

**Saratoga Springs Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, 12 May 2009**

The Regular Meeting of the Saratoga Springs Board of Education was held at the Saratoga Springs High School on Tuesday, 12 May 2009. **President Frank Palumbo** called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. The following were in attendance:

**I. ROLL CALL:**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

President Frank Palumbo  
Vice-President Will Martin  
Trustee Jay Rifenburg  
Trustee Stephen Rodriguez  
Trustee Mia Pfister  
Trustee Regina Gapczynski  
Trustee Charles Phillips

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Trustee Ernest Gailor  
Trustee Jeff Piro

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Janice White, Superintendent of Schools  
Kurt Jaeger, Asst. Supt. for Business  
Colleen Carroll, Director for District Assessment  
and Staff Development  
Michael Piccirillo, Asst. Supt. for Secondary Ed.  
Karen Stanley, Director of Human Resources  
David L'Hommedieu, Director for Information  
Technology Integration & Related Services  
Tom Clark, Director of Facilities & Operations

**PUBLIC DISCLOSURE HEARING:**

**Proposed 2009 – 2010 School District Budget:**

**Mr. Kurt Jaeger, Assistant Superintendent for Business**, reviewed the following items proposed for Public vote on 19 May 2009:

- \$110,129,655 School District Budget
- School Bus Purchase Proposition

**Mr. Jaeger** said that the budget being discussed that evening was the budget on which the public would be voting. **Mr. Jaeger** explained the budget process, and

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said that it was an extensive, year-round process tracking actual costs and budgeted costs. It began in detail during the October/November timeframe, when the District looked at the enrollment forecasts and staffing patterns.

**Mr. Jaeger** also noted that on 19 May 2009, the public would be voting on and electing three (3) Board of Education candidates. He said that the candidates had to have fiscal oversight training and serve on committees. Trustee Stephen Rodriguez and Vice-President Will Martin were not seeking re-election. Trustee Jay Rifenburg was seeking re-election. Messrs. Aaron AuBuchon and Steven Grandin were the two new candidates in the election. The Trustee positions are for a three-year term and are non-paid positions.

**Mr. Jaeger** provided an overview of Proposition One – the Annual Budget:

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 2009 – 2010 Budget:  | \$110,129,655 |
| 2008 – 2009 Budget:  | \$107,353,350 |
| Budget Increase:     | \$ 2,776,305  |
| Percent Increase     | 2.59%         |
| 2009 - 2010 Tax Levy | \$ 69,111,581 |
| 2008 – 2009 Tax Levy | \$ 69,111,581 |
| Percent Increase     | 0%            |

**Mr. Jaeger** noted that the District had maintained a tax levy that was exactly the same as last year, resulting in a 0% tax levy increase. He said that the budget was lower (approximately \$1 million dollars less) than what a contingency budget would have been.

Proposition Two was related to the purchase of school buses. **Mr. Jaeger** said that they replaced approximately 10% of the fleet each year. When the buses were over 10 years old with high mileage, he said that it was not cost effective to keep them going. State transportation aid provided for 52.1% of the costs of the buses, and they were bonded for five years.

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**Mr. Jaeger** explained the budget development strategies. He said that the fiscal reality was projected to be a multi-year situation. He said that the District had been fortunate to obtain Federal stimulus dollars, but that they didn't know the affects of it in the future. He noted that it would be nice for the State to pay the District the money the State owed them for the taxes on the Race Course.

**Mr. Jaeger** explained the reductions in the budget lines across all departments. In addition, he said that they looked at capital projects and energy savings throughout all of the buildings, including heating and lighting. He said that they tried to keep the tax levy low and look at existing reserves.

Overall, **Mr. Jaeger** said that they decreased the budget by approximately \$2 million dollars, with staff reductions by attrition and subscription amounting to approximately \$1,157,943. He said that they underwent many deliberations to arrive at recommendations. Additional reductions of \$863,852 were related to the reduction in various programs, including the non-mandated elementary foreign language program and the subsidy to the school lunch program. **Mr. Jaeger** said that the budget was not supposed to be run on IDEA and Title I funding.

**Mr. Jaeger** discussed curriculum development, including new or revised courses funded through grants. He said that they reviewed the curriculum to keep it up-to-date and meaningful for 21<sup>st</sup> Century careers. The courses were generally offered in lieu of current courses and included the following:

High School: Introduction to Nano Sciences  
AP World History

Middle School: Geometry; Interactive classroom

Elementary Division: Technology enhanced project-based learning

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**Mr. Jaeger** reviewed the projected 2009–2010 Revenues: reinstated State Aid comprised 29% of the budget; 63% was generated from tax revenues; and a bit less than 8% was generated from all other sources.

With regard to the projected 2009–2010 Expenditures, **Mr. Jaeger** outlined the following:

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Instruction/Transfers | 52.67% |
| Benefits              | 24.27% |
| Plant                 | 7.73%  |
| Debt                  | 7.32%  |
| Transportation        | 3.99%  |
| General Support       | 4.02%  |

**Mr. Jaeger** said that the reason for any budget increase was related to the following:

- Net effect of cost containment;
- Impact of salary increases as it hit that line item.

In addition, employee benefits were a significant number; including Social Security, Teachers' Retirement System, and the Employee Retirement System. **Mr. Jaeger** said that they tried to contain the costs of health insurance by being part of a consortium. The cost of instruction was relatively flat. The more significant savings were students going to BOCES Programs.

**Mr. Jaeger** reiterated that the overall budget increase was approximately 2.9%

**Mr. Jaeger** discussed several topics affecting the District, including what a person would be paying for a house in School Taxes in the District for 2009 – 2010. He said that the amounts were projections – a good faith estimate of where they believed the numbers would come out. He said that the numbers were a pretty fair representative of what the community could expect to be paying in taxes. **Mr. Jaeger** also provided a list of the taxes that a resident could expect to pay on a \$300,000 home.

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**Mr. Jaeger** reminded everyone at the meeting that evening to vote on 19 May 2009. He said that the polls were open from 7:00 AM to 9:00 P.M.

**President Frank Palumbo** thanked Mr. Jaeger for his presentation that evening.

**Mr. John Crouse, Grand Avenue, Saratoga Springs**, said that at the first meeting, he discussed potential cost cutting methods. At the second meeting, he said that he threw out a challenge for the School District regarding what the County, City, and Library had to do to maintain a flat tax levy. He said that they had already taken a hard look at where to make reductions (staff, etc.), and that they finally constructed a no tax levy increase. He said that they accomplished it because they took action early on, in staffing and other programs, and that was why there was a flat tax/no tax levy increase. He said that the Administration and Board Members had to be commended for the action they took with regard to the budget, and that next year would be challenging. However, **Mr. Crouse** said that they all did a great job this past year. He also noted that his wife was a registered nurse in an Orthopedic office, where a large number of teenagers were present, and he wanted to read and share his wife's comments:

- She was impressed with the students (and he said that she was difficult to impress!);
- The students were very mature, polite, and professional;
- The quality of the products (the students) they were producing was excellent.

**President Frank Palumbo** said that he appreciated Mr. Crouse's comments.

**President Palumbo** also commented that they still had \$17,000 in the budget for after-school programs. **Superintendent White** said that it was a 10% reduction at the elementary and middle school levels,

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but that they still had funding for programs (it could be fewer hours or fewer programs).

**President Palumbo** noted that the reductions had been across the board so as not to negatively impact any one building in particular; thereby, having too dramatic of an impact.

**Mr. Kevin Froats, Dorothy Nolan Elementary School Principal**, said that they looked at the current after-school programs. They worked with children with motor skills, math programs, etc. He said that as a building, they would be looking at what they had to offer last year and prioritize. He said that they had over 200 children participate in the programs and that they would par it down, but that there would still be programs.

**Superintendent White** said that with regard to Academic Intervention Services (AIS), funding could flow back to the programs from academic stimulus funds.

**President Frank Palumbo** closed the Public Disclosure Hearing. He thanked Mr. Jaeger and the Administration staff for doing what they could throughout the entire process to decrease the budget impact, but maintain the quality of the programs.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**President Frank Palumbo** led the Board Members and Meeting Attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. MINUTES:**

**Trustee Regina Gapczynski** made a motion and **Trustee Jay Rifenburg** seconded the motion to approve the Minutes for the 24 March 2009, 07 April 2009, and 23 April 2009 Regular Meetings, and the 21 April 2009 Special Meeting of the Board of Education. Copies of the minutes were previously distributed to Board members.

There being no discussions, **The Board of Education** approved the above Meeting Minutes.

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**(AYES: ALL); MOTION CARRIED.**

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS:**

Communications of interest were circulated.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**President Frank Palumbo** opened the first Public Hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak, **President Frank Palumbo** closed the first Public Hearing.

**VI. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Saratoga County School Boards Association (SCSBA):** **Trustee Mia Pfitzer** said that the next SCSBA meeting was scheduled for early June regarding the organization for the SCSBA. **Trustee Pfitzer** said that if anyone were interested in being a representative for the SCSBA to let her know, although she was happy to continue in her present position.

**Finance Committee:** **Trustee Stephen Rodriguez** said that the Finance Committee had met that evening and discussed proposals for legal services. He indicated that interviews would be conducted on Tuesday, 02 June 2009, at 5:30 PM.

**Policy Committee:** **Trustee Regina Gapczynski** said that the Policy Committee was scheduled to meet on 08 June 2009 at 5:15 PM. She said that the information was in the Board Member Packets that evening. **Trustee Gapczynski** also noted that the Property Committee would be meeting as well that same evening, and she was not sure which Committee would be meeting first.

**VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**A. Superintendent's Comments:**

**Superintendent Janice White** said that she was pleased to report the public release of the ELA results for Grades 3 – 8; out of 3100, 91% scored in Levels 3

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or 4. She noted that those results were exceptional, and that it was due to many initiatives and the hard work of many people. She said that they were now beginning to see the fruits of their labor from nine years ago in the literacy performance of the students. **Superintendent White** said that she was proud of the students and teachers who worked every day to meet the standards. **Superintendent White** also noted that last week was Saratoga Education Week. She said that many activities and events were planned, and that she was proud of the work that had gone into the display of School Week. **Superintendent White** also acknowledged that Mr. Dave L'Hommedieu was being recommended that evening for approval to tenure. She thanked him for his years of service, and congratulated him in advance.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

**NONE.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

**AGENDA APPROVAL:**

With regard to **Agenda Item No. 10B.1**, the Administrative Appointment of Mr. Joseph Greco to the position of Assistant Middle School Principal, **President Frank Palumbo** noted a date effective change From: 28 July 2009 To: 17 August 2009.

**Vice-President Will Martin** made a motion and **Trustee Mia Pfitzer** seconded the motion to approve the following **Agenda Items**:

**9A, 9B, 9C, 9D, 10A.1, 10B.1 (as Amended), 10C.1, 10C.2, 10C.3, 10C.4, 10C.5, 10D.1, 10D.2, 10E.1, 10F.1, 10F.2, 10F.3, 10F.4, 10F.5, 10F.6, 10F.7, 10G.1, 10G.2, 10H.1, 10H.2, 10H.3, 10H.4, 10H.5, 10I.1, 10I.2, 10I.3, 10I.4, 10J.1, 10J.2, 11A, 11B, 11C., 11D, 11E, 11F, 11G, 11H, 11I, 11J, 11K, 11L, and 11M.**

**Discussions opened.**

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With regard to **Agenda Item No. 10F.6**, request for approval of staff for the After-School Instructional Programs at Division Street Elementary School during the 2008 – 2009 School Year, **Trustee Charles Phillips** asked if they were retroacting the appointments, and why they were only being submitted now for approval. **Superintendent Janice White** said that they hadn't been submitted properly, but that the Budget had been in place. **Trustee Phillips** asked if the teachers had been doing it all year. **Superintendent White** replied yes. **President Frank Palumbo** said that it was not the proper procedure. **Trustee Charles Phillips** agreed.

Regarding **Agenda Item No. 11M**, a Resolution supporting Senate Bill S255/S256 to remove inequities in the assessment of new Condominium Units, **Trustee Charles Phillips** commented that all of the legislation they had seen was forward, and that it did not apply to current condominiums. He asked if this Resolution were to ensure that they were equitably assessing taxes in the District. **President Frank Palumbo** said that they were trying to keep fairness across the District.

There being no further discussions, **The Board of Education** approved the above Agenda Items.

**(AYES: ALL); MOTION CARRIED.**

**Ms. Karen Stanley, Director of Human Resources**, congratulated Mr. David L'Hommedieu on his tenure appointment to the position of Director for Information Technology Integration and Related Services. **Ms. Stanley** said that Mr. L'Hommedieu was exceptional.

**Ms. Stanley** also congratulated Mr. Joseph Greco on his appointment to the position of Assistant Middle School Principal.

**Dr. Barbara Messier, Lake Avenue Elementary School Principal**, introduced two new 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers, who would be starting at Lake Avenue Elementary School in September 2009 – Ms. Megan

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Brown and Ms. Tara Wright. **Principal Messier** noted that Ms. Wright had previously worked at Caroline Street Elementary School.

**Mr. Kurt Jaeger, Assistant Superintendent for Business**, introduced Ms. Cynthia Davis, who was approved that evening to the 12-month probationary appointment to the position of Accountant.

**President Frank Palumbo** welcomed everyone, and said that The Board was happy to have all of them there.

**A. Committee on Special Education and Committee on Preschool Special Education Pupil Placements:**

**The Board of Education** approved the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education and the Committee on Special Education for Pupils' Placement Arrangements. Copies of these recommendations were previously sent to the Board Members for review and will be attached to the official Minutes.

**B. Proposed Policy #468 (New) – Availability of Instructional Materials in Alternate Formats for Students with Disabilities:**

**The Board of Education** accepted the first reading of the proposed new Policy #468 relative to Availability of Instructional Materials in Alternate Formats for Students with Disabilities. (Copies previously distributed to Board Members.)

NOTE: Five (5) affirmative votes were necessary to waive the reading at a second meeting and adopt a policy upon the first reading.

**C. Proposed Policies #532.18 and #655 (Revised) – Family and Medical Leave Act:**

**The Board of Education** accepted the first reading of the proposed revised Policies #532.18 and #655 relative to Family and Medical Leave Act. (Copies previously distributed to Board members.)

NOTE: Five (5) affirmative votes were necessary to waive the reading at a second meeting and adopt a policy upon the first reading.

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D. Field Trips:

1. **The Board of Education** granted permission for Greenfield Elementary School Grade 3 students to travel to Howe Cave, Schoharie County, New York to visit Howe Caverns.

X. **PERSONNEL:**

A. Administrative Tenure Appointment:

1. **The Board of Education** approved the tenure appointment of **Mr. David L’Hommedieu** to the position of **Director for Information Technology Integration & Related Services**, effective 12 June 2009 (District) (Certification: Perm., Technology Education, 2/1/98; Perm., Driver Education, 9/1/97; Perm., SDA, 9/1/04)).

B. Administrative Appointment:

1. **The Board of Education** approved the three-year probationary appointment of **Mr. Joseph Greco** to the position of **Assistant Middle School Principal**, effective 17 August 2009 (as Amended) (Maple Avenue – Replacement).

C. Teacher Appointments:

1. **The Board of Education** approved the two-year and two-month probationary appointment of **Ms. Megan Brown** to the position of **Elementary Teacher**, effective 01 September 2009 (Lake Avenue – Replacement) (Certification: Initial, Childhood Education (Grades 1 - 6), 9/1/06 Initial, Literacy (Birth - Grade 6), 9/1/07));

2. **The Board of Education** approved the one-year appointment of **Ms. Carrie Eggleston** to the position of **.6 Art Teacher**, effective 01 September 2009 through 30 June 2010 (Dorothy Nolan) (Certification: Initial, Visual Arts, 9/1/08; Initial, Childhood Education (Grades 1 - 6), 2/1/08));

3. **The Board of Education** approved the one-year appointment of **Ms. Claire McEwan** to the position of **Elementary Teacher**, effective 01

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September 2009 through 30 June 2010 (Division Street – LOA) (Certification: Initial, Students with Disabilities 1 - 6, 9/1/07; Initial, Literacy (Birth - 6), 9/1/07; Initial, Childhood Education (Grades 1 - 6), 9/1/07));

**4. The Board of Education** approved the one-year appointment of **Mr. Albert Pickens** to the position of **.6 Music Teacher**, effective 01 September 2009 through 30 June 2010 (Dorothy Nolan) (Certification: Initial, Music K - 12, 9/1/08);

**5. The Board of Education** approved the one-year appointment of **Ms. Tara Wright** to the position of **Elementary Teacher**, effective 01 September 2009 through 30 June 2010 (Lake Avenue – LOA) (Certification: Initial, Early Childhood Education (Birth - Grade 2), 9/1/08; Initial, Childhood Education (Grades 1 - 6), 9/1/05; Initial, Literacy (Birth - Grade 6), 2/1/07)).

**D. Teacher Leaves of Absence:**

**1. The Board of Education** approved an unpaid leave of absence, for child rearing purposes, for **Ms. Abigail Crotty** from her position as **Social Studies Teacher**, effective 16 June 2009 through 30 June 2009 (High School);

**2. The Board of Education** approved an unpaid Family and Medical Leave of Absence, for medical purposes, for **Ms. Kelly McQueeney** from her position of **Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions – Special Education – General Teacher**, effective 09 March 2009 (P.M.) through 30 June 2009 (Dorothy Nolan School) (previously approved effective 09 March 2009 (P.M.) through 02 June 2009).

**E. Club Creation:**

**1. The Board of Education** approved the creation of the following Club at Maple Avenue effective 13 May 2009:

Running Club

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**F. Co-Curricular Appointments:**

**1. The Board of Education** approved the following as a **Voluntary Club Advisor** at Maple Avenue for the 2008 - 2009 School Year:

Running Club – Linda Kranick

**2. The Board of Education** approved the following for the **High School Summer School Program**, effective 06 July 2009 through 14 August 2009:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <u>Administrative Intern:</u> | Sara Miraldi   |
| <u>English:</u>               | Edward Brandt<br>Linda Redman<br>Roberta Reed                |
| <u>Health:</u>                | Robert Hill  |
| <u>Math:</u>                  | Christopher Conley<br>David Gibbs<br>Christine O’Connell     |
| <u>Physical Education:</u>    | Craig Durant   |
| <u>Science:</u>               | Melinda Anderson<br>John Scrivo                              |
| <u>Social Studies:</u>        | Michael DeLancey<br>Michael Miller<br>Lauren Perry           |
| <u>Special Education:</u>     | Angela Annese<br>Jeanine McGuiggan<br>(Spec. Ed./Resource)   |
| <u>Driver Education:</u>      | James Carli<br>Scott Draina<br>John Graham<br>James Virgilio |
| <u>ISP Coordinator:</u>       | Karen Grant  |

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RCT/Regents Remediation Teachers:

Gabrielle Alberti  
Angela Annese  
Michael DeLancey  
Leanne Donelan  
Laurie Feldhaus  
Karen Garant  
Linda McDonald  
Michael Miller  
Jeanine McGuiggan  
Christine O'Connell  
LouAnne Piccirillo  
Lauren Perry  
Todd Rosenberg  
John Scrivo  
Kathleen Thompson  
Eric Trombley

Substitutes/Proctors:

Greg Goering  
Marjorie Herman  
John Kreis  
Tracy Massari  
Timothy McGuiggan  
Laura Moore  
Deanne Savage  
Ronald Schorpp  
CJ Theiss

Librarian: Jamie Megna

Nurse: Deborah Tallman

Custodian: Carl Flanders

Clerks: Lynne Mattison  
Sandra Pallace

**3. The Board of Education** approved the following for the **Maple Avenue Summer School Program**, effective 06 July 2009 through 31 July 2009:

Grade 6 Teachers: Amy Austin  
Kathleen Dewey

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|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <u>English 7-8:</u>          | Margaret Hopkins (grade 7)<br>Esther Mulligan (grade 8)                                  |
| <u>Librarian:</u>            | Jamie Megna  |
| <u>Mathematics:</u>          | Joseph Bruno (Grade 7)<br>Amy Lasky (Grade 8)  |
| <u>Science 7 - 8:</u>        | Amy Weed (Grades 7 & 8)  |
| <u>Social Studies 7 - 8:</u> | Tracy Massari (Grade 7)<br>Scott Singer (Grade 8)  |
| <u>Special Education:</u>    | Fred Kurtz (SE Reading)<br>Ron Morris (SE Math)<br>Susan Saxton<br>(Consultant/Resource) |
| <u>Study Skills:</u>         | Kathryn Fogarty<br>Bonita Schuff   |
| <u>Substitute Teachers:</u>  | Leanne Donelan<br>Marjorie Herman<br>Sarah Reed<br>Deanne Savage<br>Ronald Schorpp       |

**4. The Board of Education** approved the appointment of **Ms. Candace Calvin** to the position of **Administrator for the STEPS Program** for the Summer of 2009, with a \$4,000 stipend.

**5. The Board of Education** approved the following **Staff Members** for the Summer Kindergarten Screening on Tuesday, 21 July 2009, location to be determined:

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>Dial 3 Concepts (6):</u> | Debbie Arend<br>Salli LoDato<br>Karen Crooks<br>Lynn Sycher<br>Kelley Ekstrom<br>Jennifer Usack |
|-----------------------------|---|

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| <u>Physical Education (1):</u>  | Blair McFarlane<br>(Gross Motor)     |
| <u>Speech Therapists (3):</u>   | Sharon Hoffman<br>Vicky Jones<br>TBD |
| <u>School Psychologists(2):</u> | Micah Gabelman<br>Lorann Romanski    |
| <u>Clerks (2):</u>              | Karen Conchieri<br>Karen Grauel      |
| <u>School Nurse (1):</u>        | Patti Massey                         |
| <u>Aide (1):</u>                | Deborah Risso                        |

**6. The Board of Education** approved the following **Staff for the After-School Instructional Programs at Division Street Elementary School** during the 2008 - 2009 School Year:

**Teachers:**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| ELA 1            | Jude Dorflinger<br>Erin Holohan                     |
| ELA 3            | Abbie Powers<br>Lauren Woodruff                     |
| ELA 4            | Claire McEwan<br>Kiersten Ogsbury<br>Michele Renner |
| ELA 5            | Barbara Redding<br>Julie Velazquez                  |
| Social Studies 5 | Barbara Redding                                     |
| Math 1           | Jude Dorflinger<br>Peg Ruben                        |
| Math 2           | Andrea Alderman<br>Julie Velazquez                  |

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|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Math 3                                    | Heather Steitzer<br>Lauren Woodruff |
| Math 4                                    | Kiersten Ogsbury<br>Michele Renner  |
| Math 5                                    | Claire McEwan<br>Barbara Redding    |
| Grade 2 Inter-<br>disciplinary Enrichment | Claire McEwan                       |
| Grade 3 Inter-<br>disciplinary Enrichment | Peg Ruben<br>Lauren Woodruff        |
| Grade 4 Inter-<br>disciplinary Enrichment | Erin Holohan<br>Julie Velazquez     |
| ELA 1 Tutoring                            | Abbie Powers                        |
| ELA 2 Tutoring                            | Andrea Alderman<br>Claire McEwan    |
| ELA 3 Tutoring                            | Barbara Redding                     |
| ELA 4 Tutoring                            | Heather Steitzer                    |
| Clerk                                     | Barbara Cook                        |
| Coordinators                              | Claire McEwan<br>Kiersten Ogsbury   |

**7. The Board of Education** approved the following **Staff for the After-School Instructional Program at Division Street Elementary School** during the 2009 - 2010 School Year:

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Coordinator:   | Claire McEwan   |
| Clerk:   | Barbara Cook    |
| Interdisciplinary Enrichment<br>Program (FIRST Program -<br>Robotics): | Laurie Gregorek |

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Interdisciplinary Enrichment  
Program (Junior FIRST  
Program – Robotics):

Erin Holohan

**G. Civil Service Leaves of Absence:**

**1. The Board of Education** approved an unpaid leave of absence, for medical reasons, for **Ms. Sylvia Martinez** from her position of 175-day **Clerk**, Dorothy Nolan, effective 02 September 2008 through 25 June 2009 (previously approved 02 September 2008 through 30 April 2009);

**2. The Board of Education** approved an unpaid Family and Medical Leave of Absence for **Ms. Patricia Rich** from her position of **Teacher Aide**, Maple Avenue, effective 23 March 2009 (P.M.) through 29 May 2009 (previously approved 23 March 2009 (P.M.) through 23 April 2009).

**H. Civil Service Resignations/Retirements:**

**1. The Board of Education** accepted the resignation, for retirement purposes, of **Mr. David Dudley**, with appreciation and regret, from his position of 12-month **Custodian**, effective 22 July 2009 (Division Street – Sen: 9/18/92);

**2. The Board of Education** accepted the resignation, for retirement purposes, of **Ms. Carole Gauger**, with appreciation and regret, from her position of 180-day **Clerk**, effective 01 July 2009 (Geysers Road – Sen: 9/12/90);

**3. The Board of Education** accepted the resignation, for retirement purposes, of **Ms. Judith Guthrie**, with appreciation and regret, from her position of 12-month **Keyboard Specialist**, effective 31 July 2009 (Caroline Street – Sen.: 11/2/87);

**4. The Board of Education** accepted the resignation, for retirement purposes, of **Ms. Ann Marie Marks**, with appreciation and regret, from her position of 12-month **Keyboard Specialist**, effective 31 July 2009 (Dorothy Nolan – Sen.: 9/7/88);

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**5. The Board of Education** accepted the resignation of **Ms. Amy Rypkema**, from her position of **School Bus Driver Assistant**, effective 13 May 2009 (Transportation – Sen.: 9/22/08).

**I. Civil Service Appointments:**

**1. The Board of Education** approved the probationary appointment of **Dale Breda** to the position of 175-day **School Bus Driver**, effective 20 April 2009 (Transportation - Replacement);

**2. The Board of Education** approved the probationary appointment of **Ms. Jeanenne Cornell** to the position of 175 day, 3.0 hour **Food Service Helper**, effective 13 May 2009 (Greenfield School – Replacement);

**3. The Board of Education** approved the 12-month probationary appointment of **Ms. Cynthia Davis** to the position of **Accountant**, effective 01 June 2009 (District – New Position);

**4. The Board of Education** approved the probationary appointment of **Mr. Dominick Verro** to the position of 175 day, 3.5 hour **Food Service Helper**, effective 13 May 2009 (High School – Replacement).

**J. Substitute Appointments/Resignations/Deletions:**

**1. The Board of Education** accepted the instructional and non-instructional emergency conditional substitute appointments as per the attached list;

**2. The Board of Education** accepted the instructional and non-instructional substitute resignations/deletions as per the attached list.

**XI. FINANCIAL:**

**A. Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report:**

**The Board of Education** accepted the Maple Avenue Middle School Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report for the period 01 January 2009 through 31 March 2009.

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**B. Treasurer's Reports:**

**The Board of Education** accepted the November 2008, December 2008, January 2009, February 2009, and March 2009 Treasurer's Reports.

**C. Tax Certiorari Reserve Resolution:**

**The Board of Education** approved the following **RESOLUTION** authorizing the transfer of funds and increase to budgetary appropriations:

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Education has received Orders for the Refund of Overpayment of Taxes in the amount of **\$1,120.15** by the following petitioner, based upon Tax Certiorari proceedings, which reduced the tax assessment for the following year on the parcel indicated:

| Petitioner          | Year | Map ID #   | Index     | Amount Owed |
|---------------------|------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| M. T. Minogue, Inc. | 2008 | 140.17-1-5 | 2008-2888 | \$1,120.15  |

and, **WHEREAS**, The Board of Education has previously established a segregated reserve fund for tax certiorari claims, and

**WHEREAS**, a portion of these funds may be transferred to the District's General Fund Budget to be expended in payment of tax certiorari claims,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the School Attorney is authorized and directed to enter into a stipulation, to be filed with the Court, implementing the stated reduction in assessed value, and that upon compliance with the terms of the Order and Judgment, the tax proceedings are settled, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The Board of Education appropriate and transfer funds as follows:

FROM: MBIA-NY 01-00223-0025 Tax Certiorari Reserve \$1,120.15

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TO: A1964-405-03-1800 Tax Certiorari Claims \$1,120.15

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The Board of Education modify the 2008 - 2009 General Fund budgetary appropriations by one thousand one hundred twenty and 15/100 (\$1,120.15).

FROM: \$ 107,749,420.61

Current Resolution \$1,120.15

TO: \$ 107,750,540.76

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, THAT THE TREASURER OF THE Board of Education be authorized to appropriate funds as specified by this resolution upon receipt of a copy of the signed Order and Judgment.

**D. Natural Gas Piping Upgrades – Contract Bid Award:**

**The Board of Education** awarded the bid for the Natural Gas Piping Upgrades at the High School, in the amount of **\$196,850.00**, to Collett Mechanical.

**E. Bank Account Approval – Workers’ Compensation Payments:**

**The Board of Education** approved a new JP Morgan Bank Account, #475451740, for the transfer of required funds by Saratoga Springs City School District for Workers’ Compensation payments.

**F. Appointment for Department of Transportation Driver Physicals:**

**The Board of Education** appointed Eastern Medical Support (EMS) to provide on-site physicals to the Department of Transportation Bus Drivers at a cost of \$53.00 per physical for the 2009 -2010 School Year.

**G. Summer Bus Lease – YMCA of Saratoga Summer Recreation Program:**

**The Board of Education** approved the lease of two (2) 66-passenger school buses to the YMCA of Saratoga Summer Recreation Program for the period 29 June 2009 through 28 August 2009, for an agreed fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Dollars and no/100 (\$1,550.00). In addition, **The Board of Education** approved the lease of three (3) 66-

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passenger school buses for an agreed fee of Thirty-Nine Dollars and no/100 (\$39.00) per day per bus, for trips to be held on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> for a total of One Thousand Fifty-Three Dollars and no/100 (\$1,053.00). ***The total amount due for the five (5) buses for Travel Camp and Day Camp is Two Thousand Six Hundred Three Dollars and no/100 (\$2,603.00), plus sixty-five (\$.65) cents per mile for gasoline and maintenance per bus.***

**H. Summer Bus Lease – Town of Greenfield Summer Recreation Program:**

**The Board of Education** approved the lease of two (2) 66-passenger school buses to the Town of Greenfield Summer Recreation Program for the period 29 June 2009 through 24 July 2009, for an agreed fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Dollars and no/100 (\$1,550.00). In addition, **The Board of Education** approved the lease of one (1) 66-passenger school bus for an agreed fee of Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$39.00) per day, to be available on an as-needed basis for three (3) or four (4) special trips. The additional cost of 65 cents per mile for fuel and maintenance for both vehicles will be billed at the end of the lease.

**I. Summer Bus Lease – Town of Wilton:**

**The Board of Education** approved the lease of six (6) 66-passenger school buses to the Town of Wilton for its Summer Recreation Program for the period 29 June 2009 through 14 August 2009, for an agreed fee of Four Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Dollars and no/100 (\$4,650.00). The additional cost of 65 cents per mile for fuel and maintenance will be billed at the end of the lease.

**J. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment – Division Street School:**

**The Board of Education** granted permission to the Division Street Elementary School to declare obsolete and dispose of the following equipment, which is no longer utilized:

- One Titmus eye machine, serial #001648
- One chair/stretchers, no serial #
- One wooden file cabinet, no serial #

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**K. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment – Information Technology Department:**

**The Board of Education** granted permission to the Information Technology Department to dispose of obsolete equipment as per the attached list.

**L. Acceptance of Donation – Closed Caption Television:**

**The Board of Education** accepted the donation of an Optelec Clearview 17” black and white CCTV for District use.

**M. Resolution Supporting Senate Bill S255/S256 to Remove Inequities in the Assessment of New Condominium Units:**

**The Board of Education** adopted the following **RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS**, current State law requires that condominiums be assessed based on the capitalization of a theoretical rental income potential if the condominium were a rental unit; and

**WHEREAS**, this method of assessment results in an unfair situation where an owner of a condominium can be paying as little as half as much as an owner of a single family home with the same market value; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill S255/S256, introduced by Senator Elizabeth Little, proposes to change existing law to allow a taxing jurisdiction to assess newly constructed condominiums at their fair market value in the same manner as a single family residence; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that this Board of Education supports Senate Bill S255/S256, sponsored by Senator Elizabeth Little, to end the inequitable assessment of new condominium units by allowing taxing jurisdictions to assess condominium units according to their fair market value, in the same manner as the assessment of single family residences; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Board of Education forward a certified copy of this **RESOLUTION** to Governor David Paterson, Senate

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Majority Leader Malcolm Smith, Senator Roy McDonald, Senator Hugh T. Farley, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assemblyman Tony Jordan, Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, Assemblyman James N. Tedisco, Assemblyman Robert P. Reilly and Assemblyman Ronald Canestrari.

**XII. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**President Frank Palumbo** opened the second Public Hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak, **President Frank Palumbo** closed the second Public Hearing.

**XIII. OTHERS:**

**Trustee Regina Gapczynski** congratulated Mr. David L'Hommedieu on his appointment to tenure. She said that what he had accomplished in the short period of time that he had been with the District made it seem like he had been there a long time. She also congratulated all of the other appointees as well. **Trustee Gapczynski** also noted that the ELA results for the District were great. She said that the Art Festival was wonderful, and that the Sponsor-A-Scholar event was a tremendous success – earning an approximate profit of \$32,000. She also complimented the Staff Development personnel regarding their training programs. **Trustee Gapczynski** said that it was a joy to hear and learn all of the great things that were happening in the District.

**Trustee Charles Phillips** congratulated Mr. David L'Hommedieu and the other teachers. He also said that he was anxious to see the results of the exit poll. The ELA results, particularly for Grades 6 – 8, were astounding. He also offered congratulations to Principal Stu Byrne. **Trustee Phillips** said that he was glad to see that they had “arrested” a less than stellar performance in math and science. With regard to Greenfield Elementary School and Principal Hewitt, **Trustee Phillips** said that the Greenfield Elementary Newsletter was one of the best that he had ever seen; that the award on attendance was great; and so was highlighting it in the Newsletter. He also

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offered congratulations to Assistant Principal Timothy Harris and Principal Frank Crowley, regarding the Emergency Evacuation Drill. He said that it was a full and complete drill, and that it worked out great. **Trustee Phillips** also said “hats off” to the High School staff regarding the planning and communication.

**Trustee Jay Rifenburg** said that he agreed with the comments of his fellow Board Members; that he was proud of the Board and the District; and everything that was done with the budget this year. He also congratulated all of the new teachers, as well as Mr. L’Hommedieu on his appointment to tenure. In addition, **Trustee Rifenburg** noted that on 14 May 2009 there was an event honoring twenty-four (24) students in BOCES from the District, and that he was scheduled to speak. The event was scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM, with dinner being served at 6:45 PM. **Trustee Rifenburg** also said that 18 May 2009 marked Respect Day, and that students from the District were being honored and receiving an award from the Rotary Club. He also said that he hoped that everyone would go out and vote. He said that it had been a great year, and that he was honored to serve as a Board Member for the last three years. He said that it had also been an honor to serve with Vice-President Will Martin and Trustee Stephen Rodriguez, and that they had both been great mentors.

**Trustee Stephen Rodriguez** said that he was impressed by the accomplishments of the District in academics, sports, and the arts. He said that in Saratoga Springs they took all of the students and gave them every opportunity across the board to excel and succeed. He said that he was impressed and happy to be there.

**Trustee Mia Pfitzer** congratulated Mr. David L’Hommedieu on his appointment to tenure. She also asked everyone to vote.

**Vice-President Will Martin** said that the District had worked extremely hard to disseminate information related to the budget. He said that he would be

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counting the votes.

**President Frank Palumbo** said that regarding the ELA scores for those members who had been on The Board since the No Child Left Behind concept, the time and actions that Trustee Rodriguez and Vice-President Will Martin had taken may not be seen in the next year, but the decisions that they had made every night had affected students and the community across the board. He thanked them for their time and efforts, noting that their decisions in the past had helped the District along the way.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Trustee Regina Gapczynski** made a motion and **Trustee Jay Rifenbary** seconded the motion to move to Executive Session at 8:40 PM for discussion of the following:

1. Pending legal matters;
2. Matters leading to the employment of particular persons.

There being no discussion, **The Board of Education** approved the above MOTION.

**(AYES: ALL); MOTION CARRIED.**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT:**

**President Frank Palumbo** adjourned the Executive Session at 10:15 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

KURT JAEGER  
DISTRICT CLERK