

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

**September 27, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**Meeting held in the High School Cafeteria**

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:10 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 via Zoom, Rachel McCarthy

**Board members absent:** None

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

**Others present:** Susan Allen, Maureen Angotti, Jamie Bailey, Kim Bergen, David Binns, Erin Burroughs, CJ Calarco, Linda Clark, Julia Dunsmoor, Marcy Hand, Amanda Hauptfleisch, Elishia Hoatland, Sara Iszard, Joan Kusnierczak, Janet Lehman, Greg Mahannah, Melissa Mahannah, Melissa Littlejohn, Jennifer Michael, Mary Napier, Melanie Pallokat, Julie Palmer, Morgan Palmer, Michele Ryan, Heather Rejman, Stephanie Rossbach, Kathy Sheils, Kim Walker, Heather Whitten, Lisa Wood, Payton Youngers

**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**

No School, Columbus Day – Monday, October 11

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, October 12

**3.0 PRESENTATIONS**

-- External Audit Review; Inero & Co. CPAs, LLP

Inero reviewed the results with the Board’s Audit Committee earlier this evening. They shared their draft financial report during the Board meeting which concluded with an “unmodified opinion” also known as their “clean opinion”. SCCS is currently above the 4% general fund balance threshold with additional monies in reserve. This is primarily due to conservative spending due to projections of state aid being cut by 20%.

They did recommend training with club advisors regarding extra classroom funds. They reported a seamless audit process and transition with Gloria Sherman as the new district treasurer.

-- Summer School Update; Luke Carnicelli and Caitlin Wasielewski

Luke and Caitlin shared summer school results. Junior High summer school focused on improvement of student skills and Senior High summer school focused on students earning credits. This was the first time SCCS hosted summer school, students had school-provided transportation, assistance from the King Ferry food pantry and their own teachers. They shared all related data.

-- Professional Development Plans; Luke Carnicelli, Caitlin Wasielewski and Boyan Mnahoncak

Luke and Caitlin shared the Jr/Sr High school plan and explained the Multi-Tiered System of Support model. Teachers are identifying priority standards, meaning their curriculum is driven by what is most important. Grade level teams are planning and supporting students to enable them to get to their next level. Students will move from proficiency to master to challenge levels in their work. They will also be eligible for more supports if they are struggling. Staff development is also focusing on student social emotional learning and character education.

Boyan shared Emily Howland's plan to improve literacy in kindergarten and first grade students. The second area of the plan focuses on academic growth for all students and the third area focuses on social emotional learning and cultural awareness. Boyan shared their goals and action steps of how staff plan to meet those goals. She also shared how student progress will be measured.

#### **4.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

Several meeting attendees had questions regarding improving student success, what cultural awareness will look like at the elementary level, where parents can locate and look at curriculum, technology issues for parents, district policies, professional development and lack of in-person open house.

#### **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 September 13, 2021

-- CSE Recommendations 2021/2022

- Surplus Items; obsolete items from the Jr/Sr. High School to be sold or discarded if deemed no value
  - 5 marching trumpets, 4 baritones, 1 trumpet, 1 trombone, 1 keyboard stand, and 1 contrabass clarinet – broken and unplayable
- Wrestling Team Request: for one SCCS student athlete (wrestler) to participate as a team of one with the Ithaca City School District wrestling program for the 2021/2022 wrestling season. Parents will be responsible for transportation.
- Donation; Friends of the Planetarium; \$50,150, to refurbish the Spitz Star Projector in the Planetarium
- Dedra Ryerson Memorial Scholarship; assume the Dedra Ryerson Memorial Scholarship in order to accept donations and administer the awards.

#### **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

#### **-- RESCIND APPOINTMENT**

-- RESCIND Co-Curricular ENL Coordinator: Board of Education appointment of **Sarah Allen** as ENL Coordinator, for 2021/2022 school year

#### **-- LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

-- **Acacia Phillips**, Social Studies Teacher; for maternity purposes; from **September 13, 2021** (amended date), until December 23, 2021, to go unpaid from October 26, 2021 (half day PM) through December 23, 2021.

#### **-- APPOINTMENTS**

-- Amend long-term Substitute Social Studies Teacher Appointment; **Barbara Casper** for Acacia Phillips; from **September 13, 2021** (amended date), until December 23, 2021; Step 1+36M; pro-rated; with permanent certification in Secondary Social Studies.

-- Substitute Teacher; **Danielle Collier** for 2021/2022 school year

-- Substitute Teacher, Substitute Bus Attendant, Substitute Food Service Helper and Substitute Cleaner; **Brett Jillson** for 2021/2022 school year

-- Student Teacher; SUNY Cortland student  
 -- **Samantha Knop** with Becky Scanlan, September 7 through October 22, 2021

-- Substitute Teacher, Substitute Teacher Assistant, Substitute Teacher Aide; **Ian Murray** for 2021/2022 school year

-- Substitute Soccer Scorekeeper; **Janet Otis** for 2021/2022 school year

-- Substitute Teacher, Substitute Teacher Assistant, Substitute Teacher Aide; **Jennifer Piscitelli** for 2021/2022 school year

-- Food Service Helper; **Jessica Sharpsteen** of King Ferry as Food Service Helper, four (4) hours per day, effective September 23, 2021, with a 52-week probationary period, at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

-- Substitute Teacher, Substitute Teacher Assistant, Substitute Teacher Aide and Substitute Cleaner; **Parker Sheldon** for 2021/2022 school year

-- **Co-Curricular Appointments 2021/2022:**

ENL Coordinator <i>split stipend</i>	Kathy Perez	\$1,534
ENL Coordinator <i>split stipend</i>	Mary Ferro	\$1,534
Musical Costumer	Meghan Picciano	\$1,041
Event Chaperone	Christine Bartolotta	\$50 per event/session/game
Event Chaperone	Jennifer Lesch	\$50 per event/session/game

-- Summer 2021 Curriculum Work 2021 for the following:

-- **Acacia Phillips**, SUPA Economics and SUPA Public Affairs Training; ten (10) paid work days during summer 2021, at a rate of \$125 per day

**Summer 2021 Professional Development Appointments - \$22.75/hour – Teacher Assistants**

Mary Ferro	Ryan Vanacore
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**Summer 2021 Professional Development Appointments - \$44/hour - Teachers**

CJ Calarco	Leslie Kiser	Acacia Phillips
Kendra Collier	Simone Lanning	Meghan Picciano
Sara Collins	Jennifer Lesch	Becky Scanlan
Alexis Crawford	Cristiane Lourenco	Jennifer Sikora
Jennifer Diana	Jeannette Lutkins	Kaycee Simpson
Julia Dunsmoor	Craig McMeekin	Carissa Smith
Nicole Franklin	Jennifer Michaels	Meghan Smith
Rhonda Gall Campbell	Dawn Morath	Amanda Teng
Emma Greenfield	Justine Morrison	Elizabeth Tyrrell
Colton Gregg	Shelly Moscato	Barbara Varney
Mary Beth Howell	Bethany Murphy	Kathleen Vona
Kim Hutchings	Elissa May Murphy	Steve Wasileski
Michelle Jones	Lindsay Osborne	Halee Wasson
	Kathy Perez	Jacqueline Webster

**8.0 BUSINESS OFFICE REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

-- Treasurer's Report

RESOLVED that the SCCS Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby accepts the Treasurer's Report for July and August 2021.

Motion made by Chris Brozon, seconded by Matt Bennett

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

**9.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – none**

**10.0 BOARD OF EDUCATION; COMMITTEES/DISCUSSION TOPICS**

-- Discussion Topics

- Naming and dedicating district spaces and fields; an alumnus inquired about dedicating an athletic space for a retired employee. Board members suggested having the Policy Committee review the current policies in place.

- Kelsey Rossbach suggested a future topic for discussion on an upcoming Agenda of reviewing best practices for communicating with parents and staff, and evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of communications.

-- Athletics; Chris Brozon, Dave Harvatine, Rachel McCarthy

-- Met September 13, 2021, meeting minutes provided, no additional report.

-- Audit; Chris Brozon, Bruce Kopp, Kelsey Rossbach

-- Met earlier this evening, meeting minutes will be provided, no additional report.

- Budget/Finance; Chris Brozon, Dave Harvatine, Bruce Kopp
  - No report.
- Directions/Long-Range Education; Matt Bennett, Susan Gloss, Rachel McCarthy
  - Will plan to meet in late October.
- Facilities; Matt Bennett, Dave Harvatine, Rachel McCarthy
  - Met this morning, meeting minutes will be provided. Superintendent Jensen expressed his frustration with the general contractor for the current building project. The work is taking too much time. The planned elementary school entry work is discontinued, there are also issues with the masonry work. He is very satisfied with the electricians, plumbers, paving and concrete crews. The high school office work was supposed to be done the first week of school and we're now in week three. Susan Gloss about the stop signs near student parking. Matt Bennett asked about a pool opening update. Superintendent Jensen reported it's close, there are three different vendors working on roof work.
- Policy; Matt Bennett, Rachel McCarthy
  - Will plan to meet in late October.
- Safety/Wellness; Susan Gloss, Kelsey Rossbach
  - No report.
- Transportation; Susan Gloss, Kelsey Rossbach
  - Will plan to meet on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Assistant Superintendent Van Horn reported the Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES approached us to buy our van. They're offering double what we have received in the past by selling it outright.
- Cayuga Onondaga School Boards Association (COSBA) Executive Committee; Dave Wiemann
  - No report.

#### **11.0 VISITOR RECOGNITION; RESIDENTS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

- Jennifer Michael shared her request that SCCS be an inclusive community.
- Heather Rejman shared her concerns about lowered academic expectations of students.
- Melissa Littlejohn wants to know where a child goes when being bullied by a teacher. She wants a focus on academics to well equip students for their futures.
- Erin Burroughs shared her concerns about over-sexualization of youth, academic discrimination – higher level students are overlooked, her request for content sharing at open houses, and better parent-teacher conferences.
- Payton Youngers shared her concerns about student damages to school property and the consequences.

-- Kim Walker expressed concern about SCCS policies, and generic emails from the Board.

-- Heather Whitten shared her concerns about a culture of harassment, misbehavior and discrimination and feels disciplinary action has been ineffective for years.

-- Susan Allen asked about the discrepancy in the number of Covid-19 cases reported in The Citizen versus the number reported to the State Board of Health.

Superintendent Jensen said he hasn't uploaded current Covid-19 data, we have one positive student now. He will update the Report Card tomorrow. Staff have been proactive and cautious. He expressed parents need kids to be in school and we want them here. He said it's a partnership with parents. He also said that we'll revisit parent-teacher conferences and curriculum night-open houses.

Bruce Kopp disconnected from Zoom and left the meeting at 9:10 pm.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Chris Brozon seconded by Rachel McCarthy, the Board of Education entered executive session at 9:10 pm to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

### **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

On a motion by Dave Harvatine seconded by Matt Bennett, the Board of Education returned to open session at 10:44 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Dave Harvatine, seconded by Matt Bennett, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcy Hand, District Clerk