

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 March 3, 2025.

President Talbot called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

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

Absent: Boucher Furnish

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

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:16 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 6:54 p.m.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Arket and District Clerk Busman were present for open session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SGTA President Hoffmann started the hearing/privilege of the floor with a request to be part of the creative process to bridge this budget deficit.

Many community members addressed the board with their concerns/questions of:

- Administrator's salaries
- Academic Heads that don't have classroom responsibilities
- The 17% increase in health insurance
- Class size
- Curriculum
- Communication with community
- The possibility of a tax increase of over 3%
- The need for more competitive teacher salaries
- The lower graduation rates
- The possibility of establishing classes to provide the services for some of our students that we have had to send out (to offset the Special Education costs)
- Of any cuts to the teaching staff

BUDGET DISCUSSION: 2025-2026 BUDGET WORK SESSION (SUSAN M. SWARTZ, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS)

Business Manager Giaquinto explained the difference between the tax levy and the tax rate. He also addressed the increase in special education out-of-district placements and the escalation of prescription drug costs that have impacted the 2025-2026 budget. Superintendent Swartz reviewed the enrollment trends and the continued decline. The board discussed with Superintendent Swartz their negotiables and non-negotiables in the budget. The board stated their preference to stay under the 3.25% tax cap limit if possible, acknowledging there may be a need to go at the tax cap if necessary to maintain services and staff. (This presentation is contained as Appendix A to these minutes)

DISCUSSION: TAX CAP**RESOLUTION: ACCEPT GIFT AND DONATION FROM THE SCOTIA-GLENVILLE FRIENDS OF MUSIC TO THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

MOVED by Orr, SECONDED by K. Talbot, that the Board of Education approve the Resolution, dated February 11, 2025, regarding accepting and appropriating the gift and donation of a New Shen Bass, with a value of \$1,645.00 from the Scotia-Glenville Friends of Music to the High School Music Department, as submitted. (This resolution is contained as Appendix B to these minutes).

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

RESOLUTION: ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR VARIOUS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

MOVED by Roberts, SECONDED by Singh, that the Board of Education accept the attached donations to be applied to various Senior High School Scholarship Awards, as submitted. (This resolution is contained as Appendix C to these minutes).

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

AWARD 2024-2025 CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECT CONTRACT

MOVED by K. Talbot, SECONDED by Singh, that the Board of Education award the bid for the 2024-2025 Capital Outlay Project to Bonacquista Brothers Construction, in accordance with bid specifications and their low bid, as submitted. (This contract is contained as Appendix D to these minutes).

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED by Carbone, SECONDED by K. Talbot, that the Board of Education approve/accept the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

- a. Approve the resignation of Francesca Cowdrey as Executive Secretary I (Senior High School), effective March 1, 2025 in order to accept a new position in the district.
- b. Approve the request for an unpaid leave of absence for Emily Taft, Math Teacher (Middle School), for the 2025-2026 school year, as submitted. (This request is contained as Appendix E to these minutes).

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT**a. Staffing**

- 1) Approve the appointment of Madeline Harland as a long-term Substitute Social Studies Teacher (Senior High School), effective on or about March 24, 2025 through June 30, 2025 plus three shadow days prior to March 24, 2025, with the 2024-2025 salary to be at the rate of \$139.00 daily for the first 20 days worked then at a rate of \$46,315 (Step 1) prorated per day worked. Ms. Harland has initial Social Studies 7-12 certification.
- 2) Approve the appointment of Benjamin Tunison as Teaching Assistant (Senior High School General Ed), effective on or about March 19, 2025 through June 26, 2025, with 2024-2025 salary to be at the rate of \$18.85/hour (Step 1).
- 3) Approve the provisional appointment of Francesca Cowdrey as Account Clerk/Typist (Senior High School), in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations, effective March 1, 2025, with 2024-2025 salary to be at the rate of \$17.75/hour, 8 hours/day, 10 months, plus 5 additional summer days.
- 4) Approve the probationary appointment of Tahiesha Williams-Roberts, Cleaner – Second Shift (Middle School), in accordance with Civil Service Rules and

Regulations, effective February 25, 2025, with 2024-2025 salary to be at the rate of \$17.49/hour, 40 hours/week, 12 month.

- 5) Approve the following 2024-2025 spring coaching appointment:

Girls' Lacrosse

Varsity

David Lippiello

Step 5

\$5,097

- 6) Approve the attached list of a substitute for the 2024-2025 school year, as submitted. (This list is contained as Appendix F to these minutes).
- 7) Approve the probationary appointment of Antonia Lazzara, Special Education Teacher (Glen-Worden Elementary), effective March 12, 2025 through March 11, 2029, with the 2024-2025 salary to be at the rate of \$50,743 (Step 4 +M) prorated. Ms. Lazzara holds NYS Students with Disabilities Grades K-12 certification.

ROUTINE BUSINESS

a. Placements of Children with Disabilities

b. Internal Claims Auditor's Report/Warrants/Warrant Report Exceptions:

Payroll Warrants

#46	01/03/2025	\$1,227,445.95
#51	01/17/2025	\$1,227,606.59
#54	01/31/2025	\$1,338,278.07

Check Warrants

A-44	01/08/2025	\$ 365,621.08
A-45	01/08/2025	\$1,085,291.46
H-3	01/08/2025	\$ 405,514.97
A-49	01/17/2025	\$ 705,271.38
A-50	01/17/2025	\$ 8,868.84
A-53	01/31/2025	\$ 20,938.78
H-4	01/31/2025	\$ 342,183.11
H-5	01/31/2025	\$ 7,700.00

- c. Minutes:** **Regular Meeting 01/13/2025**
 Regular Meeting 01/27/2025

d. Treasurer's Report – January 2025

e. Budget Transfers – January 2025

f. Bid

- 1) Superintendent's Recommendation: That the Board of Education approve the bid for Pupil Transportation to the Rejha Group, in accordance with specifications and their low bid, as submitted. (This specification is contained as Appendix G to these minutes).

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS**a. Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes: February 2025**

Ms. Talbot congratulated all the Odyssey of the Mind Teams and Coaches for their success in the competitions.

Mr. Roberts congratulated the Girls' Basketball Team that was playing in a Sectional game at that time.

Mr. Talbot congratulated the Wrestling Team members that had advanced and participated at Sectionals and States.

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

A few more community members spoke during hearing/privilege of the floor:

- Concern of the increase of health insurance cost
- A hope that students might speak up and share their thoughts on cuts
- When will the Student Representative join the board
- The possibility of cutting the Athletic Trainer even though that position is valued
- The Board's objective and vision for the district

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

ROLL CALL

AYES: 6

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Jill Busman, District Clerk