

Seneca Falls Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
November 21, 2024-6:00 PM
Robert McKeveny Training Room

BOE Present

Deborah Corsner, Anthony Ferrara, Cara Lajewski, Matthew Lando, Joseph McNamara, Michael Mirras, Erica Sinicropi, and Searah Reardon, Student Board Member

BOE Absent

Denise Lorenzetti, and Heather Zellers

Others Present

Dr. Michelle Reed, James Bruni, Karissa Blamble, Kevin Rhinehart, Kevin Korzeniewski, Faith Lewis, Carried Heffron and John Quattrochiocchi.

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 addendums as listed.

Add under X. Consent Agenda

A. Resignations/Retirements/Terminations

2. SFSSA

a. Name: Anna LaRocca

Position: Teacher Aide

Effective: 12/03/2024

B. Appointments

3. Substitute Appointments

b. Name: Debra Tracey

Position: Substitute Bus Driver

Effective: 11/22/2024

Add under XI. Old Business

A. Correction to Oct. 24, 2024 Coaching Appointment

Adam Jones	Varsity- Modified Wrestling Coach	\$4,950.46	\$2,234.11	Phys. Ed. Teacher
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Add under XII. New Business

C. Varsity Wrestling Merge-Waterloo CSD 2024-2025 School Year

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Approve or Amend
Board Minutes

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the following Board of Education minutes:

November 2, 2024

November 7, 2024

Deborah Corsner made the motion, seconded by Joseph McNamara.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Treasurer's Reports

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the following Treasurer Reports

September 2024

October 2024

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Extra-Curricular Treasurer's Report
None at this time.

Recognitions, Celebrations and Presentations
SFMS Report

Kevin Rhinehart (Seneca Falls Middle School) reported on the following Goals & Updates

Goal 1: Based on I-Ready reading scores, SFMS will increase the number of students reading in grades 6-8 to 70%

Steps:

- The literacy block expectations will be reviewed with all faculty members.
- Ongoing professional development pertaining to the Science of Reading will occur through half-day release time.
- Teachers will implement literacy block expectations.
- Teachers will administer the F&P assessment three times during the school year.
- The School Improvement Team will share out data after each administration.
- Teachers will consult with the Literacy Coach; the Literacy Coach will model methods and strategies in classrooms

Goal 2: The chronic absenteeism rate for SFMS will decrease for all students (10 or more absences) 15% or less

- MTSS bi-weekly discussions of students with attendance concerns.
- Regularly track and analyze attendance data to identify patterns (e.g., chronic absenteeism, frequent absences on certain days, or during particular subjects).

- counselors reaching out to families and care providers
- Principal phone calls and attendance letters to student/families with attendance concerns
- Celebrate positive attendance
- student recognition for 10th period attendance
- partnered with local business for student attendance – pizza
- more clubs and activities being offered

Goal 3: Improve social/emotional health and well-being of students by decreasing negative behaviors as measured by a 20% reduction of referrals in the following categories: insubordination, disruption of education/disruptive behavior, disrespect to staff members, and fighting.

- Tiered behavior meetings to review data and implement interventions
- Focus on Blue behaviors/language
- Instruction on safe & appropriate behavior
- Monthly Guidance meetings to discuss students.

Celebrations:

- Grade 8 field trip to Rose Hill Mansion
- MS student council presenting to the BOE (October)
- 17 student representatives at the Youth Summit
- Grades 6-8 Fall Band and Chorus Concerts

Upcoming Events:

- Dec 10 - 6th grade Band and Chorus concert
- December 17 – 7th & 8th grade chorus and band concerts

Mynderse Academy Report

Faith Lewis and Carrie Heffron (Mynderse Academy) reported on the following Goals & Updates

Goal 1: Decrease the rate of chronic absenteeism for all students (30% or less with a stretch goal of 25%)

Steps:

- Monitor attendance every 5 weeks
- Send letters home at the 7, 14, 21, 28 day intervals with suggestion flyers
- Starting attendance groups with Abigail Coons for students who are at-risk
- Phone calls home as needed
- Students who are consistently tardy to school are assigned period 10 to make up seat time

Goal 2: Graduation rate of 90% (stretch goal of 95%) for the 21-22 Cohort.

- Monitor grades every 5 weeks
- Seniors failing 1 or more classes lose senior privileges until all classes are passing
- Meet with parents and seniors starting at Quarter 1 for any senior failing a class that they need for graduation
- Monthly MTSS grade-level meetings to discuss struggling students (Attendance, Academics, Behavior)
- Students who do not attend period 10 when placed on the list are provided academic support time during lunches in the Reset Room or Math lab to complete work they owe

Goal 3: Continue to enhance a positive and safe school environment by decreasing negative behaviors as measured by a 15% reduction of behavioral referrals. (325 without frequently late to class)

- Consistency in building expectations
- Focus on tardies to class with a referral for every 5 tardies to class
- Follow-up on referrals in a timely manner and communicating home

Celebrations:

- 36% reduction in the number of classes being failed for Quarter 1 from last year
- Fall drama production was amazing
- Started Tier 2/Tier 3 Meetings

Upcoming Events:

- November 21st-22nd - Group 6 of Power of Peace
- December 7th - Craft Show
- December 11th - Band & Chorus Concert

Karissa Blamble-CSE Report

Karissa Blamble (Director of Special Programs) reported on the following Goals & Updates

Goal 1: Decrease the rate of chronic absenteeism for all students (30% or less with a stretch goal of 25%)

Steps:

- Monitor attendance every 5 weeks
- Send letters home at the 7, 14, 21, 28 day intervals with suggestion flyers
- Starting attendance groups with Abigail Coons for students who are at-risk
- Phone calls home as needed
- Students who are consistently tardy to school are assigned period 10 to make up seat time

Goal 2: Graduation rate of 90% (stretch goal of 95%) for the 21-22 Cohort.

- Monitor grades every 5 weeks
- Seniors failing 1 or more classes lose senior privileges until all classes are passing
- Meet with parents and seniors starting at Quarter 1 for any senior failing a class that they need for graduation
- Monthly MTSS grade-level meetings to discuss struggling students (Attendance, Academics, Behavior)
- Students who do not attend period 10 when placed on the list are provided academic support time during lunches in the Reset Room or Math lab to complete work they owe

- 1st Team All-League: Lilly Nicholson and Kylee Kolbash
- 2nd Team All-League: Hanna Trickler
- Honorable Mention: Hannah O'Brien and Bella Burlew
- Exceptional Seniors No game: Kylee Kolbash, Lilly Nicholson, Hanna Trickler, Bella Burlew, Cheyenne Mangum, and Jillian Tandle
- Athletes of the Month sponsored by Mark's Pizzeria:
 - September: Kyah Lejewski (Soccer), Harrison Wirth (Golf)
 - October: Kylee Kolbash (Volleyball), Brody Tanner (Soccer)

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.

John Quattrociocchi was present to inquire about crossing guards at the front of the high school

Committee Reports Facilities Committee

Matthew Lando reported that the committee had their last meeting before going out to bids (Nov. 18, 2024). He reported that everything is on schedule with paperwork.

The committee discussed contracts for the primary contractor. The committee also discussed possible trailers for the contractors, where the contractors will park, etc. Discussion was also had regarding an additional wish list if there is money left over.

Information

Warrants 10/01/2024-10/31/2024

Warrant A (31)	\$ 490,660.47
Warrant A (32)	\$ 22,991.84
Warrant A (35)	\$ 784,531.92
Warrant C (12)	\$ 14,500.64
Warrant C (13)	\$ 10,325.85
Warrant C (14)	\$ 17,043.76
Warrant F (12)	\$ 62,024.99
Warrant F (13)	\$ 10.00
Warrant F (14)	\$ 78,348.55
Warrant H (6)	\$ 10,533.33

Warrants 11/01/2024-11/30/2024

Warrant A (35)	\$ 784,531.92
Warrant C (14)	\$ 17,043.76
Warrant F (14)	\$ 78,348.55

Business Administrator

James Bruni pointed out to the Board that they will be voting on the Reserve Narrative Plan after the budget workshop. James Bruni also reminded the Board that a Benefits/Health Insurance meeting will be held on Dec. 10, 2024. He will give an update to the Board at the Dec. 19, 2024 meeting.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Michelle Reed reported on the following:

The NYS Office of Early Learning visited the district's Pre-K program. Rachel Short, rep from NYSOEL said the district passed with flying colors.

Safety Committee meeting was held on Nov. 18, 2024. Marcy Steiner was present for the meeting. The committee reviewed/discussed the following:

- "I Love You Guys" training was completed for leadership and the SRO.
- Discussion was held regarding the app "STOP FINDER".
- Capital Project update was given to the committee regarding the front entrances at Frank Knight and Elizabeth Cady Stanton schools.

BOE President Report

Michael Mirras reminded the Board members of the upcoming Four County SBA meetings and the Chamber of Commerce Annual dinner in January 2025.

BOE Member Comments

Joseph McNamara stated to the Board that it would be beneficial for members to go to the Four County SBA General meeting regarding school financing. Brian Fessler, NYSSBA, presenter, is very knowledgeable.

Important Dates to Remember

November 25, 2024- Board of Directors Meeting + Four County SBA General Membership Meeting (Brian Fessler, NYSSBA Director of Governmental Relations.

Nov. 27-29, 2024-No School for students & 10 month employees-Thanksgiving break.

Dec. 03, 2024 –Four County SBA-Board of Directors Meeting
Dec. 04, 2024- Cady Stanton Concert -Gr. 4 & 5 (7:00 pm) -Auditorium
Dec. 10, 2024- SFMS Band & Chorus Concert-Gr. 5 & 6 (7:00 pm)-Auditorium
Dec. 11, 2024- MA Band & Chorus Concert (7:00 pm)-Auditorium
Dec. 14, 2024-Four County SBA-Legislative Committee Meeting (Zoom)
Dec. 17, 2024- FK Grade 2 (1:30 pm) FK Gym
Dec. 17, 2024- SFMS Band & Chorus Concert-Gr. 7 & 8 (7:00 pm)-Auditorium
Dec. 19, 2024- FK Holiday Sing-Along Concert (1:45 pm) FK Gym
Dec. 19, 2024-BOE Meeting
Dec. 23, 2024-Jan. 3, 2025-Holiday Break-No School

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

SFSSA

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

Name: Anna LaRocca
Position: Teacher Aide
Effective: 12/03/2024

Appointments
Professional Appointment

The Board of Education of the Seneca Falls Central School District, pursuant to Section 3012 of the Education Law and in compliance with Part 30.3 of the Rules of the Board of Regents, upon the recommendation of Dr. Michelle Reed, Superintendent of Schools, hereby appoints (*Probation dates are tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Education Law sections 2509, 2573, 3212 and 3014 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3012-c and/or 3012-d of the Education Law of either effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years, and if the teacher receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period the teacher shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.*)

Name: Kathryn Mosca
Position: School Psychologist
Certification: School Psychologist (Provisional Certification)
Tenure: School Psychologist
Effective date: 07/04/2024
Probation: 07/04/2024 through 07/03/2028

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: Allison Sands
Position: Health Aide
Effective: 11/22/2024
Probationary Period: 11/22/2024 through 11/21/2025
Hours/day: 7.0
Hourly Rate: \$21.63

Name: Alice Rickard
Position: Cleaner
Effective: 11/14/2024 (retro)
Probationary Period: 11/14/2024 through 11/13/2025
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: Jasmine Lawton
Position: Substitute Teacher Aide
Effective: 11/22/2024

Name: Debra Tracey
Position: Substitute Bus Driver
Effective: 11/22/2024

Probationary to Permanent
None at this time

CSE Minutes

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following CSE Minutes: 10/22/2024, 10/24/2024, 10/28/2024, 10/31/2024 (1), 10/31/2024 (2), 11/01/2024 (1), 11/01/2024 (2), 11/07/2021

Gifts and Donations

None at this time.

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.

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

Old Business

Correction to Oct. 24, 2024 Coaching Appointment

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the following correction to an October 24, 2024 appointment.

Adam Jones	Varsity	Modified Wrestling Coach	\$4,950.46	\$2,234.11	Phys. Ed. Teacher
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Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Anthony Ferrara.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

New Business

Contracts, Agreements and MOA's

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Seneca Falls Board of Education approves the following Contracts, Agreements and MOA's:
2024-2025 MOA between the Seneca Falls CSD and Cayuga Community College

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Standardization of Facilities Equipment, Facilities Energy Management, Facilities Management Security Control and Intrusion Detection Systems

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that whereas the Seneca Falls Central School District has a substantial investment in facilities equipment for door hardware: locksets manufactured by Best, cylinders (interior and exterior) manufactured by Best, exit devices manufactured by Von Duprin, and closers manufactured by LCN in its present facilities and

WHEREAS, the district's employees are trained in the operation of said systems which have proved to be reliable technology with quality components, and

WHEREAS, the addition of the same manufacturer's product to the present system will be the most economical and the most labor efficient.

NOW THEREFORE, Pursuant to Section 103 of the General Municipal Law Subdivision 5, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the district shall hereby purchase for its additional facilities, facilities equipment for door hardware: locksets manufactured by Best, cylinders (interior and exterior) manufactured by Best, exit devices manufactured by Von Duprin, and closers manufactured by LCN and that no substitution shall be made for the specified system or supplier.

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Varsity Wrestling -Waterloo CSD 2024-2025 School Year

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that Whereas the Seneca Falls Central School District and Waterloo Central School District have met to ascertain the advantages of combining sports teams; and

Whereas Seneca Falls Central School District and Waterloo Central School District have agreed on terms for combining Varsity Wrestling;

Be it therefore resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve up to two (2) Seneca Falls Central School District students participate in the Waterloo Central School District's Varsity Wrestling program;

Be it further resolved that the Waterloo Central School District will be the host school, following the Waterloo Central School District coach's salary schedule and coaches handbook; and

Be it further resolved, that the students from each district will follow their own schools' code of conduct; and

Be it further resolved, that all of the costs associated with the Varsity Wrestling program for the winter of 2024 (such as supplies, officials, and salaries) will be based on a percentage of the athletes that participate from Seneca Falls Central School District and Waterloo Central School District, and will be billed to Seneca Falls Central School District. The Seneca Falls Central School District students will provide their own transportation.

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

Budget Workshop
Reserve Fund Narrative Part 2

Employee Retirement System Reserve [General Municipal Law, Article 2 § 6-r] General Fund A827

- Established by Board of Education
- Funded by budgetary appropriations, revenues not required by law to be paid into other funds or accounts,
- transfers from other reserve funds as permitted by law, and such other funds as the board may legally
- appropriate
- Voter approval is not needed to expend funds
- A portion of the funds may be transferred to another reserve fund established pursuant to Education Law §3651 following a public hearing conducted in the manner set forth by in law
- The ERS Reserve was established by the Board of Education in 2009-10 to cover payments to the Employee (Support Staff) Retirement System.
- The District's share of the required contributions, based on covered payroll paid for the District's year
 - Ended June 30, 2021: \$349,991
 - Ended June 30, 2022: \$385,463
 - Ended June 30, 2023: \$294,833
 - Ending June 30, 2024: \$340,961

Projected Needs

- The District has allocated up to \$350,000 to cover the 2024-25 ERS contributions.
- The goal is to utilize this reserve to cover annual ERS contributions over the next ten years. This would require a balance of about \$3,500,000 in the ERS reserve.

Teacher Retirement System Reserve [General Municipal Law, Article 2 § 6-r] General Fund A827

Established by Board of Education

Funded by budgetary appropriations, revenues not required by law to be paid into other funds or accounts, transfers from other reserve funds as permitted by law, and such other funds as the board may legally appropriate

- Voter approval is not needed to expend funds
- A portion of the funds may be transferred to another reserve fund established pursuant to Education Law §3651 following a public hearing conducted in the manner set forth by in law
- In 2019, the Board of Education established a Teacher's Retirement System Reserve as a sub-account in the ERS Reserve. This new reserve is capped at an appropriation of 2% of all prior year salaries (Total allocation cannot exceed 10%).
- Like the ERS reserve, this reserve will support the general fund budget for any large increases in TRS employee contribution rates.

Projected Needs

- The goal will be to utilize this reserve to cover 25% of the annual TRS contributions over the next five years.
- The district currently budgets annual TRS contributions at \$1,089,982. As of FY23, the TRS Reserve could handle an annual contribution (2% cap of \$9,121,008) of \$182,420 and is capped at \$921,101 (10%). Beginning in FY25, we will be appropriating \$272,500 (25% of contributions) from the reserve.
- FY26 and beyond will allow for 20% allocation of \$220,000 annually but would require an equity transfer of
- \$175,000 annually. This plan usage would leave about \$500,000 in 2035.

2024-2025 Reserve Fund Narrative Plan

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the Seneca Falls Central School District Financial Reserve Fund Narrative Plan for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025 as presented.

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

Executive Session

Details of proposed, current or pending litigation and negotiations

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:27 pm to discuss the details of proposed, current or pending litigation and negotiations.

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

Monica Kuney, District Clerk

Adjourn

The regular meeting resumed at 8:05 pm

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm.

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

Michael Mirras, Board President