

Seneca Falls Central School District
Board of Education Meeting
December 19, 2024-6:00 PM
Robert McKeveny Training Room

BOE Present

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

BOE Absent

None

Others Present

Dr. Michelle Reed, James Bruni, Jodie Verkey, Anna Luisi-Ellis and the MA Chamber Singers.

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 VI. Recognitions, Celebrations and Presentations

A. **Kiara Velazquez**, Graduate Recognition

Add under X. Consent Agenda

A. Resignation

1. SFEA

Nathan Rarick	7 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	12/16/2024
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2. SFSSA

b. Name: **Samantha Jesmer**

Position: School Monitor

Effective: 01/01/2025

B. Appointments

3. Substitute Appointments

c. Name: **Patrick Crawford**

Position: Substitute Teacher (Gr. K-5)

Effective: 12/20/2024

5. Coaching Appointment(s)

Melissa Morrin	7 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	\$2,234.11
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Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Approve or Amend

Board Minutes

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the Board of Education minutes dated November 21, 2024.

Heather Zellers made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Treasurer's Report

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2024.

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Joseph McNamara.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Extra-Curricular Treasurer's Report

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the Extra-Curricular Treasurer's Report for October 2024.

Joseph McNamara made the motion, seconded by Deborah Corsner.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Recognitions, Celebrations and Presentations

Kiara Velazquez, a student who completed all the requirements to receive a diploma-was unable to attend the meeting. Michael Mirras and the Board of Education recognize her accomplishment and applaud her.

MA Chamber Singers

The MA Chamber Singers, along with Anna Luisi, Music Teacher, were in attendance. The Chamber Singers performed three songs for the Board.

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

Joseph McNamara met on Dec. 18. The committee reviewed and discussed the Extra Classroom Audit for the year ending June 30, 2024. The corrective action plan will be presented at the January 9, 2025 board meeting.

Policy Committee

Cara Lajewski reported that the committee had met on December 2. The committee reviewed three policies. There is one policy moving forward, Policy 8130-School Safety Plans and Teams. Policy 8130 is on tonight's agenda for the first reading. The other two policies are still under review. Michael Mirras asked if the committee was still tackling the cell phone policy. The committee continues to work on it.

Health Insurance Committee

Deborah Corsner reported that the committee met on December 10. Some highlights of the meeting are as follows.

Rally is being replaced by ThriveWell. This is our health insurance reward system that provides extra cash to participants.

Preliminary Premium increases trending around 12-15%. The district will know more in February 2025.

Prescription Updates- Excellus is removing some covered medications that affect about 50 people throughout the total FLASHP network, employees who are affected have been notified.

Scholarship Committee

Heather Zellers reported that the committee had met December 19. The RMD for 2024 is \$55,765. After taking into consideration the amount spent so far and the 2025 spring checks to be cut, there is \$14,265 remaining that must be disbursed. Of the 34 students, 32 are in good standing to receive the one time December payout of \$450. If a recipient sends in the required paperwork after December 2024 that is past due and they qualify, the scholarship check will come out of 2025 RMD.

Information

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

Warrant A (36)	\$ 53,113.64
Warrant A (39)	\$ 463,276.31
Warrant C (15)	\$ 6,143.51
Warrant C (16)	\$ 13,883.49
Warrant F (15)	\$ 22,393.00
Warrant F (16)	\$ 16,528.29

Warrants 12/01/2024-12/31/2024

Warrant A (40)	\$1,099,637.70
Warrant C (17)	\$ 22,036.82
Warrant F (17)	\$ 4,802.77
Warrant H (7)	\$ 173,766.08

Student Board Member

Searah Reardon participates in the TIES Program as a volunteer. Searah Reardon reported that she had participated in the "It's a Wonderful Life 5K" alongside another student. Searah informed the Board that both completed the run. It was a very rewarding experience she said.

Searah reported that tomorrow (Dec. 20) was BLUE Day. Students have lots of things to partake in on BLUE Day. There is volleyball tournament, Karaoke and Just Dance, cooking competition BLUE Day Dec. 20 is also pajama day at the high school.

Business Administrator

James Bruni reported on the following:

- The district received the tax base growth information for the district.
- Letter of intent for the SMART Bond was sent in. The application will be sent in next.
- Emergency HVAC was installed on October 2024. The SEQRA resolution will be on the January 9, 2025 BOE agenda.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Michelle Reed reported on the following:

- NYSED Substantial Equivalency-Substantial equivalency ensures that students attending religious and independent schools across New York State have access to an education that is substantially equivalent to students attending public schools. Dr. Reed visited a number of private and religious schools. The school were gracious and welcoming. Dr. Reed stated that it was interesting to see different cultures. Dr. Reed, and other superintendents, are required to assess each school's curriculum to make sure it aligns with the public schools in the core subjects required by state law (science, math, social studies, and English language arts). Superintendents are required to do this annually.
- Regionalization Survey-the State has assured the districts that they are not going to force mergers. It is up to the BOE if they would like the Superintendent to submit the survey. Anthony Ferrara asked what Dr. Reed's recommendation was. Dr. Reed recommended that the survey be completed and submitted.

BOE President Report

Michael Mirras reported on the General Membership Meeting on November 25, 2024 with Brian Fessler, NYSSBA's Director of Governmental Relations. He reported that they learned a lot about the Foundation Aid formula as well as the Rockefeller Institute Report.

Michael Mirras also reported that Dr. Reed, Deborah Corsner and Denise Lorenzetti will be attending the January 16, 2025 Legislative breakfast at BOCES.

Board Member Comments

Heather Zellers recommended that if board members read the Rockefeller report, to keep in mind that no action will be taken on it.

Joseph McNamara has set up a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce in January regarding potential internships for MA students and how the chamber can help the district. Michael Mirras and Dr. Reed, along with Joseph McNamara, will participate in the meeting. Searah Reardon, Student Board member, welcomed the idea. She stated that she know students who find an internship on their own. Broadening the options would be very positive.

Important Dates to Remember

Dec. 23, 2024-Jan. 3, 2025-Holiday Break-No School (School reopens Jan. 6)

January 9, 2025-BOE Meeting

January 15, 2025-Four County SBA-General Membership Meeting

January 20, 2025-Martin Luther King Day

January 23, 2025-BOE Meeting/Frank Knight Roundtable (FK School)

Consent Agenda

Resignations/Retirements/Terminations

SFEA

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education accepts the following coaching resignation

Employee	Sport/Position	Eff.
Nathan Rarick	7 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	12/16/2024

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

Name: Samantha Jesmer
Position: School Monitor
Effective: 01/01/2025

Appointments
Professional Appointment(s)
None at this time.

Civil Service Appointment(s)

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: Jada Buck
Position: Teacher Aide
Effective: 12/10/2024
Probationary Period: 12/10/2024 through 12/11/2025
Hours/day: 2.25
Hourly Rate: \$16.48

Name: Melissa Picchi
Position: Teacher Aide
Effective: 12/20/2024
Probationary Period: 12/20/2024 through 12/19/2025
Hours/day: 6.0
Hourly Rate: \$16.48

Name: Darnel Banks
Position: Teacher Aide
Effective: 01/06/2025
Probationary Period: 01/06/2025 through 01/05/2026
Hours/day: 6.0
Hourly Rate: \$16.48

Substitute Appointment(s)

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: Sydney French
Position: Biology Teacher-Long Term Substitute (Level I) (NYSED Internship Certificate)
Effective: 01/06/2025
Salary: \$22,100 (Pro-rated-Step I)

Name: Cynthia Lazzaro
Position: Substitute Teacher (NYSED Certified Special Education)
Effective: 12/20/2024

Name: Patrick Crawford
Position: Substitute Teacher (Gr. K-5)

Effective: 12/20/2024

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
Nina Leverone	Senior Typist	01/04/2025

Coaching Appointment(s)

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following coaching appointment

Employee	Sport/Position	Stipend
Melissa Morrin	7 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach	\$2,234.11

Annual Appointment(s)

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

Position	Employee	Stipend
Sophomore class Advisor	Christina Crawford	\$190
Sophomore class Advisor	Heather Schantz	\$190

CSE Minutes

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

11/05/2024, 11/07/2024, 11/13/2024, 11/14/2024(1), 11/14/2024(2), 11/15/2024, 11/18/2024, 11/19/2024, 11/20/2024, 11/20/2024, 11/21/2024, 11/22/2024, 11/25/2024, 11/26/2024, 12/02/2024, 12/03/2024, 12/04/2024, 12/05/2024, 12/06/2024(1), 12/06/2024(2),

Gifts and Donations

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

Donor	Amount	Account	
Tim & Arlene Kinsey	\$200.00	A 2705	To be used for MA student needs

2024-2025 Transportation Requests

None at this time

Overnight Conference Requests/Field Trips

NYSBDA (NYS Band Directors Association) Symposium

Date: 03/07/2025 through 03/06/25

Doubletree & Embassy Suites, Syracuse, NY

One teacher plus two MA students

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

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Joseph McNamara.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Old Business Correction(s)

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the following correction as listed:

BOE approved at the 08/02/2024

2024-2025 Substitute Instructional Daily and Hourly Rates and Civil Service Daily and Hourly Rates

(Instructional substitute workdays are based on 7.25 hours) (BOE APPROVED 08/02/2024)

Substitute Position	Daily Rate	Hourly Rate
Contracted Per-Diem Substitute (Uncertified)	\$121.00 \$124.00	\$16.69 \$17.00

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

New Business
Contracts, Agreements and MOA's

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Seneca Falls Board of Education approves the following Contract, Agreement or MOA:

Energy Cooperative of America Agreement

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Course Recommendations

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the following recommended courses as listed:

Course Name: Art Portfolio Preparation

Department: Art

High School Credit: Yes (.5)

College Credit: No

Textbook Requirement: NA

Teacher of Course: Art Teachers

Course Name: Art Portfolio Extension

Department: Art

High School Credit: Yes (.5)

College Credit: No

Textbook Requirement: NA

Teacher of Course: Art Teachers

Deborah Corsner made the motion, seconded by Anthony Ferrara.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Surplus Library Books (Frank Knight Elementary School)

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to dispose of the attached list of surplus library books as listed through sale, donation, disposal or auction according to Board Policy #6900.

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Create Position
Health Aide

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to create the following position:

1-Health Aide (FTE 1.0)-10 months

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Heather Zellers.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Policy-1st Reading

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the first reading of the following policies:

Policy 8130-School Safety Plans and Teams

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Fredenburgh Scholarship 2024 RMD
(Required Minimum Distribution)

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee, the Seneca Falls Central School District Board of Education approves the additional distribution of \$14,400 to meet the 2024 RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) for the Harry S. Fredenburgh Trust Fund.

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.
Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Budget Workshop
2025-2026 Initial Assumptions

Dr. Reed and James Bruni reviewed the 2025-2026 Budget Assumptions. At this time, the budget summary assumptions are as follows: employee benefits- increase of 8.7%; employee salaries- increase of 3.3%; BOCEs, utilities and other assumptions-increase of 4-7%. It is still early in the process and numbers may change.

Executive Session
Negotiations and Personnel

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:04 pm to discuss negotiations and the employment of particular person(s).

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.
Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Monica Kuney, District Clerk

The regular meeting resumed at 7:46 pm

Adjourn

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.
Yes 9 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried