

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SALISBURY STREET  
SANDY CREEK, NEW YORK

**Date:** January 11, 2024  
**Meeting:** Regular  
**Place:** Sandy Creek Board Room

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	<b>Others Present:</b>
Joseph Hathway	Kevin Seymour, Superintendent
Heidi Metott	Cora Harvey, District Clerk
Andrea Harris	Timothy Filiatrault, Elementary Principal
Michele Warner	Steven Newcombe, MS/HS Principal
Kevin Halsey	Amy McCormack, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Data
John Macklen	James Hunt, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

**Board Members Absent:**  
John Shelmidine

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Joseph Hathway, Board Vice President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

**PRESENTATION:**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rose Demko discussed some issues she was having with the Committee on Special Education.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA CHANGES:**

None.

**RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION:**

It was moved by Halsey, seconded by Harris, that the Sandy Creek Central School District Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda.

6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent  
Motion carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting held on December 14, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF THE CSE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

New York State Education Law and Part 200 of the Regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education empower Boards of Education to provide suitable educational programs for students with disabilities, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Special Education. The Committee on Special Education has determined that the children listed on the attached possess disabilities to a degree sufficient to warrant placement in a Special Education Program. Based upon the committee's decision, the Board of Education accepts the Committee on Special Education's recommendations, and will provide these children with the appropriate programs.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

To approve the Clerk and Treasurer’s Report for the period of November 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023.  
To approve the Extracurricular Treasurer’s Report for the period of November 1, 2023 – November 30, 2023.

**APPROVAL OF AUTHORIZATIONS/ABOLISHMENTS:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS:**

To accept the **resignation** of **Shannon Soucy** from her **Special Education Aide** position, effective the end of the day January 12, 2024.

To accept the **resignation** of **Machela Sullivan** from her position as a **Food Service Helper**, pending appointment to the position of Cook, effective January 11, 2024.

**APPROVAL OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

To approve the **Maternity Leave Request** for **Clarice Pratt** from her position as a **Special Education Teacher**. Mrs. Pratt’s leave will commence on or about February 17, 2024, and conclude approximately April 29, 2024. Mrs. Pratt plans to use accumulated sick and personal leave during her absence. Once her time is exhausted, she will be requesting an unpaid leave of absence for approximately 7 days. After the use of the unpaid leave, Mrs. Pratt will utilize the District’s Sick Leave Bank, per the Sandy Creek Teacher’s Association Contract, to cover the approved time per the agreement between the Sandy Creek Central School District and the Sandy Creek Teacher’s Association.

To approve the **Maternity Leave Extension** for **Renee Paduano** from her position as a **Speech Language Pathology Teacher** to end on February 2, 2024 and resume her teaching duties on February 5, 2024. Mrs. Paduano has used accumulated sick leave and an unpaid leave of absence during her leave. She will also be utilizing the District’s Sick Leave Bank, per the Sandy Creek Teacher’s Association Contract, to cover her time from January 3, 2024 through February 2, 2024, per the agreement between the Sandy Creek Central School District and the Sandy Creek Teacher’s Association.

*(Mrs. Paduano’s original leave request concluded on or about January 26, 2024.)*

**APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS:**

To appoint **Machela Sullivan** to the position of **Cook** (10-month, 7.5 hrs per day), for a probationary period of 52 weeks, to commence January 12, 2024 and concluding March 14, 2025. Miss Sullivan will be paid \$17.46 per hour, for an approximate pro-rated salary of \$11,497.20.

*(Position due to the resignation of Tracy Sullivan who was appointed to the position of Cook Manager.)*

To appoint **Michael Cambareri** to the position of **Extracurricular Treasurer**, retroactive to September 1, 2023. Mr. Cambareri will be paid at Step 1, for a total stipend of \$4,828.

**REPORTS:**

Amy McCormack presented on the Curriculum and Assessment (CDEP) committee and professional development.

John Shelmidine was absent and did not present an update on the Oswego County BOCES Board of Education (CiTi).

John Shelmidine was absent and did not present an update on the Oswego County School Boards Association.

John Shelmidine was absent and did not present an update on the Central New York School Boards Association.

James Hunt presented the Athletic Director Report.

The Principals placed their reports in the board packet and presented at the meeting.

Kevin Seymour presented the Superintendent’s Report.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Cora Harvey, Business Administrator, discussed the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Year End Audit.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

It was moved by Hathway, seconded by Halsey, to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the additions to the **2023-2024 Master List of Substitutes for Instructional Staff and Support Staff**, pending fingerprint approval.

6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent  
Motion carried

It was moved by Hathway, seconded by Halsey, to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to declare the **items per the attached spreadsheet as surplus**. These items are to be discarded through the use of a surplus sale/auction/silent bid or disposal as appropriate by law, regulation, circumstance and liability as arranged by the Business Administrator.

6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent  
Motion carried

It was moved by Hathway, seconded by Halsey, to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the **Annual Independent Audit Report (inclusive of Extra-Classroom Activity Funds and the single audit) and the Corrective Action Plans for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 as conducted by D’Arcangelo & Co.**

6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent  
Motion carried

It was moved by Hathway, seconded by Halsey, to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve the following resolution **authorizing litigation against social media companies:**

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has issued an Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health which:

- “calls attention to the growing concerns about the effects of social media on youth mental health;”
- emphasized that “now is the time to act swiftly and decisively to protect children and adolescents from risk of harm;”
- “[t]he onus of mitigating the potential harms of social media should not be placed solely on the shoulders of parents and caregivers;” and
- “[t]echnology companies play a central role and have a fundamental responsibility in designing a safe online environment and in preventing, minimizing, and addressing the risks associated with social media.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has further concluded that:

- “Social media use by youth is nearly universal. Up to 95% of youth ages 13-17 report using a social media platform, with more than a third saying they use social media ‘almost constantly.’”
- “nearly 40% of children ages 8-12 use social media;”
- “in early adolescence ... brain development is especially susceptible to social pressures, peer opinions, and peer comparison;”
- “[s]ocial media may ... perpetuate body dissatisfaction, disordered eating behaviors, social comparison, and low self-esteem, especially among adolescent girls;”
- “[i]n a nationally representative survey of girls aged 11-15, one-third or more say they feel ‘addicted’ to a social media platform;”
- “[o]ver half of teenagers report that it would be hard to give up social media;” and
- [t]here is a consistent relationship between excessive social media use “depression among youth.”

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service has specifically urged that it is “urgent that we take action.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that students, “[m]ore than ever, were glued to [their cellphones] during class.”

WHEREAS, it has been reported that “a growing number of educators ... find themselves on the front lines of a fight to change how students use social media” and “there was been a push for more schools to ... develop programs to help educate students on the dangers of social media.”

WHEREAS, the Sandy Creek Central School District (the “DISTRICT”) has and continues to experience significant problems with student use of social media, which use, among other things: (i) has created a substantial and ongoing interruption of and disturbance to its educational mission; (ii) has resulted in the diversion of substantial resources in an attempt to abate and prevent such use and its results harms; and (iii) poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of its students; and

WHEREAS, the District is a leader in education excellence whose faculty and administrators care deeply about the education and well-being of its students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:

That the Board of Education authorizes the law firm of Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP and Ferrara Fiorenza PC to initiate litigation and file suit against any appropriate parties to seek compensation to the District for damages suffered by the District and its students as a result of the development, operation, and marketing of social media platforms, and to seek any other appropriate relief. The District hereby authorizes its District Superintendent or their designee to sign all appropriate documents and fee agreements on behalf of the Sandy Creek Central School District.

6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent  
Motion carried

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Harris, seconded by Metott, to adjourn at 7:26 p.m.

6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent  
Motion carried

**Future Board Meeting Dates**

Regular Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Cora Harvey  
District Clerk