

SOUTHERN CAYUGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education Meeting Minutes
High School Library

January 8, 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, Rachel McCarthy, Timothy Pallokat, Heather Rejman, Kelsey Rossbach

Board members absent: None

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

Others present: Frank Benenati, Julia Dunsmoor, Robb Jetty, Lori Knopp, Mary Napier, Melanie Pallokat, Nicole Sedorus, Kathy Sheils

3.0 Approval of the Amended Agenda (amended item is highlighted in yellow)

On a motion by Matt Bennett, seconded by Janet Lehman, the amended agenda was approved.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

4.0 Questions from the audience regarding agenda items – None

5.0 Presentation: 2024-2025 Budget Planning – Assistant Superintendent Loretta Van Horn shared information about the district's Combined Wealth Ratio (CWR), Comparative Tax Rates, District True Property Value, Free and Reduced Meal Enrollment Rates, and Stabilized Costs. She noted Southern Cayuga has the lowest school tax rate of all area districts.

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 E.

Motion made by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

A. Minutes; Board of Education meeting December 11, 2023

B. CSE Recommendations; 2023/2024

C. Koon Scholarship Stipend; \$1,000 for Kim Bergen serving as secretary for the Koon Scholarship Committee

D. IRS Mileage Rate Change effective January 1, 2024; 67 cents per mile

E. Surplus, 2018 Dodge Durango SXT; declare as surplus a 2018 Dodge Durango SXT, to be sold. VIN# 1C4RDJAG0JC146041; Mileage ~ 49,298

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 E, for the 2023/24 school year or for the term as indicated.

Motion made by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

A. Resignation

A.1	Katie Deming Addy , Bus Attendant, effective December 18, 2023, to accept another job with the school district
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AA. Rescind Co-Curricular Appointment 2023-2024:

AA.1	FFA Jr. HS Advisor: Shelly Kulis , effective January 8, 2024
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B. Amend Appointments

B.1	<u>Teaching Assistant: Ashlee Sandstrom*</u> , with New York State Teaching Assistant Level 1 Certification, to a four (4) year probationary appointment in the special subject tenure area of teaching assistant, effective September 1, 2020 , to August 31, 2024 <i>*The expiration dates of the 4-year probationary appointment are tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3014 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the employee 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 teaching assistant receives an ineffective composite or overall rating in the final year of the probationary period, the teaching assistant shall not be eligible for tenure at that time.</i>
B.2	<u>Elementary Teacher: Michele Robin*</u> , with New York State Initial Certification in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) and Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) – four (4) year probationary appointment in the Elementary Education Tenure Area, effective April 28, 2022 through April 27, 2026 <i>*The expiration dates of the 4-year probationary appointment are tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 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 3014-c and/or 3014-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.</i>
B.3	<u>Elementary Teacher, Chelsea Munson*</u> , with New York State Initial Certification in Childhood Education (Grades 1-6) – four (4) year probationary appointment in the Elementary Education Tenure Area, effective May 10, 2022 through May 9, 2026 <i>*The expiration dates of the 4-year probationary appointment are tentative and conditional only. Except to the extent required by the applicable provisions of Section 3014 of the Education Law, in order to be granted tenure the teacher must receive composite or</i>

	<i>overall annual professional performance review ratings pursuant to Section 3014-c and/or 3014-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.</i>
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C. Appointments 2023-2024

C.1	Substitute Bus Attendant: Katie Deming Addy , effective January 3, 2024
C.2	Substitute Teacher UPK-6, certified, Substitute Teaching Assistant, Substitute Teacher Aide; Sara Stewart , effective January 9, 2024
C.3	Substitute Teacher UPK-6, uncertified, Substitute Teaching Assistant, Substitute Teacher Aide; Kate Scanlan , effective January 9, 2024
C.4	Substitute Teacher, uncertified, Substitute Teaching Assistant, Substitute Teacher Aide; Julia Gill , effective January 9, 2024

D. Co-Curricular Appointments:

D.1	FFA – Jr. HS Advisor	Brett Jillson	\$3,626 stipend, pro-rated, effective January 9, 2024
D.2	Lifeguard	Owen Overhiser	\$15.00 per hour
D.3	Tutor	Becky Davis	\$ per contract
D.4	Tutor	Michele Shaw	\$ per contract

E. Volunteers 2023-2024

E.1	Elementary Volunteer	Lindsey Slaugh
E.2	Elementary Volunteer	Todd Ward

8.0 Business Office Reports/Informational Items – No report.

9.0 Superintendent’s Report/Informational Items

A. Workplace Violence Prevention Program Document – Superintendent Jensen spoke regarding this new State requirement. It will eventually become part of the district safety plan.

B. Ongoing Discussion Items

B.1 Firefighters request for partial property tax exemption for active volunteer fire and EMS providers – Superintendent Jensen spoke regarding the need for a Board decision. He is awaiting the names and addresses of active service members to evaluate potential impact. Board members discussed the definitions of active members.

B.2 Planetarium - Spitz projector insurance claim – Superintendent Jensen spoke regarding the need for a Board decision on whether the district should file an insurance claim on the Spitz projector which is housed in the planetarium. There was Board discussion which included the need for a formal agreement with the Friends of the Planetarium. Board consensus was to file an insurance claim and use the overdue DASNY grant funds to offset any potential insurance premium increase.

The Board then circled back to further discuss the Firefighters request for partial property tax exemption for active volunteer fire and EMS providers.

B.3 Posting Board member email addresses on the SCCS website for the public – Board discussion followed which included functioning as a Board, the distribution list email address, value to the public, and whether to develop committee specific email addresses.

Rachel McCarthy asked the Board to consider amending the Agenda to move Section 11.0 Visitor Recognition; Residents Wishing to Address the Board up before Section 10.0 Board of Education/Committees due to the length of this meeting

Motion made by Rachel McCarthy, seconded by Matt Bennett

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

11.0 Visitor Recognition; Residents Wishing to Address the Board

Nicole Sedorus spoke as an SCCS alumna and parent, regarding the proposed Cougar mascot.

Board President Kelsey Rossbach thanked her for speaking and then opened the floor to the Board members to speak regarding the proposed mascot. Superintendent Jensen reviewed the history of the mascot selection process including the community and student committees. Board President Kelsey Rossbach then asked for a straw vote by Board members, there were 2 yes straw votes and 5 no straw votes, more discussion ensued. Board President Kelsey Rossbach concluded there is no point in going to a formal vote when the straw vote shows it doesn't have a majority of Board support to get approved. Board members to provide a list of potential mascot process concerns to the Superintendent for investigation, plus suggestions for improvement. Kelsey Rossbach and Superintendent Jensen will meet then come back to the Board with the next steps.

10.0 Board of Education/Committees

A. Committees

A.1	<i>Athletics; Matt Bennett, Rachel McCarthy, Heather Rejman</i>
	Met on Monday, December 11 th , meeting minutes provided
A.2	<i>Audit; Tim Pallokat, Heather Rejman, Kelsey Rossbach</i>
	Assistant Superintendent Loretta Van Horn received topic ideas from the Internal Auditor, she'll email the committee to pick the topic to pursue.
A.3	<i>Budget/Finance; Dave Harvatine, Janet Lehman, Tim Pallokat</i>
	Met on Thursday, December 21 st , meeting minutes provided
A.4	<i>Directions/Long-Range Education; Janet Lehman, Rachel McCarthy, Kelsey Rossbach</i>
	Met on Wednesday, December 20 th , meeting minutes provided; will meet again on Wednesday, January 17 th at 9 am. Janet Lehman asked Board members to please provide their feedback on proposals for 5 Board goals by the end of this week.
A.5	<i>Facilities; Matt Bennett, Dave Harvatine, Kelsey Rossbach</i>
A.6	<i>Policy; Rachel McCarthy, Heather Rejman</i>
	Will meet on Monday, January 22 nd at 5 pm.
A.7	<i>Safety & Wellness; Janet Lehman, Rachel McCarthy</i>
	Will meet again in the spring.
A.8	<i>Transportation; Matt Bennett, Tim Pallokat</i>
	Will meet on Thursday, January 25 th at 2 pm in the District Office.
A.9	<i>Cayuga Onondaga School Boards Association (COSBA); Dave Wiemann</i>
	No report.

12.0 Executive Session

On a motion by Rachel McCarthy, seconded by Matt Bennett, the Board of Education entered executive session at 8:27 pm to discuss the employment history of a particular person.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

13.0 Return to Open Session

On a motion by Dave Harvatine, seconded by Matt Bennett, the Board of Education returned to open session at 8:49 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Addendum Item

Resolution: On a motion by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy, the Board of Education approved adding the following resignation to the Agenda.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Resignation of ELL Tutor and After School Supervisor: **Mary Ferro**, for personal reasons, effective December 31, 2023.

RESOLVED that the SCCS Board of Education, on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, hereby approves the resignation of employee Mary Ferro effective December 31, 2023.

Motion made by Matt Bennett, seconded by Rachel McCarthy

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

More conversation regarding the mascot and selection process took place.

14.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Dave Harvatine, seconded by Matt Bennett, the Board of Education meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Motion carried: Yes – 7 No – 0

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy Hand, District Clerk