

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE SPENCERPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: January 13, 2015  
Spencerport, New York

Members Present: Mr. Bracken, Mr. Gibbardo, Ms. Gillette, Ms. Tyler, Mr. Zale

Absent: Mr. Sweeney, Mr. Oberlin

Others Present: Mr. Crumb, Mr. Wood, Mr. Zinkiewich, Mr. Milgate

The Study Session of the Board of Education of the Spencerport Central School District was called to order at 7:05 p.m. E.D.S.T. by the President, Mr. Sweeney, at the Canal View Elementary School in the Cafeteria.

**1. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The Board of Education members and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Mr. Gibbardo and seconded by Ms. Tyler that the Board approve the Study Session Agenda.

Vote of the Board: Yes: 5

Yes: 5

No: 0

NOTE: Mr. Oberlin entered the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

**3. CANAL VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION & MUNN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTATION**

Initiatives Supporting College & Career Readiness

Ms. Robinson, principal of Canal View and Mr. Canny, principal of Munn introduced members of their faculty from their Building Planning Teams and from their Team Leader Committees. Mr. Canny provided an overview of the College and Career Readiness skills as outlined within the Common Core Learning Standards. Ms. Robinson summarized how instruction in ELA and Math serves as a foundation for College and Career Readiness and students develop their skills to get meaning from all types of text and further develop their skills to think mathematically. Along with this, Ms. Robinson shared that another important part of the foundation of student learning is to develop their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity are the core skills that are fostered with our students to help them develop their confidence as we focus on building students' tenacity and grit to persevere. Teachers provided an overview of ELA and Math instruction strategies and how their instructional focus helps to build

these skills within the content areas. Close reading was an instructional strategy that was discussed and how this is being utilized in the various content areas. Tools like annotation guides were reviewed to help students analyze their text as well. Another tool used is called the RADDs formula (Restating the Question, Answer the Question, Detail from Text to Support Answer, Detail from Text to Support Answer, Summary). This provides the students with a process that parallels how the NYS Rubrics are designed to score students. Teachers also shared that writing modules are used to guide students through three (3) different types of writing styles (informational/expository, narrative and opinion) with the assistance of the teachers as well. In addition, guided reading is now being integrated into the instructional areas beginning with the new Social Studies framework from NYS. Along with this, the Document Based Questions have recently been revised with more rigor and meets the demands of the NYS ELA standards. Another tool that was shared is the Inquiry Arc that is being used to help students develop their inquiry skills while exploring the K-5 Social Studies curriculum. A video was shared that helped board members get a better understanding of the use of clusters to reinforce experiential learning. It was noted how our new math program (Math Expressions) truly fosters the development of student critical thinking skills as outlined in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Another support for teachers is the work of members of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teacher Teams at each elementary school and their efforts to push into the classrooms to support and grow various instructional technology resources. An example of this has been the use of WIXIE, a web based publishing application that helps to build students' confidence with their writing. Another example of this is the use of the Stock Market Game by 4-5 grade students that are exceeding the standards in math. This program reinforces their creativity skills and collaboration skills. The Hour of Code was another experience where students were engaged in interactive activities where they learned about what computer programmers do. Lego Mindstorm and Odyssey of the Mind were additional examples of experiential programs that are becoming popular at the elementary level for our students where they are afforded opportunities to participate in authentic activities that build their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Junior Achievement provides our students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade opportunities to interact with business members from our community to engage in simulations that allow them to experience "real life" business and community events. The final part of the presentation captured a number of community support activities and events that each school participates in to help students become better citizens. The majority of the faculty/staff are actively involved in these activities as role models.

#### 4. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

None

#### 5. CONSENT AGENDA

##### Old Business

5.1 Approval of the minutes of the Regular Session Board of Education meeting held December 9, 2014.

5.2 New Business

5.2.1 Approval of 2015-2016 Budge Focus Group Membership

Michael Crumb, ad hoc  
Daniel Milgate, ad hoc  
Lanette Cypher, ad hoc  
Rick Wood, ad hoc  
Ty Zinkiewich, ad hoc  
Sean McCabe, administrator  
John Kozlowski, teacher  
Joe DiTucci, teacher

Tom Cannon, parent  
Brenda Ketchum, parent  
Timothy Leathers, parent  
Scott Clyde, parent  
Lisa Stein, parent  
Kathleen Kiyak, parent  
Pat Byrne, community  
Melissa Endres, community

William Sweeney, Board of Education  
Jim Oberlin, Board of Education  
Janet Tyler, Board of Education  
Gay Lenhard, town official  
Douglas Nordquist, town official

Bridget Martin, community  
Maureen Longobardi, community

### 5.22 Approval of External Auditor

As part of Chapter 263 of the Laws of 2005, the New York State Comptroller established what is commonly referred to as the Five-Point Plan. This legislation requires a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process for selecting auditors at least every five years.

While all of the proposals were very impressive, each firm offered a diverse range of experience and knowledge of school district auditing. The fees are as follows:

Firm	Fees				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Raymond F. Wager, CPA, P.C.	\$19,750	\$20,250	\$20,750	\$21,250	\$21,750
Toski & Co., LLP	\$21,700	\$22,100	\$22,600	\$23,000	\$23,400
Lumsden & McCormick, LLP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bonadio & Co., LLP	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,500

The audit committee interviewed each firm that submitted a proposal. After interviewing each of the firms, the group discussed the firm's strengths and weaknesses. Two key factors between the firms was price and number of school district clients. All three firms provided an excellent presentation and, in our opinion, would provide a quality audit service for the district. However, based on the knowledge and experience that Raymond F. Wager has with the District, along with the lower cost, the committee leaned toward continuing the audit services with our existing firm.

Our recommendation is to authorize the district to enter into a multi-year contract with Raymond F. Wager, CPA, P.C. for services including the regular audit, single audit and extraclassroom audit for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2015, 2016, 2017 with an option to renew for 2018 and 2019.

### 5.23 Disposal of Obsolete Equipment

In compliance with Policy Number 5250 and Regulation Number 5250 - Sale and Disposal of School District property, I recommend disposal of the following equipment per Ned Dale.

#### Cosgrove Middle School

Overhead Projector	Model # 313	Serial # 952224
Overhead Projector	Model # 9000AJC	Serial # 18683
Overhead Projector	Model # 2210	Serial # 517028A0112
Overhead Projector	Model # 1800	Serial # 80035301
VCR/DVD (Zenith)	Model # XBV713	Serial # 905INUB491758
VCR/DVD (JVC)	Model # HR-XVC27U	Serial # 12C0556
TV (Sony)	Model # KV-27FS100L	Serial # 4172287
A/V Control Receiver	Model # RX7020VBK	Serial # 087X0448
CD/DVD Player	Model # DVD-F65	Serial # DP3BB002776

Remote Control (Sony)	Model # RM-Y180	
Remote Control (JVC)		

#### 5.24 Textbook Approval

The following textbooks and literature are submitted for your approval for use beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

These textbooks are available for your review in the Instruction office prior to the January 13, 2015 Board of Education meeting.

#### **Textbook Approval Process**

The teacher leaders and administrators, in conjunction with the subject area committees, organize the process for textbook selection. The subject area committee (e.g., Math Committee) conducts such tasks as: identification of possible textbooks through multiple vendors, review and evaluation by grade level team leaders, teacher leaders, and/or teachers, pilot of the text or chapters in the text by one or more teachers as appropriate, and analyzing the readability of the text.

The Committees evaluate the texts to assure that the texts meet these district standards:

- Addresses the District's Mission and Strategic Objectives.
- Supports New York State Learning Standards.
- Supports the district's course/grade level curriculum.
- Written at an appropriate instructional level.
- Demonstrates knowledge of modern learning theories.
- Meets all requirements of Board Policy #8340.

The subject area committee then makes the recommendation to the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. These textbook selections have met the District process and standards for textbook selection. All textbook evaluations and readability reviews are kept in the Instruction Office.

#### ***Cosgrove Middle School***

#### **Math – Grade Level 6**

Math In Focus Student Edition A and B set Course I, Ho Kheong, Kee Soon, Wee Leng, 2012, \$72.75/pack

Supplemental materials needed to reinforce common core learning standards for mathematics. Review of teaching methods used by instructor in the classroom. Reference for students and parents to use at home. Pilot to begin in late January 2015. No Prior Textbook for replacement. Consumable student workbooks have been used as a resource for the past three years.

#### **Math – Grade Level 7**

Math In Focus Student Edition A and B set Course II, Chee Chong Lai, May KuenLeong, Wai Cheng Low, 2013, \$72.75/pack

Supplemental materials needed to reinforce common core learning standards for mathematics. Review of teaching methods used by instructor in the classroom. Reference for students and parents to use at

home. Potential pilot to begin in September 2015. No Prior Textbook for replacement. Consumable student workbooks have been used as a resource for the past three years.

**Math – Grade Level 8**

Math In Focus Student Edition A and B set Course III, Shin Tze, How Kian, 2013, \$72.75/pack

Supplemental materials needed to reinforce common core learning standards for mathematics. Review of teaching methods used by instructor in the classroom. Reference for students and parents to use at home. Potential pilot to begin in September 2015. No Prior Textbook for replacement. Consumable student workbooks have been used as a resource for the past three years.

**5.25 Approval of Change Order: Temperature Controls for Heating System**

In a letter to Mr. Crumb from Campus Construction, the following was noted:

Throughout this year's heating season it has been reported and confirmed that there are many areas of the building that continue to reach extremely warm temperatures.

Upon the completion of the steam trap replacements, additional investigations conducted by the construction team have identified that many areas of the building are lacking control valves which allows the steam heat to run "wild" in various spaces. In addition, it is believed that many of the existing controls need to be inspected, calibrated and programmed. However, in order to verify if the existing thermostats and valves are functioning properly, the devices need to be field tested one at a time which involves having a technician disassemble the thermostat and run a diagnostic test on the thermostat and valve.

Based on the existing conditions in the building and all recent correspondences; Campus CMG and Labella Associates recommend that new controls are added to the areas that currently do not have them and a retro-commissioning of the building wide control system be performed. This process will include verifying all of the thermostats and valves are functioning properly. During the testing process if it is found that a component is failing, the technician will replace the thermostat and retest it.

Given the nature of the proposed work, there are unknown's in regards to the extent of quantities of time and material needed to complete the scope described above, therefore the contractor cannot responsibly or accurately provide an itemized cost proposal.

It is recommended that the District authorize Crosby Brownlie to proceed on a time and material basis to facilitate the proposed work. It is our opinion that proceeding this way is the most economical and is in the best interest of the District. This work will be monitored by Campus on a daily basis and verification of actual labor and material used to do the work will be recorded. Based on the understanding of the existing conditions, Campus and Labella are estimating the total cost for the work could reach \$25, 000. For this reason BOE approval is being requested

A motion was made by Mr. Gibbardo and seconded by Mr. Bracken to approve the Consent Agenda.

Vote of the Board: Yes: 6

Yes: 6  
No: 0

## **6. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **6.1 President's Report and Communication**

No report.

### **6.2 Board of Education Members' Reports**

Ms. Tyler shared that the holiday concert and swim meet were outstanding events with alumni attending. Mr. Oberlin thanked Mr. Crumb for hosting a holiday gathering.

## **7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **7.1 Veteran's Exemption**

Mr. Crumb introduced Mr. Wood who provided a presentation to the Board of Education on the Veteran's Exemption. It's a law that allows real property tax exemptions for qualifying veterans. He shared that if we were to adopt this we would need a public hearing and adopt a resolution by March 1, 2015. Mr. Wood demonstrated how the Tax Levy and the Tax Rate would be impacted by adopting this exemption and the impact that this would have on the school district. His summary noted that if this was included as an exemption, our taxable assessment would drop 2% from 70% down to 68%. He also shared the cause and effect of this decision - a redistribution of taxes among taxpayers. He also reviewed what the exemption levels would be for those that qualify for the veteran's exemption. Mr. Wood shared that of the four towns that comprise Spencerport, each has adopted the maximum level. It was also shared that if we did approve this, we could repeal it based on recent decisions by the Governor. Mr. Wood shared that the potential impact when using the minimum amount would result in having approximately \$29,000,000 less of a tax assessment and would ultimately be an approximate increase in our tax rate to .82%.

Mr. Wood shared with board members that their charge is to decide prior to March 1, 2015 and discussed four options available;

- Pass the exemption and thus scheduling a public hearing and adoption prior to March 1, 2015,
- Delay the decision and conduct a public information or hearing prior to March 1, 2015,
- Don't pass the exemption and revisit it next fiscal year, and
- Pass a resolution proclaiming this is a state issue and should not be a burden placed on school boards of education.

Mr. Crumb noted that there is a general concern that surrounding districts have shared that this burden has been placed on the school districts and they are working with State Education to get them to understand that while districts respect the service provided by our veterans is greatly appreciated, it is unfair for NYS to shift the decision/burden over to the school district. It was discussed that each school district is making this decision independently. A comparison was made to the Senior Exemption and the major difference is that there is a sliding scale with that one where there isn't one for the Veterans Exemption but rather it is based on the level of service provided. After discussion, board members decided to vote on adopting a resolution to the Department of State Education as follows:

**Resolution of Concern  
Related to Shifting the Veteran's Tax Exemption  
From New York State onto Local School Districts**

WHEREAS, in December of 2013 New York State amended the real property tax law shifting the burden of setting Veteran tax exemptions from the State onto the local school districts; and

WHEREAS, while the Spencerport Central School District thanks and values the role of veterans in our community and their service to our nation, there remains significant concerns with such legislation as it does not address or otherwise take into consideration key questions involving equity among various school districts, impacts on the community as a whole and the impact on non-veteran taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, such legislation does not address or otherwise take into consideration that such a shifting of the burden of setting this exemption creates an information gap for the local school districts as New York State data about veterans' exemptions are recorded for counties, towns, villages and cities but not school districts, whose boundaries often encompass portions of multiple municipalities; and

WHEREAS, because of the aforementioned information gap school district are not in a position to fully understand the financial impacts, including increase in tax rates, on non-veteran community members; and

WHEREAS, if such exemptions are not equitable across school district such may lead to property devaluation within particular communities, and

WHEREAS, when such potential exemptions are considered in light of other recent tax restrictions placed on school districts by New York State, such as the "Tax Cap," there remains questions of what the impact of such exemptions would have on the ability of schools to meet its duty to provide a free and appropriate education; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would appear to have the unintended consequences of polarizing communities; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would also appear to support the belief that veterans should be given different benefits for the same service based solely upon where they choose to live in New York State; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that for the reasons articulated above, the Spencerport Central School District calls upon the Governor, the NYS Senate and Assembly to enact legislation that would require the State of New York to accept its responsibility in setting such exemptions and not shift its responsibility onto local school districts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any such exemptions imposed by the State such be equal across all communities as our veteran's service should not be valued differently simply based upon the place they chose to live.

A motion was made by Mr. Bracken and seconded by Mr. Oberlin to adopt the resolution that was proposed to send to the State Education Department as noted.

Vote of the Board: Yes: 6

Yes: 6  
No: 0

The Board of Education decided to take no action with respect to adopting the Veteran's Exemption.

## 7.2 CASR Report

The Comprehensive Annual Statistical Report was summarized for the board members by Mr. Wood. He analyzed various revenue summaries dating back to 2010 (ten years from the different revenue sources). The

same was done for the expenditures for the district to help board members understand the various peaks and valleys and major impacts on those changes like increases in retirement contributions.

**8. MEETING EVALUATION**

Mr. Oberlin brought up the venue of being at the schools provides challenges with respect to sound, technology support/consistency, etc. and recommended future discussion on this by the Board of Education.

Ms. Gillette noted that if there was more data and information to review for reports like the Veterans Exemption that she would enjoy seeing that.

**10. ADJOURN**

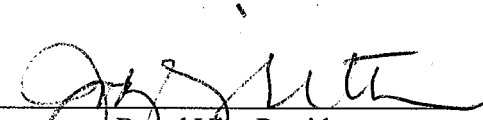
A motion was made by Mr. Oberlin and seconded by Mr. Zale to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Vote of the Board: Yes: 6

Yes: 6  
No: 0

As there was no further business, Ms. Gillette declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

  
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District Clerk

  
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Board Vice President