

The regular meeting of the Saratoga Springs City School District Board of Education was held at the Dorothy Nolan Elementary School on Tuesday, October 13, 2009. The meeting was called to order by **President Mia Pfitzer** at 7:30 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT:

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon  
Trustee Ernie Gailor  
Trustee Regina Gapczynski  
Trustee Steve Grandin  
Trustee Mary Elizabeth Pfitzer, President  
Trustee Frank Palumbo  
Trustee Charles Phillips  
Trustee Jeff Piro

ABSENT:

Trustee Jay Rifenburg, Vice President

STAFF PRESENT:

Janice White, Superintendent of Schools  
Kurt Jaeger, Asst. Superintendent for Business  
Thomas Mele, Asst. Supt. for Elementary Education  
David L'Hommedieu, Director for Information Technology  
Integration & Services  
Michael Piccirillo, Asst. Supt. for Secondary Education  
Colleen Carroll, Director for District Assessment &  
Staff Development  
Karen Stanley, Director for Human Resources

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**President Mia Pfitzer** led the Board of Education and meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. MINUTES**

**Trustee Regina Gapczynski** moved and **Trustee Charles Phillips** seconded to approve the minutes for the September 24, 2009, meeting.

**Ayes all.**

**IV. COMMUNICATIONS**

Communications of interest were circulated.

**President Mia Pfitzer and the Trustees** congratulated Superintendent Janice White on completing her Doctorate.

V. **PUBLIC HEARING**

**President Mia Pfitzer** opened the first public hearing. She reminded speakers to give their name and address, and that they have two minutes each to speak.

**Douglas Haller** of 4 St. Jude Court, Saratoga Springs read the Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network Resolution on Saratoga Springs School District Transportation Policy that states that the Saratoga Healthy Transportation supports and encourages the Saratoga Springs Board of Education to establish policies in favor of biking and walking across the district, and resolves to work with local, state and federal agencies toward developing infrastructure and programs that will encourage and support students in the Saratoga Springs School District to walk and bike to school.

**Ken Garcia**, 3 Kings Mills Road, Gansevoort said that his children attend South Glens Falls schools, but he loves Wilton and is in favor of what is in the best interest of the children in this community. He urged the Board to give every consideration to the benefits of bicycling to the children and to the community.

**John Meredith**, 16 Skidmore Drive, Saratoga Springs said that he is an advocate of free choice and that families, not the school, should choose how kids get to school. He said his son walked to Geyser Road School often and arrived safely. Parents should be able to choose whether to allow their children to ride bikes or walk to school. He said it is absurd that the school refuses to allow children to walk or ride bikes to school when they walk or ride to the same playgrounds during non-school hours, after school and on weekends.

**Ian Klepetar** of Wilton, a representative of the Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network, brought a bike rack as a gift to the School Board and promised to help facilitate the acquisition and installation of additional bike racks throughout the school district, in order to help bring children to school in the healthiest manner possible.

**Jeff Olsen** of 10 Clark Street, Saratoga Springs said he has been part of the committee that has been making recommendations to the School Board and that the committee had no idea what would take place tonight because the district's Policy Committee had not communicated their decision. He expressed appreciation to Ian for bringing the

bike rack and stated that he is ready to order bike racks for the Lake Avenue School because he supports and encourages walking or riding to school.

**President Mia Pfitzer** reminded the audience that until the Board holds a discussion and votes, there is not officially a policy.

**Janette Kaddo Marino**, 35 Jackson Street, Saratoga Springs said this issue started last May with a simple bike ride with her son Adam. She said parents should have the right to determine how their children get to school and, instead of interfering in what she perceives as family business, schools should get in synch with other areas of the country and promote students walking and bicycling to school.

**Joanne Yepsen**, 91 Fifth Avenue, Saratoga Springs said she is a Saratoga County Supervisor, concerned resident and parent. She said that she is working hard to make this community more sustainable and, after four years in office, has a good feel for the pulse of the community. She said this is an important issue that she is proud to be a part of. She thanked the School Board for putting together a "Safe Routes to School" committee and she reminded them that the County has a green infrastructure that includes trail systems, Geysers Road Trail and the "Complete Streets" program. She urged the Board to partner with the City and the County to create a more sustainable community and reminded them that without policies supporting sustainable communities, the County would never qualify for funding opportunities to enhance its green infrastructure.

**Lisa Muller** of Saratoga Springs said she is concerned for children's safety, particularly on Route 9 on the way to the Middle School which gets very hectic. She has noticed parents cutting through the parking lot in a hazardous manner and hopes that the committee will carefully consider and communicate the best routes for safety.

**Jennifer Leidig**, 11 Pearl Street, Saratoga Springs said there should be short-term, as well as long-term, goals in this process. People at Division Street, Caroline Street and Lake Avenue Schools have stressed the urgency to install bike racks this spring. She also expressed concern that the City's Risk and Safety Manager, Marilyn Rivers, has not been involved in this process and has not been contacted. She said

that creating safe routes to school involves the City, as well as the school system, and Marilyn Rivers is willing to participate on any committee to ensure that safe routes happen.

**Clement Marino**, 35 Jackson Street, Saratoga Springs said he supports parents and not the school in deciding how their children get to school. He said change must start with the School Board having the will to change the policy, and then the City and the County must make an effort to make the roads safer; but the whole process starts with the School Board.

**Amy Scott**, 11 East Broadway, Saratoga Springs said she grew up in the Saratoga Springs School District and safety should be the number one priority. She said the School Board should determine how to accommodate alternate forms of transportation in the safest manner possible, while encouraging walking and riding bikes to school. She supports the resolution of the Healthy Transportation Network because promoting healthy activities and protecting the environment are important. She thanked the Board for their consideration of this important issue.

There being no one else wishing to speak, **President Mia Pfitzer** closed the first public hearing.

## VI. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Policy Committee:** **Trustee Regina Gapczynski** reported that the Policy Committee discussed a full agenda at their last meeting and have been busy working on policies. She acknowledged the excellent work of the sub-committees in helping the Policy Committee revise the Biking, Tobacco and Transportation policies. She announced that the next Policy Committee meeting would be held October 26 at 5:00 PM.

**Finance Committee:** **Trustee Frank Palumbo** said the Finance Committee met with the auditors and were pleased with the favorable report. He commended all involved including the Business Department and the entire district.

**Property Administration Committee:** **Trustee Ernie Gailor** said that the next Property Administration Committee meeting would be Monday, October 19, at 5:00 PM and they would be discussing the recreation field contract between the City and the School District. He reported that they plan

to meet with the Public Library Board on October 19 to discuss the projects going on at that facility. They also plan to meet with Pop Warner representatives on the bleacher matter and the West Side Little League on their ideas on field improvements.

**WSWHE BOCES:** Trustee **Jeff Piro** said he would not be attending the monthly BOCES Board of Education meeting because he was going to the New York State School Boards Association convention. He reported that the BOCES superintendent application period was extended to the 21<sup>st</sup> of October and that it had produced additional applicants.

## VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### A. Superintendent's Comments

**Superintendent Janice White** offered thoughts and prayers to the family of a six year old Dorothy Nolan student, now stable and recovering from injuries suffered in an accident over the weekend. She welcomed Steve Dana from the Russell Sage Educational Leadership Program who was there that night fulfilling the program's requirement to attend school board meetings.

**Superintendent White** commended the Board's actions relating to policy and said that Board members would be allowed to comment after she read the policy:

482.3 Bicycles: The Board of Education supports the District involvement in Safe Routes to School.

482.31 Elementary/Middle School: Accompanied by a parent/guardian and with written approval on file, safe riding of bicycles on school property is permitted, provided due diligence by the administration and individual school planning committees have determined that the conditions exist under which bicycles may safely access school property. The administration will develop regulations to specify locations, conditions and requirements for such access and modify them as circumstances change.

482.32: High School: High school pupils may ride their bicycles to school and shall park them in the racks provided. Each bicycle shall be locked in place.

482.33: Liability: Any bicycles parked on school property are left at the risk of the owner. The District takes no

responsibility for the damage or loss incurred as a result.

**Trustee Charles Phillips** said that the Planning Committee should share their views of this policy. The next step should be to develop access points based on locations and logistics of each school building. He said that walking is never addressed in the policy; walking is a parental choice.

**Trustee Frank Palumbo** said he is glad that this point has been reached, although it has not been without difficulties. He said the Board has acted properly throughout the process and the primary concern has been, and is, for the safety of students, which is what dictated the action taken. Those who served on the committee were people who originally came forward and expressed an interest. He said it was hard to listen to some of the criticism in the media; particularly of the police officer who is a school resource officer. He is there to educate students and is a large benefit to the school and should never be portrayed negatively. He said this had been a fair process with an outcome; the Board had reached out to the City for representatives, including the City's Traffic Safety Coordinator Mark Benaquista; and everyone on the sub-committee worked with the school in a positive manner.

**Trustee Regina Gapczynski** thanked the sub-committee for their excellent report. She acknowledged that this is only the beginning, and there would be continued study and work because the policy is not a finale. She said that the School Board supports the safety of all people bicycling and walking, in order to make this a more sustainable community.

**President Mia Pfitzer** thanked everyone for their opinions, particularly the positive e-mails and calls. She said the Board is here to work with the public and constructive input is welcome.

**Turner Construction Final Report:** **President Mia Pfitzer** welcomed **John Staines** of Turner Construction for the final report on the construction project at Dorothy Nolan School. **John Staines** said that the project has taken about 16 months and it has been successful. They are now in the punch list phase which is a close-out process. The scheduled bleachers and wall pads will be done by mid-November. He said there are no major items open and about \$286,000 left which reflects all of tonight's change orders, including the

Phase IIIA contract for Mechanical Work on tonight's agenda. The project is ending in the black.

**Trustee Charles Phillips** asked whether the catch basin repair change order is to relieve flooding. **John Staines** replied that it is work that should have been included in the contract. He said the rim of the catch basin gets separated from the structure and it is necessary work to keep them operating efficiently. **Trustee Ernest Gailor** asked if the work affects existing paved areas. **John Staines** replied that the work will be completed with fresh pavement.

**Trustee Regina Gapczynski** said that throughout the project she has appreciated the pictures and updates.

Regarding the air handlers, **John Staines** explained that the velocity of air through the air handlers produced too much noise; so to slow the air down, the drives inside the fan must be replaced. He said that the units were stronger than the design specifications warranted, so the design team recalculated and determined the parts to be replaced at no extra cost.

**The Trustees** thanked John Staines for his presentation and his hard work on the project.

B. Independent Auditor's Reports

**James Amell**, CPA presented the Audit Report prepared by Marvin and Company for the 2008-2009 school year. He said the general purpose financial reports and single audits were distributed for Board review and the auditors have expressed the opinion that the School District's financial statements are fairly stated. He said that the District's equity is over \$68m and increased \$350,000 during the year. He reported that revenues exceeded expenses by a considerable amount because the District has been focused on cost savings in anticipation of State and Federal cuts which never materialized; resulting in cost savings realized and reported. He discussed the content of the audit and explained that to follow government auditing standards required reports were attached to the audit. He reported that there was only one finding and it was addressed part-way through the year. He said that each component of the audit was reviewed; compliance was tested; and there were a few instances of non-compliance, but only those items with an impact of \$10,000 or more are required to be reported. He said the final document is the classroom fund report. He said

the audit indicated a substantial improvement.

**Trustee Charles Phillips** thanked the auditor for the report and said it was a great review overall. **James Amell** said that as part of the audit, they did not have to come up with any adjustments which speaks well for the Business Office and the District and makes the auditors' job easier.

**Trustee Frank Palumbo** said that he had the advantage of reviewing the audit page-by-page and Saratoga is in a much better position than a lot of school districts.

**President Mia Pfitzer** thanked **James Amell** for his report and stated that the School District is in good fiscal shape because of the hard work of **Kurt Jaeger** and his staff.

C. State of the Building Update

**Superintendent White** welcomed **Principal Kevin Froats** for a report relative to shared decision making and the overall state of the Dorothy Nolan Elementary School. He read the school's mission statement and said that the school is committed to development and goal setting with student success and achievement at the forefront of thinking. He referred to a survey distributed to the school community and reported that 200 responses were received and many categories received a score of over 90%, although there were some areas that fell short. He said the school is committed to the increased use of Edline; more students are learning communication skills; and many parents indicated through the survey that they want to receive alerts in the form of electronically transmitted messages. He said that the school wants to go green, but will have hard copies available to those who want or need them. Mr. Froats said that as a result of the survey, they have set the following initiatives:

- 1) Increase the use of Edline;
- 2) Increase electronic releases of school news;
- 3) Provide challenging activities for high achieving learners;
- 4) Strive for 90% of students to be in levels 3 and 4.

**Mr. Froats** reported that students in grades 3, 4, and 5 performed well in language arts performance tests; and he is also proud of the math test results, particularly those of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Fifth grade teachers are challenged to keep work challenging for the advanced students and still reasonable

for other students, regardless of their developmental level. He appreciates the collaborative efforts to achieve this. He said they are enhancing their after school programs to entice students to take part in the program, as part of the school's striving to close the gap between general education students, students with disabilities, and those that are environmentally disadvantaged.

**Principal Froats** said the goal is to increase opportunities to students by providing after school instructional programs and step programs that now include primary grades. He thanked the Dorothy Nolan HSA for funding many after school enrichment programs.

**Principal Froats** introduced Assistant Principal Tina Davis to speak about the implementation of RTI - Response to Instruction/Intervention and other initiatives. **Assistant Principal Davis** said they are implementing RTI in grades K through 2. The process includes early intervention and identification, and is used to teach all children. The concept is to identify problems early so as to intervene early and develop ways to measure progress in response to instruction and intervention. Teachers design instructional techniques which emphasize goal setting and team work. Goals are set and developed based on internal assessments that show what students know. This approach creates a problem-solving mode and sustains a professional learning community. She said that RTI involves and informs parents through parent letters, parent/teacher conferences, targeted activities for at-home fun, and regularly updated progress reports.

**Assistant Principal Davis** said that Dorothy Nolan embraces curriculum mapping to increase student learning. She said the staff is continuing with initiatives that began last year, including an expanded character education program entitled "bucket filling"; Nutrition Detectives Program; the development of a playground supervision handbook and coloring books that include lessons on safe activities on a playground; and Grade 5 Smartboard Implementation which includes technology and video conferencing. New initiatives included: web-based study island, Smartboard training for grade 4, training on curriculum mapping for grades K-5, the RTI process to grade 2, more technology, the development of a 21st century literacy program, and safety measures and drills.

**Principal Froats** said there would be 12 fire drills, lockdown and evacuation drills, bus dismissal procedure drills, go home early drills and that representatives from the local police and fire stations would be invited to the school. He said there are many students involved in the numerous clubs at Dorothy Nolan, most of which are designed to improve physical fitness and leadership skills. There is a strong school and community link with an active HSA. Many of the activities involved various community entities including: Skidmore College, the Empty Stocking Project, food drives for the Franklin Community Center, and parent workshops. **Principal Froats** said his staff continues to analyze survey data to ensure that they are meeting students' needs. He thanked the Dorothy Nolan HSA for their funding of enrichment programs and their many parent volunteers. He thanked members of his staff for attending tonight's meeting.

**Trustee Charles Phillips** thanked **Principal Froats** and **Assistant Principal Davis** for their presentation and the HSA's personal attention to transportation and their awareness of the challenges of this large elementary school.

**Trustee Frank Palumbo** apologized for missing the building tour. He said he appreciates the fact that accelerated students were included in the goals and the presentation because it is important that the educational process reaches all students, so they can reach their fullest potential.

The Trustees thanked **Principal Froats** and **Assistant Principal Davis** for their excellent report and review of initiatives and for the tour of the building.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

**Trustee Frank Palumbo** made a motion and **Trustee Jeff Piro** seconded the motion to approve tonight's agenda in its entirety.

A. Committee on Preschool Special Education Pupil Placements

The Board approved the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for pupils' placement arrangements. Copies of these recommendations will be attached to the official minutes.

B. Committee on Special Education Chairperson Appointments

Approved the following individuals to serve as Chairperson  
for Committee on Special Education Meetings 2009-2010:

Caroline Street:	Loranne Romanski Vicky Jones
Division Street:	Amy Murdock Jude Dorflinger
Dorothy Nolan:	Tina Davis Laurie Newcomer Jason Morency
Geysers Road:	Melodye Eldeen Beth Gabelman
Greenfield:	Micah Gabelman
Lake Avenue:	Barbara Messier Rachel Mitchell
Maple Avenue:	Deb Lagoe Fred Kurtz Susan Kichton
High School:	Karen Garant Kris Meys Susan DeRocker Lucia Nicholas
District Office:	Noreen Walker Nikole Hearn Deb Balcanoff Rob Kelly

C. Adopt the Board of Education Goals 2009-2010

The Board adopted the following goals with supporting  
strategic objectives for the 2009-2010 school year:

- Goal 1:** Empower students to achieve local, national and global academic standards demonstrating proficiency at mastery level.
- Goal 2:** Nurture a safe learning environment that is responsive to and stimulates academic, social and emotional development while inspiring

personal initiative within our 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners.

**Goal 3:** Ensure that the Saratoga Springs City School District recruits, hires, develops and retains a high quality staff committed to educational excellence in an ever-changing global society.

**Goal 4:** Engage the community in partnerships that actively support Saratoga Springs City School District initiatives.

**Goal 5:** Oversee the district's resources in a proactive, responsible and efficient manner in the best interest of the students, staff and community.

D. Science Research Review Board

Appointed the following individuals to serve as committee members on the High School Science Research Review Board:

Mr. Thomas Shiland (Head of Review Board)  
Mr. Joshua Walker  
Dr. Richard DeMartino  
Dr. Heather Zaidel

E. Proposed Policy #481.4 (Revised) - Tobacco

Accepted the first reading of the proposed revised Policy #481.4 relative to Tobacco as previously distributed to Board members.

F. Proposed Policy #482.3 (Revised) - Bicycles

Accepted the first reading of the proposed revised Policy #482.3 relative to Bicycles as previously distributed to Board members.

G. Proposed Policy #741 e.3 and #741 e.4 (Revised) - Transportation

Accepted the first reading of the proposed revised Policy #741 e.3 and #741 e.4 relative to Transportation as previously distributed to Board members.

H. Field Trips

1. Granted permission for the High School Earth Science students in Earth Science IIB Co-Teaching classes to travel to Howe's Cave, New York on Thursday, October 15, 2009 to visit Howe Caverns and Secret Caverns.
2. Granted permission for the Boys and Girls Varsity Cross Country Teams to travel to Plattsburgh, New York on Friday,

November 13, 2009 and return on Saturday, November 14, 2009 to participate in the NYSPHSAA Cross Country Championships.

3. Granted permission for the Boys and Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Ski Teams to travel to Hadley, New York on Saturday, November 14, 2009 to participate in a team building activity at Hadley Mountain.
4. Granted permission for the Boys and Girls Varsity Cross Country Teams to travel to Poughkeepsie, New York on Friday, November 20, 2009 and return on Saturday, November 21, 2009 to participate in the New York State Federation Championship at Bowdoin Park.
5. Granted permission for the Varsity Ice Hockey Team to travel to Syracuse, New York on Friday, December 4, 2009 and return on Saturday, December 5, 2009 to participate in the West Genesee Hockey Tournament at Shrove Park.
6. Granted permission for Maple Avenue Middle School students to travel to Boston, Massachusetts on Saturday, May 1, 2010 to visit the Boston Museum of Science.
7. Granted permission for the High School Concert Band, High School Concert Orchestra, High School Mixed Chorus, and Eighth Grade Band and Orchestra students to travel to Springfield, Massachusetts on Saturday, May 8, 2010 to attend the Music in the Parks Music Festival.
8. Granted permission for Maple Avenue Middle School Grade 8 French students to travel to Montreal and Quebec City, Canada on Thursday, May 13, 2010 through Sunday, May 16, 2010 for purposes of cultural immersion.

X. **PERSONNEL**

A. Interim Administrator Appointment

1. Approved the appointment of Richard Behrens as Interim Elementary Building Principal, Division Street Elementary School, at the per diem daily rate of \$350 from October 13, 2009 through February 1, 2010, as needed.

B. Creation of Clubs

1. Approved the creation of the following clubs at the High School for the 2009-2010 school year:

Fiddle Group - volunteer  
Inventors Club - volunteer  
The Latin American Club - volunteer

2. Approved the creation of the following club at Geysers Road School for the 2009-2010 school year:

Chess Club / Board Games - \$776 stipend

C. Club Advisor Appointment/Correction

1. Approved the appointment of Dale Hegenberger as club advisor for the Musical-Stage/Technical Director at Maple Avenue Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year. (Previously incorrectly approved Catherine Corrigan, BOE 9/8/09.)

D. Co-Curricular Appointments

1. Approved the following as club advisors at the High School for the 2009-2010 school year:

Astronomy Club	-	Charlotte Naples
Boys' Varsity Club	-	Terry Jones
The Creative Streaks	-	Bridgette Gallagher (co-advisor w/Dawn Talley)
Drama Club Director	-	Kirk Starczewski
Drama Club Producer	-	Robert Berenis
Drama Club Vocal Director	-	Jeffrey Halstead
Fiddle Group	-	Jessica LaBello
Inventors Club	-	Michael Gallagher
Key Club	-	Truman Frasier
Saratoga Naturalists	-	Jeremy Haas
Ski and Snowboard Club	-	Jeffrey Harrington
Swing Dance Club	-	Karen Shoulette

2. Approved the following for the After School Tutoring Program at Dorothy Nolan Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year:

Tutor/Coordinator	-	Jean Duffy
Tutor/Coordinator	-	Molly Messineo
Clerk/Substitute Tutor	-	Barbara Omaggio

Tutors:

Cathey Accettella	Carol Lewis
Gay Ackerman	Sylvia Martinez
Annette Bartol	Laurie Newcomer

Paula Boyer	Jessica Ordon
Sue Corona	Jill Parker
Kathy Deegan	Sara Rodriguez
Carrie Eggleston	Julia Scutieri
Jeannie Fontaine	Joanne Sharp
Maureen Gandron	Malina Stawarz
Carmela Girzone	Jenine Weeks
Judy Goralski	Maureen Hodges (substitute)
Kim Hyde	Kelly Holt (substitute)
Diane Jones	Kari Roessner (substitute)
Michelle Knight	

3. Approved the following for the After School Academic Program at Greenfield Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year:

Teachers: Karen Crooks  
Jami Pecora-Liquorman  
Michael Reynolds  
David Shippee  
Jennifer Usack  
Bobbi Wendell

Coordinator: David Shippee

Clerical: Dorothy Nickels

4. Approved the following as home tutors for the 2009-2010 school year:

Ellen Manor  
Amy Parker  
Vincent Redding

5. Approved the following teachers to serve as tutors for the Sponsor-A-Scholar Program at the High School for the 2009-2010 school year:

ELA 9-12	-	Edward Brandt
Science 9-12	-	Crystal (Cammarano) Perno
Social Studies 9-12	-	Maureen O'Toole
Mathematics 9-12	-	Christine O'Connell

6. Approved Sarah Reed as a tutor for the Kaydeross House for the 2009-2010 school year.

E. Creation of Teacher Assistant Positions

1. Approved the creation of 2.0 teacher assistant positions to staff the NovaNET Labs, effective October 14, 2009. These positions are funded through a federal grant. (High School/Maple Avenue)

F. Civil Service Appointments

1. Approved the probationary appointment of Dale Himelrick to the position of 175-day school bus driver, effective September 18, 2009. (Transportation - New)
2. Approved the transfer of Julie Kirkland, teacher aide, High School, to the probationary appointment of 175-day teacher assistant, in-school suspension, effective October 19, 2009. (High School - Replacement)
3. Approved the probationary appointment of Andrea Reeder to the position of 175-day school monitor, effective October 14, 2009. (Geysers Road - Replacement)
4. Approved the transfer of Elizabeth Van Auken, 3.5 cashier, High School, to the probationary appointment of 5.0 motor vehicle operator, Food Service, effective October 14, 2009. (High School - Replacement)

G. Civil Service Leave of Absence

1. Approved an unpaid leave of absence, for medical reasons, for John McShane from his position of outdoor monitor, Maple Avenue Middle School, October 27, 2009 (p.m.) through November 27, 2009.

H. Civil Service Resignation

1. Approved the resignation of Joan Eichorst from the position of 175-day teacher aide, effective October 5, 2009. (Lake Avenue Elementary) (Sen: 10/27/06)

I. Substitute Appointments/Resignations/Deletions

1. Accepted the instructional and non-instructional emergency, conditional substitute appointments, as per the attached list.
2. Accepted the instructional and non-instructional substitute resignations/deletions, as per the attached list.

XI. **FINANCIAL**

A. Acceptance of Independent Auditors' Reports

Accepted the independent auditors' reports presented by Marvin and Company, CPAs for the General Fund, Special Aid

Fund and Extra classroom Activity Funds for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

- B. Proposed Budget Development Calendar  
Adopted the Proposed Budget Development Calendar for the 2010-2011 budget process.
- C. Proposal for Additional Architectural/Engineering Services  
Approved additional architectural/engineering services by CS Arch, P.C. as documented in the letter of agreement of September 23, 2009 in the amount of \$61,000 for the implementation of additional Phase 2 and 3 scope items.
- D. Proposal for Additional Construction Management Services  
Authorized the President of the Board of Education to execute and accept the proposal dated September 21, 2009 for additional construction management services by Turner Construction Company at an hourly rate of \$79/hour.
- E. Contract for Mechanical Work - Phase IIIA - Dorothy Nolan  
Awarded the contract for mechanical work at Dorothy Nolan Elementary School to J JL Construction Services in the amount of \$130,312 as the lowest bidder.
- F. Change Order Resolution: #005-001 (Phase 2), Lake Avenue Elementary School  
K & L Plumbing & Heating - Labor, materials and equipment necessary to remove the existing gas booster pump and to replace it with a new gas booster pump.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for plumbing construction with K & L Plumbing & Heating associated with the Lake Avenue Elementary School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-005-007) Contract No.: 05, Plumbing be increased by **Thirteen Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-Nine and 86/100 Dollars (\$13,969.86)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$219,000.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$219,000.00
This Change Order	<u>\$ 13,969.86</u>
New Contract Sum	<u><u>\$232,969.86</u></u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

\* none

G. Change Order Resolution: #005-002 (Phase 2), Lake Avenue Elementary School

K & L Plumbing & Heating - Labor, materials and equipment necessary to relocate the overflow drain off of the back flow preventer.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for plumbing construction with K & L Plumbing & Heating associated with the Lake Avenue Elementary School identified as: SED Project #:52-18-00-01-0-005-007 Contract No.: 05, Plumbing be increased by **One Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Three and 55/100 Dollars (\$1,883.55)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$219,000.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 13,969.86</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$232,969.86
This Change Order	<u>\$ 1,883.55</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$234,853.41</u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

\*#005-001 \$13,969.86

H. Change Order Resolution: #005-003 (Phase 2), Lake Avenue Elementary School

K & L Plumbing & Heating - Labor, materials and equipment necessary to replace the 2" domestic water line in boiler room B03 at Lake Avenue.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for plumbing construction with K & L Plumbing & Heating associated with the Lake Avenue Elementary School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-005-007) Contract No.: 05, Plumbing be increased by **One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-Four and 00/100 Dollars (\$1,274.00)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$219,000.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 15,853.41</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$234,853.41
This Change Order	<u>\$ 1,274.00</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$236,127.41</u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change

Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

\*#005-001 \$13,969.86  
#005-002 \$ 1,883.55

I. Change Order Resolution: #005-004 (Phase 2), Dorothy Nolan Elem. School

K & L Plumbing & Heating - Labor, materials and equipment necessary to replace 7 existing "t"s with valves. This work is related to the domestic water lines that are being replaced throughout the school.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for plumbing construction with K & L Plumbing & Heating associated with the Dorothy Nolan Elementary School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-015-014) Contract No.: 05, Plumbing be increased by **Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Six and 35/100 Dollars (\$4,796.35)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$219,000.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 17,127.41</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$236,127.41
This Change Order	<u>\$ 4,796.35</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$240,923.76</u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

\*#005-001 \$13,969.86  
#005-002 \$ 1,883.55  
#005-003 \$ 1,274.00

J. Change Order Resolution: #005-005 (Phase 2), Dorothy Nolan Elem. School

K & L Plumbing & Heating - Labor, materials and equipment necessary to supply and install a mixing valve. The mixing valve is needed to provide hot water to the kitchen at a higher temperature than hot water to the bathrooms.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for plumbing construction with K & L Plumbing & Heating associated with the Dorothy Nolan Elementary School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-015-014) Contract No.: 05, Plumbing be increased by **Two Thousand Six Hundred Eighteen and 08/100 Dollars (\$2,618.08)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$219,000.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 21,923.76</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$240,923.76
This Change Order	<u>\$ 2,618.08</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$243,541.84</u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

*#005-001	\$13,969.86
#005-002	\$ 1,883.55
#005-003	\$ 1,274.00
#005-004	\$ 4,796.35

K. Change Order Resolution: #007-007 (Phase 2), Saratoga Springs High School

Harold R. Clune Inc. - Labor, materials and equipment to provide power for new A/C unit in the data room (D129) at the high school.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for Electrical construction with Harold R. Clune Inc. associated with the Saratoga Springs High School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-016-017 Contract No.: 07, Electrical Construction be increased by **Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty and no/100 Dollars (\$2,260.00)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$627,900.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 52,195.00</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$680,095.00
This Change Order	<u>\$ 2,260.00</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$682,355.00</u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

* #007-001	\$ 3,790.00
#007-002	\$ 6,215.00
#007-003	\$ 10,800.00
#007-004	\$ 6,865.00
#007-005	\$ 4,600.00
#007-006	<u>\$ 19,925.00</u>
	\$52,195.00

L. Change Order Resolution: #007-008 (Phase 2), Saratoga Springs High School

Harold R. Clune Inc. - Labor, materials and equipment to provide and install additional clocks not shown on the contract drawings.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for Electrical construction with Harold R. Clune Inc. associated with the Saratoga Springs High School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-016-017 Contract No.: 07, Electrical Construction be increased by **Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Five and no/100 Dollars (\$9,895.00)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$627,900.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 54,455.00</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$682,335.00
This Change Order	<u>\$ 9,895.00</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$692,250.00</u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

* #007-001	\$ 3,790.00
#007-002	\$ 6,215.00
#007-003	\$10,800.00
#007-004	\$ 6,865.00
#007-005	\$ 4,600.00
#007-006	\$ 19,925.00
#007-007	<u>\$ 2,260.00</u>
	\$54,455.00

M. Change Order Resolution: #007-009 (Phase 2), Dorothy Nolan Elem. School

Harold R. Clune Inc. - Labor, materials and equipment necessary to relocate the Electrical Meter from the interior electrical room to an outside location; as requested by National Grid.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for Electrical construction with Harold R. Clune Inc. associated with the Dorothy Nolan Elementary School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-015-014 Contract No.: 07, Electrical Construction be increased by **Four Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen and no/100 Dollars (\$4,315.00)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$627,900.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 64,350.00</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$692,250.00
This Change Order	<u>\$ 4,315.00</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$696,565.00</u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

* #007-001	\$ 3,790.00	#007-007	\$ 2,260.00
#007-002	\$ 6,215.00	#007-008	<u>\$ 9,895.00</u>
#007-003	\$ 10,800.00		\$64,350.00
#007-004	\$ 6,865.00		
#007-005	\$ 4,600.00		
#007-006	\$ 19,925.00		

N. Change Order Resolution: #009-001 (Phase 3), Dorothy Nolan Elem. School

Del Signor Blacktop Paving, Inc. - Labor, materials and equipment necessary to repair the existing broken catch basin risers and frames. A total of twelve structures.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for site work with Del Signor Blacktop Paving, Inc. associated with the Dorothy Nolan Elementary School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-015-015) Contract No.: 05, Site Work be increased by **Four Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Seven and 34/100 Dollars (\$4,537.34)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$418,890.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$418,890.00
This Change Order	<u>\$ 4,537.34</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$423,427.43</u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

\* none

O. Change Order Resolution: #009-002 (Phase 3), Dorothy Nolan Elem. School

Del Signor Blacktop Paving, Inc. - Labor, materials and equipment necessary to: 1.) add approximately 70' of cast in place curb along the bus entrance; 2.) add a side walk to connect the existing front side walk to the existing west side walk.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the contract for site work with Del Signor Blacktop Paving, Inc. associated with the Dorothy Nolan Elementary School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-015-015) Contract No.: 05, Site Work be increased by **Seven Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Four and 56/100 Dollars (\$7,494.56)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$418,890.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 4,537.34</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$423,427.34
This Change Order	<u>\$ 7,494.56</u>
New Contract Sum	<u><u>\$430,921.90</u></u>

and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to sign this Change Order on behalf of the Board of Education.

\* #009-001 \$4,537.34

P. Contract Transportation - Special Education

Awarded the contract for special education transportation to Shenendehowa High School, Clifton Park, NY for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$115/day to Durrin, Inc. as the lowest bidder.

Q. Acceptance of Donation - Caroline Street School Playground

Accepted a donation from the Caroline Street School PTSO to the Saratoga Springs City School District for new playground equipment and installation at an estimated value of \$13,499.

R. Disposal of Obsolete Textbooks - High School

Granted permission to the High School to dispose of the following obsolete textbooks:

Amount	Title	ISBN #	Publisher	Pub. Date
96	World History Connections to Today	0-13-435915-1	Prentice Hall	1999
42	World History Connections to Today	0-13-434326-3	Prentice Hall	1999
64	World History Connections to Today	0-13-803271-8	Prentice Hall	1999
25	Colliers Encyclopedia	84-61987	MacMillan Educational Co.	1985
13	America Pathways to the Present	0-13-014937-3	Prentice Hall	1995
14	The Economic Problem 9 <sup>th</sup> Edition	0-13-225194-9	Prentice Hall	1954
70	The Contemporary World 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition	0-05-003734X	Oliver & Boyd	1985
12	American Foreign Policy 1789-1980	0-02-652860-6	Glencoe Pub.	1980
21	Everything We Had	0-345-32279-7	Albert Santoli	1981
3	The American Nation	0-13-063710-6	Prentice Hall	1995

**DISCUSSION:**

**Trustee Charles Phillips** commended the Policy Committee on a great job and suggested the Committee continue to work on the smaller objectives of the policy. He asked for clarification of item P under XI Financial and **Superintendent White** explained that it was the transportation of a student completing a BOCES program housed at Shenendehowa.

**Trustee Frank Palumbo** said that the goals cover the intentions of the Board. He wants to see that what the Board is doing is focused on all students. He would like the Board to receive continuous feedback and examples on how the students are being challenged.

**Trustee Charles Phillips** referred to agenda item H6 under IX New Business, the Saturday field trip for Maple Avenue Middle School students to Boston and said he appreciates Saturday day trips because they do not detract from classroom instruction.

**Trustee Charles Phillips** asked if it is a new requirement to mandate an instruction component, as included in the draft tobacco policy. **Superintendent White** said it is a component of the current curriculum, but including it in the policy is an initiative taken to qualify the district for a grant being pursued by the Principal to reduce expenses.

**Ayes All: 8-0 (1 absent - J. Rifenbary)**

(**Vice President Jay Rifenbary**, in absentia, wanted it noted for the record that he fully supported the Bicycle Policy.)

**President Mia Pfitzer** commented that the vote was unanimous and the required 5 affirmative votes received.

## XII. PUBLIC HEARING

**President Mia Pfitzer** opened the second public hearing.

**Caroline Stem**, 55 Catherine Street, Saratoga Springs said she is part of the advisory committee and a member of the Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network working on overturning the prohibition on biking and walking. She said she was disappointed in the policy and concerned about the next steps forward and the timeline. She said the policy has transferred the power and decision making authority from the hands of the School District and Board members to the principals to decide if and how students can bike to school. She was concerned about what the policy means in practice and whether it will be encouraged and supported by the officials to ensure that it will be enacted. She stated that she is concerned for the health of the children and for the benefit of the environment and is baffled that this struggle exists. She said the policy might work in theory, but it seems to provide a way out. She was concerned about when conditions are going to be corrected and if it will be without further struggle. She said the Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network wants to be a collaborative player in this effort because it has been an issue for years.

**Joanne Klepetar**, Parkhurst Road, Wilton said that she is a member of the Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network and was confused whether there had been a vote and whether questions should be addressed to the Board of Education or to the Principals of each school. She said that safety is essential and mitigation through the use of painted lines and crossing guards is necessary and that the Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network will help as often as possible.

**Janette Kaddo Marino**, 35 Jackson Street, Saratoga Springs said she was not privileged to see the policy prior to the meeting and only received it tonight from the press. She does not understand the time taken to rewrite it and does not see it as a step forward, but rather as a game of language. She said it seems that the district still involves itself in an area that she sees as strictly a parental concern -

a child should not require a receipt or permission slip to ride a bike to school. She said that based on what she heard tonight, it seems as if the School Board was more upset about bad press than about the issue. She stated that the school should not take a stand in what she believes to be a parental right and obligation. She expressed disappointment in the process and said that the Board was given a chance to shine here because this issue has received unsolicited local and national attention as the issue presented itself as the school telling parents what to do. Education and safety during school hours should be the only focus of the Board and what happens before and after school is the responsibility of the parents. She urged the Board to send the Policy Committee back to write something that keeps the school district from infringing on parental rights. She asked the Board to support alternative transportation for the good it serves the environment. She also suggested that the School Board clarify the role of the police officers on campuses because the trooper she and her son encountered on the first day of school was intimidating and forceful when he told her son that he was not acting in compliance with school policy. She said campus police should be dealing with weapons and violent behavior, not a parental supervised activity. She asked the Board to consider the negative consequences of a policy that inflicts itself on parental rights.

**Raoul Gagne**, 22 Vichy Drive, Saratoga Springs asked if the School District Attorney was involved in the creation of the policy and **Superintendent White** said the attorney was involved.

**President Mia Pfitzer** encouraged anyone with questions to call the district office.

There being no one else wishing to speak, **President Mia Pfitzer** closed the second public hearing.

### XIII. OTHERS

**Trustee Aaron AuBuchon** thanked the audience for their comments and said that the Board's action was the result of a lot of committee work that included the input of over 20 people from the community. He said that the timeframe may not match the agendas of others, but the committee and the Board had acted in the best interest of the safety of the children.

**Trustee Ernie Gailor** congratulated the students of Project Lead the Way for earning a trip to Texas. He said that the policy on bicycling to school is not under the control of any one entity. The Board, the committee, and everyone must work with the municipalities and communities involved to create safe routes to school. He said there are some roads that are safer than others, and this must be accepted. Just as it is understood, that we do not bike on the Thruway or the Northway because it is not safe. He supports parents' rights and the policy puts the school and parents together. Now that the policy is in place, it enables us to move forward and qualify to apply for grant funding for Safe Routes to School and to continue to move in the right direction.

**Trustee Steve Grandin** said that the policy is a starting point that provides the parameters within which we can move forward; it by no means is the final piece, it is a beginning. He extended congratulations to the district's sport teams for a great job for their success, but also for the great sportsmanship exhibited by the students, coaches and fans.

**Trustee Charles Phillips** congratulated Mike Gallagher on the success of Project Lead the Way and to the Caroline Street PTSO for raising funds for playground equipment.

**Trustee Regina Gapczynski** thanked the staff and students of Dorothy Nolan Elementary School for a great tour, and praised this year's Spirit Week and homecoming and pep rally events. She praised the Business Office staff for a great audit report and congratulated **Superintendent White** on achieving her Doctorate.

**Trustee Frank Palumbo** said that an educational profile was done on the class of 2009 and it was a great synopsis with interesting data. He said he would be interested in knowing if there are trends which relate to the added programs taken by those registered in advance placement programs and how it compares with enrollment in other years. He said that the Board will continue to listen regarding the bike policy, but student safety is the primary concern and listening is a two-way street.

**Trustee Jeff Piro** praised the staff for the audit report and congratulated the sports teams. He said the Board has accomplished a lot in making changes to the bicycle policy, but the work is just beginning. The plan and program just

come together because schools are destinations and many agencies and entities, including municipalities, must work together to successfully create safe routes to schools.

**President Mia Pfitzer** thanked Kurt Jaeger and his staff for a great audit report. She extended thanks to Principal Froats and Assistant Principal Davis for their report. To those who stayed for the meeting, she acknowledged that it is frustrating that feedback is not allowed in a public comment period and encouraged anyone to call with questions. She said it is a beginning and we are working together.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Trustee Regina Gapczynski** moved and **Trustee Aaron AuBuchon** seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:38 p.m. to discuss the following matters:

1. Negotiations with the City of Saratoga Springs;
2. Negotiations with collective bargaining units;
3. Matters leading to the employment of particular persons.

**Ayes all; motion carried.**

At 9:56 p.m., **Trustee Jeff Piro** made a motion to return to Open Session and **Trustee Regina Gapczynski** seconded the motion.

**Ayes all; motion carried.**

**OPEN SESSION:**

**Trustee Charles Phillips** made a motion and **Trustee Frank Palumbo** seconded to approve the following:

Accept the resignation of Richard Bonneau from the position of custodian effective October 14, 2009.

**Ayes all; motion carried.**

At 9:58 p.m., **Trustee Charles Phillips** made a motion to return to Executive Session and **Trustee Steve Grandin** seconded the motion.

**Ayes all; motion carried.**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Trustee Steve Grandin** made a motion and **Trustee Charles Phillips** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

**Ayes all; motion carried.**

There being no further business, **President Mia Pfitzer** adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Jaeger  
District Clerk