

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

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2009

HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

President Leonard Jordan called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Worth.

OPEN SESSION/ROLL CALL

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

Board members absent: Teresa Lipfert

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 Power Point presentation, reviewing the budget process so far. Community members were given a summary of questions and responses from the February 2 budget review session. She reminded everyone that budget information can be found on the district website home page. The Federal Stimulus Package may or may not be helpful to SCCS, depending on whether or not the rules for the money are revised; we continue to plan according to the known NYS budget information provided by the governor's office.

Audience members then voiced their concerns, providing their name and town of residence.

Virgil Farlow of Ledyard questioned the energy situation of heat loss thru large windows; could they be covered with quilts or shutters at night? Superintendent Worth noted that any structural changes, such as changing windows, would have to be part of a capital project.

Joyce Hackett Smith of Scipio spoke about tenure, unions, closed circuit TV in classrooms.

Anto Parseghian of Genoa compared SCCS with the Hollywood high school he attended, especially class sizes; the money isn't there for only ten students to a class.

Mary Burns, King Ferry, asked for clarification on Title I and IDEA funding; Superintendent Worth explained that any additional money released thru the federal stimulus package could not be used to "supplant" what is currently in the general budget.

Ron Addy of Genoa emphasized the need to control spending and taxes; all government funding is still taxpayers' money.

Steve Lonsky of Genoa spoke about retirement funds.

Peter Signor of Genoa also talked about retirement funds; taxpayers should not have to pay for someone else's loss.

Mike Lonsky of Genoa asked about a four-day week and outsourcing students to Mexico.

Neil Stevens was upset that the Pee Wee wrestling program had been displaced tonight from the HS cafeteria to the MS cafeteria, even though they had reserved the HS cafeteria last fall. Superintendent Worth explained her thought process in making the decision for the room use change.

Laura Burns of Ledyard asked for clarification of the list of items that have been reviewed. Superintendent Worth explained that those are the budget sections that have been reviewed by the Board at their meetings.

Bud Beyea of Genoa questioned the need for a \$7,000 transportation study; Ted Rejman and Superintendent Worth reviewed the decision to hire an outside source to answer the continuing questions concerning a single bus run versus the current two bus runs.

Kris Becker of Genoa questioned the new secretary in the bus garage; Superintendent Worth reviewed the decision to keep the position filled after a resignation.

Jamie Hoteling of Genoa asked about teacher negotiations; would it affect this year's budget; has anyone suggested a salary freeze or cap?

Lisa Morris of Ledyard noted that a number of things discussed in the budget process last year are again on the table; she doesn't understand why these things weren't finalized last year and have to be reviewed again.

Carin Kopp, King Ferry, asked everyone to be more thoughtful; we are all in this together; there appears to be too much animosity toward the school district; they should be trusted to do what's right and make the best decisions.

Joe Lonsky noted that certain items can be trimmed from the budget by law; that's why they are seen and discussed again and again; emotions run high because of taxes.

Dorothy Lonsky of Genoa suggested it's not animosity, it's not lack of trust; not anger at teachers, superintendent, etc; it's more a feeling of despair; budgets won't stretch any further; we need to stand up to Albany.

Rachel DeBois asked what is the budget forum meant to be; problem solving?

Anto Parseghian noted that the tuition at Faith Heritage, a private school in Syracuse, is \$6,600.

Mike Lonsky suggested years ago that new construction should be pole-barn style.

Rachel DeBois asked for an update on the long-range facilities planning committee. Superintendent Worth noted that four meetings have been held; all meeting minutes are on the district website, as well as the results of the enrollment projections study.

Peter Morris of Ledyard noted that about 30% of students are on the free or reduced-price meal program; those families need help already.

Ron Addy asked again about the one-bus-run study and the possibility of hiring a private company to provide transportation services. The results of the study should be available by the March 23 BOE meeting. Superintendent Worth reminded everyone that we receive transportation aid from the state and that aid would disappear and residents would not see a big difference in their taxes.

Other topics that were brought up: trust must be earned; write to the government; concessions to be made by teachers; alternate energy options.

Ed Moscato of Genoa thanked the Board for their time; he asked how many cuts it will take to reach a reasonable increase in the tax levy; the major portion of the budget is the wages and benefits of employees; he thinks it is time to cut. Superintendent Worth reminded everyone that this portion of the budget will be reviewed by the Board on March 9.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Steve Morse, seconded by Ted Rejman, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Nynette Adams, District Clerk