

The regular meeting of the Saratoga Springs City School District Board of Education was held at the Geyser Road Elementary School on Tuesday, September 8, 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 Steve Grandin
Trustee Mary Elizabeth Pfitzer, President
Trustee Frank Palumbo (arrived 7:45 p.m.)
Trustee Charles Phillips
Trustee Jeff Piro
Trustee Jay Rifenburg, Vice President

ABSENT:

Trustee Regina Gapczynski

STAFF PRESENT:

Janice White, Superintendent of Schools
Kurt Jaeger, Assistant 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 and Operations
Colleen Carroll, Director for District Assessment &
Staff Development
Karen Stanley, Director of 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 Jeff Piro moved and **Trustee Charles Phillips** seconded to approve the minutes for the August 27, 2009 meeting. **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

Saratoga County School Boards Association: The Saratoga County School Boards Association's next meeting is scheduled for September 14.

WSWHE BOCES: Trustee Jeff Piro said the WSWHE BOCES Board would meet on September 9 to review the superintendent search process. To date they have had five applicants. The deadline would be extended through the end of October to allow time for more applicants to apply; however, the remainder of the timeline would stay the same.

Policy Committee: Vice President Jay Rifenburg said the policy committee would meet on September 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Property Administration Committee: Trustee Ernie Gailor said the Property Administration Committee would meet on September 14 at 5:00 p.m.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Janice White said schools were opened today for students to visit to familiarize themselves. She said the construction schedule this summer had been challenging; however, it went smoothly. New teacher orientation was held for 23 teachers. She said that six of those teachers were Saratoga Springs alumni.

Superintendent White congratulated Rich Johns on the award he received for his tennis program.

Superintendent White said that on September 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. there would be an assembly for students at the Maple Avenue Middle School sponsored by the Civil War Encampment Organization. She said this was a good opportunity for students and the community to connect.

Superintendent White said there have been lengthy discussions with representatives from the Saratoga Farmers' Market Association on their proposal to use Division Street School during the Fall/Winter months. She said after reviewing the school schedule and calendar along with the Farmers' Market proposed dates, there won't be any conflicts. **Trustee Charles Phillips** asked about snow removal and what would be expected for district staff. **Superintendent White** said that district staff would work with the Farmers' Market personnel on snow and weather related conditions. She said the details of clearing snow had not been worked out; however, the cost for that clearing would be borne by the Farmers' Market. She said there will be frequent discussions between the Farmers' Market staff and the Division Street School principal. She further explained that there would be some in-kind services (food) as payment. **Trustee Ernie Gailor** asked who would determine the value of the in-kind services. **Superintendent White** said district staff would. **Trustee Charles Phillips** said this is a one-year contract that would be reviewed at the end of the contract to determine if it was working. He said the Farmers' Market would be a heavy user. **Superintendent White** agreed that there would be many people in and out of the school. She said that the Farmers' Market would have access to the cafeteria and bathrooms. She said they were still working out the details; however, the floors may be covered. **Trustee Ernie Gailor** said there are occasionally heavy trucks and the district needed some assurance that if there were damage that it would be repaired. **Superintendent White** said the Farmers' Market is fully insured. **Trustee Ernie Gailor** said they also could potentially fill a dumpster. **Superintendent White** thanked Board members for their thoughts and suggestions on this matter.

(Trustee Frank Palumbo arrived).

B. State of the Building Update

Principal Melodye Eldeen presented a status report relative to shared decision making and the overall state of the Geyser Road Elementary School.

S3TAIR Project: Melodye Eldeen said that Geyser Road was validated as a school with effective practices in the

area of special education as part of New York State's S3TAIR Project. She said that with this recognition, Geysers Road will now be paired with a less successful school as a way to help improve results for special needs students. She explained the process of validation stating that in February Mrs. Balcanoff, Assistant Director for Pupil Services, nominated Geysers Road as an effective practices school. A site visit occurred on May 29. Members of that visiting team met with Superintendent Janice White and approximately 20 teachers. On June 23, Geysers Road received the visiting team's consensus summary and validated Geysers Road as a school with effective practices in the area of special education. She then reviewed the summary with Trustees. **Trustee Jeff Piro** asked that now that Geysers Road had been validated, when would the pairing with another school happen. Principal Eldeen said next September. **Vice President Jay Rifenburg** asked how much time and energy it would take from staff scheduled. She said she did not know the details of how or where the school would be located, but assured Board members that Geysers Road students remained their priority. She said the team also met with parents of special education students.

Parent Survey: Melodye Eldeen reviewed the results of the parent survey from May 2009. She said every two years each elementary school sends out a parent survey. She said that the results for Geysers Road were positive with the percentages being quite high in all areas. She particularly noted the increased use of the EDLINE program. She said there were many wonderful comments received and they have been included as part of this survey.

School Report Card: Melodye Eldeen reviewed the school report card noting that Geysers Road had made good progress in many areas. She said the highest achievable score is 200 with the school receiving 189 on the performance index in ELA. She noted that the scores for economically disadvantaged students were slightly lower in math and science.

Response to Intervention: Melodye Eldeen said that Geysers Road was one of three schools that piloted the Response to Intervention program. She said that RTI is an intervention

model that requires targeted assistance as soon as a student begins to struggle. There are three levels of instruction in this program with the data collected and charted. Instructional changes are made when a student is not responding to intervention. She said that students should be referred to special education as a last resort and only after specialized interventions have been used. She then reviewed the three tiers. Tier 1 - 80 percent of students are Tier 1 with reading instruction delivered in the regular classroom. Tier 2 - between 10 and 15 percent of the students are Tier 2. They receive an additional 30 minutes of instruction daily with a reading teacher. Tier 3 - about 5 percent of the students are Tier 3. Those students receive 60 minutes of intensive instruction daily with a reading teacher. In all of these tiers, progress is charted. In September, all students are assessed in letter identification, sounds, high frequency words, decoding and reading level. Those responding below the benchmark receive intervention. The following January, students are again assessed to determine if a benchmark score was attained. Intervention is then adjusted based on those scores. In May, students are assessed again. She said as part of these assessments, there is a greater collaboration among teachers and student achievement has improved.

IAP Results: Dana Boesch reviewed the IAP results for a typical first grade classroom in the Fall. She noted the targeted areas of where improvements were needed. She then reviewed the intervention program for a particular student throughout last year. She noted that the student received intervention; however, she did not meet the achievement scores. She was then moved to Tier 2. The student received additional assistance and growth with that additional intervention. In May, the student achieved the benchmark goals. A summer packet of material went home with the student so that the parents could work with the child over the summer months. The student, who will now be in second grade, will be assessed in September and it is hoped that the benchmark scores will be achieved. She said the child was able to achieve the benchmark scores in May without being classified as a special education student.

Melodye Eldeen reviewed the goals for 2009-2010 as follows: continue implementation of RTI, administer the

second grade IAP, differentiate instruction at second grade to target skill areas below IAP benchmarks, monitor achievement, use curriculum mapping and implement the district power standard #10 - creativity and innovation.

Melodye Eldeen said the RTI program makes good sense and she was very supportive of this program. They are seeing positive results without labeling children. **Trustee Charles Phillips** asked if parents were supportive and involved. Dana Boesch said they welcome parental involvement and, so far, parental involvement and support has been positive. **Trustee Charles Phillips** asked if technology played a part in the program. Dana Boesch said yes. There is software used in some areas.

President Mia Pfitzer thanked Melodye Eldeen and Dana Boesch for the presentation.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Jay Rifenburg moved and **Trustee Jeff Piro** seconded to approve tonight's agenda in its entirety as follows:

A. Committee Creation, Charge and Membership

1. Approved the creation of the Disproportionality Self Review Committee. The Committee's charge is to examine district policies and procedures for compliance, particularly those related to pre-referral strategies, family involvement, and professional development that may prevent and/or reduce the incidence of over-representation in special education.
2. Appointed the following individuals to serve on the district's Disproportionality Self Review Committee:

Noreen Walker, Director of Pupil Services
Deborah Balcanoff, Asst. Director of Pupil Services
Robert Kelly, Asst. Director of Pupil Services
Susan DeRocker, Asst. Principal, High School
Mr. & Mrs. Julio Laorca, Community Residents
Andrea Carrol, WSWHE BOCES Social Worker
Evelina Schretzlmeir, CSEA Representative

Lorann Romanski, School Psychologist, Caroline St. School
Dr. Joe Green, School Psychologist, Maple Avenue M.S.
Lucia Nicholas, School Psychologist, High School
Nikole Hearn, District School Psychologist

B. Field Trips

1. Granted permission for Grade 5 Lake Avenue Elementary School students to travel to Fort Ann, New York on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 through Friday, September 25, 2009 to participate in a Resident Outdoor Education Experience at Camp Wakpominee.
2. Granted permission for the Boys and Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Cross Country Teams to travel to Raleigh, North Carolina on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 through Sunday, October 4, 2009 to participate in the Great American Cross Country Festival.
3. Granted permission for the Boys and Girls Varsity and Junior Varsity Cross Country Teams to travel to the Bronx, New York on Friday, October 9, 2009 and Saturday, October 10, 2009 to participate in the Manhattan Invitational Meet at Van Cortlandt Park.

X. **PERSONNEL**

A. Teacher Appointment

1. Approved the three-year probationary appointment of Rachel Daurio to the position of elementary teacher, effective September 1, 2009. (Division Street School - New) (Certification: Initial, Childhood Ed (Gds. 1-6), 9/1/06; Initial, Literacy (Birth-6), 9/1/07)

B. Club Creation/Abolishment

1. Approved the creation of the following anti-bullying club at Maple Avenue Middle School, effective September 1, 2009:

"Get Up, Stand Up" Club - 35 hours - Stipend \$776
2. Approved the abolishment of the following club at Maple Avenue Middle School, effective September 1, 2009:

Kenya Club

C. Club Appointments

1. Approved the appointment of the following as club advisors at Maple Avenue Middle School for the 2009-2010 school year:

Boys' Tennis Club	-	Mitch Snyder
Canteen Club	-	Esther Mulligan
Chamber Orchestra	-	Caitlin O'Donnell
Character Ed-A Hand-Up Club A	-	Jessica Oswald
Character Ed-B Hand-Up Club B	-	Melissa Woods
Chess Club	-	Joseph Bruno
Class Advisor - Grade 8A	-	Wendy Meissner
Class Advisor - Grade 8B	-	JoAnn Borden
Design Engineering & Prod. Club	-	Karen Cavotta
Drama Club-Director	-	Nicole Karas
Drama Club-Producer	-	Eileen McNamara
Friends of Pets	-	Deanne Young
General Organization - Auditor	-	Kurt Decker
General Organization - Treasurer	-	Walter Jennings
"Get Up, Stand Up" Club	-	Mitch Snyder
Glee Club - 6	-	Karen Munski
Glee Club - 7	-	Dale Hegenberger
Golf Club - Girls 6	-	Roxanne Andrews
Golf Club - Girls 7/8	-	Linda Davis
Gotcha Being Good Club	-	Trisha LeMere
Great Expectations Book Club	-	Brenda Finn
Guitar Club	-	Charles Kish
Have a Heart Club - 8A	-	Susan Saxton
Have a Heart Club - 8B	-	Deanne Savage
Jazz Band 6	-	Jon Doyle /Andrew Janack
Jazz Band 7	-	Jon Doyle /Andrew Janack
Jazz Band 8	-	Jon Doyle /Andrew Janack
Kids Fitness Club	-	Diane Denny
Lego Building Club	-	Kimberly Dellis
Maple on the Move	-	Carole Loffredo
Mapleodions	-	Constance Chindblom
Mapletogian (10 issues)	-	Thomas Coons/Trish LeMere
Math Club	-	Shelley Collier
Music Technology	-	Dale Hegenberger
Musical-Choreographer	-	Shelley Collier
Musical-Director	-	Candace Calvin
Musical-Producer	-	Kathleen Fogarty
Musical-Stage/Technical Director	-	Catherine Corrigan
Musical-Vocal	-	Dale Hegenberger

Punktutors Club -	Nicole Karas/Eileen McNamara
Science Research Club -	Julia Raymond/John Scrivo
Ski Club - A	- Kurt Address
Ski Club - B	- John Scrivo
Social Studies Club	- Roxanne Andrews
Sports Club - Grade 8 Boys	- Craig Durant
Student Council	- Roxanne Andrews
Tae Kwon Do Club	- Shelley Collier
Voice Club - Grade 6	- Dale Hegenberger
Voice Club - Grade 7	- Constance Chindblom
Voice Club - Grade 8	- Karen Munski
Yearbook Advisor	- Thomas Coons
Yearbook Business Manager	- Lisa Best

D. Co-Curricular Appointments

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

Carol Battaglia
Laurie Feldhaus

2. Approved the following as a coach for the 2009 Interscholastic Fall Season:

Girls' Freshman Cross Country - Courtney Salton

E. Creation of School Bus Driver Position

1. Created 1.0 school bus driver position due to an increase in students at Lake Avenue Elementary School. (Transportation - New)

F. Civil Service Resignations

1. Approved the resignation of Patricia D'Addio from the position of 10-month teacher assistant, effective October 19, 2009. (High School) (Sen.: 10/17/83)
2. Approved the resignation of Robert Corey, Jr. from the position of custodian, effective August 31, 2009. (Dorothy Nolan) (Sen: 7/1/03)
3. Approved the resignation of Constance Monroe from the position of 5.5 hour food service helper, effective August 19, 2009. (High School) (Sen.: 5/25/07)

4. Approved the resignation of Ellen Bailey from the position of school monitor, effective September 1, 2009. (Geyser Road School) (Sen.: 12/12/07)

G. Substitute Appointments

1. Accepted the instructional emergency, conditional substitute appointments, as per the attached list.

XI. **FINANCIAL**

A. Adoption of Amendment to the Saratoga Springs City School District 403(b) Retirement Plan Document

The SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT acting through the Superintendent of Schools pursuant to authorization of its governing board, hereby adopts the Amendment to Paragraph 2.7 of the SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT 403(b) Retirement Plan Document, attached hereto and made a part thereof.

B. Allowance Disbursement Resolution: #4-8 (Phase 2), Lake Avenue Elem. School

Zandri Construction Corporation - This allowance disbursement includes all labor, materials and equipment to complete additional classroom work at the Lake Avenue Elementary School.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the original contract allowance contained within the contract for general construction with Zandri Construction Corporation associated with the Lake Avenue Elementary School identified as: SED Project #: 52-18-00-01-0-005-007, Contract No.: 04, General Construction be charged in the amount of **Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Eighty and no/100 Dollars (\$17,480.00)** as detailed:

Original Contract Allowance	\$75,000.00
Allowance Disbursements Previously Authorized *	<u>\$35,312.63</u>
Allowance Remaining Prior to this Authorization	\$39,687.37
This Charge to the Contract Allowance	<u>\$17,480.00</u>
New Contract Allowance Balance	<u>\$22,207.37</u>

and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to sign this Allowance Disbursement on behalf of the Board of

Education.

*Allowance Disbursement Limits by Board of Education
resolution dated June 10, 2008 (as per attachment)

C. Contract Transportation - Special Education

1. Awarded the contract for transportation to Vanderheyden, Wynantskill, NY for the 2009-2010 school year, in the amount of \$118/day (\$21,240 annually) based on 180 days, to Folmsbee Transportation (one district student).
2. Awarded the contract for transportation to Prospect Child & Family Center, Queensbury, NY for the 2009-2010 school year, in the amount of \$245/day (\$44,100 annually) based on 180 days, to Stanski Transportation (four district students and one aide).
3. Awarded the contract for transportation to Broad Street, S. Glens Falls, NY for the 2009-2010 school year in the amount of \$245/day (\$44,100 annually) based on 180 days, to Stanski Transportation (five district students and one aide).

D. Contract Extensions - Transportation

1. Extended the Transportation Contract for Special Education students to Westmere Elementary, Wildwood School, and Colonie Community Center to Upstate Transit of Saratoga, LLC in the amount of \$63,498.00 for the 2009-2010 school year.
2. Extended the Transportation Contract for Non-Public students to The King's School to Durrin, Inc. in the amount of \$28,454.00 for the 2009-2010 school year.
3. Extended the Transportation Contract for Non-Public students to The Adirondack School, to Stanski Transportation in the amount of \$22,464.00 for the 2009-2010 school year.
4. Extended the Transportation Contract for Special Education students to Wildwood School, to Durrin, Inc. in the amount of \$44,038.00 for the 2009-2010 school year.

5. Extended the Transportation Contract for Special Education students to The Cerebral Palsy Center, St. Anne's, and Horizons to Stanski Transportation in the amount of \$109,512.00 for the 2009-2010 school year.

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

All Board members thanked **Melodye Eldeen** for her presentation and tour of the school that evening.

Trustee Charles Phillips said he was glad to see *Geyser Road School* so clean. He said that the building staff had done a wonderful job. He said he was excited about the RTI program, but was concerned about parental support and involvement. He wanted to be sure that parents were supportive. He also wanted to see technology integrated into these programs. He commended district staff on being ready for the first day of school.

Trustee Steve Grandin said he had three sons go through *Geyser Road School*. He was glad to see programs such as the RTI program in place which allows students to succeed. He also congratulated **Rich Johns** on the tennis award.

Trustee Aaron AuBuchon said that his children were just starting at *Geyser Road* and he was glad to see that they would be in good hands.

Vice President Jay Rifembary congratulated Superintendent **White** on heading up such a fine district and that he was proud to be a part of it. The schools were impeccable and he asked that the building staff be commended for doing such a fine job in getting the schools ready. He also noted that it was good to know that the energy firm that approached the district on an energy audit found that the district was doing everything right and there was nothing they could do for us.

Trustee Frank Palumbo said we were all fortunate to be part of such a fine school district. He said that too many times there is bad publicity concerning schools that are not successful.

President Mia Pfitzer thanked Melodye Eldeen and Dana Boesch for their presentation. She wished everyone well and said that she looked forward to an amazing year.

XIV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

XV. **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee Steve Grandin moved and **Trustee Aaron AuBuchon** seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Ayes all.

There being no further business, **President Mia Pfitzer** adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Jaeger
District Clerk