

SENECA FALLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
January 18, 2024 BOE Meeting/MS Roundtable 6:00 PM  
Seneca Falls Middle School Library  
95 Troy Street

BOE Present

Deborah Corsner, Anthony Ferrara, Matthew Lando, Cara Lajewski, Denise Lorenzetti, Joseph McNamara, Erica Sinicropi, and Heather Zellers

BOE Absent

Michael Mirras

Others Present

Dr. Michelle Reed, James Bruni, Kevin Rhinehart, Kevin Korzeniewski, Amylyn Marley, Meghan Barbay, Melissa Morrin, Mary Lee, Nicole Spitzer, Stacy Alessio, students-Hanna Helmicki, Jonnaleigh Ladson, Josie Lamanna, Natalie Kilpatrick, Rielle Sawtelle, Iris Heitmann, Maddox Decker, Adryana Ryrko  
Gavin Tompkins

Joseph McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. A quorum of the Board of Education was present; the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Approval of Agenda

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion to approve the agenda as with addendums as listed.

**ADD** under X Consent Agenda

**B. Appointments**

**2. Civil Service Appointments**

**a. Name: Lora Bennett**

Civil Service Position: Typist

Effective: 01/22/2024

Probationary Period: 01/22/2024 through 01/23/2025

Hours/day: 7.0

Hourly Rate: \$17.00

**3. Substitute Appointments**

**e. Name: Natalie Ferrara**

Position: Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teaching Assistant

NYS Certification: Uncertified

Effective: 01/19/2024

**ADD** under XII New Business

**E. 2023-2024 Budget Transfer**

**F. MOA-Seneca County Board of Election**

Denise Lorenzetti made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes    8            No    0            Abstain    0            Motion carried

Approve or Amend  
Board of Education Minutes  
January 4, 2024

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion to approve the Board of Education minutes dated January 4, 2024

Anthony Ferrara the motion, seconded by Deborah Matthew Lando.

Yes    8            No    0            Abstain    0            Motion carried

Treasurer's Report  
None at this time

Extra-Curricular Treasurer's Report  
None at this time

Recognitions, Celebrations and Presentations  
Middle School Drama Students

Seneca Falls Middle School Roundtable

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade-Amylyn Marley (ELA Teacher)

- SF Middle School Musical -Students Josie Lamanna, Natalie Kilpatrick, Rielle Sawtelle and Iris Heitmann were present to talk about the musical production that was going to be this weekend, "Into the Woods". The students have been practicing since October. There is 30 plus students involved. The musical is Jan. 19 & 20, 2024. Adults \$12 and students \$10 (children 4 and under are free)/ Nicholas Hilbert and Morgan D'Eredita are the directors. It is the first time in 25 years that the Middle School has had a musical, not a play.
- Social Studies 8- Students use technology including Google Classroom, Google Slides, Kami, Gimkit to enhance learning about American History. Additional strategies include working with primary sources, analyzing and creating political cartoons, as well as completing creative and analytical writing assignments.
- Science 8-This year students are implementing state scientific investigations. The first one was related to separating mixtures and the second one will be about measuring heat transfer. Lastly students will be reading weather maps and making weather predictions
- Earth Science\*
  - There are 18 students taking this accelerated course, which is a little more than 18% of the class. This class is taught through "phenomena-based instruction" and then there are performance tasks that are completed for each unit.
  - Units of Study:
  - Astronomy-students are tasked with finding humans a new home in space.
  - Plate Tectonics-students assess the risk of Earthquakes and Tsunamis here in New York State
  - Geology-students had to analyze 2 monuments (the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty and the Great Sphinx of Giza) and determine which monument is in the most need of preservation.
- Math 8-Students have been working on scatter plots. Collecting data, plotting points, looking at trends and graphing them. They were looking at shoe sizes and applying their knowledge to real life data to observe shoe trends.
- Algebra-Right now students are working on midterm review. The midterm is Tuesday, Jan. 23rd. at 10am in HS cafeteria.
- English Language Arts-Most recently are students focusing on point of view, character development, author's purpose, themes and making inferences. Students have been writing narratives, using textual evidence to support claims and expanding their grade level vocabulary. They will have their first Socratic Seminar and then begin an argumentative essay using all steps of the writing process and then the next unit will focus on reading and writing poetry.
- Gr. 8 Events and Field Trips include the following
  - Rose Hill Mansion
  - Annie the Musical
  - Seabreeze field trip in June
  - Red Wings Baseball Education Day
  - Blue Days
  - March Madness
  - School Spelling Bee
  - Poetry Week

### Fundraisers include:

- SMS Ziti Dinner - See any 8th grader for pre-sale tickets
- Thursday, February 1
- Bottle & Can Drive -Friday, March 1
- 8th Grade Lock-In -Friday, March 1
- SFMS Blue Devil Team Competition 6-8pm
- Friday, March 15

### Bottle and can drive to support Class of 2028-Friday, March 1, 2024.

Donated bottles can be dropped off at the back of SFMS from 7 pm - 9 pm. Bottles can also drop them off to Seneca Returnables 1950 US-20, Seneca Falls, NY 13148 under the Class of 2028 account.

## 7th Grade-Melissa Morrin and Mary Lee

Melissa Morrin was present along with students Maddox Decker, Adryana Ryrko and Gavin Tompkins. The students played a round of "Celebrity Jeopardy". The students were asked questions regarding 7<sup>th</sup> grade, their curriculum, and their activities.

Each student was asked what they like about their school and what they would like to see improved or changed.

Maddox stated he liked being more independent in and having more responsibility. It builds character. He stated he would like to see more opportunities for accelerated students to challenge themselves.

Gavin likes moving from class to class as opposed to Cady Stanton where you were in the same room all day. Here you see different teachers and students. Gavin stated that he would like to see more time between classes. Gavin also stated that they used to serve eggs at breakfast.

Adryana stated she appreciates all the work that the teachers put in-they are very helpful. Adryana would also like to see more time in between classes. She also mentioned that the stairwell in the front of the middle school is wider than the one in the back near the 6<sup>th</sup> grade hallway. That is the one everyone uses and could be bigger.

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade-Nicole Spitzer & Stacey Alessio

Nicole Spitzer (Social Studies Teacher) and Stacey Alessio (ELA Teacher) reported on the following:

- ELA-6<sup>th</sup> Gr. Students are reading their new novel Flush by Carl Hiassen. Students Hanna Helmicki and Jonna Ladson were present to discuss the novel.
- MTSS Strategies include the following
  - Meet as a grade level twice a month on Mondays to discuss students and strategies with our MTSS (multi-tiered support system) Coach, Kristen Poole.
  - Request for Assistance (RFA) forms are completed by teacher/teachers when looking for assistance after trying some strategies.
  - Meet regularly during planning periods and after school if additional conversation is needed.
- Social Studies Content includes geography/map skills; the Stone Age; Mesopotamia; Ancient Egypt; Ancient India; Ancient China; Ancient Rome; the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.
- Gr. 6 Fundraisers and Field Trips include the following
  - Ziti dinner in April 2024
  - Sale of School Apparel
  - Cornell Cooperative Extension Outdoor Education Day
  - Red Wings Baseball Education Day

Sixth grade was the first grade in Middle School to receive the Blue Reward. Thank you to Mr. Ponzi for the pizza party. The second Blue Reward was popsicles and the third was kickball.

Kevin Rhinehart, SFMS Building Principal, and Kevin Korzeniewski, Assistant Principal/AD reported on the following:

- Enrollment: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 82 students; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 96 students; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade 99 students
- Student absences have decreased each month compared to the 2022-2023 school year.
- 2023-2024 DASA-September -3 incidents total; October-2 incidents total; November-1 incidents total; December-4 incident total and January- 1 incident.
- Reviewed the Quarter 1 student achievement data and student course failure data with the Board.
- Assessment dates coming up as follows:
  - January 17 CBT Simulation
  - January 25 & 26 iReady Reading & Math Diagnostic #2
  - March 5 NAEP Assessment sample of 8<sup>th</sup> Gr.
  - April/May ELA/Math/Science Assessments
  - June iReady Diagnostic #3
- Thank you to the Board of Education for all you do for our students.

#### Public Comment

The Seneca Falls Board of Education welcomes public comment. Speakers may comment on matters related to agenda items specifically or district matters generally. No speaker will be permitted to speak for longer than three (3) minutes. Public comments will be limited to thirty (30) minutes. All speakers and observers are to conduct themselves in a civil manner. Obscene language, defamatory statements, threats of violence, statements advocating racial, religious, or other forms of prejudice will not be tolerated. In the

unlikely event the meeting becomes unruly, the board will recess the meeting and return once order has been restored.

Persons addressing the Board of Education during public comment should not expect to engage in discussion with the Board. The Board will not permit any comments involving specific individual personnel or students.

Questions and comments from the public concerning matters which are not on the agenda will be referred to the Superintendent. Persons wishing to have matters included on the agenda shall contact the Superintendent in accordance with Policy 2342, Agenda Preparation.

#### Committee Reports Facilities Committee

Matthew Lando reported on that the committee met and discussed or reviewed the following:

- Arcadius's non-emission bus survey.
- The committee toured the middle school lobby to go over the final layout.
- The committee met with STEM teachers in the boardroom to review their classrooms.
- Learned there is no red in the school logo.

#### Information Warrants

12/01/2023 -12/31/2023

Warrant A (48)	\$22,733.96
Warrant C (19)	\$ 1,424.88
Warrant F (21)	\$19,319.77

#### Business Administrator

James Bruni, Administrator of Business & Operations, reported on the following:

- The State Aid runs were released and will be reviewed at the Feb. 1 board meeting.
- Interviews for the health aide position will be coming up soon.
- Under the consent agenda, there is a last minute Typist hire for the high school.
- The budget transfer on the agenda is to purchase a van.

#### Superintendent Report

Dr. Reed reported on the following:

- The Middle School Play was this coming weekend. The play will be directed by Nicholas Hebert and Morgan D'Eredita.
- Midterms have begun at the middle school and the regents will start next week at the high school. The Safety Committee will be meeting on Monday, Jan. 22. The committee will be discussing the Workplace Violence Protection Act.
- The Policy Committee will be meeting on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### BOE President Report

Joseph McNamara reported on the following:

- Capital Conference is February 6, 2024. The Lobby Day in Albany is February 7, 2024.
- Four County School Board Association Professional Development dinner is at Club 86 on February 26, 2024 the guest speaker is Dr. Kevin McGowen, Superintendent of Brighton Central School District and National Superintendent of the Year. Dr. McGowen will share Brighton Central School's approach to closing achievement gaps by shifting to a more intentional culture in both strategic planning and day-to-day work.
- The Rural Schools Association annual summer conference will be held in Lake Placid in July. There will be more information to follow.

#### BOE Member Comments

Heather Zellers shared with the Board that this will be the first time the RSA annual summer conference is being held in Lake Placid. There should be no issue with booking rooms. There is a vendor wait list. The main guest speaker is Michael Eruzio (a captain of the 1980's Men's Olympic Hockey Team). The theme of the conference is "Miracle of Education".

Heather Zellers also commended James Bruni on the way he has set up the district's budget and reserves and the way he has spent the last six years. He has the district in a good place moving forward.

## Important Dates to Remember

January 23-26, 2024-Regents Examinations  
January 29, 2024-Policy Committee (8:00 am)  
February 1, 2024-BOE Meeting  
February 2, 2024-Virtual Capital Conference  
February 7, 2024-NYSSBA Lobby Day (Albany) for 2024  
February 15, 2024-BOE Meeting/MA Roundtable (at Mynderse Academy)  
February 19-23, 2024-Presidents Week Recess

Consent Agenda  
Retirements/Resignations/Terminations  
SFEA  
None at this time

SFSSA  
Termination

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education terminates the following support staff employee:

Name: Shelby Spinner –Weston  
Position: Cashier/FSW  
Effective: the end of the day on 01/09/2024

### SFSSA-Resignation

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts the following support Staff resignation:

Nicole Luckinbill  
Position: Health Aide  
Effective: the end of the day on 02/02/2024

Appointments  
Professional Appointments  
None at this time.

### Civil Service Appointments

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following civil service position(s) *(All appointments are conditional until paperwork is completed and fingerprints are cleared)*.

Name: Lora Bennett  
Civil Service Position: Typist  
Effective: 01/22/2024  
Probationary Period: 01/22/2024 through 01/23/2025  
Hours/day: 7.0  
Hourly Rate: \$17.00

### Substitute Appointments

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following substitute position(s) *(All appointments are conditional until paperwork is completed and fingerprints are cleared)*:

Name: Kiersten Hager  
Position: Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teaching Assistant (Grades K-5)  
NYS Certification: Uncertified  
Effective: 01/19/2024

Name: Kiersten Hager  
Civil Service Position: Substitute Teacher Aide (Grades K-5)

Effective: 01/19/2024

Name: Roger Spano

Civil Service Position: Substitute Custodian

Effective: 02/02/2024

Name: Nicole Luckinbill

Civil Service Position: Substitute Health Aide

Effective: 02/03/2024

Name: Natalie Ferrara

Position: Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teaching Assistant

NYS Certification: Uncertified

Effective: 01/19/2024

Probationary to Permanent

None at this time.

CSE Minutes

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following CSE minutes:

12/18/2023, 12/20/2023, 12/21/2023

Gifts and Donations

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts the following gifts or donations:

Donor	Amount	Account	Used for
Clix	\$750.82	A2110-450-04-PBIS	PBIS Supplies

Transportation Requests

None at this time

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as listed.

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Denise Lorenzetti.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Old Business

Correction

August 20, 2020 Minutes

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion to correct the August 20, 2020 Board of Education meeting minutes to include the addendums that were on the revised agenda and voted on that date.

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Correction

January 4, 2024 Appointment

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion to correct the appointment approved on January 4, 2024 to reflect a four year probationary period as listed below.

Name: Virginia Brady

Position: Teaching Assistant

Certification: Level III Certificate

Tenure: Teaching Assistant

Effective date: 01/03/2024

Probationary Period: 01/03/2024 through ~~04/02/2027~~ **01/02/2028**

Base Salary: \$23,927 (to be prorated Jan. 3-June 30, 2024)

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final reading of the following policies:

Policy 8520-Free and Reduced Price Meal Services  
Policy 9260-Conditional Appointment-Student Safety

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Heather Zellers.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Campus Construction Contract

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, and in conjunction with the Facilities Committee, the Board of Education approve the contract between the Seneca Falls Central School District and Campus Construction Management Group Inc. (C132-2019 Seneca Falls Final with Exhibits).

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Surplus-Maintenance Department

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion to dispose of following surplus item listed through sale, donation, disposal or auction according to Board Policy #6900:

2006 SaltDogg Salter

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Confidential Agreement  
2024-2028

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approve the Confidential Agreement for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028 as presented.

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

2023-2024 Budget Transfer

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Administrator of Business & Operations, the Board of Education approves the following 2023-2024 transfers.

From	To	Amount	Reason
A 1621-200-00-0000	A 5510-200-00-0000	\$25,000	Transfer to cover Transportation Van Purchase

Denise Lorenzetti made the motion, seconded by Deborah Corsner.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

MOA with Seneca County Board of Elections

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the Memorandum of Agreement with the Seneca County Board of Elections for use of county voting machine for the May 21, 2024 Budget/Election vote as presented.

Denise Lorenzetti made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

2024-2025 Budget Workshop  
Dr. Michelle Reed and James Bruni

The BOCES budget was reviewed.

Anticipated 4.9% increase this next coming year.

The BOCES budget makes up 66% of the total district budget and is comprised of the following:

Technical & Career Education (9%)-Classes at Career & Tech Center (FLTCC)

Special Education (61%)-Classes & support services for students with disabilities.

Iterant Services (5%)-Staff positions that the district shares with BOCES for Special Education.

Direct Instruction (3%)-Programs for youth that are directly provided by BOCES personnel (e.g. Tutoring, Arts in Education, PTech)

Instructional Supports (10%)-Programs, services and materials that support instruction (e.g. PD workshops, Edu-tech Services, grant writing)

Non-Instructional Supports (8%)-Administrative support for business operations, facilities, computers, purchasing, website development and others)

Executive Session  
None at this time

Adjourn

Joseph McNamara asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm  
Denise Lorenzetti made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes    8            No    0            Abstain    0            Motion carried

Monica Kuney, District Clerk