

**SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2009
TIME & PLACE: 7:00 P.M. – JR. / SR. HIGH LIBRARY CLASSROOM
KIND OF MEETING: REGULAR
ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT: ISLES, NEWELL, QUANDT, SCHLIEDER, SCHULTZ, SPIES, WILBER (arr. @ 7:44 pm)
ELECTED MEMBER(S) EXCUSED:
APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: BRIAN SHERMAN, SUPERINTENDENT
ROBERT BONAHER, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
ROSEMARY WILBER, DISTRICT CLERK
ALSO PRESENT: STACEY ADAMS, JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
MARYELLEN GILLIS, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
LINDA NEVULIS, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & PUPIL SERVICES
JAMIE ROCKHILL, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
BRIAN BAILEY, ASST. PRINCIPAL GUILDERLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL
1 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE; 3 DISTRICT RESIDENTS;
2 FACULTY MEMBERS; 2 STUDENTS

President Spies called the Regular Board of Education Meeting of January 21, 2009 to order at 7:08 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve a correction of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting on December 3, 2008. (copy attached in Official Minute Book)

APPROVE CORRECTION
OF THE MINUTES OF
MEETING ON 12/3/08

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent – 1 (Wilber)

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mrs. Isles to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 7, 2009.

APPROVE MINUTES
OF REGULAR MEETING
ON 1/7/09

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent – 1 (Wilber)

Motion Carried

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

CALENDAR AND
AGENDA

- Personnel Non-Instructional – add item b. Probationary Appointment – Keesha Lamont, part-time aide
- Business – add item l. Plow/Sander Truck Purchase

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

PRIVILEGE OF
THE FLOOR

President Spies offered the Privilege of the Floor. No one requested to speak.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
REPORT

NYSSBA Membership

Board Members had a discussion on the presentation made at the December 17, 2008 meeting by Ms. Rita Lashway, Deputy Executive Director of the New York State School Boards Association. Members agreed that there were many benefits to becoming a member of the NYSSBA. The drawback at this time was the cost.

Mr. Quandt said he would prefer to wait until the budget process is under way before a decision is made.

Motion was made by President Spies, seconded by Mrs. Isles that the Board of Education Table action on becoming a member of the New York State School Boards Association until a later meeting.

TABLE ACTION ON
JOINING THE NYSSBA

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent – 1 (Wilber)

Motion Carried

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

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REPORT

Mr. Rockhill, Director of Athletics, introduced Logan Sharpe, a senior at Schoharie High School. Logan was recently designated as Athlete of the Week sponsored by Channel 13 and Dunkin Donuts. He won the award and will receive a \$500 award which will be placed in the athletic fund. Mr. Rockhill gave congratulations and a thank you to Logan on behalf of the Athletic Department. Mr. Rockhill also asked Board Members to accept this donation.

Also present to support Logan were his parents, Brett and Donna Sharpe, and his grandmother, former Board of Education President, Barbara Sharpe.

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Isles that the Board of Education accept, with thanks, a donation in the amount of \$500 from Dunkin’ Donuts in recognition of Logan Sharpe, Student Athlete of the Week.

ACCEPT DONATION
FROM DUNKIN
DONUTS

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent – 1 (Wilber)

Motion Carried

Superintendent Sherman congratulated Logan and his family for his accomplishment.

Cost Containment Strategies and Operational EfficienciesCOST CONTAINMENT
STRATEGIES AND
OPERATIONAL
EFFICIENCIES

Superintendent Sherman gave a Power Point presentation which he said would be the “kick-off” to the upcoming budget process.

The presentation included recent cost containment or revenue maximization measures which included the following:

- Energy Education/Management Initiative should cost avoid \$50,00 to \$80,000 in 2008-09.
 - SCS has been in the Energy Education/Management program for less than a year and has saved approximately 9% thus far. It is anticipated that the District could save up to 20% in the next 8 to 12 months.
 - The District has saved approximately \$31,000 in electricity alone this year for the first 5 months.
- Educating more Special Education students at SCS instead of more costly BOCES placements should save \$40,000 in 2008-09.
- Improved methods for claiming State Aid on high cost pupils will yield a revenue increase of about \$52,000 in 2008-09.
- Being a member of CASHIC (Capital Area Schools Health Insurance Consortium) has proven to each year save the District approximately \$85,000 to \$110,000 in employer health insurance premiums.
- SCS alternative funds the cost of employee medical prescriptions on a pay as you go basis through ESI (Express Scripts, Inc.). The current program should help the District save over \$40,000 this school year.
- The District joined the Schoharie Area Workers’ Compensation Plan (SAWCP) in 2004. We save about \$90,000 each year through this alternative funding program.
- The estimated annual savings/revenue enhancements of the above initiatives is a minimum of \$357,000, which is equivalent to a 4.57% of the 2008-09 tax levy.

Superintendent Sherman also discussed planned cost containment or revenue maximization measures. He said the following areas are now being reviewed to assess the feasibility of additional cost containment:

- Consolidation of bus routes and sharing of routes with other districts.
 - The newly developed District Census will help.
 - Based on the Census, bus routes can be projected for up to 2 years in advance with considerably greater accuracy.
- Greater pursuit of grants.
- Increased efforts to maximize Medicaid revenue claims.
- Class size management and staffing impact.

Mr. Schlieder asked what the dollar amount projection would be if the Governor’s proposal passed. Superintendent Sherman said that there would be a deficit reduction of approximately \$549,000. If there were a direct roll over minus the deficit reduction, the District could be looking at a \$900,000 reduction. He said more firm numbers would be provided at the next meeting on February 4, 2009.

VEHICLE ISSUES

VEHICLE ISSUES

On December 3, 2008, the Board of Education authorized the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for the District to purchase a used, heavy duty pick-up truck or dump truck to hold the parking lot sander and to also serve as a plow vehicle.

Superintendent Sherman said that, after contacting other transportation supervisors, Cliff Haslun, SCS Transportation Supervisor, landed a large plow/dump truck for \$50. He said that the truck only needed a tune-up and was working fine. In addition, Mr. Gathen has secured a 1998 Chevrolet K350 one-ton truck with a dump bed that the District can purchase for \$2,500 from the Schoharie County Highway Department.

Superintendent Sherman said that the tractor which the District has considered replacing for the past 2 years has some repair issues which would cost approximately \$5,000 to repair. He said that Mr. Gathen has rented a tractor so that snow could be cleared around the school.

Miss Wilber arrived at 7:44 pm.

PERSONNEL – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint Shawn Gathen to a Permanent Probationary Appointment as Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, effective 1/22/09 – 3/19/09 (the minimum allowable probationary period – 8 weeks).

APPOINT S. GATHEN
SUPERVISOR OF
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Superintendent Sherman said that Mr. Gathen took the required Civil Service Test, passed it and placed in the top 3 as required. This makes him eligible to be permanently hired by the District. He said that Civil Service Law requires that there be a probationary period. The permanent appointment would be automatic after March 19, 2009.

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mrs. Isles that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint Keesha Lamont as a Probationary Part-Time Elementary Recess/Aide, 3 hours per day, SCEA Step 1 - \$7.31 per hour, effective 1/22/09.

APPOINT K. LAMONT
PART-TIME TEACHER
AIDE

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

BUSINESS

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Schultz that the Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s Report for December 2008. (copy attached to official Minutes).

TREASURER’S
REPORT

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies said Member received a Revenue/Budget Status Report in their information packets.

Motion was made by Mrs. Newell, seconded by Mrs. Schultz that the Board of Education authorize Budget Transfers as presented. (copy attached to Official Minutes)

AUTHORIZE
BUDGET TRANSFERS

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

The Board received the report of the Claims Auditor for Warrant #7 in the amount of \$514,726.18. and Warrant #7A in the amount of \$10,177.21.

CLAIMS WARRANTS #7
AND #7A

President Spies said Members received an Extra Classroom Activity Fund Summary Financial Statement in their information packets.

Motion was made by Mrs. Isles, seconded by Miss Wilber that the Board of Education approve the Tax Roll correction as presented. (copy attached to official Minutes)

APPROVE TAX ROLL
CORRECTION

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Schultz that the Board of Education approve and adopt the 2nd Reading of Proposed New Policy #7521 – Meeting the Needs of Students . With Life-Threatening Health Conditions.

APPROVE 2nd READING
PROPOSED NEW
POLICY #7521 - MEETING
THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS
WITH LIFE-THREATENING
HEALTH CONDITIONS

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mrs. Isles, seconded by Mrs. Newell that the Board of Education approve a 7th Grade Class field trip to Boston, Massachusetts on 6/16/09.

APPROVE 7TH GRADE
CLASS FIELD TRIP TO
BOSTON, MASS. ON 6/16/09

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education accept the following donation, with thanks, effective 1/22/09:

ACCEPT DONATION

1. \$800 from Target for High School Science Department Field trip to the John Boyd Thatcher State Park in Berne, NY in May 2009

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mrs. Isles, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education approve a Use of Facilities Request from the Schoharie Fire Department for the dates of 1/29/09, 2/23/09, 3/23/09, and 3/30/09 for Physical Fitness Nights Activity, Basketball.

APPROVE USE OF
FACILITIES - SCHOHARIE
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

There is no charge to the Fire Department for use of facilities.

Motion was made by Mrs. Isles, seconded by Mrs. Schultz that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a 1970 Ford F600 plow truck from Schalmont Central School in the amount of \$50.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF
PLOW TRUCK

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Schlieder that the Board of Education approve the purchase of a 1998 Chevrolet K350 one-ton truck with a dump bed from the Schoharie County Highway Department in the amount of \$2,500.

APPROVE PURCHASE OF
PLOW TRUCK

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies noted that Mr. Gathen had arrived and congratulated him on behalf of the Board of Education on his appointment earlier this evening.

OTHER BUSINESS

OTHER
BUSINESS

The following informational items were distributed to Board Members:

1. Various newspaper articles regarding Schoharie Central School.
2. Updated Schoharie Central School 2009-10 Budget Calendar for Planning Purposes
3. Article from On Board Newsletter entitled Free Consultation With School Attorney, Policy Help Available to School District Officials.

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting on February 4, 2009 at 7 pm in the High School Library Classroom
- Regular Meeting on February 25, 2009 at 7 pm in the High School Library Classroom

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

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the meeting to be in recess at 7:58 p.m.

RECESS

The Executive Session came to order at 8:05 p.m. with Mrs. Isles, Mrs. Newell, Mr. Quandt, Mr. Schlieder, Mrs. Schultz, President Spies, Miss Wilber, Superintendent Sherman, and Mr. Bonaker present.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

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

RECONVENE
MEETING

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies reconvened the Regular Meeting at 9:07 pm.

Motion was made by Miss Wilber, seconded by Mrs. Isles to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN
MEETING

Yes – 7

No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2009 to be adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Wilber
District Clerk