

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

April 4, 2022

MINUTES

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 pm Board President Kelsey Rossbach called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

Board members present: Kelsey Rossbach, Christine Brozon, Matthew Bennett, Susan Gloss, David Harvatine, Bruce Kopp, Rachel McCarthy

Board members absent: None

Administrators present: Patrick Jensen, Loretta Van Horn, Luke Carnicelli, Boyan Mnahoncek, Caitlin Wasielewski

Others present: Linda Clark, Mary Cox, Marcy Hand, Eryn Klipple, Janet Lehman, Melissa Littlejohn, Melanie Pallokat, Emily Prince, Heather Prince, Jason Prince, Heather Rejman, Emma Warner, and others who did not sign in.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

-- On a motion by Chris Brozon seconded by Matt Bennett, the agenda was approved.

Motion carried: Yes –7 No – 0

The calendar was reviewed.

CALENDAR/DATES TO REMEMBER

Next Regular Meeting – Wednesday, April 27

Regular Meeting – Monday, May 9, includes Budget Hearing & Meet the Board of Education Candidates

3.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

-- Janet Lehman asked about the Guiding Principles for Reserves, Assistant Superintendent Loretta Van Horn responded.

4.0 PRESENTATIONS

-- Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES Budget; Dr. Brian Hartwell & Douglas Tomandl presented information about their proposed budget.

-- Initiative Update; Emily Howland Elementary School Principal Boyan Mnahoncek presented information on LETRS Training, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, (MTSS) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL).

5.0 OLD BUSINESS – none

6.0 NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS; CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLVED that the SCCS Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the action items listed in section 6.0.

Motion made by Chris Brozon, seconded by Matt Bennett

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

-- Minutes BOE meeting March 7, 2022

-- CSE Recommendations 2021/2022

-- Surplus Items; eight metal tables from the agriculture shop and greenhouse, to be sold or discarded if deemed no value.

-- Guiding Principles for Reserves, revised and updated as of April 4, 2022. Susan Gloss questioned archived dates and they are to be updated and labeled as such upon the next approval.

-- Amend Libraries Resolution; RESOLVED that the SCCS Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby adopts a resolution to approve a proposition to be included on the May 17, 2022, ballot.

Motion made by Chris Brozon, seconded by Matt Bennett

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

The Trustees of the Aurora Free Library are seeking a \$2,850 increase. This increase will help support the library's annual operation and maintenance, as well as capital property improvements.

The Trustees of the Hazard Library Association are seeking a **\$1,825** increase. This increase will help support the library's annual operation and maintenance.

The annual library tax levy would increase from \$122,150 to **\$126,825** per year for the support of both the Aurora Free Library and the Hazard Library Association. The school district has a legal obligation to put this proposal before the voters when an increase is requested. It is separate from the school budget proposal.

Shall the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED that the Board of Education for the Southern Cayuga Central School District is hereby authorized to raise the tax levy from \$122,150 to **\$126,825** for the support and operation of the Aurora Free Library (\$75,000) and the Hazard Library Association (**\$51,825**). If not approved by the voters, the amount raised will remain at the current annual level of \$122,150.

7.0 PERSONNEL/CONSENT ITEMS

RESOLVED that the SCCS Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the personnel items listed in section 7.0, for the 2021/22 school year or for the term as indicated.

Motion made by Chris Brozon, seconded by Matt Bennett

Motion carried: Yes -7 No - 0

-- APPOINTMENTS

-- Long-Term Substitute Elementary Teacher; **Michele Robin** of Cato, NY, long-term substitute elementary teacher, effective on or about May 5 until on or about June 24; at Step 1+0M; pro-rated; with initial certification in Childhood Education (Birth through grade 6).

-- Elementary Teacher; **Stacy Wilder** of Lansing; 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher; September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026; Step 8+30M; salary to be determined once SCTA contract negotiations are finalized.

Be it resolved that the Board of Education hereby appoints Stacy Wilder of Lansing, NY, who holds permanent certification in Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6 Elementary Education, to a four (4)-year probationary appointment in the Elementary Education Tenure Area, as 1.0 FTE Elementary Education Teacher, effective September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026; (unless extended in accordance with the law). This expiration date is tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3012 of the Education Law, to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, he shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.

-- Substitute Teacher, Substitute Teacher Assistant; **Alissa Carnicelli**

-- Substitute Teacher, Substitute Teacher Assistant, Substitute Teacher Aide; **Chelsea Munson**

- Speech Pathologist Intern; SUNY Fredonia student
 - **Maria Staehr** with Barbara Varney, May 15 through June 15

-- Co-Curricular Appointments:

After School Tutor	Stacey Gavurnik	\$ per contract
After School Tutor	Jennifer Lesch	\$ per contract

-- Volunteers:

Varsity Baseball Volunteer	Aaron Brozon
Varsity Baseball Volunteer	Jared Humphrey
Varsity Baseball Volunteer	Joe Shelton

-- **RESIGNATIONS**

- **Deanne Rathbun**, Cleaner, for personal reasons, effective April 10, 2022

8.0 BUSINESS OFFICE REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Assistant Superintendent Loretta Van Horn shared the district received the results from the Child Nutrition program audit and it was good. NYSED advised that any future micro purchases be spread out amongst several local stores rather than the one with the cheapest prices.

9.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

-- Facilities Update; Superintendent Jensen spoke about a recent meeting with the architects to square away the final construction work from the Capital Project.

10.0 BOARD OF EDUCATION; COMMITTEES/DISCUSSION TOPICS

-- Discussion Topics; Chris Brozon, Rachel McCarthy, Dave Harvatine, Susan Gloss, and Kesley Rossbach each spoke about modified volleyball. The Athletics Committee will come back to the Board of Education with their final recommendation after their next meeting.

Chris Brozon spoke about recreating the Community Advisory Committee as a way to meet with smaller groups of community members. Superintendent Jensen, Dave Harvatine, Susan Gloss, Bruce Kopp and Kelsey Rossbach each spoke about what the Community Advisory Committee could look like, for example round table discussions with community members.

- Athletics; Chris Brozon, Dave Harvatine, Rachel McCarthy
 - Hoping to meet in April, Caitlin Wasielewski emailed possible meeting dates to members.
- Audit; Chris Brozon, Bruce Kopp, Kelsey Rossbach
 - No report.

- Budget/Finance; Chris Brozon, Dave Harvatine, Bruce Kopp
 - Met March 21, 2022, meeting minutes provided
 - Committee will have to meet again when NYS has passed the budget
- Directions/Long-Range Education; Matt Bennett, Susan Gloss, Rachel McCarthy
 - Hoping to meet in April
- Facilities; Matt Bennett, Dave Harvatine, Rachel McCarthy
 - No report.
- Policy; Matt Bennett, Rachel McCarthy
 - Met on April 4, 2022 at 6:00 pm, meeting minutes will be provided
- Safety/Wellness; Susan Gloss, Kelsey Rossbach
 - Will meet in May
- Transportation; Susan Gloss, Kelsey Rossbach
 - Committee members have homework to revisit transportation policies post-Covid.
- Cayuga Onondaga School Boards Association (COSBA) Executive Committee; Dave Wiemann
 - No report.

11.0 VISITOR RECOGNITION; RESIDENTS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

- Heather Prince spoke about bullying, tiers of intervention, social emotional learning and consequences in student discipline.
- Jason Prince spoke in support of his mother's statements.
- Emily Prince spoke about consequences in student discipline.
- Emma Warner spoke about bullying.
- Janet Lehman asked questions about social emotional learning, reading coaches, public relations services and school enrollment.

Board President Kelsey Rossbach read the following statement to meeting attendees:

“As a general reminder, questions regarding personnel or staff are not appropriate for a Board of Education meeting. The Board of Education will not address them. For those concerns, please follow the proper procedure:

- Step one is to speak to the individual directly.
- If you continue to have questions or concerns, please speak with their direct manager (Principal, Athletic Director, etc.)
- If you continue to have questions or concerns, speak with the Superintendent.

Regarding the questions from the March 21, 2022 meeting:

- It was asked that the Board of Education reconsider eliminating modified Volleyball for girls. In the 2022 - 2023 school year, girls' varsity volleyball will be offered one more year, and girl's JV volleyball will not be offered. There have been ongoing discussions regarding this request. As decisions are made regarding modified volleyball, the goal is to ensure that all students have access to extracurricular activities during the winter months to be engaged and active.
- We received an email requesting an update on the Board of Education's discussion of the removal of the Native American chief paintings in the gymnasium. On Monday, June 14, 2021 Board of Education members were given time to speak their thoughts and opinions regarding the removal of the Native American chief paintings in the gymnasium. At that time, it became clear that more historical information would need to be collected and more community discussion would be required before any next steps could be determined. This is an important topic and has been tabled for future discussion. Since this topic was brought to the Board of Education on April 28, 2021, the Board of Education has chosen to focus its efforts on student achievement and helping students get back to grade-level efficiency. The negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on student academic achievement has been clearly illustrated by the data SCCS has collected. Therefore, SCCS has continued and will continue to focus on student academic achievement and growth.
- We also received an email with a few other questions:
 - The first questions were how is the school ensuring students access materials in the library and the class curriculum at an appropriate developmental stage/age? Is there a master list available identifying printed/video materials that are available to students? Who has the responsibility to approve this material?
 - The Board of Education updated policy #8330 Objection of Instructional Materials. The policy outlines how to challenge a resource and the process involved.
 - The librarian now selects and places age-appropriate books on a cart for students in grades 5 & 6 to check out. If a student chooses another title, the librarian will review the book with the student and may have the student check with the parent.
 - The administration has proposed that students in grades 5 & 6 use the elementary school instead of the 7-12 library. It requires shifting all electronic records for student check-out and a shift of age-appropriate content.
 - In the next 1-2 weeks, the administration will meet to review the SCCS Library Collection Development Guidelines revisions.
 - All printed and video library resources are listed in the online catalog located on the library webpage.

- Are there plans to seek alumni input to help with college readiness/preparedness? Additionally, during a 2021 review of AP and college course offerings, it was identified that the true measure of the effectiveness of these programs is whether our students receive the credits at their colleges/universities of choice. Is there data on this now?
 - The high school counselor created and has administered a google survey for recent graduates. The survey was sent to recent graduates twice this year. Survey results will be shared to the Board of Education in May or June.
 - Each year, the Board of Education is presented course enrollment information and the types of course work that are generally accepted at the college level. SUNY schools tend to accept the vast majority, with some SCCS students transferring up to 45 credit hours, leading to college graduation in three years. Some schools like Cornell accept no coursework despite our SUPA offerings. It depends on the institution and parents and students should know that ahead of time.
- Now that the district has a Public Relations Specialist, will the community survey commence? Will this include questions concerning the school climate?
 - Administration has met multiple times with the CITI BOCES public relations team and have requested surveys used in other school communities to help design our own version. We've begun looking at samples and the scope of the task. A properly constructed survey will take time to develop, administer, and assets. At the appropriate time, it will be recommended that the Directions Committee take the lead on this.
- Has the district made any changes based on feedback and request for employee exit interviews?
 - Employees typically meet with their supervisor to discuss their change of employment status. Administration informs the Board of Education on the nature of each separation during executive session as it is a private matter.”

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Chris Brozon seconded by Matt Bennett, the Board of Education entered executive session at 9:11 pm to discuss the employment history of a particular person and collective bargaining with the Southern Cayuga Teachers' Association.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Dave Harvatin seconded by Chris Brozon the Board of Education returned to open session at 10:09 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

- The Board discussed exit interview high level questions.

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ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Dave Harvatine, seconded by Rachel McCarthy, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Hand, District Clerk