

The regular meeting of the Saratoga Springs City School District Board of Education was held at the High School Meade Auditorium, 1 Blue Streak Blvd., on Thursday, October 29, 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 Frank Palumbo
Trustee Mary Elizabeth Pfitzer, President
Trustee Charles Phillips
Trustee Jeff Piro
Trustee Jay Rifenburg, Vice President

ABSENT:

Trustee Regina Gapczynski
Trustee Steve Grandin

STAFF PRESENT:

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. MINUTES

Trustee Frank Palumbo moved and **Trustee Charles Phillips** seconded to approve the minutes for the October 13, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education.

Ayes all.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications of interest were circulated.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

President Mia Pfitzer opened the first public hearing.

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

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

New York State School Boards Association: Trustee Jeff Piro said he recently attended the NYSSBA convention, which was a worthwhile event. He said it was good to see the collaboration among the leaders. Over the next several years, there will be sweeping changes in their agenda that will impact students. He said it would be interesting to see how these changes would be funded.

WSWHE BOCES: Trustee Jeff Piro said that the BOCES Board will meet next month. He said that at a recent career and technology event the Advisory Committee completed their review/recertification process of that program.

Policy Committee: Trustee Ernie Gailor said the Policy Committee met on October 26 and discussed the special education policy on pre-referrals, charging school lunches, and the use of school vehicles outside of the district. He said that these policies would be brought forth at the next meeting.

Finance Committee: Trustee Frank Palumbo said the Finance Committee met on October 26 and devoted much of their time to the one item to be discussed in Executive Session. He said they would meet again on November 2. He also noted that on this evening's agenda are two items concerning refinancing bonds at lower rates.

Property Administration Committee: Trustee Ernie Gailor said that the Property Committee met on October 19 and discussed the five-year contract with the City on the recreation fields. He noted that they are one year into the five-year contract with no resolution. There was discussion on the use and management of the bleachers. The American Little League has made an application to SED for a new project at that location. The next Property Administration Committee meeting will be on November 9.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. School Board Recognition Week: Proclamation/Presentation

Dr. Janice White presented Board members with a proclamation from the Governor and flowers in recognition of their service.

B. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. White said this past Monday more than 150 student leaders from Suburban Council met at Longfellow's for the Student Council Leadership Conference. She said it was a wonderful event and that Vice President Rifenburg was the keynote speaker, as well as a workshop presenter.

Dr. White said the Annual Academic Recognition Night was scheduled for Thursday, November 5, and encouraged those who could attend to do so.

Dr. White informed Board members that earlier today, two retired teachers were honored by the City of Saratoga Springs Police Department for their contribution to the community in connection with the attempted abduction of a student in 2005.

Dr. White said that many of the district's fall sports teams are playing in their semi-finals. These included: Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Girls Varsity Field Hockey, Girls Varsity Volleyball, Girls Varsity Swimming, Girls Tennis, Boys Golf, and the Football Team.

C. Presentation on Teacher Sabbatical

Maura McNamara, Orchestra Director for the elementary schools, reported on her year-long sabbatical in Ireland.

Ms. McNamara thanked Board members for the opportunity to take a year-long sabbatical to attend a Master's Program in Limerick, Ireland. She said she was accepted in the Spring of 2008 and left the district in the Fall to become a full-time student. She took a wide variety of courses, ranging from philosophy of music to step dance classes. Her course of study centered on classical music. While in Ireland, she traveled a great deal to other countries to experience those cultures. Since returning, she has become involved with many local and regional music organizations and groups and will be performing with them

in places such as Montreal. She said she is also working on a two-set CD. She again thanked the Board for their support in allowing her to take this sabbatical. She then performed several pieces of music on her violin with a display of her photographs of her time in Ireland and Europe.

Vice President Jay Rifenbary asked if she would share this presentation with her students. She said yes, over the course of the year and when appropriate. **Vice President Rifenbary** said this was a positive experience that she should share with her students on the cultures throughout the world, and he encouraged her to do so. He also suggested that this might be a good program to be shared at the parent conference evening. He said it was a good reflection on the district and would reinforce to parents the positive programs throughout the district.

Trustee Charles Phillips asked what surprised her most over the course of the year. Ms. McNamara said that while traveling throughout Europe she was surprised to see the influence that the United States has on those countries.

President Mia Pfitzer thanked her for her presentation. She said the music program in the district is a wonderful program. She said her daughters both had wonderful experiences by participating in the district's music program.

D. *District Energy & Conservation Task Force Report*

Dr. Janice White, Superintendent of Schools, presented the District Energy Conservation Task Force Committee's findings and recommendations relative to energy conservation, energy education, and recycling.

Dr. White said the District Energy & Conservation Task Force was formed as part of the district's strategic plan. They were charged with finding ways to reduce energy costs, look at potential savings and opportunities, and to look at recycling. The three components of the report are energy conservation, energy education and recycling. Some ways they looked at reducing energy costs included: lowering the thermostat across the district (which saved about a half a million dollars), brokering energy costs, savings from capital projects, building based activities,

transportation, technology and a NYSERDA audit.

Transportation: **Dr. White** said the district experimented with the use of bio-fuel in two buses. They also are using K100 additive to the fuel to increase the miles per gallon. The overall savings is approximately 5 to 6 cents per gallon on diesel.

Technology: **Dr. White** said the high energy use monitors are being replaced with the 19" LCD monitors with a savings of half of the energy use. They are also replacing old desk tops with newer models. The cost savings per year on that replacement goes from \$51.20 to \$21.56. They continue to update software, noting that the latest version of Windows Vista has an energy savings sleep mode built into the program.

NYSERDA Audit: **Dr. White** said the High School is an "Energy Star School" receiving a score of 100 on the audit. She said that Dorothy Nolan, Geysler Road, and Lake Avenue scored better than average. Caroline Street, Greenfield, Division Street and Maple Avenue scored below, but she said that the 2009 modifications at those schools would likely increase their scores. There are many new energy savings ideas that the district will be trying over the next year, including the "plug load" -- looking at what items need to be plugged in. She said the High School has 903,049 square feet, it is the largest facility in the district and it is the most efficient.

Energy Savings: **Dr. White** said the energy savings shown were over the 2008-2009 year. Their goal was to achieve a 10 percent savings, which they did.

Education: **Dr. White** said there is a lot of energy education going on throughout the district with green teams, conservation clubs, NYSERDA offering resources, students reviewing alternative energy sources and gathering information on geothermal heating.

Video: **Dr. White** then showed a video on the exit 12 technology park. She said it is an exciting project that will benefit the district.

Recycling: **Dr. White** said that there is recycling going on throughout the district with green teams, tree clubs, composting, etc.

Recommendations: **Dr. White** said they continue to look at ways to access grant opportunities, using renewable energy sources, monitoring energy use, and using technology to become more energy efficient.

Education: **Dr. White** said they plan to focus on the green team approach with several training activities. There are also pilot projects at the High School and Maple Avenue on wind and solar use.

Recycling: **Dr. White** said the lunch program recently switched to regular trays rather than throw-away trays. They will look at ways to standardize recycling and reduce paper consumption by more use of electronic communication.

Vice President Jay Rifenburg suggested that a shorter version of the presentation be made at the parent conference evening. He again said that this shows the positive things happening in the district and reinforces that the district is pro-active and forward thinking.

Trustee Charles Phillips said he wanted to be sure that the district was taking a serious look at wasted energy. He asked about computers being left on 24/7. **David L'Hommedieu** said that computers need to be left on to allow for patch work and updating of software.

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon requested that future energy data show not only the cost, but also the increase/decrease in usage.

Trustee Frank Palumbo said he would like to see the grant opportunities expanded upon and a commitment to recycling.

President Mia Pfitzer thanked the committee for their work. She said her daughter recently visited an ecotarium in Massachusetts and she would forward that information to Dr. White.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Jay Rifenburg moved and **Trustee Frank Palumbo** seconded to approve tonight's agenda in its entirety, except for items 11D and 11E.

A. Field Trips

1. Granted permission for the Boys Varsity Basketball Team to travel to Lake George, New York on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 to participate in a team building hike at Buck Mountain.
2. Granted permission for three Senior Students to travel to Austin, Texas on Thursday, November 12, 2009 through Saturday, November 14, 2009 to attend the 2009 Project Lead the Way National Symposium.
3. Granted permission for High School AP World HLA (History, Literature, Arts) students to travel to New York City, New York on Friday, December 11, 2009 to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

X. PERSONNEL

A. Corrections

1. Approved Jeffrey Halstead to the position of Musical - Vocal, High School, for the 2009-2010 school year. (Previously approved as Drama Club - Vocal Director, BOE 10/13/09.)
2. Approved the listing of the Winter-Team orientated activities at Geyser Road for the Winter of 2009-2010 as "Intramurals - Winter (12 weeks)" at the 12-week rate of pay of \$724, effective 7/1/09. (Previously approved as a club, Intramurals - Winter (12 weeks), with a \$740 stipend, BOE 7/30/09.)

B. Club Creations

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

Animated Art (Anime) -	volunteer
Photography Club -	volunteer

2. Approved the creation of a Girls' Tennis Club at Maple Avenue School with a stipend of \$776 for the 2009 - 2010 school year.

C. Co-Curricular Appointments

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

Character Education	-	Laura Downey/ Alison Robbens
Chess Club	-	Denise Harrington
Reading Club	-	Lisa LaBrecque/ Laura Downey
Rock Climbing Club	-	Blair McFarlane
Science Club	-	Heidi Hennessey/ Danielle Terry

2. Approved the following as club advisors at Dorothy Nolan School for the 2009-2010 school year:

Character Education K-2	-	Laurie Newcomer
Climbing Wall Club	-	Joann Hostig/ Charles Waterstram
Media Communications	-	Amy Gosselin
Science Fair Club	-	Maureen Hodges
Snowshoe Club	-	Charles Waterstram/ Joann Hostig
Yearbook Club	-	Sue Jablonski/ Michelle Knight

3. Approved the following as club advisors at Greenfield Elementary School for the 2009-2010 school year:

Accelerated Reader Club	-	Faye Mihuta
Art Club	-	Thomas Taylor
Computer Club	-	Bobbi Wendell
Sports Club	-	Michael Ricupero
Student Council	-	Kimberly Clifton
Student Council	-	Kerry Morris

4. Approved Deborah Titolo as club advisor to the Student-Teacher Book Club at the High School for the 2009-2010 school year.

5. Approved the following for the Before/After-School Instructional Program at Division Street School for the 2009-2010 school year:

ELA I	-	Jaime Pinto
ELA 2	-	Lauren Woodruff
ELA 3	-	Abbie Powers/ Kiersten Ogsbury
ELA 4	-	Claire McEwan/ Michele Renner
ELA 5	-	Barbara Redding/ Kristy Zacheus
Social Studies 5	-	Barbara Redding
Math 1	-	Michele Renner
Math 2	-	Lauren Woodruff
Math 3	-	Kiersten Ogsbury
Math 4	-	Jude Dorflinger
Math 5	-	Claire McEwan/ Barbara Redding
Interdisciplinary Enrichment 1	-	Jaime Pinto
Interdisciplinary Enrichment 2	-	Erin Holohan
Interdisciplinary Enrichment 4	-	Claire McEwan
Homework Assistance	-	Heather Steitzer Jaime Pinto Lauren Woodruff Kiersten Ogsbury Joan Healy Kristy Zacheus Peg Ruben
Kindergarten Parent/Student/ Teacher Partnership Class	-	Mary Assey Jude Dorflinger Deborah Hellwig Erin Holohan Jaime Pinto
Substitutes	-	Rina Bell Deanna Lozier Heather Steitzer

6. Approved the following for the After-School Study Program at Caroline Street School for the 2009-2010 school year:

- Coordinator/Tutor - Danielle Terry
- Tutors - Lindsey Anson
Debbie Arend
Kathy Babcock
Sandy Beaubriand
Sandy Crooks
Joni Ernst
Maureen Gizzi
Dana Kiefer
Lisa LaBrecque
Patti Massey
Sharon Nash
Maria Starczewski
Polly Vouglas
- Typist - Barbara Claydon

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

Jeannie Duval
Laura Farone
Meredith Kerr

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

- Teachers - Kimberly Clifton
Joanne Estrada
- Substitutes - Erin Esler
Lauren Jorrey
Catherine McCabe

9. Approved the following as coaches for the 2009-2010 Winter Interscholastic Season:

Boys' Basketball

- Head Varsity - B. Mitchell Snyder
- Assistant Varsity - Kevin Crotty
- Junior Varsity - David Zeh
- Freshman - Tony DeVizzio

Wrestling

Head Varsity - Kristofer West
Junior Varsity - Dean Bailey
Modified - Kim Lucas
Modified - Anthony Bellai

Ice Hockey

Head Varsity - Michael Ricupero
Assistant Varsity - Thomas Ellis

Boys' Swimming

Head Varsity - William Asay
Diving - Mary Ellen Raymond

Modified Swimming

- Julie Nolan

Indoor Track

Head Varsity - Arthur Kranick
Assistant Varsity - Linda Kranick
Assistant Varsity - Anthony Spackman
Assistant Varsity - Christopher Conley
Assistant Varsity - Courtney Salton

Alpine Skiing

Head Varsity - Scott Singer
Assistant Varsity - Glyn Chilton

Nordic Skiing

Head Varsity - Eric Trombley
Assistant Varsity - Michael DeLancey

Girls' Basketball

Head Varsity - Rich Johns
Assistant Varsity - Ann Testa
Junior Varsity - Colleen Belanger
Freshman - Chris McMahon
8th Grade - Warren Dart
Volunteer - Damian Fantauzzi

Boys' & Girls' Bowling

Head Varsity - Brenda Adams
Assistant Varsity - Richard Lofink

Gymnastics

Head Varsity - Deborah Smarro
Assistant Varsity - Breanne Clark

Cheerleading

Head Varsity - Eunique Priest
Junior Varsity - Ricardo Smith
Freshman - Ryan Hall

D. Compensation Change

1. Increased from 39 to 40 points the coaches' compensation for Varsity Boys' Volleyball to correspond with the current 40 points for Varsity Girls' Volleyball effective July 1, 2009.

E. Civil Service Resignations/Retirement

1. Accepted the resignation of Jeanenne Cornell from the position of 175-day, 3.0 hour food service helper, effective October 30, 2009. (Greenfield - Sen. 5/13/09)
2. Accepted the resignation, for retirement purposes, of Sandra Crooks, with appreciation and regret, from the position of 180-day, teacher aide, effective December 24, 2009. (Caroline - Sen. 9/1/74)
3. Accepted the resignation of Danielle Hersey from the position of 175-days, 5.0 hour cashier, effective October 9, 2009. (Greenfield - Sen. 3/28/08)
4. Accepted the resignation of Julie Kirkland from the position of 175-day, teacher aide, effective October 19, 2009. (High School - Sen. 9/7/04)
5. Accepted the resignation of Bernadette Salmiery from the position of 175-day, school bus driver, effective October 29, 2009. (Transportation - Sen. 3/17/08)
6. Accepted the resignation of Elizabeth VanAuken from the position of 175-day, 3.5 hour cashier, effective October 14, 2009. (High School - Sen. 12/12/07)

F. Civil Service Appointments

1. Approved the probationary appointment of Jeanenne Cornell to the position of 175-day, 5.0 cashier, effective October 30, 2009. (Greenfield School - Replacement)
2. Approved the probationary appointment of Amalie Matera to the position of 175-day, 3.5 hour cashier, effective October 30, 2009. (High School - Replacement)
3. Approved the probationary appointment of Julie Oliver to the position of 175-day, school bus driver, effective October 15, 2009. (Transportation - Replacement)

G. Civil Service Leave of Absence

1. Approved an unpaid leave of absence, for medical reasons, for Brian Winnie from his position of 175-day, school bus driver, Transportation, effective October 1, 2009 through November 1, 2009.

H. Substitute Appointments/Resignations/Deletions

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

XI. **FINANCIAL**

A. Treasurer's Reports

Accepted the July 2009 and August 2009 Treasurer's Reports.

B. Extra Classroom Activity Fund Reports

1. Accepted the Maple Avenue Middle School Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report for the period July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009.
2. Accepted the High School Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report for the period July 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009.

Trustee Charles Phillips said he appreciated the efforts of Principal Crowley to close out the accounts of classes that have already graduated (e.g., 2006 & 2009), and encouraged

him to continue to work on this.

C. Disposal of Obsolete Library Books

1. Granted permission to the High School to resell the following obsolete library books to Follett Company:

Qty.	Title	ISBN #	Publisher	Pub. Date	Price	Total
100	World History Connections to Today	0-13-435915-1	Prentice Hall	1999	\$2.50 ea.	\$250.00
34	American Government	0-13-434756-0	Prentice Hall	1998	\$1.50 ea.	\$51.00

2. Granted permission to Maple Avenue Middle School to dispose of obsolete library books as per the attached list.
3. Granted permission to Lake Avenue Elementary School to dispose of obsolete library books as per the attached list.

D. Intention to Accept Proposals for the Purchase of the Refunding Bonds

Vice President Jay Rifenburg moved and **Trustee Charles Phillips** seconded to approve 11D - Intention to Accept Proposals for the Purchase of Refunding Bonds.

Trustee Charles Phillips pointed out that this is not the actual refinancing; they were just soliciting proposals.

Approved the resolution announcing the Board of Education's intention to accept proposals for the purchase of the refunding bonds. Such resolution (per attached document incorporated herein by reference) is entitled:

"RESOLUTION OF THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK, ADOPTED OCTOBER 29, 2009, ANNOUNCING THE INTENTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO ACCEPT PROPOSALS FOR THE REFUNDING OF CERTAIN BONDS OF SAID SCHOOL DISTRICT."

Ayes all (7-0).

E. Refunding Bond Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Not to Exceed \$31,500,000 Refunding Bonds and Providing for Publication of Summary Form of Such Resolution in District's Official Newspapers

Vice President Jay Rifembary moved and **Trustee Jeff Piro** seconded to approve item 11E - Refunding Bond Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Not to Exceed \$31,500,000 Refunding Bonds and Providing for Publication of Summary Form of Such Resolution in District's Official Newspapers.

Approved the refunding bond resolution authorizing issuance of refunding bonds and publication of summary form of such resolutions in the District's authorized newspapers. Such resolution (per attached document incorporated herein by reference) is entitled:

"REFUNDING BOND RESOLUTION OF THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK, ADOPTED OCTOBER 29, 2009, AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF ALL OR A PORTION OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING SERIAL BONDS OF SAID DISTRICT, STATING THE PLAN OF REFUNDING, APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$31,500,000 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$31,500,000 REFUNDING SERIAL BONDS OF THE DISTRICT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION, AND MAKING CERTAIN OTHER DETERMINATIONS ALL RELATIVE THERETO."

Ayes all (7-0).

F. Saratoga American Little League Preliminary Project Approval Request

Approved the preliminary project description for concession stand construction and realignment of fields at the East Side Recreation complex by the Saratoga American Little League.

XII. **PUBLIC HEARING**

President Mia Pfitzer opened the second public hearing.

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

XIII. OTHERS

Trustee Charles Phillips said he was happy to see that the district was moving ahead on the bike policy, but that the district must continue to monitor the safety of the students. He said the Finance Committee would be facing some great challenges over the next several months with the proposed cuts to State aid.

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon thanked the teachers who assisted the students in the leadership program. He said it was a wonderful event. He also thanked Maura McNamara for a great presentation that evening. He congratulated the student athletes.

Trustee Frank Palumbo thanked Dr. Janice White for providing a bus at the rowing regatta that was used to warm up the participants. He also commended the District's Transportation Department for all of their good work. He thanked Maura McNamara for her presentation.

Vice President Jay Rifenburg agreed that it was going to be a challenging year for the Finance Committee. He, too, thanked the teachers involved in the leadership program and Maura McNamara for her presentation.

President Mia Pfitzer thanked the BOCES students for the wonderful flowers that evening. She also thanked the teachers involved in the leadership program.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice President Jay Rifenburg moved and **Trustee Aaron AuBuchon** seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. Negotiations with the City of Saratoga Springs;
2. Pending litigation;
3. Matters leading to the employment of particular persons.

Ayes all.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Frank Palumbo moved and **Trustee Jeff Piro** seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Ayes all.

There being no further business, **President Mia Pfitzer** adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Jaeger
District Clerk