

SENECA FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
June 17, 2021 Special Board of Education Meeting

BOE Members Present:

Mrs. Deborah Corsner, Mr. Jeffery Hartwell, Mrs. Linda Jones, Mrs. Joell Murney-Karsten, Mrs. Cara Lajewski, Mr. Joseph McNamara, Mr. Michael Mirras, Mr. William Reigel

BOE Members Absent: Mrs. Heather Zellers

Present:

Mr. Clingerman, Mr. Bruni, Josh Olschewske, Jennifer Wick

Mrs. Lajewski called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm. A quorum of the Board of Education was present; the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Lajewski asked for a motion to approve the agenda as listed.

Mr. Hartwell made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones.

	Yes	No
Mrs. Linda Jones	X	
Mr. Michael Mirras	X	
Mrs. Joell Murney-Karsten	X	
Mrs. Deborah Corsner	X	
Mrs. Heather Zellers		
Mrs. Cara Lajewski	X	
Mr. William Reigel	X	
Mr. Jeffrey Hartwell	X	
Mr. Joseph McNamara	X	
Yes	8	No 0
Abstain		0
Motion carried		

Mrs. Zellers entered the meeting at 5:51 pm.

Public Comment

Mrs. Lajewski opened the floor to public comment. Mrs. Lajewski read the following guidelines regarding public comment.

Speakers are limited to 5 minutes; Speaker will address the Board of Education as a whole; The Board of Education will not hear public comment that involves a complaint against an individual staff member, a personnel action, a student disciplinary matter, a complaint about an individual student, or pending litigation. Please be respectful and courteous; disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

Mr. Josh Olschewske addressed the Board of Education. Mr. Olschewske thanked the Board for allowing him to speak. Some of Mr. Olschewski's comments and concerns regarding graduation:

- the majority of New Yorkers have had at least one vaccination shot;
- the students have had to quarantine and social distance for a long time;
- the graduation is being held outdoors and less than 1% of people have caught the virus outdoors;
- would like to see the ceremony open up to include more family members and spectators being able to attend;
- students have worked hard to get where they are today and it is time to celebrate these students;
- thanked the Board for all they have done for staff and students.

Mrs. Jennifer Wick addressed the Board of Education as well. Mrs. Wicks agreed with Mr. Olschewski's Comments. Mrs. Wick requested that masks for vaccinated individuals be removed and that the school increase the number of guests at graduation knowing that the school may need to limit the number due to seating. Mrs. Wick stated that the seniors have been through a lot the last 16 months. Mrs. Wick appreciates what the district has done to keep the students safe but would like to move on.

2021 Mynderse Academy Graduation ceremony as it relates to New York State Department of Health Guidance

Mr. Clingerman informed the Board of Education of the following changes to graduation:

- Non-vaccinated people will be asked to wear a mask; this will be on an honor system.
- For the Board of Education members, former Board of Education members, Administrators, and employees sitting on the turf the number of people allowed will increase beyond four (4) people. The number will be limited to a graduate's immediate family (brothers, sisters and grandparents).
- Graduates will wear mask into the ceremony until they get to their seats and then they can remove them. By doing this, it will not separate who is vaccinated and who is not. The graduates will still be social distanced on the turf. The students may remain mask-less through the graduation ceremony, including accepting their diploma onstage. If a student choses to wear a mask once they are seated, they may do so.
- Seating in the stadium (bleachers) will be on a first come, first serve basis but will be limited to the number it holds.
- These changes only apply to the senior graduation ceremony; all other events remain the same.
- Mrs. Lewis will put out a message to parents.

Mr. Hartwell asked if any of these changes will cause any issues this late in the game such as seating, crowd control, getting tickets out.

Mr. Clingerman stated that there are no tickets-it is first com-first serve for the stands (bleachers). That is how it has always been done. There are some changes on the turf seating but no issues. On the turf are immediate family members only, which are parents, grandparents and siblings. Other family members are welcome of course, but would sit in the stands.

Adjourn

Mrs. Lajewski asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Hartwell made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Jones.

At some point, Mrs. Zellers left the meeting and was not present for the adjournment vote.

	Yes	No	Abstain	
Mrs. Linda Jones	X			
Mr. Michael Mirras	X			
Mrs. Joell Murney-Karsten	X			
Mrs. Deborah Corsner	X			
Mrs. Heather Zellers				
Mrs. Cara Lajewski	X			
Mr. William Reigel	X			
Mr. Jeffrey Hartwell	X			
Mr. Joseph McNamara	X			
Yes	8	No 0	Abstain 0	Motion carried