

The regular meeting of the Saratoga Springs City School District Board of Education was held at the Administration Offices at 3 Blue Streak Blvd. on Thursday, July 30, 2009. The meeting was called to order by President Mia Pfitzer at 7:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon
Trustee Ernie Gailor
Trustee Regina Gapczynski
Trustee Steve Grandin
Trustee Frank Palumbo
Trustee Mary Elizabeth Pfitzer, President
Trustee Charles Phillips
Trustee Jay Rifenbary, Vice President

ABSENT:

Trustee Jeff Piro

STAFF PRESENT:

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. MINUTES

Vice President Jay Rifenbary moved and **Trustee Regina Gapczynski** seconded to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2009 Organizational/Regular Meeting of the Board of Education. Copies of the minutes were previously distributed to Board members. **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**
- Committee Assignments **President Mia Pfitzer** said committee assignments would be announced at the next meeting.
- Finance Committee **Trustee Frank Palumbo** said the Finance Committee will meet in the near future.
- Property Administration Committee **Trustee Ernie Gailor** said the Property Administration Committee will discuss the agreement with the City and the Joseph Street parking matter at their next meeting.
- VII. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
- A. Superintendent's Comments
Turner Construction Progress Report Janice White said the Turner Construction report had been included in the Board's packet. The construction project is moving along well. **Trustee Frank Palumbo** asked about recycling material. Tom Clark said, that to the extent possible, material is recycled in-house, i.e., hardware, light bulbs, etc., and re-used. He said it was not possible to recycle the gym floor, as it did not come up in one piece.
- Enrollment Projections Janice White said enrollment is being watched carefully. Tom Mele said he is keeping a close eye on Caroline Street. They try not to reassign Kindergarten students, so he may be requesting an additional Kindergarten. There are several sections at or near cap; however, he would have better numbers in August. He reminded Trustees that in some cases, the district does not find out that students are not returning until the first day of school. **Trustee Frank Palumbo** asked about the Global Foundaries project and the impact on housing starts. He said he expected to see new housing developments in the next few years and suggested that frequent conversations be had with the Towns and City. Tom Mele agreed.
- B. 2008-2009 District Goals and Objectives Presentation Mike Piccirillo reviewed the district's goals and objectives from the past year.

Goal #1: Empower students to achieve local, national and global academic standards at essential proficiency levels. This goal remains the same, but the objectives changed. He said they continue to focus on students with disabilities or economically disadvantaged, noting that their performance had increased with the exception of math at the grade 4 level. **Vice President Jay Rifenbary** asked who determined which students were economically disadvantaged. Mike Piccirillo said students with disabilities were determined by their IEP, while students who are economically disadvantaged are determined by the free/reduced lunch program. **Vice President Jay Rifenbary** clarified that the standards the district uses to determine economically disadvantaged students is the same standard that is used throughout the state. Janice White agreed.

Trustee Frank Palumbo said it seemed as though the district should see an increase in improvement diagonally across the charts. Mike Piccirillo said while that seemed logical, it was not the case. There are different tests at different levels. The tests are a snapshot of the program.

Mike Piccirillo said there has been an increase in the cohort of students with disabilities. **Trustee Frank Palumbo** asked why the chart stopped at year 2005. Mike Piccirillo said it was the last year of freshman students at the senior level. He explained that it is difficult to meet the annual yearly progress marks, as it is a moving target. Janice White explained that the benchmark is established by law which states that by 2014 the benchmark will be 200. Each year that number is increased, until by the year 2014 all students are at 200. Our district has been steadily increasing and is nearing the 200 mark.

Mike Piccirillo said there was an increase across the board in students in grades 3-8 in both ELA and math. He said the district continues to achieve its goals in RTI, Curriculum Mapping, Foreign Language, SHS Vision, Technology and Project Lead the Way. He noted though that the Foreign Language Program in grade 2 will not continue. The Power Standards in vocabulary development and critical thinking continue with areas of achievement. He noted that Program Reviews continue and they are shifting those reviews to coincide with the budget process.

Goal #2: Nurture a safe learning environment that is responsive to and stimulates academic, social and emotional development while inspiring personal initiatives within our 21st century learners. Mike Piccirillo said they continue to implement the Character Education initiatives through digital citizenship and global and community awareness. The transition program from grades 5-6 and 8-9 continues. They continue to enhance the 8-9 transition. Safety and security measures are a prime area of focus with enhanced procedures, safety committees and drills. Career pathway opportunities all continue through web-based programs.

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. Mike Piccirillo said that Karen Stanley continues to work hard on recruitment profiles and minority recruitment. **Vice President Jay Rifenbary** asked about the percentage of minority staff. Karen Stanley said she did not have that number this evening; however, it was representative of the district as a whole. There continues to be recognition of staff accomplishments, negotiation of bargaining agreements and professional development activities.

Goal #4: Engage the community in partnerships that actively support Saratoga Springs City School District initiatives. Mike Piccirillo said they continue with Parent Surveys, Superintendent/Parent Forums and the Parent University. There will be a Parent University Summit on November 7 with items such as health & wellness, student development, and 21st century learning to be discussed. He said they also continue to enhance partnerships with the community through the Sponsor-A-Scholar Program, Saratoga Reads, and the 21st Century Learning Community Foundation.

Goal #5: Oversee the district's resources in a proactive, responsible and efficient manner in the best interest of the students, staff and community. Kurt Jaeger said there continues to be oversight on construction projects through on-site visits, meetings and detailed written reports. He said it continues to be a challenge with change orders, bidding and what is authorized in the bonds; however, they are meeting that challenge. They plan to establish a committee to review potential energy savings opportunities. They will continue to

mentor statewide developments in the tax levy, circuit breakers and state aid. He said that 403b and GASB 45 also continue to be challenges due to new reporting standards. He said he plans to have the Actuary Firm do a presentation to the Board on these issues. Cost containment strategies continue to be reviewed. He said they also continue to work on an inventory system for the IT equipment - which is very labor intensive. He said the lack of a central receiving area was an issue. It was cut from the construction program due to space and aidability.

Mike Piccirillo then reviewed the status of the goals and objectives summarizing those that had been met, were being developed, or implemented.

Trustee Regina Gapczynski asked about the community partnerships with government and what was being done. Mike Piccirillo said it was about establishing good relationships with the local government bodies/agencies.

Trustee Charles Phillips said this was really good information for Trustees. He said it is the Board's responsibility to set goals and to see that they are within reach. He understood that it was difficult to sustain the momentum. He was glad to see that technology was being embedded into the curriculum. He said he would like to see Career Pathways continue, as it was good for the students to get hands-on experience.

President Mia Pfitzer said that at one time, GE offered a mentoring program and wondered if that was still in existence. Janice White said she was not sure; however, she believed that the focus of that program was for the urban schools.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Jay Rifenburg moved and **Trustee Aaron AuBuchon** seconded to approve tonight's agenda in its entirety except for item 11.F.

A. Approval of College for the Placement of Student Teachers

Approved Dominican College as one of the institutions of higher learning where we will accept and place student teachers.

B. Field Trips

1. Granted permission for the High School Jazz Ensemble to travel to Orlando, Florida on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 through Sunday, February 21, 2010 to attend the Disney Jazz Celebration Festival and Competition at Disney World.
2. Granted permission for High School Chamber Orchestra students to travel to New York City, New York on Friday, April 16, 2010 through Sunday, April 18, 2010 to attend a performance by the New York Philharmonic and compete in the Heritage Festival Competition.

X. **PERSONNEL**

A. Teacher Resignations

1. Accepted the resignation of Jessica Kite from the position of elementary teacher effective August 12, 2009. (Caroline Street) (Sen.: 9/1/06)
2. Accepted the resignation of Claire McEwan from the one-year position of Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions - Special Education - General teacher effective September 1, 2009. (Division Street)

B. Teacher Appointments

1. Approved the appointment of Claire McEwan to a three-year probationary appointment as a remedial reading teacher effective September 1, 2009. (Division Street - Replacement) (Certification: Initial, Literacy B-6, 9/1/07; Initial, Childhood Education 1-6, 9/1/07; Initial, Students with Disabilities 1-6, 9/1/07)
2. Approved the appointment of Courtney Salton to a two-year probationary appointment as a physical education and recreation teacher effective September 1, 2009. (.2 H.S./ .2 Lake/ .3 Division/ .3 Greenfield - Replacement) (Certification: Permanent, Physical Education, 9/1/07; Initial, Health 9/1/05)
3. Approved the appointment of Amanda Banner to a one-year appointment as a mathematics teacher effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. (Maple Avenue - LOA) (Certification: Initial, Mathematics, 7-12, 7/9/09; Initial, Mathematics Ext. 5-6, 7/9/09)

4. Approved the appointment of Mary Fenton to a one-year appointment as a .2 remedial reading teacher effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. (Private Schools) (Certification: Perm., Special Education, 9/1/02; Perm., Reading, 2/1/98)
5. Approved the appointment of Evan Williamson to a one-year appointment as a social studies teacher effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. (Maple Avenue - LOA) (Certification: Initial, Social Studies, 2/1/07)

Evan Williamson said he was originally from Saratoga Springs and was glad to return here to teach.

C. Teacher Leaves of Absence

1. Approved an unpaid Family and Medical Leave of Absence, for child-rearing purposes, for Amy Merrigan from her position of elementary teacher, effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. (Dorothy Nolan)
2. Approved a one-year unpaid leave of absence, for child-rearing purposes, for Laurie Walsh from her position of elementary teacher, effective September 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. (Dorothy Nolan)

D. Summer Curriculum Resignation

1. Accepted the resignation of Christina Merrill from the ELA Curriculum Mapping, Grades 3-5 writing project, effective July 13, 2009.

E. Summer Curriculum Appointments

1. Approved the 2009 Summer Curriculum Writing Projects:

Meta Linguistics Course: Elaine Alberti and Patricia Chilton

ELA Curriculum Mapping - Grades 3-5: Ben Brownell

F. Co-Curricular Appointments

1. Approved the following to fill emergency openings for the 2009 Summer (STEPS) Program:

Kelly Holt - teacher, grade 4
Kathleen Tomasi - substitute teacher

2. Approved the following for 2009 Interscholastic Fall coaching positions:

Field Hockey

Assistant Varsity - Kristen Dart

Boys' Soccer

Junior Varsity - Garrett Cobb

Girls' Soccer

Assistant Varsity - Douglas Leininger

Junior Varsity - Jonathan Warner

Boys' Volleyball

Junior Varsity - Robert DiFusco

Girls' Volleyball

Junior Varsity - Leanne Donelan

Modified - Laura Cuthbertson

3. Approved the following for volunteer coaching positions for the 2009 Fall Season:

Varsity Football

Barry Clawson

Ronald Ravena

Robert Guglielmo

Robertson Baker, Jr.

Varsity Girls' Volleyball

Heather Frame

G. Club Creations

1. Approved the creation of the following club at Geyser Road School effective September 1, 2009:

Intramurals - Winter (12 weeks) - with a \$740 stipend

H. Change in Stipend for Club Advisor

1. Approved an increase in the stipend for the Social Studies Club advisor at Maple Avenue from \$404 to \$740 (35 hours) effective September 1, 2008.

I. Student Worker Appointments

1. Approved the following additional students to the position of student workers with the Facilities and Operations Department for the summer of 2009:

Christopher Burnett
Nicole Francis
Sean Hurley

Colin MacNicoll
Cody Ovitt

J. Civil Service Appointments

1. Approved the permanent appointment of Paula Galvin, Stenographer, to Confidential Stenographer, effective July 1, 2009. (Human Resource Office)
2. Approved the permanent appointment of Lisa Nettesheim, Senior Typist, to Confidential Senior Typist, effective July 1, 2009. (Asst. Superintendent for Elementary Education Office)
3. Accepted Richard Huestis' withdrawal of his voluntary demotion from Head Custodian to Custodian effective July 22, 2009.

K. 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. Change Order Resolution: #012-001 (Phase 3), Saratoga Springs High School

Harold R. Clune Inc. - Remove 24 existing high-bay light fixtures and replace with energy efficient fluorescents.

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 #: 52-18-00-01-0-016-019 (Phase 3) Contract No.: 12, Electrical Construction be increased by **Seventeen Thousand Two Hundred and no/100 Dollars (\$17,200.00)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$108,900.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$108,900.00
This Change Order	<u>\$ 17,200.00</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$126,100.00</u>

and,

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

* none

B. Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report

Accepted the Maple Avenue Middle School Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report for the period April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009.

C. Gas Combi Oven - Maple Avenue Bid Award

Awarded the bid for two gas combi ovens for Maple Avenue Middle School to Kittredge Equipment, Agawam, MA in the amount of \$17,891.00.

D. Disposal of Obsolete Textbooks - Maple Avenue Middle School

Granted permission to Maple Avenue Middle School to dispose of the following obsolete textbooks:

Quantity	Title	ISBN #	Publisher	Copyright Date
500	The American Nation Beginnings Through 1877	0-13-434902-4	Prentice-Hall	2000

E. Disposal of Obsolete Equipment - Registrar's Office

Granted permission to the Registrar's Office to dispose of the following obsolete equipment:

Brother Multi-Function Center Facsimile Machine
Model #MFC-1770
Serial #F77318789

Ayes all.

F. Resolution to Increase 2008-2009 Tax Levy (ROLL CALL VOTE REQUIRED)

Vice President Jay Rifembary moved and **Trustee Frank Palumbo** seconded to approve an increase to the 2008-2009 school tax levy in the amount of **\$9,104.42** due to adjustments to the 2008-2009 tax rolls.

Kurt Jaeger said this increase is based on last year's assessment roll. He explained that for all practical purposes there was no way to distribute this money to the residents.

Roll call vote: Ayes all.

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

Vice President Jay Rifenburg reminded everyone that the Summer School graduation would be held on August 14. He also said that he recently attended the NYS Association of School Business Officials Summer Training Workshop where he received many compliments from the attendees on this district's staff.

All trustees thanked Turner Construction for the very detailed report on the construction project.

President Mia Pfitzer thanked former President Frank Palumbo on his tenure as Board President.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon moved and **Trustee Regina Gapczynski** seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the following:

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

Ayes all.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Frank Palumbo moved and **Trustee Charles Phillips** seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Ayes all.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Jaeger
District Clerk