

**SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Ted Rejman called the meeting to order at 7:35. All Board members were present at the start of the meeting.

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
Others present: Nynette Adams, Phil Donovan, Kathy Hanna

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

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, with Kathy Hanna serving as facilitator

Kathy Hanna reviewed the pros and cons of two options provided to Board members (go forward with the plan accepted June 22 or modify the plan accepted June 22, scaled back and adjusted into stages). Robb Jetty read from the June 22 minutes, the Board decision.

Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee Recommendation: Motion was made by Ted Rejman, seconded by Steve Morse. Steve Morse thanked the committee members for their work on this process. Board members received a copy of the survey results. After reviewing these results, Teresa Lipfert noted that many of the comments came from people who do not wish to have the Emily Howland building closed; she will support the Board's decision but would like more time to consider the options. Board members then voted, giving their endorsement to the recommendation of the Committee to go forward with **Option A**, consolidating all grade levels into the Poplar Ridge facility, with additions, and closing the Emily Howland building. Ted Rejman noted that the Board is voting to accept the recommendation of the Committee, NOT to close the Emily Howland building. The final decision will be made by the voters.

Motion carried: Yes – 5 No – 0
Abstain: 1 (TL)

Board members then each presented their position and the interests behind their positions. They will provide their thoughts in writing to give all Board members a chance to read and review them.

Ted Rejman would like to go forward with the June 22 plan as presented. He noted that both buildings need repair; renovations will allow updating, will address the need to improve infrastructure and will allow more programs. He believes the district population has stabilized.

Teresa Lipfert would also prefer to keep the June 22 plan as approved. She would like to move forward to get in line for state aid. She has concerns with a scaled back plan, putting money into two buildings, feels strongly about keeping the school within a school model with separate entrances and separate access to the pool for younger children.

Robb Jetty is concerned with the timing of the plan. He believes all the students will fit into the Poplar Ridge building by 2017 without a building project, only renovations; while keeping all parts of the plan for the educational programs.

Lisa Killian would prefer to make modifications to the June 22 plan. She still has questions; it is important to have flexibility in the plan because there will be changes no matter what the final plan is. She would like more information on current space usage and a two-school versus a three-school school within a school model. She does like the science wing idea

Joe Lonsky will support a plan that provides what is absolutely needed, no extras. Lisa Killian commented on the high usage of the Emily Howland building for after-school, community activities.

Robb Jetty still prefers to maintain both buildings until all students can fit into the Poplar Ridge campus with no addition. He reviewed statements we have heard regarding the fiscal crisis in New York State and distributed a recent email from Central New York School Boards Association. Local taxes will increase because state aid will continue to decline. He still needs a financial rationale. He will work with Martha Stevermer to create a spreadsheet showing past budgets and future budget forecasts. He believes we can have what we want with renovations only, no additions. He still does not understand the connections between the long-range education plan and the facilities.

Joe Lonsky agrees regarding the state aid. He would like to suggest a project cap of \$8-10 million, keeping any additions small. Others thought \$5-6 million would be a figure they could support. Robb Jetty wants to know what it will be spent on before agreeing to any number.

Dean Winspear was part of the long-range facilities committee and would like to stay with the recommendation accepted by the Board on June 22. He feels the time spent since then has been wasted by talking about things with no decision.

Superintendent Worth noted that all phase 2 subcommittees have been discontinued; more direction is needed from the Board before they can discuss any more recommendations to bring back to the Board. She also asked what the education plan means to Board members and suggested they review the plan.

Bruce Kopp is in favor of making modifications to the June 22 plan. He wants a clear separation for elementary students. An addition of three or four classrooms and a walkway to the pool are needed. Poplar Ridge renovations are needed and an addition to the middle school gym is critical. A separate library is needed. An acceptable cost might be \$5-7 million.

Superintendent Worth then reviewed her position. She provided the pros and cons of the options the Board was looking at without including her opinion. She now believes a modified plan is the responsible way to proceed. She does believe a connection to the pool from the elementary wing is essential. Science rooms can be renovated and another use may be found for the planetarium. A worry continues to be things that have been put off at Emily Howland and we should move out of there sooner rather than later. The phase 2 facilities committee was looking at spaces for educational delivery, thinking staffing would remain stable. However, staff can be reduced and still keep programs. Staff members are already shared between the high school and the middle school. Things can be done in stages; bring Emily Howland students to Poplar Ridge then do renovations.

Kathy Hanna recapped the discussion so far. Minimal additions are needed to bring the elementary students to Poplar Ridge, renovations to keep school within a school model.

Bruce Kopp suggested looking at architects other than King & King. Robb Jetty suggested a list of items for the project package and get more than one opinion on the cost. The instructional plan must be tied to the facilities project. More comments were put forth on the cost, the education plan, the current middle school model, the projected cost savings of closing Emily Howland.

Superintendent Worth noted again that phase 2 of the project was supposed to do design work and bring it to the BOE; all that work stopped and they wait for more direction from the Board. She also said the BOE committed to King & King for this project. Bruce Kopp said we didn't need to look elsewhere now that he understood that.

Kathy Hanna asked all if they prefer to move forward quickly or take as much time as needed in discussing what is needed and wanted for a final decision. Most agree they want to take their time and not be rushed into making a decision. It will take a minimum of 12 months from the BOE decision to know about state aid for the project. Providing space for community use for after-school activities is nice but not required. Superintendent Worth will provide pros and cons for the two-school or three-school model. Mary Lou Cronin, Luke Carnicelli, Pat Reilley and Terry Underwood can provide some information on use of the building spaces by community groups.

Board goals will be discussed at the November 9 meeting. All agreed another work session is needed; Kathy Hanna will facilitate again at a meeting on November 16. Topics will include the education plan, pros and cons, trends, projected savings, two versus three school model, community use and a review of everyone's options.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS --

-- Phil Donovan made some comments.

PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – none

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dean Winspear, seconded by Lisa Killian, the Board of Education adjourned at 9:48 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,
Nynette Adams, District Clerk