

Seneca Falls Central School District
Board of Education Meeting/FK Roundtable
January 23, 2025-6:00 PM
FK Cafeteria, 98 Clinton Street

BOE Present

Anthony Ferrara, Cara Lajewski, Matthew Lando, Denise Lorenzetti, Joseph McNamara, Michael Mirras, and Searah Reardon, Student Board Member

BOE Absent

Deborah Corsner, Erica Sinicropi, and Heather Zellers

Others Present

Dr. Michelle Reed, James Bruni, Janet Clendenen, Christine Tompkins, Jennifer Brown, Amy Beaudin, Gwyneth Breeze-Hrycko, Mary Andrews and Nicholas Hebert, Jennifer Morrell, Stephanie Lando, Phillip Lawler, Ka'Dyn Gramling, Alexis Jarlenski, Izabella Ayala, Malcolm Lenton Jr., Ma'Leigha Fountaine and several family members.

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 as listed.

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Approve or Amend

Board Minutes

January 9, 2025

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the following Board of Education minutes dated January 9, 2025

Joseph McNamara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Treasurer's Reports

December 2024

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

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Extra-Curricular Treasurer's Report

December 2024

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

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Anthony Ferrara.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Recognitions, Celebrations and Presentations

Frank Knight Elementary School Roundtable

Volunteer Recognitions

Janet Clendenen, Frank Knight Principal, had the following teachers introduce the volunteers and thank them for their work at Frank Knight Elementary School and with the students.

Janet Clendenen had Phillip Herman come up and help her hand out the gift bags.

Chris Knapp-a PTO Member, the Fall Fundraiser Chair and a Trunk or Treat Participant

Gwyneth Breeze-Hrycko introduced Elizabeth (BJ) Garnsey-who is a regular classroom volunteer and also teaches students about Christmas Traditions and customs in Sweden to all Grade 1 Classes.

Jennifer Morrell introduced volunteers Barb Reese, MA Science Teacher and Riley McLeod-who teach Pre-K students about food waste collection, how to keep food out of landfills and composting (create rich soil for gardening).

Partnership Recognitions

Janet Clendenen introduced Diana Cardenas Peralta, Organizer and Brandy Hardy, Team Member, from Xylem. Diane and Brandy are new community partners who come into the school and present to the students the following:

- Keeping our water safe and clean with a focus on what can and cannot get flushed.
- How water gets cleaned in nature and by humans
- Small group hands-on cleaning water activities

Zones of Regulation

Christine Tompkins, FK Social Worker, present on the Zones of Regulation (ZOR). To help her with her presentation were students Ka'Dyn Gramling, Alexis Jarlenski, Izabella Ayala, Malcolm Lenton Jr., and Ma'Leigha Fountaine.

Green Zone – means you're "Good to Go" (happy, calm, ok, thankful, good)

Yellow Zone - means you need to "Slow Down" (excited, frustrated, jealous, worried, overwhelmed, silly, or upset)

Gray Zone – means you may need "More Energy" (sad, tired, sick, shy)

Red Zone – means "Stop" (angry, mad, terrified)

The Board did an exercise with coloring. The Board was asked four questions regarding how they would feel about something and the Board had to color according to the Zones of Regulation. The Board then compared their pictured.

Rime Magic

Christine Edson, __Grade Teacher, shared Rime Magic-Daily Phonics and Word Recognition instruction.

- Immersion
- Only Five Minutes
- Access to the Middle
- Ongoing Scaffolding
- Positive Response
- Immediate Success
- Prevention and Intervention

Second Graders Presented Rime Magic in Action. The following students showed the Board how they use the Rime Magic instruction: Izabella Ayala, Ma'Leigha Fountaine, Ka'Dyn Gramling, Malcolm Lenton Jr. and Alexis Jarlenski

1st Grade Team

Jennifer Brown, along with the other 1st Grade Team members- Amy Beaudin, Gwyneth Breeze-Hrycko, Mary Andrews and Nicholas Hebert, were present to share with the Board the following.

Outside of each first grade classroom is a poster with five options of how a student would like to be greeted. Students can choose a wave, a high-five, a hug, a fist pump or a hand shake. Gwyneth reported that in December, students learn traditions around the world. One of the things they learn is how to greet others in a different language.

In the fall, Grade 1 students write a narrative about animals. QR codes are shared with parents/guardians so they can view the narrative. An example was shared with each Board member.

In December, Grade 1 students take a field trip to the Seneca Falls Historical Society. The students learn about past traditions and other different things from the past such as wall mounted telephones, washing machines and stoves from years ago, etc. Mrs. Sandroni, a museum employee, spoke about where traditions began (like decorating a Christmas tree came from Germany) which supports our unit of Holiday Traditions Around the World taught throughout December. Children also discussed how we travel to the store or to visit family near and far and how transportation looked very different back then.

The 1st Grade team encouraged the Board members, if they haven't already, visit the Seneca Falls Historical Society, they do a wonderful job.

Special Class Overview

Ashley Granger, Special Education teacher, was present to share what her students do in the classroom. Some of the fun activities the students participated in were learning about fire safety during Fire Prevention week, and going to the pumpkin patch. The students love to learn new things. During circle time, the students learn the calendar and the weather. Students do the alphabet chant and use the word wall. Abby Dunphy, Speech Pathologist at FK, created a short video for students. Students can follow along in the video practicing the sounds of the alphabet.

Benefits of Guest Presenters

Matt Bienvenue, Administrative Intern, addressed the benefits of utilizing guest speakers.

- Real-World Insights: Speakers provide firsthand knowledge about specific occupations, offering a realistic view of day-to-day responsibilities and required skills.
- Early Career Exploration: Introducing career options at the primary level allows students to begin thinking about their futures early, which can guide their educational and extracurricular choices.
- Engages Different Learning Styles: Guest speakers provide an interactive, engaging way to learn about careers, appealing to students' auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learning preferences.
- Encourages Goal Setting: Hearing how guest speakers set goals and work toward achieving them helps students develop work ethic.

He also told the story of how he removed bees from outside the school safely and shared the experience with the students while teaching them about bees.

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 Facilities Committee

Matthew Lando reported that the Facilities Committee met on January 13, 2025. The Committee reviewed the following items:

Discussed potential ways to address the new "heat rule" in classrooms. Some suggestions were industrial high speed fans, mini split AC units or portable AC units. Some questions to be addressed are does the district have enough for the power loads; what would the cost be? It was decided for this year that fans will be dispersed to the rooms to help cool them down.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton School floor cracks in gymnasium. District is monitoring it and at this time there are no concerns.

The Committee discussed possible nurse’s space at the HS/MS to be shared, centrally located between the schools. Right now, the Committee decided it cannot be incorporated into the current Capital Project. It will be reviewed in future capital projects.
The bid opening was yesterday (Jan. 22, 2025). Dr. Reed will talk more on that during her report.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee met on January 14, 2025.Cara Lajewski reported that the Committee reviewed one policy that is on the agenda tonight-Policy 1120-School District Records. The Committee continues discussion on the cell phone policy. The Committee will also be looking at the Title XIX policies. The Committee is looking to revert back to the prior policy for those.

Information

Warrants 01/01/2025-01/31/2025

Warrant A (50)	\$ 718,621.04
Warrant A (51)	\$ 593,321.97
Warrant A (52)	\$ 1,212.49
Warrant C (20)	\$ 19,542.10
Warrant C (21)	\$ 1,140.48
Warrant F (20)	\$ 4,881.56
Warrant F (21)	\$ 285,234.50
Warrant H (9)	\$ 68,232.44

Student Board Member

Searah Reardon, Student Board Member, reported that the mid-terms were gin well. Searah will be taking part in the “Power of Peace” next week. Searah thanked the Board members for allowing her to a member of the board. It has helped her in becoming a better public speaker.

Business Administrator

James Bruni reported the following:
The acceptance of the Single Audit is on the agenda as well as the update to sub pay due to the NYS minimum wage increase.
The state aid runs were released yesterday.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Reed reported the following:
The bid opening was yesterday, January 22. She will be sharing more information later after reviewing the bids.
Dr. Reed and Michael Mirras met with members of the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce to discuss future collaboration in respect to internships for students. They would like to have other Superintendents take part in the discussions so future meetings being planned. Dr. Reed thanked Board member Joseph McNamara for setting up the original meeting.

BOE President Report

Michael Mirras also reported he felt that it was a great meeting with the Chamber staff. He is excited is about the ideas that were discussed.
At the last board meeting, nominations for WFL BOCES Board of Education were discussed. Joseph McNamara reported that he would not be seeking re-election to the BOCES Board. Board members were asked to think about it and let the Board President know if they were interested. Deborah Corsner informed him that she is interested in running. If anyone else is interested, please let him know. The nominations will be held at the first or second meeting in February as the nominations are due back at BOCES by March 24, 2025.

BOE Member Comments

Denise Lorenzetti reported that she, along with Deborah Corsner, Dr. Reed and Joseph McNamara, attended the Legislative Breakfast. She reported that there were several presentations from students in the area. The Sodus CSD choir was present to sing.
Reported that she also attended the Annual Chamber of Commerce dinner along with Matthew Lando and Anthony Ferrara. It was great networking for the district.
Next week, she will leave for Washington DC to attend the NSBA Advocacy and Equity Institute. Meetings are set up with US Senator Schumer, US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Representative Claudia Tenney.

Important Dates to Remember

January 29, 2025-Lunar New Year (no school)
February 7, 2025-NYSSBA Capital Conference-Virtual
February 12, 2025-NYSSBA Lobby Day, Albany, NY
February 13, 2025 BOE Meeting
February 17, 2025-President’s Day (no school)
February 17-21, 2025-Winter Break (no school)
February 27, 2025-BOE Meeting

Consent Agenda
Resignations/Retirements/Terminations

SFEA
None at this time.
SFSSA

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

Name: Darnel Banks

Position: Teacher Aide
Effective: the end of the day on 01/13/2025

Name: Brianna Jones
Position: Teacher Aide
Effective: the end of the day on 01/20/2025

Appointments
Professional Appointment
None at this time
Civil Service Appointments
None at this time
Substitute Appointments

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

Name: Tiasia Douse
Position: Substitute Teacher
NYSED Certification: Early Childhood Education (Initial Certification)
Effective: 01/24/2024

Name: Liane Morey
Position: Substitute Teacher
NYSED Certification: Uncertified
Effective: 01/24/2025

Probationary to Permanent
None at this time.

CSE Minutes
Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following CSE
Minutes: 10/28/2024, 12/09/2024, 12/10/2024, 12/11/2024, 12/12/2024, 12/16/2024, 12/17/2024,
12/18/2024, 12/19/2024, 12/20/2024, 01/06/2025 (1), 01/06/2025 (2), 01/07/2025, 01/09/2025,
01/10/2025

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.
Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.
Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Old Business
None at this time

New Business
2023-2024 Single Audit
Michael Mirras asked for a motion to accept the Single Audit of the Seneca Falls Central School District for
the year ended June 30, 2024, completed by Mengel, Metzger, Barr & Co. LLP, as recommended by the
Audit Committee.
Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.
Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Policy
1st Reading

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of
Education approves the first reading of the following policies:
Policy 1120-School District Records
Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.
Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Update 2024-2025 Substitute Civil Service Daily and Hourly Rates
Michael Mirras asked for a motion that due to the increase in the NYS Minimum Wage, effective January 1,
2025, the Board of Education approves the following Substitute Civil Service Hourly Rate increases:

Substitute Position	Daily Rate	Hourly Rate for Special Employment (i.e. Tutoring)
Substitute Cleaner	n/a	\$15.40 \$15.50
Substitute Support Staff (not listed above)	n/a	\$15.40 \$15.50

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.
Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Budget Workshop
Dr. Reed and James Bruni
BOCES Services and Special Education

Dr. Reed and James Bruni reviewed the BOCES Budget as follows.
BOCES Codes-percentage each category takes up of the BOCES Budget.

- 100 Technical and Career Education
Classes available at Career and Tech Center (FLTCC) (6% of BOCES budget)
- 200 Special Education
Classes and support services for students with disabilities (63% of BOCES budget)
- 300 Itinerant Services
Staff positions that district shares with BOCES for Special Education (4% of BOCES budget)
- 400 Direct Instructions
Programs for youth that are directly delivered by BOCES personnel (Ex. Tutoring, Arts in Education, PTech) (3% of BOCES budget)
- 500 Instructional Supports
Programs, services, and materials that support instruction. (Ex. PD workshops, Edutech Services, grant writing) (11% of budget)
- 600 Non- Instructional Support (9% of BOCES budget)
- Other (4% of budget)

The Administrator of Business is budgeting for a potential 7.2% increase in the 2025-2026 BOCES budget.

Executive Session

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to move into Executive Session at 7:20 pm to discuss the employment of particular persons and negotiations.

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Anthony Ferrara.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Monica Kuney, District Clerk

The regular meeting resumed at 7:27pm.

Adjourn

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm.

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 6 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Michael Mirras, Board President