

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, August 27, 2009. The meeting was called to order by **President Mia Pfitzer** at 7:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Trustee Ernie Gailor
Trustee Steve Grandin
Trustee Jeff Piro

STAFF PRESENT:

Janice White, Superintendent of Schools
Kurt Jaeger, Asst. Superintendent for Business
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
Tom Clark, Director of Facilities & Operations
Colleen Carroll, Director for District Assessment &
Staff Development

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Mia Pfitzer led the Board 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 August 11, 2009, meeting minutes. **Ayes all.**

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications of interest were circulated.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

President Mia Pfitzer opened the first public hearing.

Michelle Preston asked the Board for their support in assisting her to reach out to students for the upcoming CROP walk to be held on October 18 in Congress Park. She

explained that the goal of CROP is not only to stop world hunger, but also to stop hunger locally. She said she would like to start a student-based organization within the school that would reach out to the students and involve them in this program. **Vice President Jay Rifenbary** said it was likely that the school could assist through some publicity to promote this event. Trustees all agreed that these are the type of events that they hope that students will become involved in.

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

VI. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Saratoga County School Boards Association: **Vice President Jay Rifenbary** reported that the SCSBA meeting would be held at Panza's Restaurant on Monday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. Nationally accredited teachers will be recognized at this event.

Policy Committee: **Trustee Regina Gapczynski** reported that the Policy Committee will meet on September 21 at 5:00 p.m.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Comments

Turner Construction Progress Report: **Superintendent Janice White** said the Turner Construction Progress Report was included in the Board packet. She noted that the fire doors at the high school would need to be replaced and a change order would be forthcoming.

Trustee Charles Phillips asked if this was a design flaw and why was it being discovered so late in the process. Superintendent White explained that initially they believed the doors would not need to be replaced and they could be retrofitted to meet specifications by modifying the hardware. However, they have since discovered that the change to the hardware did not work; therefore, the doors would need to be replaced.

Trustee Frank Palumbo agreed that the inability to modify the hardware should have been discovered earlier in the process. Superintendent White agreed that this was not acceptable; however, the contractor has agreed to absorb

some of the cost. Tom Mele explained that the doors may not be installed until mid to late October because of the safety glass. He said Turner Construction representatives would be on site through the end of September.

New Teacher Orientation: Superintendent White said that new teacher orientation would begin on August 31 at 9:00 a.m.

School Calendar: Superintendent White said the new school calendars would be going out in the mail soon. The theme of the calendar is the Parent University Summit to be held on November 7.

High School (School In Need of Improvement): Superintendent White informed Board members that the high school remains on the list because of the disabilities subgroup in connection with the ELA and math scores. She explained that the district must meet the goals for two consecutive years in order to be removed from the list. At this point, she believed the district would be off the list next year because the district had met the two-year success rate with the math scores and only needs one more year on ELA. She said the scores continue to improve noting that the ELA went from 118 to 146 and the math score went from 118 to 148 over the last three years. She said they were not quite where district staff would like to see them; however, they were on the rise.

Co-Taught Classes: Susan DeRocker, Assistant Principal at the High School for 10th grade and past special education teacher, reviewed with Board members the co-taught classes. She said that this past year there were 59 sections and in the upcoming year there would be 69. All students would now be required to take regents exams or receive an RCT diploma, unless they were designated otherwise. She said the ratio in co-taught classes is 2/3 regular and 1/3 students with disabilities. This year the co-taught classes drove the scheduling rather than the Guidance Department; therefore, all sections had the right mix of faculty and students. Trustee Frank Palumbo asked about the higher percentage of failures in some of the classes. Susan DeRocker explained that some classes, i.e., English 9 is a struggle for students. They are looking into ways to assist those students in transitioning from 8th to

9th grade. **Trustee Charles Phillips** asked if the projected number of 69 sections would continue to increase. **Susan DeRocker** said that would depend on the amount of students identified. **Superintendent White** explained that there is a correlation between the amount of students passing their 9th grade classes and the graduation rate. **Trustee Frank Palumbo** said there was some resistance to co-teaching from the Math Department and asked if there was a correlation between the math pass/fail rates and that resistance. **Susan DeRocker** said the faculty in the Math Department was a good group; however, there were still some that needed to get on board with the co-teaching. She said that a good example was that the Math Department will have an 11th grade geometry class next year for four students. Geometry is a required class for college, so these students will now have this class on their transcript. She said the district cannot stop pursuing inclusion in the classroom.

Enrollment Update: **Tom Mele** said they continue to monitor the enrollment.

B. *Annual Report from the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education 2008-2009*

Noreen Walker, Director of Pupil Services, Deborah Balcanoff, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, and Robert Kelly, Assistant Director of Pupil Services presented the Annual Report from the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Preschool Special Education.

Preschool Special Education: **Noreen Walker** explained that the preschool programs are not managed by the district; however, procedurally there is a connection between the district and preschool organizations. The philosophy of the district is that services are tailored to meet the needs of the student which may not be what the parents have come to expect. She said parents have many choices at the preschool level, i.e., private with disabled students, private special education student providers, home providers and others. It is the intent at the preschool level to get the child ready for school. The district's role is to work with parents, teachers, evaluators, etc., to ensure a smooth transition. She then reviewed the statistics over the last several years on preschool children with disabilities. She said the way the numbers are reported

had changed and she believed they were now more accurate than before because they are on a 365 day cycle and not just a "snap shot" date. **Noreen Walker** explained that transitioning from preschool to school begins about 9 months before the first day of kindergarten. It is a complicated matter that takes a lot of explanation for parents. They encourage parents to not seek classification of their child, but rather to accept the additional services that the district can offer. She said the district supports these children without labeling them. **Trustee Charles Phillips** said there was no legal requirement to classify a child. **Vice President Jay Rifenbary** asked how many students arrived in kindergarten on the first day without the district knowing that there may be additional services required for the child. **Deborah Balcanoff** said there is an average of three or four of those children each year. She said it was difficult for parents to understand that the level of services at the preschool differ from services in the school. Generally preschool services are more intense.

Special Education: **Noreen Walker** said the Committee on Special Education services children between the ages of 5 and 21. Some of the key aspects are pre-intervention, compliance, disability types, etc. Classification of a student is always based on a medical reason. She noted that there are many degrees of disabilities. There are currently 761 students with disabilities within the district. She said that number is down from 1,188 in 1998. **Vice President Jay Rifenbary** asked if 761 was a high percentage. **Noreen Walker** said no, that it was a low percentage as compared to surrounding districts. She said the district is at about a 10 percent rate. She noted the rate for autism at 38 students. She said that national statistics show that the district should be at about 48 students or 1 in 150. The multi-disabled students have decreased from 122 to 52. **Trustee Aaron AuBuchon** asked how this district compared to the other districts in the Suburban Council. **Deborah Balcanoff** said that the Suburban Council is between 10 and 12 percent. **Noreen Walker** said this district is showing a trend of decreasing the numbers and that had been done without impacting students who need services. Services can be offered to students without being classified.

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon asked about the autism students, in particular, identifying those students. **Trustee Frank**

Palumbo asked if the district had seen enough standardization of guidelines that these numbers would remain steady. **Deborah Balcanoff** said there are now medically established ways to diagnose a child with autism. Some studies now show that the autism rate may drop to 1 in 100. **Noreen Walker** said there are fewer program locations. She noted that the district is reimbursed by other districts for servicing their students. She said that the students that go to BOCES are there because this district does not have the volume to keep them within the district. **Superintendent White** said that this district rents 7 classrooms at BOCES.

Noreen Walker said there have been many accomplishments in the special education program. She noted, in particular, hearing aid devices and how that impacts teaching students. She said this district will receive four free days of training on autism. The continuum of service continues through program rubrics. **Noreen Walker** said enrollment continues to be monitored in these classes. **Trustee Charles Phillips** said it was noted as a concern last year that students without disabilities who are in the integrated classroom should maintain their level of services, as well. **Trustee Frank Palumbo** asked if there was any hard data on students without disabilities and their success rates while being in a co-taught classroom. **Noreen Walker** said that could be monitored and reported back to the Board. **Susan DeRocker** suggested that the data might be within the school district's report card. **Vice President Jay Rifenbary** said this data needs to be shared with the public.

Noreen Walker said Geyser Road Elementary School was recognized by SED as an Effective Practices School. **Deborah Balcanoff** said this recognition was good for the district and the students. She said the next phase of this recognition was the completion of a questionnaire. After that phase, if the school meets the State's definition of an effective practices school, then the school would become eligible for \$10,000 for professional development. Geyser Road faculty would then be paired with other schools that are not doing as well in this area to assist them in increasing their effective practices.

Noreen Walker said the IEP Diploma was somewhat of a misnomer, in that it was really a certificate of attendance. She said that IEPs lower expectations and then limits the options for those students who may wish to go on to college. She said the district was cited under indicator #9 as having a significant disproportion based on race and ethnicity in the identification of students with disabilities. She said they continue to review and hope to improve in this area. **Deborah Balcanoff** said that because the district has a lower population of minority races and ethnicity, that one student could push the statistics over. **Noreen Walker** said that African American students with disabilities that do not attend preschool come into the district with a higher classification rate.

Noreen Walker said they continue to focus on professional development, dispute resolution, program effectiveness, student performance and technical assistance.

C. Addendum to the District Plan for Education of Pupils with Disabilities 2008-2010

Noreen Walker, Director of Pupil Services, Deborah Balcanoff, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, and Robert Kelly, Assistant Director of Pupil Services, presented the Addendum to the District Plan for Education of Pupils with Disabilities 2008-2010.

Noreen Walker said the district continues to work on external placements, CSE referral process, release of information from pre-k to K (now can do) and a host of other areas.

Vice President Jay Rifenburg asked what was 504? **Noreen Walker** said those were environmental issues that the district can assist a student with, i.e., allergies (filters), ramps to access area, etc.

Trustee Charles Phillips asked about compliance with the IEPs. **Susan DeRocker** said she reviews every IEP at the high school and they are in compliance at the high school. **Deb Balcanoff** said she reviewed IEPs at the other schools. **Trustee Charles Phillips** said it had been a problem in the past and he wanted some assurance that there would be compliance. **Noreen Walker** said the district's new legal firm are IEP experts and they could assist in this area.

Superintendent White said she believed there was a process in place; however, it simply needed to be documented.

President Mia Pfitzer thanked district staff for this presentation.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

IX. **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice President Jay Rifenbary moved and **Trustee Aaron AuBuchon** seconded to approve tonight's agenda in its entirety as follows:

A. Board Appointment

Approved the appointment of Jeffrey Piro to serve as the district's legislative liaison to the New York State School Boards Association for 2009-2010.

B. Conference Attendance

Approved expenses for Board member Jeffrey Piro to attend the New York State School Boards Association 2009 Convention in New York City October 15 - 18, 2009.

C. NYSSBA 2009 Proposed Resolutions

The Board of Education provided direction to the district's voting delegate, Jeffrey Piro, related to NYSSBA 2009 Proposed Resolutions to be presented at the Annual Business Meeting October 17, 2009 in New York City.

D. Field Trip

1. Granted permission for High School Saratoga/Adirondack Literature students to travel to Blue Mountain Lake, New York on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 to visit The Adirondack Museum.

X. **PERSONNEL**

A. Teacher Appointments

1. Approved the three-year probationary appointment of Karen Lindquist-Nagler to the position of School Media Specialist, effective September 1, 2009. (Lake Avenue - Replacement) (Certification: Initial, Library Media Specialist, 9/1/06-9/1/11)

Board members welcomed her to the district and wished her well.

2. Approved the five-month appointment of Norman Lee Mitchell to the position of Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions - Special Education - General teacher, effective September 1, 2009 through February 1, 2010. (High School - LOA) (Certification: Perm., Special Education, 9/1/05)
3. Approved the three-year probationary appointment of Jessica Stanislawsky to the position of Education of Children with Handicapping Conditions - Special Education - General teacher, effective September 1, 2009. (Dorothy Nolan - Replacement) (Certification: Initial, Literacy (Birth-Grade 6), 9/1/08; Initial, Childhood Education, 9/1/07; Initial, Student with Disabilities (Grades 1-6), 9/1/07; Initial, Students with Disabilities (Birth-K), 9/1/09, pending)
4. Approved the five-month appointment of Pamela Somoza to the position of elementary teacher, effective September 1, 2009 through January 29, 2010. (Dorothy Nolan - LOA) (Certification: Perm., Nursery, K, Gr. 1-6, 9/1/95)

B. Co-Curricular Appointments

1. Approved the appointment of the following for 2009 summer curriculum work on Accelerated Math - Grade 6:

Teresa Kosek-Ostwald
Lorraine Gutenmann

2. Approved the appointment of the following for 2009 summer curriculum work on an electronic Curriculum Mapping Resource Guide:

Margie Herman

3. Recommend the Board approve the appointment of the following additional substitutes/proctors for the 2009 High School Summer School:

Ursela Nesbitt
Theresa Newkirk
Lisa Best

4. Approved the appointment of the following as a substitute for the 2009 Study Skills Program:

Gina Gizzi

5. Approved the appointment of the following as a 2009 Interscholastic Fall coach:

Assistant Boys' Varsity Soccer *Gregory Hernandez*

6. Approved the appointment of the following as chaperones for the 2009-2010 school year:

<i>Brenda Adams</i>	<i>Robert Hill</i>
<i>Nicholas Alex</i>	<i>Susan Hoffman</i>
<i>Dean Bailey</i>	<i>Terry Jones</i>
<i>Anthony Bellai</i>	<i>Ken Keast</i>
<i>Edward Brandt</i>	<i>Leanne Lofink</i>
<i>John Brock</i>	<i>Richard Lofink</i>
<i>Duane Brown</i>	<i>Holly Louis</i>
<i>Debra Carr</i>	<i>Tracy Massari</i>
<i>Jon Coons</i>	<i>Jeanine McGuiggan</i>
<i>William Cooper</i>	<i>Timothy McGuiggan</i>
<i>Abigail Crotty</i>	<i>Christopher McMahon</i>
<i>Kevin Crotty</i>	<i>Lauren Perry</i>
<i>Adrienne Dannehy</i>	<i>Lou Anne Piccirillo</i>
<i>Linda Davis</i>	<i>Richard Rosebrook</i>
<i>Michael Delancey</i>	<i>Scott Singer</i>
<i>Chris Delorenzo</i>	<i>Mitch Snyder</i>
<i>Leanne Donelan</i>	<i>Ann Testa</i>
<i>Craig Durant</i>	<i>Kathleen Thompson</i>
<i>Laurie Feldhaus</i>	<i>David Torres</i>
<i>Carol Godette</i>	<i>Eric Trombley</i>
<i>Gregory Goering</i>	<i>Maureen Walsh</i>
<i>Michael Hall</i>	<i>Kevin Wolpert</i>
<i>Denise Herman</i>	<i>Amos Wyche</i>

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

<i>Angela Annese</i>	<i>Jeanine McGuiggan</i>
<i>Debora Berger</i>	<i>Timothy McGuiggan</i>
<i>Edward Brandt</i>	<i>Laura Moore</i>
<i>Nancy Christiansen</i>	<i>Lisa Muller</i>
<i>Carissa Conley</i>	<i>Maureen O'Toole</i>

Gerald Coye	Aline Paskalides
Marilyn DeSimony	Debra Possidente
Bethany Douglas	Michela Riccio
Justine Erikson	Charles Richter
Gregory Erwin	Ruth Robin
Karen Erwin	Alicia Silver
Mary Fenton	Scott Singer
James Flanders	Josef Solomon
Marion Gyarmathy	Kimberly Sova
Nikole Hearn	Pamela Stiansen
Michelle Hill-Davis	Kate Thompson
Melanie Iacovino	Jennifer Usack
Linda Lampert	Nancy Welsh
Salli LoDato	Shirley Williams
Linda Maitan	Christine Yakubec
Karen McEachron	

C. Abolishment Of Civil Service Position

1. Approved the abolishment of one 10-month, clerk position, effective September 1, 2009. (High School)

D. Civil Service Resignation

1. Accepted the resignation of Patricia Bryant from the position of 10-month, teacher aide, effective September 1, 2009. (Dorothy Nolan) (Sen: 9/25/98)

E. Civil Service Appointment

1. Approved the appointment of Lynne Mattison to the position of DMV Clerk - Extra Work, effective October 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 for one hour every Tuesday.

F. 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. Tax Certiorari Reserve Resolution

Approved the following resolution authorizing the transfer of funds and increase to budgetary appropriations.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has received Orders for the Refund of Overpayment of Taxes in the amount of **\$2,927.54** by the following petitioner, based upon Tax Certiorari proceedings, which reduced the tax assessments for the following years on the parcel indicated.

PETITIONER	YEAR	MAP ID #	INDEX	AMOUNT OWED
King, Bryan	2007	153.13-1-29	2007-2243	\$1,483.25
	2008	153.13-1-29	2008-2243	<u>\$1,444.29</u>
				<u>\$2,927.54</u>

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

WHEREAS, a portion of these funds may be transferred to the district's general fund budget to be expended in payment of tax certiorari claims,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education appropriate and transfer funds as follows:

FROM: MBIA-NY 01-00223-0025
 Tax Certiorari Reserve \$2,927.54

TO: A1964-405-03-1800
 Tax Certiorari Claims \$2,927.54

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education modify the 2009-2010 general fund budgetary appropriations by Two thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars and 54/100 (\$2,927.54).

FROM: \$110,129,655.28
 Current Resolution \$ 2,927.54
 TO: \$110,132,582.82

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE TREASURER OF THE Board of Education be authorized to appropriate funds as specified by this resolution.

B. Change Order Resolution: #007-006 (Phase 2), Saratoga Springs High School

Harold R. Clune Inc. – Labor, materials and equipment to provide card readers, push buttons and door strikes to 5 additional doors in the C-wing of the high school and one additional push button release in the main office.

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 **Nineteen Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty-Five and no/100 Dollars (\$19,925.00)** as detailed:

Original Contract	\$627,900.00
Previously Authorized Change Orders*	<u>\$ 32,270.00</u>
Contract Sum Prior to this Change Order	\$660,170.00
This Change Order	<u>\$ 19,925.00</u>
New Contract Sum	<u>\$680,095.00</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.

* #007-001	\$ 3,790.00
#007-002	\$ 6,215.00
#007-003	\$10,800.00
#007-004	\$ 6,865.00
#007-005	<u>\$ 4,600.00</u>
	\$32,270.00

C. Print Bid Award - Focus Printing

Awarded the bid for printing of the district's Focus on Education brochure to Digital Page for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$11,500.00.

D. Rubbish Removal Bid Award

Awarded the bid for rubbish removal for the period September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010 to Valley View Sanitation Services, Inc. in the amount of \$64,079.88.

E. Appointment of Deputy Tax Collectors

Appointed the following individuals as Deputy Tax Collectors for the 2009-2010 tax collection process at the locations indicated:

Saratoga National Bank

Gregory Moore	-	Main Office
Brenda Peris	-	Wilton Office
Cathy Hanna	-	West Avenue Office
Karyl MacDonald	-	Corinth Office
Carole Schiraldi	-	Jones Road Office
Reine Monroe	-	Ballard Road Office

Adirondack Trust

Meredith Rumpf	-	Main Office
Tamra Lynch	-	West Church Office
Marcy Thompson	-	Malta Office
Jo-Ann O'Reilly	-	South Broadway Office
Pamela Foote	-	Wilton Office
Roseanne Antolick	-	Milton Office
Mary McLaughlin	-	Exit 15 Office
Brian Charbonneau	-	Ballston Spa Office
Peggy Hakemian	-	Prestwick Chase Office

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

Trustees all agreed that the report this evening on preschool special education and special education was very informative and they had learned a lot.

Trustee Regina Gapczynski said that she was glad to see the sports activities underway, the Parent University Program focus and the bus report noting that referrals were down.

Trustee Charles Phillips thanked staff members for their presentation.

Trustee Frank Palumbo thanked staff members for their report. He said he was glad to see that the district was now in a better place than it was when he first became a Board member.

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon said he was glad to see the level

of commitment by parents, staff, students and the community with the volunteers, home tutors, and other programs. He said he was glad to see that bus referrals were down. He commended Tennis Coach Rich Johns for winning an award.

Vice President Jay Rifenbary said he appreciated the bus report. He, too, appreciated the presentation this evening and the clarity that it brought. He was glad to see the attention to detail.

President Mia Pfitzer said the positives of the district needed to be brought forward to the community. She said that she was glad to see the Summer School Graduation program and thanked the Guidance Department for hosting the event.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon moved and **Trustee Frank Palumbo** seconded to adjourn to Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss the following:

1. Negotiations with the City of Saratoga Springs.

Ayes all.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Frank Palumbo moved and **Trustee Regina Gapczynski** seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Ayes all.

There being no further business, **President Mia Pfitzer** adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Jaeger
District Clerk