

Seneca Falls Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
October 10, 2024-6:00 PM
Robert McKeveny Board/Training Room

BOE Present

Deborah Corsner, Anthony Ferrara, Cara Lajewski, Denise Lorenzetti, Michael Mirras, Erica Sinicropi, Heather Zellers and Searah Reardon, Student Board Member (6:06 pm)

BOE Absent

Matthew Lando and Joseph McNamara

Others Present

Dr. Michelle Reed, James Bruni, Karissa Blamble, Jim Marley (SFSSA) and SF Education Foundation members-Gerald Macaluso, Robert McKeveny, Ted Novak, and Theresa Clark

Michael Mirras 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

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the addendum as listed:

Additions and Revisions under X. Consent Agenda

3. Revised 2024-2025 Bus Driver/Monitor Routes

Remove Jeaneth Dellefave from revised hours.

Add: under XI. Old Business

A. Rescind Appointment

1. Art Teacher (appointed 09/25/2024)

c. Name: Genevieve Pietrusinski

Position: Art Teacher

Certification: Pending

Tenure: Pending Certification

Effective date: 10/07/2024

Probation: Pending Certification

Base Salary: \$46,018 (Step 3)

Add: under XII. New Business

• D. LTS Appointment

1. Name: Genevieve Pietrusinski

Position: Art Teacher-Long Term Substitute (Level I)

Effective: 10/07/2024

Salary: Step I (SFEA Contract)

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Deborah Corsner.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Approve or Amend

Board Minutes

September 25, 2024

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the Board of Education minutes dated September 25, 2024

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Treasurer's Report

None at this time.

Extra-Curricular Treasurer's Report

None at this time.

Searah Reardon arrived at 6:06 pm.

Recognitions, Celebrations and Presentations

School Board Recognition Week is October 14-18, 2024 and since there is no board meeting that week, it was decided the Board members would be recognized at this meeting. Dr. Reed thanked the Board of Education members for all the work they do for the district. Each member was presented with a certificate and gifts.

Seneca Falls Education Foundation

Gerald Macaluso, Robert McKeveny, Ted Novak, and Theresa Clark

Robert McKeveny briefed the Board of how the Seneca Falls Education Foundation came to be.

- The foundation has been existence for seven (7) years
- Current members of the Board of Directors are Theresa Clark, Heather Higby, Jerry Macaluso Bob McKeveny, Craig Meyers, Joell Murney-Karsten, Ted Novak, Mike Wurster and Zac Young
- The district is within a very generous community. There are some scholarships that were started 60, 70, 80 years ago.
- The district at one time held a large amount of money that could not be touched (due to restriction put in place by donors).
- The concept of a foundation came to be so that the money that the district held could be used to recognize and help more students. There is more money given out per student in scholarships than any other district in our area.

- The district worked with attorneys for two years. The attorneys in turn worked with families that were still living. And then eventually the district went to court to release the funds to the foundation with one goal –to generate more money for students.

Gerald Macaluso explained a New Award/Scholarship Process

- Is it a one-time award, yearly award, four-year award, other?
- Will the award be recognized by the foundation as a will/bequeath or stand-alone?
 - Wills-money left by donors with specifics. Most state do not touch the principal-use only the interest for award.
 - Stand-Alone Account- donors, mostly living, would like to keep the account by itself.
 - Merged Account-When the district went to court, the court merged a number of funds into one account. The awards were kept by name, but the funds were merged. There is a system to determine how much interest is gained for each award.
- The foundation encourages stand-alone accounts.
- Will the funds be provided up front or provided annually or on an as-need basis?
- The Seneca Falls Central School District board of Education approves the establishment of all scholarships given out to students.
- Supported and funded by the SF Education Foundation

Ted Novak reviewed the Matrix used to track the funds.

- The initial investment in 2018 was \$750,918.89.
- Today the investments total \$875,360.44

Meeting Requirements & Supporting Initiatives, Clubs, and Teams

- Annual Fundraising requirement
- Financial Review is done by V. Sinicropi and the Bonadio Group
- Pass Through Funds to Clubs & Teams
- Successful grant proposal to support Science of Reading initiative
- Funds provided to support students

The Seneca Falls Education Foundation will spend the 2024 - 2025 year to identify amount of funds available to support initiatives. The Foundation will also develop guidelines to govern distribution of funds for projects, initiatives, etc.

SFSSA Report
James Marley

Jim Marley, SF Support Staff Association President, reported the following:

- Membership is around 76 members. Once the new law was passed that not everyone had to join the union, numbers dropped. Actively trying to recruit members.
- The association had lost their tax exempt status about 7 years ago due to the m not filing with the IRS. He has worked to get it back with no penalties or fines backdated seven years ago.
- The SFSSA and the SFEA provided a lunch on the first day back for faculty and staff. Food was provided by Dana Colvin's food truck: The HotBox. About 230 staff members were served.
- Jim stated that he is trying to do more within the community. The association held a tailgating party before one of the MA football games. Roughly 15-20 people showed up-was hoping for a larger turnout.
- Jim was wearing the new shirt the association bought for members. "You are not alone" is on the back of the shirt.
- The association will be participating in a food drive along with Waterloo CSD support staff union. A little competition to see you brings in more goods.

Public Comment

For anyone interested in addressing the Board, please review the Public Comment statement below.

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
Audit Committee

Cara Lajewski reported on the following:

- The committee met on Oct. 8, 2024 to review the external audit.
- There is \$690,000.00 in interest on Reserve accounts, which is a shift from previous years. It can be attributed to good planning.
- There was an increase in the STAR refund due to the reassessments done.
- There was an increase in educational spending due to grant funding.
- The committee reviewed the management letter. There was on "ding" regarding an internal control for a cafeteria purchase. There should have been a public bid instead of individual bids.

Anthony Ferrara reported on the following:

- The committee had met that morning, October 10, 2024 with Hunt Contractors and Campus Construction Management Group.
- District’s application was submitted in May 2024.
- NYSED approval will probably be pushed back late April-early May 2025
- The variance regarding a fire wall between existing wall and new wall.
- The project cannot be done in two summers. Hunt and Campus believe the District is still in a “good window” to complete the project.

Information

Warrants 09/01/2024-09/30/2024

Warrant A (22)	\$ 74,802.62
Warrant A (23)	\$ 485,593.82
Warrant C (8)	\$ 13,854.26
Warrant C (9)	\$ 93,498.19
Warrant F (7)	\$ 95,621.45
Warrant F (8)	\$ 1,950.86
Warrant H (5)	\$ 683,668.96

Student Board Member

Searah Reardon reported on the “Elevating Student Voices” program she is participating in along with four classmates and two teachers. The program is being held at WFL BOCES in Newark. The program uses activities to bring students together and to listen to one another. The tools they learn will be brought back to school and shared. There are four more session with the last day being a full day.

Business Administrator

James Bruni stated that he will share his information during the budget workshop.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Michelle Reed reported on the following:

- The community survey was sent out Tuesday. As of today’s date, the district has received 95 responses.
- Superintendent Day is Oct. 14, 2024. Instructional staff is required to do the state mandated training for reporting suspecting child abuse/neglect. The training for instructional is two hours long.
- Non-instructional is also required to do training but their training is 30 minutes. Teachers will also be working on MTSS and DEI.
- October 14, 2024-Legal Holiday-no school.
- October 16, 2024-DEI (4:00 pm) and DCC (5:00 pm) meetings.

BOE President Report

Michael Mirras reminded the Board members that the board retreat is Saturday, November 2, 2024 at 8:00 am.

BOE Member Comments

Cara Lajewski reported that she was approached by the ECS PTO and asked if the board of Education would be interested in having a table at the Cady Stanton School Trick or Treat event on Oct. 25th. Cara asked for volunteers. Searah Reardon and Dr. Reed stated they would help out.

Anthony Ferrara reported that the MA Athletic Hall of Fame inductions were this Sunday at the Northeast College. Tickets are still available. For those that cannot make it, FingerLakes1 would be doing a live broadcast. The inductees this year are Thomas Gaun (Lifetime Contributor Class of 1988), Jane Rosenkrans (Pre-Title IX Athlete Class of 1966) Michael Hathaway (Class of 1977), Louis Rizzieri (Class of 1948), Robert Caraccilo (Class of 1957), Molly Hanlin Murphy (Class of 1977), Robert Bachman (Class of 1982), and 1951 and 1955 Football teams (Honored)

Heather Zellers updated the Board on her work on the federal and state level. There may be major tax legislation in the next Congress that will affect education.

Important Dates to Remember

- October 11, 2024-Conference Day (No school)
- October 14, 2024-Indigenous Peoples Day/Columbus Day (Legal Holiday)
- October 20-22, 2024-2024 NYSSBA Convention
- October 24, 2024-BOE Meeting
- November 2, 2024- BOE Meeting/Workshop
- November 7, 2024-BOE Meeting
- November 21, 2024-BOE Meeting
- November 25, 2024- 4-County SBA General Membership Meeting (Brian Fessler, NYSSBA Director of Governmental Relations)

Consent Agenda

Resignations/Retirements/Terminations

SFEA

None at this time

SFSSA

Termination

Position: Cleaner
Effective: 9/27/2024

Appointments
Professional Appointment(s)
None at this time.

2024-2025 Annual Appointments

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves following annual appointments for the 2024-2025 school year.

Position	Employee	Stipend
District Treasurer	Phyllis Moore	n/a
Teacher Mentor	Christina Korba	\$350.00

Revised 2024-2025 Bus Driver/Monitor Routes

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education does hereby approve the following revised bus driver and bus monitor hours for the 2024-2025 school year.

Bus Drivers	Hours
Jim Fairbanks	5.5 6.25
Carolyn Breese	5.5 6.25
Robert Wood	5.5 6.5
Tonja Ticconi	5.0 5.25
James Biccum	6.0 5.5
Ron Donk	6.00 (M-Th.) & 5.0 (Fri.) 6.25 (M-Th.) & 5.25 (Fri.)
Bus Monitors	
Sonya Jesmer	5.75 6.5
Deanna Monaghan	5.25 6.0
Kathy Arsenault	4.25 4.75
Dustin Bennett	4.0 4.5
Jada Buck	4.0 4.5
Samantha Jesmer	4.0 4.75

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: Medina Larson
Position: Teacher Aide
Effective: 10/15/2024
Probationary Period: 10/15/2024 through 10/14/2025
Hours/day: 6.0
Hourly Rate: \$16.48

Name: Tanya Mack
Position: Teacher Aide
Effective: 10/15/2024
Probationary Period: 10/15/2024 through 10/14/2025
Hours/day: 6.0
Hourly Rate: \$16.48

Name: Marty Kerfien
Position: Cleaner
Effective: ~~10/15/2024~~ 10/31/24 (*Corrected at the 10/24/2024 BOE Mtg.*)
Probationary Period: ~~10/15/2024 through 10/14/2025~~ 10/31/24-10/30/2025 (*Corrected at the 10/24/2024 BOE Mtg.*)
Hours/day: 8.0
Hourly Rate: \$15.71

Substitute Appointments

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

Name: Christina Tumbiolo
Position: Substitute Teacher
Effective: 10/11/2024

Name: Aionna Johnson
Position: Substitute Teacher; Tutor
Effective: 10/11/2024

Probationary to Permanent

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the probationary to permanent appointment of the following employee(s):

Employee	Position	Effective
Nona Stymus	Cashier/FSH	10/16/2024
Athena Arroya-De La Toba	Teacher Aide	10/27/2024

CSE Minutes

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

09/03/2024, 09/05/2024, 09/06/2024, 09/09/2024, 09/12/2024 (1), 09/12/2024 (2), 09/17/2024, 09/19/2024, 09/20/2024, 09/24/24, 09/27/2024

Gifts and Donations

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

Donor	Amount	Account	
Tops in Education	\$94.51	A2020-450-04-0000	Supplies Gr. 9-12

2024-2025 Transportation Requests-None at this time.

Overnight Conference Requests/Field Trips-None at this time.

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as listed.

Deborah Corsner made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.
 Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Old Business
None at this time

Rescind Appointment

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to rescind the following September 25, 2024 appointment.

Art Teacher (appointed 09/25/2024)

- c. Name: Genevieve Pietrusinski*
- Position: Art Teacher*
- Certification: Pending*
- Tenure: Pending Certification*
- Effective date: 10/07/2024*
- Probation: Pending Certification*
- Base Salary: \$46,018 (Step 3)*

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Anthony Ferrara.
 Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

New Business
Policy-2nd Reading

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the second and final reading of the following policies:

- Policy-0100- Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity
- Policy-0110- Sexual Harassment
- Policy-0110.2- Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Policy 0111 (New) - Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment under Title IX
- Policy 0111-E (New) Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment under Title IX Exhibit-definitions
- Policy-0115-Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Regulation 0115- Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Policy 9520.6 (New) –The Rights of Employees to Express Breast Milk in the Workplace

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Erica Sinicropi.
 Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Surplus

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to dispose of following surplus items as listed through sale, donation, disposal or auction according to Board Policy #6900:

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Elementary

- ISBN #978-1-55337-954-6
One Well: The Story of Water on Earth (hardcover)
119 copies
- ISBN #978-1-4027-5421-0
Peter Pan (hardcover)
76 copies
- ISBN#0-15-205445-6
The Librarian of Basra (hardcover)
106 copies
- ISBN #978-0-547-24307-8
Rain School (hardcover)
104 copies
- ISBN#978-1-4169-9437-4

Nasreen's Secret School (hardcover)
105 copies

Frank Knight Elementary School

- Sept. 20, 2024 Surplus-See attached list
- Oct. 1, 2024 List-See attached list

Deborah Corsner made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.
Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

External Audit

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to accept the External Audit Report and Management Letter of the Seneca Falls Central School District's Basic Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 completed by Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. LLP and that the Business Administrator, in conjunction with the Audit Committee, respond to such audit.

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Heather Zellers.
Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

LTS Appointment

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following long term substitute appointment:

Name: Genevieve Pietrusinski
Position: Art Teacher-Long Term Substitute (Level I)
Effective: 10/07/2024
Salary: Step I (SFEA Contract)

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.
Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Budget Workshop #1
Budget Development Calendar

Executive Session
Proposed, Current or Pending Litigation

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:11 pm to discuss the details of proposed, current or pending litigation.

Deborah Corsner made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.
Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Monica Kuney, District Clerk

The regular meeting resumed at 7:31 pm.

Adjourn

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm.

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.
Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried