

**SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2009  
TIME & PLACE: 7:00 P.M. – JR. / SR. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY CLASSROOM  
KIND OF MEETING: REGULAR  
ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT: ISLES, NEWELL, QUANDT, SCHLIEDER, SPIES  
ELECTED MEMBER(S) EXCUSED: SCHULTZ , WILBER  
APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: BRIAN SHERMAN, SUPERINTENDENT  
ROBERT BONAKER, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR  
BARBARA SMITH, SUBSTITUTE DISTRICT CLERK  
ALSO PRESENT: STACEY ADAMS, JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL  
LINDA NEVULIS, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & PUPIL SERVICES  
JAMIE ROCKHILL, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS  
-0- MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE; 3 DISTRICT RESIDENTS;  
5 FACULTY MEMBERS; 3 STUDENTS

President Spies called the Regular Board of Education Meeting of February 25, 2009 to order at 7:00 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mr. Quandt to approve the Minutes of the Regular meeting on February 4, 2009. APPROVE MINUTES  
OF REGULAR MEETING  
ON 2/4/09

Yes – 4  
No – 0  
Absent- 3 (Newell, Schultz, Wilber) Motion Carried

President Spies reviewed the Agenda. He made note that the following items were added to the Agenda: CALENDAR AND  
AGENDA

- > Superintendent’s Report - “FBLA Annual Report”.
- > Personnel-Instructional -Theresa Kilpeck to be added to the certified substitute list.
- > Personnel-Non-Instructional – to appoint Amy Tessitore as a part-time teacher aide.
- > Business Section Item K – declare a Chevrolet suburban/bus #111 as surplus/obsolete.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** PRIVILEGE OF  
THE FLOOR

President Spies offered the Privilege of the Floor.

Mrs. Celeste Junge, a district resident, spoke regarding the proposal to eliminate the Driver’s Education Program next year. Mrs. Junge said parents of student drivers who do not attend these classes would have a large increase in the cost of their auto insurance. She mentioned alternative ways to fund the program, and assured the Board of Education that many parents would be anxious to help to keep the program in place. She wanted to address this problem now, as the State deadline to submit paperwork is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Superintendent Sherman cited the State Law concerning funding for school programs, which would not allow for the suggested alternative funding.

Mr. Schlieder stated that the Board would be willing to further consider this need for the drivers education program, if financially feasible.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT**

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REPORT

**Upcoming Board of Education Fiscal Training**

The required board member fiscal training is scheduled for March 11<sup>TH</sup> and 12<sup>TH</sup> from 6 to 9 p.m. at Schoharie BOCES. Mrs. Isles was concerned that this training would interfere with the special Board meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

It was decided to change the special board meeting slated for the March 11<sup>th</sup> to March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Library Classroom. At this meeting bids will be reviewed regarding the EXCEL Capital Project. Superintendent Sherman will e-mail a reminder of this date change to the Board members.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

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REPORT

**FBLA Annual Report**

Three Schoharie High School Students, Ashley Kalisz, Chapter President, Erika Dever, Chapter Reporter, and Sigrid Kuntze, NYS Treasurer, announced that this is National FBLA week. They thanked the Board for giving them this opportunity to express their appreciation that the District allows this club to function and allows them to be involved with the FBLA activities that help them learn to and grow.

FBLA ANNUAL  
REPORT

The students, with the help of their advisor Jennifer McClure, Business Education Teacher, did a power point presentation showing the different activities and trips the FBLA members attended over the course of the past year. They wanted the Board to know that these opportunities made a difference in their lives, the lives of other FBLA members, and several people in the community that our FBLA was able to help in various ways.

Seven SCS FBLA members will be attending a State Leadership Conference in Rochester on April 22<sup>nd</sup> through April 24<sup>th</sup>. Some of our Schoharie Central FBLA members are now holding offices, and several will be contending for next year’s offices at this meeting.

Superintendent Sherman and the Board members thanked the students for their presentation.

Superintendent Sherman brought to the attention of the Board that a photo of Sigrid Kuntze is featured on the school web site because she was involved in the WAMC radio talk show that will air 2/26/09.

**Staff Day Announcement**

Superintendent Sherman spoke to the Board regarding the various workshops that are planned for the staff development day on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

STAFF DAY

**EXCEL Project Update**

Superintendent Sherman reported that there was a walk-through on the day before for those interested in bidding on the capital project. Scott Swenson and Gene Browning from Mosaic Associates, our architects, were on hand to answer questions. They are also helpful in offering ideas to make future plans for various projects that could be utilized to save money for the District, all of which are eligible for state aid. Bids are due on March 5<sup>th</sup> and results will be reviewed and voted on at the Special Board meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

EXCEL PROJECT  
UPDATE

**Budget Update**

## BUDGET UPDATE

Superintendent Sherman reported regarding a recent meeting he attended at BOCES regarding the Governor's aid to education proposal. Mr. Sherman indicated that our state legislators are not presently in favor of the Governor's proposal to require school districts to pay 15% of CPSE costs. Mr. Sherman also reported on the Federal Stimulus Package. General information is incomplete, but he speculated that it will be more firm in the next two weeks. Following are the additional federal dollars that we are estimating:

IDEA funds \$253,000 over 2 years or (\$126,500 per year)

Title 1 funds \$57,316 over 2 years or (\$29,160 per year)

It will be up to the federal government how money given to State will be split.

Mr. Rockhill spoke about proposed cuts to the JV Sports in the amount of \$20,000. He said that the NYSPHSAA voted to reduce the number of varsity games, and to play closer teams for less mileage, in order to save money in the school budget. He noted that coach salaries and officials costs, are the highest sports expense.

Mr. Quandt said he hoped the administration would please rethink elimination of the JV Sports as it impacts over 100 students who participate. We need to look at all extra curricular activities when considering cuts.

Superintendent Sherman stated that the administration is already looking at this. Next week he will share the cost for all extra curricular activities.

Mr. Quandt said students need tutoring and extra help after school. He said we should continue the late buses.

President Spies spoke regarding preliminary athletics budget reduction. He was not in favor of drastic cuts to the athletic program. He said the student body is 20% less than it was only five years ago. We need to consider this when planning for the athletic budget, as well as the instructional programs.

Mr. Rockhill said that he would like to see the sports maintained. There is strong interest on the part of the parents and the coaches in the community. We have an enthusiastic little league. Our kids are interested in sports. He said we could look at different ways to address the need to reduce the budget, to reduce the number of games with all sports and cut down travel, but keep the kids participating. The state athletic executive committee voted on a 15% cut in the varsity games scheduled (cut 2 away games and 2 home games), change basketball from 20 games to 18 and so on with all sports. We could reduce scrimmages or eliminate them.

Ms. Adams stated that the sports program was an integral part in having well rounded students. President Spies agreed.

Mr. Schlieder said we should look at cuts in an even handed way across all programs that impact students.

Mr. Quandt said participation in sports and clubs are important; our FBLA is a good example of how important these activities are to the students.

Mr. Schlieder said we could not rely on the government to offset costs over 2 years. We need to look ahead beyond the 2 years to keep costs down.

President Spies said capital improvements are necessary. A good example is the need to seal the parking lot. He remarked that there is no money in the preliminary 2009-10 budget for that need.

Mr. Schieder said that club membership, attendance, and activities provided should be considered to determine if a club should be continued.





Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Newell that the Board of Education waive the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of proposed new policy #6421 – Letters of Recommendation and Other Releases of Information Concerning Current or Former Employees and table it for action at the next meeting on March 4, 2009.

WAIVE 1st READING  
PROPOSED POLICY #6421  
LETTERS OF  
RECOMMENDATION AND  
OTHER RELEASES OF  
INFORMATION  
CONCERNING CURRENT OR  
FORMER EMPLOYEES

Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Absent- 2 (Schultz, Wilber) Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education waive the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy #7240 – Student Records: Access and Challenges, and tabled it for action at the next meeting on March 4, 2009 on March 4, 2009.

WAIVE 1st READING  
REVISED POLICY #7240  
STUDENT RECORDS:  
ACCESS AND  
CHALLENGE

Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Absent- 2 (Schultz, Wilber) Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Isles that the Board of Education waive the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of revised policy #7242 – Student Directory Information and table it for action at the next meeting on March 4, 2009.

WAIVE 1st READING  
REVISED POLICY #7242  
STUDENT DIRECTORY  
INFORMATION

Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Absent- 2 (Schultz, Wilber) Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mrs. Isles, seconded by Mr. Schlieder that the Board of Education approve the Proposal from the Independent Auditor, Bonadio Group (formerly Dorfman/Robbie CPA's) to continue services during the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years.

APPROVE PROPOSAL  
BONADIO GROUP  
CONTINUATION OF  
AUDIT SERVICES FOR  
2009-10 AND 2010-11  
SCHOOL YEARS

Mr. Quandt asked for clarification regarding the RFP and the number of years remaining for the District to use the Bonadio Group and the cost per year. Mr. Bonaker reported regarding the cost (\$16,350 for 2009-2010 and \$17,200 for 2010-2011) and the fact that we have used this audit firm for three years and that two years remain before we will need to issue another RFP.

Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Absent -2 (Schultz, Wilber) Motion Carried

Superintendent Sherman reported that the risk audit is now being conducted by Neil LaMere, CPA for West & Company (Internal Auditor). Mr. LaMere is pleased with the plan of the District to start using Finance Manager, a new financial management software system available through BOCES (eligible for state aid), as there will be greater financial security controls. Mr. LaMere found there were no problems with the payroll audit that was finished that day.

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt , seconded by Mrs. Isles that the Board of Education accept a donation, with thanks, from the Edward M. Scribner Scholarship Account in the amount of \$91.61.

ACCEPT DONATION

Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Absent -2 (Schultz, Wilber) Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Isles that the Board of Education declare the following unrepairable items as obsolete:

DECLARE ITEMS  
AS OBSOLETE

- 1. GE Refrigerator
- 2. Clarinets (3)
- 3. Trumpets (2)
- 4. French Horn (1)
- 5. Baritone Saxophones (2)
- 6. Marching Bass Drum (1)
- 7. Suburban/ Bus #111

It was asked if the suburban or any of the instruments were in good enough shape to sell. Mr. Bonaker stated that the suburban did not run, therefore the refrigerator and the suburban would be sold as scrap metal. The instruments were not in good enough shape to sell, and would be used as a trade in toward new instruments, and would be used for parts by the musical instrument vendor.

Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Absent - 2 (Schultz, Wilber)

Motion Carried

**OTHER BUSINESS**

OTHER  
BUSINESS

The following informational items were distributed to Board Members:

- 1. Various newspaper articles regarding Schoharie Central School District.

President Spies stated that the next Board of Education Meetings will be as follows:

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting on March 4, 2009 at 7 pm in the Elementary Cafeteria
  - 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honor Awards Ceremony 6:30 pm prior to Meeting
- Special meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7 pm in the High School Library Class Room
- Regular Meeting on March 18, 2009 at 7 pm in the High School Cafeteria

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mrs. Isles to enter into Executive Session to discuss negotiations, contractual agreements and personnel matters relating to specific individuals.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Absent- 2 (Schultz, Wilber)

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the meeting to be in recess at 8:35 p.m.

MEETING RECESS

The Executive Session came to order at 8:45 p.m. with Mrs. Isles, Mrs. Newell, Mr. Quandt, Mr. Schlieder, and President Spies, Superintendent Sherman, and Mr. Bonaker present

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mr. Quandt to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the Regular meeting.

RECONVENE  
MEETING

Yes – 5  
No – 0  
Absent- 2 (Schultz, Wilber)

Motion Carried

President Spies reconvened the Regular Meeting at 9:56 pm.

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mr. Quandt to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN  
MEETING

Yes – 5

No – 0

Absent- 2 (Schultz, Wilber)

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the Regular Meeting of February 25, 2009 to be adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Smith  
Substitute District Clerk