

Seneca Falls Central School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
February 27, 2025-6:00 PM  
Robert McKeveny Training Room

BOE Present

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

BOE Absent

Joseph McNamara

Others Present

Dr. Michelle Reed, James Bruni, Jodie Verkey, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Amy Hibbard, Cady Stanton Principal, Kevin Rhinehart, SFMS Principal, and Jamie Oberdorf

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.

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 8 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 February 13, 2025

Cara Lajewski made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Treasurer's Reports

January 2025

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2025.

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Matthew Lando.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Extra-Curricular Treasurer's Report

None at this time

Recognitions, Celebrations and Presentations

Administrator Reports

Jodie Verkey, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, reviewed the following with the Board

1. District Curriculum Purpose

- New NYS requirements (ex. Financial Literacy requirement, new Child Abuse Workshop mandate)
- NYS Standards implementation timelines and assessment alignment
- Professional Responsibilities such as required trainings; TEACH account re-registration process; CTLE hour requirements
- Course approval process; Academic Course Handbook revisions
- Instructional practices & curriculum sharing
- New initiatives such as NY Inspires, Science of Reading
- Curriculum shifts (internal communication, rationale and implementation plans- ex. Bio/ES)
- Data review (newsletter, assessments, etc.)
- Instructional resources process (Textbooks, consumables, platforms, apps)
- Review and seek feedback for the Professional Learning Plan
- Review and seek feedback for the Technology Plan
- Dept./Grade level annual goal setting

2. Curriculum Review Process

Goal & Purpose: The curriculum review process is a structured approach to evaluating and improving an academic program. It ensures that the curriculum remains relevant, effective, and aligned with educational standards and learner outcomes. The process involves several key steps:

- Data Collection and Analysis
- Curriculum Mapping and Evaluation
- Recommendations & Revisions
- Implementation and Communication
- Continuous Monitoring and Feedback

3. Instructional Resource Review Cycle (Textbook & Digital Learning)

- 2011-2012 amended the state aid law to allow for flexibility on instructional materials aid usage (not just textbooks anymore). Districts were making the shift from traditional textbooks as primary resource to multiple instructional resources as digital learning platform use increased.
- 2016 established a partnership with Discovery Education to increase student engagement/empowerment resulting in current textbook users in core classes at HS 9/19 (supplemental only); MS 2/12 (supplemental only); No traditional textbooks at FK & CS (annual consumables, hard copies & digital access- Scholastic News, Storyworks, poetry books, Who Has books, etc.)
- Annual processes through DCC
  - Each PreK-12 team identifies resources requested for the following year, requests are researched for Ed Law 2D compliance and cost, a collective list is distributed to all staff for summer curriculum work planning.

- Textbook updates are reviewed. Teachers are consulted. If confirmed necessary, quote for update is sought, cost & quantity considered, alignment to standards, learning outcomes and instructional methods confirmed, decision is made by Dir. Of Curr., Principal, Dept. Chair/Team Leader & teacher (student input when applicable).
- Teacher Leaders developed Text Selection Guiding Questions to help assist in selections.
- When NYS makes standards shifts, textbook/materials/resources are reviewed to ensure alignment and ability to support curriculum delivery.

#### 2024-2025 Instructional Materials Budget (\$232,338)

NYS Total State Aid: Instructional Materials Aid for SFCSD: \$79,837

- NYS Textbook Allocation: \$47,835
  - Used to purchase mainly K-12 classroom leveled texts (including online and physical supplemental reading materials) and textbook purchases (textbook refresh and new course additions)
- NYS Software Allocation: \$17,502
  - Used to purchase K-12 District-purchased instructional software
- NYS Library Materials Allocation: \$14,500
  - Used to purchase K-12 library materials to align with the refresh of books

#### SFCSD Total Instructional Materials Budget through BOCES: \$152,501

- Instructional Applications: \$134,028 (i.e. Mystery Sci, Literacy Footprints)
- Engagement Applications: \$31,373 (i.e. Canva, Nearpod, Discovery Ed)
- Library Reference Materials: \$14,258 (i.e. Scholastic, Cengage)

#### 4. Literacy

- Elementary Principals, Dir. Of Curriculum and , Literacy Coach have attended all NYS Webinars on Science of Reading transition
  - 9/23/24 Bringing SofR into Elementary Classrooms
  - 1/7/25 P-3 Literacy Instructional Best Practices Webinar
- Summer '24- PreK-5 PD on Explicit Instruction; 7 NYS Literacy Briefs; NYS K-3 Literacy Curriculum Review Guide
- Explicit PD provided by the LC on 6 Science of Reading Pillars (P. Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocab., Comprehension, Oral Language)
- District Literacy Visits (Port Byron, Jordan Elbridge, Midlakes, Red Jacket)
  - Grade Level Chairs, Principals, Reading Teacher K-5, Dir. of Curr. (Dr. Reed attended RJ with CSOs)
  - Debrief session after each visit with the team
- Creation of various program components spreadsheet (considerations of program pilots)
- LETRS (Lang. Essentials for Teachers of Reading & Spelling) training K-5 staff- started & will continue.
- Determine K-5 Foundational Skills Scope & Sequence for Fall '25 implementation & other necessary resources in collaboration with teachers to increase buy-in
- Complete NYS P-3 Instructional Best Practices Full Guide
- NYS Attestation by September 2025

ECS Report

Amy Hibbard presented the following:

#### ECS Goals & Updates:

Goal 1: 65% of 3-5 students will score Approaching/At/Above on the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment.

- 2nd administration: 38% of students are approaching, at, or above grade level (increase of 9% since fall).
- 66% of students grew 2 or more grade levels and 96% of students grew 1 or more grade levels.

Goal 2: 13% or less of 3-5 students will be identified as chronically absent.

- As of January 25, 16.6% (46 students) were identified as chronically absent.

Goal 3: The # of classroom removals will decrease by at least 15 in the 2nd & 3rd trimester compared to the 1st.

- As of January 31, we've had 31 class removals and a 60% decrease in discipline referrals since last year.

#### Celebrations

- The PBIS team continues to focus on increased engagement at our BLUE bashes with new activities and special guests each month. They also hosted our Kindness Week before February Break.
- 5th grade Student Council has been busy with a canned food drive, popcorn fundraiser, and an after-school bingo event for our 3rd grade students.
- 4th grade held its annual Colonial Day on February 14. Thank you to the hard work by the 4th grade team of teachers and the many parent volunteers.

#### Save the dates:

- March 6: Family L.E.A.D. night (Learn, Explore And Discover) 6 -7:30 pm
- March 3 - 7: Safe Harbors Lessons (Personal Safety)
- March 12: District Band Concert, MS Gym, 7 pm
- March 21: REV Theater Classroom Visits
- March 26: District Chorus Concert, HS Auditorium, 7 pm
- March 27 & 28: Parent-Teacher Conferences

- March 27: PTO Paint Night, ECS cafeteria, 6 pm

Kevin Rhinehart presented the following:

Goal & Updates:

Goal 1: iReady administration on/above/approaching grade level

Diagnostic I

- Gr 6: 23% reading
- Gr 7: 32% reading
- Gr 8: 37% reading

Diagnostic II

- Grade 6 32%
- Grade 7 42%
- Grade 8 41%

Goal 2: The chronic absenteeism rate for SFMS will decrease for all students 15% or less

- Grade 6 21% Critical- 21% (17 Students) -10% or More Absent (10 or More Days)
- Grade 7 22% Critical- 22% (21 students) -10% or More Absent (10 or More Days)
- Grade 8 23 % Critical- 23% (20 Students) -10% or More Absent (10 or More Days)

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 and disruption of education

- Seen an increase in number of referrals across the 4 target areas

Celebrations:

- Production of the Middle School Play- The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe play.
- On January 24-25 students went to Midlakes CSD for All-County Junior High Orchestra Cody Schutz (Percussion), Caralynne Cole (Trombone) & All-County Junior High Jazz Band Andi VanBortel (Tenor Saxophone) Jake Bielowicz (Trumpet)
- All-County Junior High Chorus Audrey Knight, Adrianna DeYulio, Penelope Guarino, Jack Wurster, Gavin Tompkins, Teddy Mullin and Michael Kelley, Natalie Kilpatrick
- SFCSD Spelling Bee–Teddy Mullen this year’s champion

Upcoming SFMS Events

- March 7 - Womens’ Hall of Fame Guest presenters
- March 12 - Band Concert
- March 13 – BOE Meeting/MS Round Table
- March 26 - Chorus Concert

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  
Policy Committee

Cara Lajewski reported that the committee had met on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

- Policy #2245: Ex Officio Student Member of the Board - ready to move forward on next board agenda
- Policy #8113: Extreme Heat Condition Days - checking with counsel on one item; otherwise, ready to move forward on next board agenda
- 0111 Sexual Harassment Grievances under Title IX - Under further review and investigation

Information

Warrants 02/01/2025-02/28/2025

Warrant A (60)	\$ 24,373.58
Warrant A (61)	\$ 48,821.32
Warrant A (62)	\$ 207.00
Warrant C (25)	\$ 5,860.58
Warrant C (26)	\$ 7,563.56
Warrant F (25)	\$ 69,539.96
Warrant F (26)	\$ 5,745.41
Warrant H (12)	\$ 2,677.70

Student Board Member

Searah Reardon, Student Board Member, reported the following:

- The senior class officers have been discussing the theme for their senior ball. They are looking for unique ideas.
- Some students state they were informed late about required classes that were missing.
- Some students also had a communication complaint regarding community service. Students feel they don’t have enough in school community options. A discussion was had regarding ideas for community service for students where can reach out to see if they can volunteer (It’s A wonderful

Life; youth basketball at the community rec center, reading week at Frank Knight School, nursing homes, etc).

- On a positive note-there is a shift in involvement both in and out of class.
  - Support in school has been very helpful;
  - Students feel more comfortable because they have adults they can reach out to.

Business Administrator

James Bruni explained the resolution later on the agenda (Vendor Management, Data Security and Privacy Practices Improvement Resolution); would make district compliant with Ed-Law-2d.

Superintendent Report

Dr. Reed reported on the following:

- Handed out the “8<sup>th</sup> Grade Path to Success” information sheet. The programs goal is to connect all incoming 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a high school mentor. The mentor will be a sophomore or junior who would offer social and academic support in 2025-2026. The district has secured funds for this program. Students at both grade levels will fill out surveys to match students up. Mentors will be trained over the summers.
- Participated in Chamber University (Superintendents from across the county will be joining the Chamber to discuss various topics relating to pathways to graduation). There were around 40 organizations involved. All 252 members of the Chamber will have access to the information discussed.
- Will be attending the NYSCOSS 2025 Winter Institute Conference in the upcoming week in Albany.
- District Safety Committee was held on Monday, February 24. Some items discussed were:
  - Committee reviewed/discussed the precautions that would need to be taken with a high heat index (new policy coming);
  - The removal of alcohol based hand sanitizers in the hallways of the school buildings;
  - “Viking Pure”-new product the district may use
  - Capital Project-discussed the adjustments that will need to be made with classes, parking, etc.
- The Superintendent and Board President will be attending the WFL BOCES Superintendent Dinner Award on March 6, 2025. Recipient for Seneca Falls CSD is Searah Reardon.

BOE President Report

Michael Mirras asked the Board members if they had any curriculum based question, please forward them to himself, Dr. Reed and Denise Lorenzetti.

BOE Member Comments

Heather Zellers referenced the NAEP (Nat’l Assessment of Educational Progress) scores for reading and suggested that the district “go all in” for reading.

Erica Sinicropi stated it is the obligation of the Board to dig into the work that is being done and see what needs to happen. All the resources to support the work of faculty should be looked at, be it direct purchases or compensation.

Denise Lorenzetti reminded everyone of the upcoming MA musical the weekend of March 7-9.

Important Dates to Remember

March 6, 2025-Four County SBA Board of Directors Meeting  
March 7, 8 & 9, 2025-MA Musical “The Secret Garden”  
March 13, 2025-BOE Meeting/SFMS Roundtable  
March 21, 2025-Four County SBA Annual Spring Education Conference  
March 27, 2025-BOE Meeting  
March 27 & 28-Parent Teacher Conferences (UPK-Gr. 5 ½ days)  
April 10, 2025-BOE Meeting/MA Roundtable  
April 14-18, 2025-Spring Recess (10 month employees)  
April 18, 2025-Spring Recess Day (12 month employees)  
April 23, 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: Bonnie Burlew  
Position: Teacher Aide  
Effective: the end of the day on 06/30/2025

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: Liane Morey  
Position: Substitute Clerical  
Effective: 02/28/2025

Probationary to Permanent

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

Employee	Position	Effective
Judy Fairbanks	Bus Monitor	03/12/2025

CSE Minutes

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education approves the following CSE Minutes: 01/23/2025, 01/30/2025, 01/31/2025, 02/03/2025, 02/04/2025, 02/05/2025, 02/07/2025, 02/10/2025, 02/11/2025

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.

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Old Business

None at this time

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 Contract(s), Agreement(s) or MOA(s):

MOA between the Seneca Falls Central School District and the Seneca County Board of Elections

Use of Image-Cast Electronic Voting Machine

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Kara James-Psychological Testing Agreement

Deborah Corsner made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.

Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Vendor Management, Data Security and Privacy Practices Improvement Resolution

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that whereas, four (4) BOCES (Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES, Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga BOCES, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Broome-Tioga BOCES) have collaborated and entered into an Article 5 General Municipal Law intermunicipal arrangement for the purpose of improving vendor management and data security and privacy practices for school districts and/or BOCES statewide known as the RIC ONE Risk Operations Center (the "ROC");

"WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Seneca Falls Central School District, through its affiliation with a locally based Regional Information Center, participates with the ROC and desires, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, to authorize the ROC to enter into Data Privacy Agreements and related exhibits (DPAs) with vendors and third-party contractors that include the requirements of, and compliance with, New York State Education Law Section 2-d and Part 121 Regulations (collectively, "Ed Law 2d") related to student personally identifiable information (PII) and certain Teacher and Principal APPR data;"

WHEREAS, the ROC also partners with NYSED, the Access4Learning Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC) and The Education Cooperative (TEC), to negotiate and approve Ed Law 2-d compliant DPAs;

WHEREAS, the DPAs are presented to school districts and/or BOCES for final execution and do not require the expenditure of funds beyond those budgeted; and

BE IT RESOLVED, Board of Education of the Seneca Falls Central School District, authorizes the attorneys designated by the ROC to negotiate and approve of DPAs for software and/or technology resources; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Seneca Falls Central School District, Board of Education grants the ROC and its designated attorneys the authority to negotiate the terms and conditions of DPAs and take such actions so as to effectuate the purposes and intent of this resolution.

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Deborah Corsner.  
Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

2024-2025 Budget Transfer

Michael Mirras asked for a motion that the Board of Education approves the following 2024-2025 transfers as listed:

From	Amount	To	Reason
A 2110-120-01-0000	\$17,678.92	FY25 2110-400-00-0000	Transfer to cover the 15% Match to FLCC for the USDA Distance Learning Grant

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.  
Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

2025 Official Nomination of WFL BOCES Board Member

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to that Seneca Falls Central School District Board of Education nominate Deborah Corsner to be a candidate for election to membership on the Board of Education of the Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES, commencing on July 1, 2025, for a term of three years ending on June 30, 2028.

Anthony Ferrara made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.  
Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Move Board of Education Meeting

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to move the Board of Education Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2025 to Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

Heather Zellers made the motion, seconded by Anthony Ferrara.  
Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Budget Workshop  
State Aid Review and Tax Cap

Dr. Reed and James Bruni reviewed the following:

2025-2026 Projected Revenues:

NYS Aid	\$21,064,232 (1% increase)
Tax Levy	\$14,691,159 (2% <b>PROPOSED</b> increase)
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,104,407 (26% PILOTS, 35% Reserve Usage)
Budget	\$37,859,798 (2.6% increase)

Pilot Data

2024-2025 PILOTS	\$539,690
2025-2026 PILOTS	\$550,779

The Administrator of Business recommends appropriating \$537,621 into the Tax Certiorari Reserve.

Executive Session  
Employment of a Particular Person

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:08 pm to discuss the employment of a particular person.

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Anthony Ferrara.  
Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Monica Kuney, District Clerk

The regular meeting resumed at 8:12 pm

Adjourn

Michael Mirras asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm.

Matthew Lando made the motion, seconded by Cara Lajewski.  
Yes 8 No 0 Abstain 0 Motion carried

Michael Mirras, Board President