

COOPERSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

DATE: March 19, 2008

KIND OF MEETING: Regular

PLACE: Cafeteria, Middle/High School

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark F. Rathbun, President, Rosemary Craig, Vice-President,  
Paula M. Greene, Mary B. Leonard, Susan L. Mulligan,  
Anthony J. Scalici, Jean M. Schifano

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mary Jo A. McPhail, Superintendent of Schools  
James A. Collison, Business Manager  
Gary M. Kuch, High School Principal  
Michael G. Cring, Middle School Principal/Director of PE,  
Health and Athletics  
Teresa L. Gorman, Elementary Principal

President Rathbun called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Rich Campbell commented on the budget and job sharing.

Mrs. Mulligan, seconded by Mr. Scalici, moved approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 5, 2008.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mrs. Schifano presented the following warrants: School Lunch Fund dated February 27, 2008, School Lunch Fund dated March 7, 2008, SN-58 dated March 10, 2008, and WN-56 dated March 10, 2008, for Board information.

Mrs. Schifano, seconded by Mrs. Craig, moved approval of the Monthly Treasurer's Reports for the period February 1, 2008 to February 29, 2008, as follows:

Trust & Agency Fund Account	Total Available Balance	39,579.07
CD's	400,162.00	
Prize	37,351.73	
School Lunch Fund Account	Total Available Balance	58,822.38
General Fund Account	Total Available Balance	33,476.07
NBT	3,580,421.70	
JPM	219,466.86	
Citizens	145,244.97	
CD's	500,000.00	
Federal Fund Account	Total Available Balance	68,143.49
Capital Fund Account	Total Available Balance	41,914.86
Savings	455,272.68	
Payroll Account	Total Available Balance	-0-

03/19/08

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mrs. McPhail stated that the proposed budget is \$16,236,446 which represents a 2.58% increase in the budget and a projected average tax levy increase of 5.07%. Questions and discussion followed.

Mrs. Schifano, seconded by Mrs. Craig, moved to adopt the Notice of Budget Hearing, Budget Vote, and Election and authorize publication in the official newspapers.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mrs. Schifano, seconded by Mrs. Mulligan, moved to grant the request from the National Baseball Hall of Fame for use of the Middle/High School parking lot to park motor coaches on Monday, June 16, 2008.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun, seconded by Mrs. Greene, moved Policy 3111: World Wide Web: District Website, for second reading and adoption.

**SUBJECT: WORLD WIDE WEB: DISTRICT WEBSITE**

In order to support the vision and mission of the School District, the District will create and maintain a website for the following purposes:

- a) A place to showcase innovative student and staff educational projects, presentations, and learning experiences.
- b) A gateway to District and community resources and to educational websites.
- c) A means for the community to access District information.
- d) A means of “opening up” communications among students, District personnel, the community, and associated organizations.

The District website may not be used for any commercial promotional activity.

Regulations will be developed for implementing guidelines as to staff/student access and usage of the District website.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun, seconded by Mrs. Greene, moved Policy 7618: District Policy Regarding Response to Intervention (RTI) Process, for second reading and adoption. (See attached.)

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun, seconded by Mrs. Craig, moved Policy 7619: Additional Procedures for Identifying Students With Learning Disabilities, for second reading and adoption.

**SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**

In accordance with Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, the District will follow all applicable procedures for referral and evaluation of students suspected of having a learning disability, including the additional requirements enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations Section 200.4(j) for identifying students with learning disabilities and determining eligibility for special education.

Per Commissioner's Regulations, *learning disability* means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which manifests itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations, as determined in accordance with Section 200.4(j). The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and developmental aphasia. The term does not include learning problems that are primarily the result of visual, hearing or motor disabilities, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance, or of environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage.

The individual evaluation must include information from an observation of the student in routine classroom instruction and monitoring of the student's performance that was either done before the student was referred for an evaluation or from an observation of the student's academic performance in the regular classroom after the student has been referred for an evaluation and parental consent is obtained.

The determination of eligibility for special education for a student suspected of having a learning disability must be made by the Committee on Special Education (CSE), which shall include the student's regular education teacher and at least one person qualified to conduct individual diagnostic examinations of students (such as a school psychologist, teacher of speech and language disabilities, speech/language pathologist or reading teacher).

To ensure that underachievement in a student suspected of having a learning disability is not due to lack of appropriate instruction in reading or mathematics, the CSE must, as part of the evaluation procedures, consider whether the student has received appropriate instruction in reading and mathematics in the regular education setting by qualified personnel. The CSE must also consider data-based documentation of repeated assessments of achievement at reasonable intervals.

A student may be determined to have a learning disability if, when provided with learning experiences and instruction appropriate for the student's age or State-approved grade-level standards, the student does not achieve adequately in one or more of the following areas: oral expression, listening comprehension, written expression, basic reading skills, reading fluency skills, reading comprehension, mathematics calculation, mathematics problem solving; and the student either does not make sufficient progress when using a process based on the student's response to scientific, research-based intervention (Response to Intervention) or the student exhibits a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both as determined by the CSE using appropriate assessments in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations.

### **Written Report/Written Certification by CSE**

When determining eligibility for a student suspected of having a learning disability, the CSE shall prepare a written report containing a statement of all the factors enumerated in Commissioner's Regulations.

Each CSE member must certify in writing whether the above referenced written report reflects the member's conclusion regarding the eligibility determination. If the report does not reflect the member's conclusion, the CSE member must submit a separate statement presenting his/her conclusions.

03/19/08

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun, seconded by Mrs. Mulligan, moved Policy 7651: Provision of Special Education Services to Nonpublic School Students With Disabilities Who Are Parentally Placed, for second reading and adoption. (See attached.)

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun, seconded by Mrs. Greene, moved Policy 7121: Diagnostic Screening of Students, for first reading.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun, seconded by Mrs. Greene, moved Policy 8280: Instruction For English Language Learners or Students With Limited English Proficiency, for first reading.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun, seconded by Mrs. Greene, moved Policy 8470: Home Instruction (Home Schooling), for first reading.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun gave a report on the Policy Committee meeting of March 13, 2008.

Motion made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Scalici. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Cooperstown Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby accept the resignation for the purpose of retirement of Mrs. Margaret Welsh, Elementary Teacher, effective June 30, 2008, with deep regret and thanks for her many years of service.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mrs. Mulligan. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Cooperstown Central School District, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, does hereby accept the resignation from Mr. Michael Dennis, Science Teacher, effective June 30, 2008.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mrs. Leonard. RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Cooperstown Central School District, does hereby approve the administrative assignment of the following extracurricular positions for the 2007/2008 school year:

Senior Play – Set Design Construction	Dennis Hascup
Senior Play – Art Director	Kristin Karasek
Senior Play – Lighting/Sound Designer	Patrick Lippincott

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

03/19/08

The Board acknowledged the administrative assignment of the following substitutes for the 2007/2008 school year: Amanda Sikkema – Teacher and Teacher Aide, Margaret Donahue – Teacher and Teacher Aide, and Teanna Smith – CROP Peer Tutor.

Mrs. Leonard announced the following District events: March 21-24 – No School – Easter Break, March 29 – Crayon Carnival, April 1 – Fifth Grade Parents’ Night at 7:00 PM, and April 3-5 – Senior Play at 7:30 PM.

Mrs. Greene stated that she has drafted a letter to legislators.

Mrs. McPhail gave a report on the Superintendent’s Conference Day of March 14th.

Mr. Kuch reported on Ruggles Essay Assembly on March 25<sup>th</sup>, Senior Play, and Senior Trip to NYC. Mr. Cring reported on Athletics and State testing. Ms. Gorman reported that Rebecca O’Dell won the DAR Essay Contest and it will go to the State level. She also talked about Social Studies test scores, Math test scoring, assemblies, and PARP.

Upon the recommendation of Mrs. McPhail, Mrs. Leonard, seconded by Mrs. Mulligan, moved approval of the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education as listed in the minutes of the meetings on February 28 and March 7, 2008.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mr. Rathbun deferred the Board Member Resignation until after executive session.

Mr. Rathbun announced the following: BOCES Annual Meeting on April 1, 2008, Special Propositions and Board Members’ Petitions due April 21, 2008, and next regular Board meeting on April 2, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Scalici, moved to recess to executive session for personnel to discuss the employment history of particular persons and contract negotiations with the Faculty Association, at 7:35 PM.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mrs. Mulligan, moved to return to the business of the regular meeting at 9:00 PM.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Scalici, moved to accept the resignation of Mrs. Jean Schifano, Board of Education member, effective March 24, 2008, with deep regret and thanks for her years of service to the District.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Scalici, moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM.

Ayes 7                      Noes 0                      Motion carried.

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Clerk