

**SOUTH COLONIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



**MINUTES**

January 19, 2021

Virtual Meeting  
7:00 pm



**CORE VALUES**

**We Believe:**

- \* That all children can learn.
- \* In educating the whole child so he/she can meet the District's Standards.
- \* In focusing on student achievement.
- \* In providing a comprehensive and enriched curriculum for all students reflecting the needs and available resources of the community.
- \* That the combined commitment of the Board of Education, staff, families, students, and community is the key to educational success.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Preparing successful contributing citizens of the world through school, family and community partnerships, while addressing the diverse needs of all students.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Meeting of the South Colonie Board of Education was called to order by Board President, Ms. Gigliello at 7:11 pm.

**1. ROLL CALL****Members Present:**

Brian Casey	Colleen Gizzi	David Kiehle
Stephanie Cogan	Neil Johanning	James T. Ryan
Rose Gigliello	Michael Keane	Edward Sim

**Also Present:**

David Perry, Superintendent of Schools  
Tim Backus, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
Sherri Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services & Strategic Planning  
Christopher Robilotti, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Safe Schools  
Amber Flanders, District Clerk

**2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Board President, Ms. Gigliello led the pledge to the flag.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Ms. Gizzi, that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2021 and the Special Meeting of January 12, 2021 be approved.

9 Yes      0 No      0 Abstain      **Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Ryan stated that on the agenda tonight we have a total of 25 retirements - 18 instructional staff and 7 support staff. Mr. Ryan was curious if that was the number we were looking for budget wise. Dr. Perry stated that it is too early to tell if these will meet our needs for developing the budget. It is a few more than we normally have in a given year.

Mr. Johanning stated that the graduation rates from NYS came out and he has requested to Dr. Perry by email that we could do a quick review as to what our graduation rates were the last few years sometime over the next few meetings so that the public will know. Dr. Perry stated that there is an Academic Achievement meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> and that Mr. Backus will review the information with the committee at that meeting. We should then be prepared to share the information with the full Board at the Board Meeting on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Johanning then asked Dr. Perry to explain the email that was sent out regarding the BOCES allocation for representatives. Dr. Perry stated that Capital Region BOCES is made up of 24



component school districts that covers Saratoga, Schenectady and Albany counties. The Board's configuration historically has been represented based upon the number of schools in each county. Saratoga is a very small portion of BOCES so they have less representatives on the Board. So for years when an Albany County seat has come up, they have traditionally allowed a member representative from an Albany County School to run to represent the BOCES Board. Likewise for Schenectady and Saratoga. It is not a mandate but it has been a long standing agreement to allow for equal representation. The BOCES Superintendent had reached out to us to ask us to speak to our Board to see if we are comfortable keeping that type of agreement. If there was not a representative available from a particular county, it would be open to anybody within the component school districts. This year there will be an opening in Albany County. Ms. Gigliello asked if there was a way to put their name in if any of our Board Members are interested. Dr. Perry stated that there is an application process and we can share that information with the Board. Amber Flanders will contact BOCES for the information and message that out.

Mr. Keane was able to take part in the Financial Aid seminar that the Counseling Center and Ms. Mesick put on with Steve Dwyer from St. Rose and felt it was very enlightening. Mr. Keane also mentioned the fact that our website only allows 5 headlines on the main page and unfortunately with multiple COVID postings a week, everything else is getting pushed out of the way. He was wondering if there is a way we can expand the main page to allow more items. Dr. Perry stated that we can certainly check with Ms. Granato. He believes the page is built for 5 headlines but due to the COVID messaging, other things tend to get archived. Mr. Keane asked Dr. Perry if there are any updated on the fall – spring sports? Dr. Perry stated that there has not been any movement on season two fall sports. They are still determining on whether or not winter sports will be approved. Mr. Keane asked if we have a plan to move the fall sports to Intramural status as we have done with the winter sports. Dr. Perry stated that intramurals would be appropriate and outdoors could be a possibility, depending on weather. Lastly, Mr. Keane wanted to remind everyone to tune in Thursday for the Girls and Boys Bowling Senior Night.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Johanning asked about the status of the motion he made last meeting about adding parents to the Safe Schools Committee. Dr. Perry stated he had reached out to our building principals and has only heard back from two so far. Out of the two that he heard from, only one of them had a parent rep on their safe schools committee. Once he gathers all of the information, he will share with the Board and we can certainly make some recommendations to try and improve that. He also reached out to our PTA Council President to talk a little more about their input and things that they are looking for. What he found was that we had parent reps on the committee that were also Police, Fire & EMS, but we did not have a standalone parent on the committee. Once Dr. Perry can get the Board the makeup of the building level committees, we can start to identify any gaps and hopefully the Board can make a better recommendation at that time.

Mr. Keane mentioned that he was having a conversation with a parent recently regarding the use of the rapid tests and why we can allow them for our testing purposes but we do not allow the rapid tests for return to work/school purposes. Dr. Perry stated that this is a decision made by the NYS Department of Health and subsequently through the individual counties as to what they recommend for a return to work/school. The rapid COVID test is a diagnostic test that

will deem whether or not an individual is positive for COVID-19 but it is not as accurate as some of the molecular tests. The nasal swab test that we are using is the best that we have available but the molecular PCR test is what they recommend. Mr. Keane also mentioned virtual days and feels families are looking for a set schedule for planning purposes. Dr. Perry stated that we have shared out some additional communication this week to our families. One of the reasons we have not put out a full year schedule of virtual days is that we were hopeful that we could get to a point where we could start to bring students back into school on a more regular basis. Unfortunately it is looking like this is not going to happen this school year. We are using the virtual learning days once per month to not only allow for some planning/prep time for teachers, but also to allow for some educational component to those days. We do understand that by not announcing the days, it does not allow much time for our families to plan. Moving forward we will look at the dates from February through June and try to announce in advance and then make an announcement backwards if we need to take a day away. Mr. Keane asked if these virtual days have any impact on our 180 day requirement. Dr. Perry stated that as long as we have a half day of instruction, it counts towards our 180 days.

## **6. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **A. Requests to Speak:**

1. Renee Parisi stated that she feels the district should take into account that K-6 families need to not only adjust their schedules for unplanned remote days but also readjust their schedules for unplanned quarantined days. Some students have been quarantined 1-2 times for up to 5-10 days. Dr. Perry recognized this and thanked Ms. Parisi for her comment. He hopes that we can message out better for the second semester and minimize those disruptions to our families.
2. Chris Larabee wanted to thank Mr. Robilotti for his great leadership and for doing such a great job keeping everyone informed on a daily basis on all things COVID. Dr. Perry thanked Mr. Larabee for his comment and absolutely agrees.

## **7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS & ACTION ITEMS**

Board Committees have met since the last Board of Education meeting. Chairpersons will make recommendations to the full Board, and/or seek clarification on issues. Board members who are liaisons to District-wide committees will also report at this time.

### **A. Accountability & Board Operations**

Mr. Ryan, Committee Chair, provided a report on the Accountability & Board Operations Committee meeting that was held on January 5, 2021.

### **B. Strategic Planning**

Ms. Cogan, Committee Chair, provided a report on the Strategic Planning Committee meeting that was held on January 12, 2021.



**8. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION AND STUDY****A. 2021-2022 Budget Development**

Sherri Fisher, Assistant Superintendent for Management Services & Strategic Planning, provided a review of the 2021-2022 budget development process. The topics were: Transportation, Operations & Maintenance and Secure Youth Detention Facility. Peter Tunny, Transportation Director; Gordon Webster, Director of Facilities and James Maloney, Custodial Supervisor reviewed their program areas.

**9. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

The Superintendent recommends approval of the following:

**A. Committee on Special Education**

Placements as indicated on the attached sheets.

**B. In-Service Courses**

Approval of in-service courses as per attached list. Interested staff may register for courses on PD Express.

**C. Capital Construction – Change Orders**

1. Approval of Change Order GC-06 in the amount of (-\$23,813.00) from Bast Hatfield Construction LLC, 1399 Vischers Ferry Road, Suite 2, Clifton Park, New York 12065 to credit the District for abatement in the lobby and demolition work completed and funded from the GC-AA-02 Contract Authorization Allowance at Veeder Elementary School. Total contract sum is decreased from \$2,968,561.00 to \$2,944,748.00. Veeder Elementary School, Colonie 2020 Phase III Project, NYSED #010601-06-0-003-017.

**D. RFP – Architectural and Engineering Services**

Acceptance of a proposal from SEI Design Group, DPC, 187 Wolf Road, Suite 304, Albany, New York 12205, for Architectural and Engineering Services pursuant to a Request for Proposals issued on November 20, 2020, as per the attached.



**12. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT – CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

Approval of a Memorandum of Agreement between the South Colonie Central School District and the Civil Service Employees Association, Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO, for the South Colonie Central School District Unit of the Albany County Local 801, to grant Snow Holiday hour benefits to certain CSEA employees required to report to work for snow removal and clean-up on the District-declared Virtual Days held on December 17, 2020 and December 18, 2020, as per attached agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Ryan and seconded by Mr. Sim, that the above stated Memorandum of Agreement for the Civil Service Employees' Association be approved.

9 Yes      0 No      0 Abstain      **Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

**13. RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE LAND ACQUISITION**

Whereas, the District requires a more functional and updated Transportation Facility for its transportation operation to provide adequate space to maintain and inspect its bus fleet, house its office staff, conduct training and provide on-site parking for the District’s bus fleet and employee vehicles, other than what is currently available at its present location at 2 Winston Place, Colonie, New York; and

Whereas, the District requires additional space to house its present administrative office and board room located at the 102 Loralee Drive, Colonie, New York; and

Whereas, the acquisition of land will also provide other opportunities for future growth and expansion within the District; and

Whereas, given the current operational and space constraints at these two locations the Board of Education is desirous of authorizing the Assistant Superintendent for Management Services and Strategic Planning to consult with a licensed real estate broker associated with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Blake, Realtors to consider real property that may be available for purchase by the District to accommodate its present needs

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:

RESOLVED, the Assistant Superintendent for Management Services and Strategic Planning is authorized to consult with a New York State licensed real estate broker associated with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Blake, Realtors to consider real property that may be available for purchase by the District to accommodate its present needs, and is further authorized to make an offer to purchase real property subject to any and all municipal approvals, environmental or other inspections and voter approval; and it is further

RESOLVED, any offer to purchase real property shall not exceed a value expressed by the realtor in consultation with the Assistant Superintendent for Management Services and Strategic Planning; and it is further



RESOLVED, any subsequent contract must contain the aforesaid contingencies and be further authorized and executed by the Board of Education.

A motion was made by Ms. Cogan and seconded by Mr. Ryan, that the above stated Resolution be approved.

Roll Call Vote:	<u>✓</u> Brian Casey	<u>✓</u> Colleen Gizzi	<u>✓</u> David Kiehle
	<u>✓</u> Stephanie Cogan	<u>✓</u> Neil Johanning	<u>✓</u> James T. Ryan
	<u>✓</u> Rose Gigliello	<u>✓</u> Michael Keane	<u>✓</u> Edward Sim

9 Yes      0 No      0 Abstain

**Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

#### **14. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- **January 25**      Policy Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual
- **February 9**      Academic Achievement Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual
- **February 9**      Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm – Virtual
- **March 2**      Communications Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual
- **March 2**      Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm – Virtual
- **March 4**      Facilities/Transportation Committee Meeting – 4:00 pm – Virtual
- **March 16**      Accountability/BOE Operations Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual
- **March 16**      Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 pm – Virtual
- **March 22**      Policy Committee Meeting – 6:00 pm – Virtual

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Keane and seconded by Ms. Gizzi, to enter Executive Session to discuss fiscal and employment matters relating to particular persons.

9 Yes      0 No      0 Abstain

**Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:59 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Keane and seconded by Mr. Ryan, to adjourn Executive Session.

9 Yes      0 No      0 Abstain

**Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

The Board adjourned Executive Session at 10:06 pm



**15. ADJOURN MEETING**

A motion was made by Mr. Casey and seconded by Mr. Ryan, that the Regular Meeting be adjourned.

9 Yes      0 No      0 Abstain

**Vote Carried: 9 – 0 – 0**

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 10:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amber M. Flanders  
District Clerk

**10. PERSONNEL – INSTRUCTION****A. Retirements**

1. Name: Cheryl Parda  
Position: Science Teacher  
Location: Lisha Kill Middle School  
Effective Date: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 24 years (1997-2021)
2. Name: Donna Thompson  
Position: Reading Teacher  
Location: Roessleville Elementary School  
Effective Date: February 27, 2021  
Years of Service: 20 years (2001-2021)
3. Name: Melissa Hellkamp  
Position: Special Education Teacher  
Location: Roessleville Elementary School  
Effective Date: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 31 years (1990-2021)
4. Name: Monica Trabold  
Position: Foreign Language Teacher (French)  
Location: Colonie Central High School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 34 years (1987-2021)
5. Name: Cheryl Beckmann  
Position: Foreign Language Teacher (Spanish)  
Location: Colonie Central High School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 31+ years (1989-2021)
6. Name: Susan Monteiro  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Location: Sand Creek Middle School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 20+ years (2001-2021)
7. Name: Michael Mensching  
Position: Foreign Language Teacher (Spanish)  
Location: Lisha Kill Middle School/Sand Creek Middle Schools  
Effective Date: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 20 years (2001-2021)

8. Name: Nancy Marmet  
Position: School Psychologist  
Location: Lisha Kill Middle School  
Effective Date: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 31 years (1990-2021)
9. Name: Karen Bonitatibus  
Position: Physical Education Teacher  
Location: Colonie Central High School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 30+ years (1990-2021)
10. Name: Barbara Ripps  
Position: Elementary Education Teacher  
Location: Veeder Elementary School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 37 years (1984 to 2021)
11. Name: Kevin Halburian  
Position: Physical Education Teacher  
Location: Colonie Central High School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 33+ years (1987 to 2021)
12. Name: Veronica Delancey-Smith  
Position: Elementary Education Teacher  
Location: Veeder Elementary School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 31+ years (1989 to 2021)
13. Name: Alice O'Neill  
Position: Reading Teacher  
Location: Saddlewood Elementary School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 26+ years (1994 to 2021)
14. Name: Anthony Demarco  
Position: Science Teacher  
Location: Colonie Central High School  
Effective Date: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 29+ years (1992 to 2021)
15. Name: Dawn Peplowski  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Location: Lisha Kill Middle School  
Effective Date: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 20 years (2001 to 2021)



16. Name: Suzanne Pedone  
Position: Physical Education Teacher  
Location: Sand Creek Middle School  
Effective Date: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 25+ years (1996 to 2021)
17. Name: Suzanne Morand  
Position: Mathematics Teacher  
Location: Colonie Central High School  
Effective Date: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 31+ years (1989 to 2021)
18. Name: Lori Colello  
Position: Teaching Assistant  
Location: Veeder Elementary School  
Effective Date: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 22+ years (1998 to 2021)

**B. Leave of Absence**

1. Name: Cynthia Ryan  
Position: English Teacher  
Type: Personal Leave  
Location: Sand Creek Middle School  
Effective Date: January 30, 2021  
Ending Date: June 30, 2021

**C. Long-Term Replacement**

1. Name: Alicia Goodman  
Address: 3700 Consaul Road, Schenectady, NY 12304  
Type: Long-Term Replacement  
Teaching Area: English Language Arts  
Location: Sand Creek Middle School  
Effective Date: January 30, 2021  
Ending Date: June 30, 2021  
Salary: Schedule II, Step 1; As per the SCTA Contract (pro-rated)  
Education: B.S. from Siena College and M.A. from Clarkson University  
Certification: Initial in English Language Arts (Grades 7-12)

**D. Substitute Teachers**

Approve substitute teachers on the attached list for regular appointments.

**E. Master Schedule Assistant Coordinator– 2020-21 School Year**

**Rescind** per Policy 9290:

Lindsay Tresansky

**Appoint** per Policy 9290:

William Roemer

**F. Master Schedule Coordinator Grades 9-12– 2020-21 School Year**

**Approve** per Policy 9290:

Lindsay Tresansky

**G. Virtual Academy Principals– 2020-21 School Year**

**Approve** per Policy 9290:

Gregory Bearup  
Jennifer Wells

**H. Co-Curricular – 2020-21 School Year**

**Appoint** the following previously approved position at the approved rate of compensation:

**Colonie Central High School**

**Intramurals:**

Boys Basketball

Brian Smith

Boys Winter Track

Scott Galinski

**Productions:**

Line & Cue Advisor

Susan Vatalaro

.50

Director

James Haertel

.50

**I. IT Director SSA - 2020-21 School Year**

**Approve** per Policy 9290:

James Lovett

**11. PERSONNEL – SUPPORT****A. Creation of Position**

*Effective January 20, 2021 through June 30, 2021:*

- (1) .81 Temporary School Monitor

**B. Retirements**

1. Name: Janice Hunter  
Position: School Monitor (SC)  
Effective: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 2000-2021
2. Name: Kelly Rowland  
Position: School Nurse (LK)  
Effective: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 2003-2021
3. Name: Penny Bartlett  
Position: Keyboard Specialist (LK)  
Effective: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 2000-2021
4. Name: Lisa Quinn  
Position: Cook Manager I (HS)  
Effective: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 1996-2021
5. Name: Renee Sciotti  
Position: School Monitor (VR)  
Effective: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 1998-2021
6. Name: Edward Drucker  
Position: Custodial Worker (VR)  
Effective: July 1, 2021  
Years of Service: 1987-2021
7. Name: Michele Small  
Position: Keyboard Specialist (SC)  
Effective: June 30, 2021  
Years of Service: 1992-1994, 2005-2021



**C. Appointments**

1. Name: Kenneth O'Brien  
Address: 30 Squire Road, Schenectady, NY 12304  
Position: Break-In Bus Driver  
Effective: January 11, 2021  
Salary: \$15.80 per hour
  
2. Name: Wendy Trance  
Address: 7 Maple Avenue, Albany, NY 12205  
Position: School Monitor Substitute  
Effective: November 30, 2020  
Salary: \$12.50 per hour