

Special Meeting Minutes

A Special 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 17, 2025.

President Talbot called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Boucher Furnish, Carbone, Roberts, H. Talbot, K. Talbot, Superintendent Swartz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Arket and Business Manager Giaquinto

Absent: Orr and Singh

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

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 6:32 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 7:02 p.m. District Clerk Busman was present for the Open Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2025-2026 BUDGET WORK SESSION

Superintendent Swartz started the session with clarification on two issues that were misrepresented at the previous meeting. The first correction was that a joint declaration of impasse was agreed upon during the current negotiations with SGTA, and the second was the correct expense of the athletic consultant. Superintendent Swartz then addressed the possible savings and expenses if we were to close a school, pointing out that most of the savings would be from reducing staff.

Business Manager Giaquinto presented an overview from the previous budget presentation. He addressed the increased expense in health insurance, highlighting the Capital Area School Health Insurance Consortium efforts to address the rising costs. Special education tuition, salary increases and BOCES placements all add to the increases.

Superintendent Swartz presented proposed modifications that included FTE cutbacks and not filling certain leaves of absence to reduce the deficit bringing the tax levy to 3.7% and tax rate increase to 2.09%. Members of the board expressed concern with the impact of some of these modifications, primarily with reductions of the Learning Leaps program and the School Resource Officers and talked about going above the 3.25% tax levy limit.

The Board asked to see different scenarios adding the Learning Leaps program and SRO's in the budget with the possibility of adding 1 or 1 ½ percent over the tax cap.

Ms. Boucher Furnish was also interested in seeing the savings if all bargaining units were to sign the MOA for the Free Market Health Program.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Roberts asked if the Board could receive a monthly report about the status of Graduation Operation. He also requested the budget information be shared with the Board as soon as possible.

Ms. Talbot and Ms. Boucher Furnish shared that the High School Spring Dance was a success with over 200 students attending.

A call for Teen Town volunteers for April is being sent out through different venues.

Founders Day Dinner is March 18th.

Youth Lacrosse sign-ups are open.

Congratulations to the Girls' Bowling team on the successful season.

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

ROLL CALL

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Jill Busman, District Clerk