

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Scotia-Glenville Central School was held in the Cafeteria of the Middle School, in said district on May 12, 2025.

President Talbot called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Boucher Furnish, Carbone, Orr, Roberts, H. Talbot, K. Talbot, Superintendent Swartz and Business Manager Giaquinto.

Absent: Singh

MOVED by K. Talbot, SECONDED by Roberts, that the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session in order to discuss a matter relating to personnel.

### **ROLL CALL**

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:02 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 7:02 p.m. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Arket and District Clerk Busman were present for the Open Session.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **HEARING/PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

Karen Bradley (204 Wren Street) spoke about the pride they have of raising their family in Scotia-Glenville. She is in support of the budget, the teachers and appreciates the work "Voices for Change" has done to promote the budget and get information out to the public.

Mike McDermott (905 Riverside Ave) spoke about the recent letter to the editor in today's Schenectady Gazette and how he felt it was misleading in the information. He was in favor of keeping the information we provide to the public simple and straight forward.

**PRESENTATION: GRAMMAR (MARISSA GORDON, ACADEMIC HEAD FOR ELA AND SOCIAL STUDIES AND TONYA FEDERICO, SACANDAGA ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL)** (A copy of this presentation is contained as Appendix A to these minutes).

**SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS – PLANNING FOR A POTENTIAL SECOND BUDGET VOTE (SUSAN SWARTZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS), AS SUBMITTED**

Superintendent Swartz opted to take her time to address three other items other than the planning for a potential second budget vote. Ms. Swartz congratulated Kimberly Talbot

on her recognition from the New York State School Boards Association for her participating in the School Board Excellence program.

Superintendent Swartz met (virtually) with three representatives from the New York State Department of Early Childhood Education to talk about UPK funding. The idea of combining three area schools (Niskayuna, Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake and Scotia-Glenville) to create a UPK program was a novel idea to these individuals, which was surprising because of the push for regionalization from the government. The idea was met with positive support, but they couldn't answer some of the questions due to this unique approach. The hope would be to offer one classroom for Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake, one classroom for Niskayuna and two classrooms for Scotia-Glenville in the near future.

Superintendent Swartz notified the Board that a meeting is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> with Chief Janik to discuss the Glenville SRO contract.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Arket presented a follow-up to the Board about weighted grades. Mr. Arket and Mr. Bednarek took the April 23<sup>rd</sup> presentation on weighted grades and provided it to the high school faculty. A survey was offered to the faculty, and with 90% collected response, 63% were not in favor of weighted grades. With this feedback, Mr. Arket's recommendation is that we do not proceed with weighted grades for next school year.

Ms. Boucher Furnish did ask if Mr. Arket had an opportunity to reach out to the schools in the area that do have weighted grades and ask why they went with weighted grades if they had positive or negative results with the process. Mr. Arket had not.

**REPORTS/UPDATE: ♦ LEGISLATIVE LIAISON ♦ PTA COUNCIL ♦ AUDIT COMMITTEE ♦ BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE ♦ BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS ♦ BUDGET**

Legislative – NYS has a budget. There was a minimum of 2% increase in Foundation Aid. The State is now fully funding the free school meals. Because we pre-qualified for the free school meals, Ms. Boucher Furnish didn't know if that would impact Scotia-Glenville. Mr. Giaquinto noted that he had put that question out to the appropriate individuals and had yet to hear back but would report when he learned anything about it. One formula change used in the Foundation Aid was the state was no longer using the 2000 census for the poverty data but instead using a small area to estimate the poverty levels for determining foundation aid.

The budget extended the commissioner's authority to grant, district by district, a two-year waiver to implement the EV Buses. They also are requiring the bus dealers to provide the battery range, performance report in different weather conditions, terrain performance, storage (inside or outside) and mileage range for their buses. Concerns were also brought up about the availability of buses for all the districts. Mr. Giaquinto did think we could apply for the extension with the studies and reports the district has performed, but the process is so new that he would have to look into it.

The other discussion was regarding the Cell Phone Policy that is required to be in place by August 1, 2025. The policy needs to include the method the phones are stored and how guardians will be able to contact their student(s) – emergencies are undefined at this time. By September of 2026, every district must publish a report on how they are enforcing the policy. Mr. Arket will give an update on our school's cell phone policy in June.

PreK funding is the same, Special Education funding is the same and has been extended to April 1, 2026, and Mental Health, has been extended to April 1, 2026 and schools can continue to bill Medicaid directly.

PTA – PTA's in the different schools did a great job with Teacher Appreciation Week this past week. PTA will have their elections on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Sacandaga has their Walk-about on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln has their Ice Cream Social on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Glen-Worden will have their Glow Party on the 16<sup>th</sup>, end of the month brings Kindergarten Orientation and Sacandaga has a Spring Carnival coming up on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Audit – Audit Committee Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Policy – Ms. Carbone and Ms. Talbot have met with Ms. Smith again to make the changes in policies 0-6000. Some changes will just be pronouns and other changes to policies that have actually changed and will have to be Board approved. They will schedule a meeting in the future to address the changes in the 7000-9000's. The next process would be to look at the Appendixes. A thank you to Ms. Smith for her assistance.

### **RESOLUTION: WITHDRAW AND AMEND SCHOOL TAX ROLLS**

MOVED by K. Talbot, SECONDED by Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution, dated May 12, 2025, to withdraw and amend the 2024 School Tax Rolls, as submitted. (This resolution is contained as Appendix B to these minutes).

#### ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Orr, SECONDED by K. Tallbot, that the Board of Education approve the following:

### **RESOLUTION: ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GIFT AND DONATION FROM BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Approve the Resolution, dated May 12, 2025, regarding accepting and appropriating the Gift and Donation from Box Tops for Education Program in the amount of \$11.20, as submitted. (This resolution is contained as Appendix C to these minutes).

**RESOLUTION: ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GIFT AND DONATION LIST FOR VARIOUS HIGH SCHOOL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS**

Approve the Resolution, dated May 12, 2025, regarding accepting and appropriating the Gift and Donations to be applied to various High School Award Scholarships, as submitted. (This resolution is contained as Appendix D to these minutes).

**RESOLUTION: ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GIFT AND DONATION LIST FOR SACANDAGA DRAMA CLUB**

Approve the Resolution, dated May 12, 2025, regarding accepting and appropriating the Gift and Donations for the Sacandaga Drama Club production, as submitted. (This resolution is contained as Appendix E to these minutes).

**RESOLUTION: ACCEPT AND APPROPRIATE GIFT AND DONATION FROM SACANDAGA 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS**

Approve the Resolution, dated May 12, 2025, regarding accepting and appropriating the Gift and Donation of a wooden bench from the Sacandaga 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class and Mr. Derek Howell, as submitted. (This resolution is contained as Appendix F to these minutes).

**ROLL CALL**

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Carbone, SECONDED by Roberts, that the Board of Education approve/accept the following except #1 under Staffing:

MOVED by Boucher Furnish, SECONDED by Carbone, that Item #1 under Staffing be voted on separately.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. Approve the request for an unpaid leave of absence for Kerri Saati, English Teacher (Senior High School), effective May 9, 2025 through June 30, 2025.
- b. Accept the letter of resignation of Kolton Heft, Teaching Assistant (Glen-Worden Elementary), effective c.o.b. May 16, 2025, with appreciation for his service to the district, as submitted. (This letter is contained as Appendix G to these minutes).
- c. Approve the request for an unpaid leave of absence for Megan Carroll, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher (Glen-Worden Elementary), effective April 24, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

- d. Accept the letter of resignation of Melanie Schleicher, Special Education Teacher (Middle School), effective c.o.b. June 30, 2025, with appreciation for her service to the district, as submitted. (This letter is contained as Appendix H to these minutes).
- e. Accept the letter of resignation for retirement purposes of Joanna DeSilva, Teaching Assistant (Senior High School), effective c.o.b. June 30, 2025, with appreciation for her service to the district, as submitted. (This letter is contained as Appendix I to these minutes).
- f. Accept the letter of resignation of Sarah Hunt, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher (Middle School), effective c.o.b. June 30, 2025, with appreciation for her service to the district, as submitted. (This letter is contained as Appendix J to these minutes).
- g. Accept the letter of resignation for retirement purposes of Cynthia Orlando, Teacher Aide (Lincoln Elementary), effective June 30, 2025, with appreciation for her service to the district, as submitted. (This letter is contained as Appendix K to these minutes).
- h. Accept the letter of resignation for retirement purposes of Pamela DiPietro, Teaching Assistant (Middle School), effective c.o.b. June 30, 2025, with appreciation for her service to the district, as submitted. (This letter is contained as Appendix L to these minutes).

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

**REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**

**a. Staffing**

MOVED by Carbone, SECONDED by Roberts, that the Board of Education approve the following:

- 1) The 2025-2026 salary list rates and stipends for the following employees, as submitted: (This list is contained as Appendix M to these minutes).

Management Confidential Employees

ROLL CALL

AYES: 3

NOES: 3

MOTION REJECTED

- 2) Approve the provisional appointment of Amanda Seifert as Executive Secretary I (PPS Department – District Office), in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations, effective June 1, 2025, with 2024-2025 salary to be at the rate of \$18.25/hour, 8 hours/day, 12 month.
- 3) Approve Griffin Fraterrigo\* as an Intern with the Athletic Department, effective May 12, 2025 through June 12, 2025.

*\*This appointment is conditioned on the school district's receipt of clearance for the employee from the State Education Department following a criminal history records check in accordance with the provision of Education Law §3035.*

- 4) Approve the updated appointment of Extraclassroom Activity Fund Treasurers and Auditors for the 2024-2025 school year, with no additional remuneration:

School	Treasurer	Auditor	2 <sup>nd</sup> check Signatory
High School	Francesca Cowdrey	Angela Cerrone	Peter Bednarek
Middle School	Terri McKenzie	Liesel Falcon	Robert Cosmer

- 5) Approve the following stipends in addition to the College Board's payment to the individuals listed for SAT exam involvement administered on May 3, 2025:

Dave Langdon	SAT Coordinator	\$100.00
Cindy Dorazio	Administrative Support	\$50.00
Rebecca Penn	SAT Proctor	\$40.00
Kayla Gatta	SAT Proctor – Extended Time	\$10.00
Kathleen Curtiss	SAT Proctor – Extended Time	\$10.00
Richard Wiesen	Technology Monitor	\$10.00
Kaila DiCaprio	Hall Monitor – Extended Time	\$50.00
Michele Doane	Room Monitor	\$65.00
Nicole Rausch	Room Monitor	\$65.00

- 6) Approve the list of individuals as substitute teachers for the 2024-2025 school year, as submitted. (This list is contained as Appendix N to these minutes).

## **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

### **a. Placement of Children with Disabilities**

Accept the Placement of Children with Disabilities as recommended by the Committee on Special Education and the Committee on Pre-school Special Education in their reports dated May 12, 2025.

**b. Minutes: Regular Meeting (April 7, 2025)  
Special Meeting (April 23, 2025)**

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

**c. Budget Transfers: April 2025**

President Talbot noted receipt of the Treasurer's Report. (This report is contained as Appendix O to these minutes).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**a. Health and Safety Meeting Minutes – April 2025**

(These minutes are contained as Appendix P to these minutes).

Ms. Boucher Furnish congratulated the High School Mock Trial Team on their Regional win for Schenectady County and wished them luck as they head to State Finals in Albany next week.

Ms. Boucher Furnish mentioned that senior Keeley Kristel has been nominated as a Time Union Athlete of the Week. Keeley plays softball in the spring and just pitched a no-hitter.

Mr. Roberts congratulated junior Nick Lemp, who broke the school record for lacrosse goals in one season, with a record of 56.

Mr. Roberts suggested any new Board Member be appointed a mentor for their first year to help navigate things. Mr. Talbot recognized this was something that was done in the past but stopped during COVID.

**HEARING/PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

None

Mr. Talbot reminded everyone to come out and vote on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

MOVED by K. Talbot, SECONDED by Roberts that the meeting be adjourned.

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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Jill Busman, District Clerk