

# SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Minutes  
High School Library

January 22, 2024  
6:00 pm

1.0 Call to Order at 6:00 PM Board President Kelsey Rossbach called the meeting to order.

2.0 Pledge of Allegiance Board President Kelsey Rossbach led the pledge.

**Board members present:** Matthew Bennett, Dave Harvatine, Janet Lehman, Timothy Pallokat, Heather Rejman, Kelsey Rossbach

**Board members arriving late:** Rachel McCarthy at 6:04 pm

**Administrators present:** Patrick Jensen, Loretta Van Horn, Luke Carnicelli, Caitlin Wasielewski

**Others present:** Jamie Bailey, Conner Bennett, CJ Calarco, Linda Clark, Julia Dunsmoor, Marcy Hand, Lori Knopp, Mary Napier

3.0 Approval of the Amended Agenda – Executive session added after section 11.0.

Board President Kelsey Rossbach asked the Board of Education to consider adding an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person

Matt Bennett made a motion to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular person after section 11.0, motion seconded by Dave Harvatine.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

On a motion by Matt Bennett, seconded by Dave Harvatine, the amended agenda was approved.

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 0

4.0 Questions from the audience regarding agenda items – None

Rachel McCarthy joined the meeting at 6:04 pm

5.0 Presentations:

Bus Purchasing – Fiscal Advisors – Mike Shusda shared information regarding bonds, notes, interest, school bus purchases, school district aid, debt payments, state legislation regarding electric buses and finance law.

SCCS Budget – Revenue Projections – Assistant Superintendent Loretta Van Horn shared information about the district’s transition adjustment in foundation aid, SCCS will receive a \$1.1M decrease in aid during the 2024-2025 school year, the expectations are for an additional \$1.1M less in aid during the 2025-2026 school year also and the tax levy cap.

6.0 New Business/Action Items: Consent Agenda

RESOLVED that the SCCS Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the action items listed in section 6.0 A through F.

Motion made by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy

Janet Lehman asked to revise the January 8, 2024 Board of Education meeting minutes to include in Section 11.0 a statement that Board members will provide a list of potential mascot process issues to the Superintendent for investigation, plus suggestions for improvement.

Board President Kelsey Rossbach asked for a motion to revise the January 8, 2024 minutes to include such a statement.

Motion made by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

The Board then circled back to the motion to approve the action items listed in section 6.0 A through F., with the amendment to the minutes.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

A. Minutes; Board of Education meeting January 8, 2024

B. CSE Recommendations; 2023/2024

C. Renew Westminster Manor Remote Emergency Evacuation Site Agreement;

An agreement between the Southern Cayuga Central School District and Westminster Manor, 81 South Street, Auburn NY, whereby the school district agrees to allow the use of the high school gymnasium as a remote emergency evacuation site for residents and staff members of Westminster Manor in the event this becomes necessary due to an emergency and the primary evacuation site in Auburn is not available. This agreement was first approved on March 12, 2007; updated and re-approved annually as requested.

D. Donation; twelve (12) snow sleds, from Gary W. Connors, SCCS Class of '85, value of \$240.00

E. Surplus Item; declare as surplus double Vulcan oven, to be sold or discarded if deemed no value

F. Authorization to execute a letter of intent with RSI Roofing, Inc., contingent upon successful State Education Department approval

7.0 Personnel/Consent Items; Consent Agenda

RESOLVED that the SCCS Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the personnel items listed in section 7.0 A through B, for the 2023/24 school year or for the term as indicated.

Motion made by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy

Motion carried: Yes – 6 No – 1 (Heather Rejman)

A. Appointment 2023-2024

A.1	Substitute Teacher UPK-6, uncertified, Substitute Teaching Assistant UPK-6, Substitute Teacher Aide UPK-6; <b>Haley Mayeu</b> , effective January 23, 2024
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B. Student Teachers, February 9 through May 3, 2024, Wells College students:

B.1	<b>Sabrina He</b> , with Angela Simmons
B.2	<b>Sara Mattle</b> , with Chelsea Munson
B.3	<b>Dylan Sedorus</b> , with Jennifer Murphy
B.4	<b>Elizabeth Shoots</b> , with Jennifer Davis

8.0 Business Office Reports/Informational Items

A. Treasurer's Reports

RESOLVED that the SCCS Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby accepts the Treasurer's Reports for November and December, 2023.

Motion made by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

9.0 Superintendent's Report/Informational Items – School Closure Criteria – Superintendent Jensen and Board members discussed his decision process and district communication issues when internet and phone lines are not working on campus. The Board requested the Transportation Committee continue the conversation regarding school closure criteria.

10.0 Board of Education/Committees

A. Committees

A.1	<b><i>Athletics</i></b> ; Matt Bennett, Rachel McCarthy, Heather Rejman No report.
A.2	<b><i>Audit</i></b> ; Tim Pallokat, Heather Rejman, Kelsey Rossbach Committee members need to respond to Assistant Superintendent Loretta Van Horn's email.
A.3	<b><i>Budget/Finance</i></b> ; Dave Harvatine, Janet Lehman, Tim Pallokat Assistant Superintendent Loretta Van Horn will email members to schedule a meeting date.
A.4	<b><i>Directions/Long-Range Education</i></b> ; Janet Lehman, Rachel McCarthy, Kelsey Rossbach Met on Wednesday, January 17 <sup>th</sup> , meeting minutes provided. Janet Lehman is seeking feedback from members on 5 Board of Education goals. Board President Kelsey Rossbach spoke of the need for a work session for the Board of Education to determine next steps with the mascot process, synopsis of feedback received, and district communications. The Board planned a work session to be held on Monday, February 5 <sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.
A.5	<b><i>Facilities</i></b> ; Matt Bennett, Dave Harvatine, Kelsey Rossbach No meeting date set.
A.6	<b><i>Policy</i></b> ; Rachel McCarthy, Heather Rejman Met on Monday, January 22 <sup>nd</sup> , meeting minutes will be provided.
A.7	<b><i>Safety/Wellness</i></b> ; Janet Lehman, Rachel McCarthy No meeting date set.
A.8	<b><i>Transportation</i></b> ; Matt Bennett, Tim Pallokat Will meet on Thursday, January 25 <sup>th</sup> at 2 pm in the District Office & will add closure criteria discussion.
A.9	<b><i>Cayuga Onondaga School Boards Association (COSBA)</i></b> ; Dave Wiemann Dave's term is up this year, Matt Bennett will contact him this week.

11.0 Visitor Recognition: Residents Wishing to Address the Board

CJ Calarco spoke on behalf of the Teachers Union leadership regarding the proposed mascot change and observations of Board discussions.

Conner Bennett spoke as an SCCS graduate regarding the proposed mascot.

11.0 Executive Session

On a motion by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy, the Board of Education entered executive session at 7:54 pm to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

12.0 Return to Open Session

On a motion by Dave Harvatine, seconded by Matt Bennett, the Board of Education returned to open session at 8:12 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

More conversation regarding the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting took place.

13.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Dave Harvatine, seconded by Rachel McCarthy, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,  
*Marcy Hand*, District Clerk