found in a state aid auditing process; primarily due to bond rates on capital projects. Kathy Mahaney noted that the Board decided responsibly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION -- none

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Steve Morse, seconded by Leonard Jordan, the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Motion carried: Yes -- 7 No -- 0

Respectfully submitted,
Nynette Adams, District Clerk