



July 22, 2025 ~ 5:00pm  
Special Meeting of the ESM Board of Education  
ESM District Office ~ Upstairs Conference Room

II-A-4954  
08/18/2025

## SPECIAL MEETING

**Board of Education Present:** Mrs. Jolie Bonaparte, Mrs. Susan Cain, Mrs. Tracy Callahan, Mrs. Leah Cushing, Mrs. Kay Gallery, Mr. D. Paul Waltz.

**Board of Education Absent:** Mrs. Diana Abdella, Mr. John Albanese, Mrs. Deborah Kolod.

**Administrative Personnel Present:** Dr. Donna DeSiato, Supt.; Mr. Grenardo Avellino, Deputy Supt.; Mrs. Katherine Skahen, Exec. Dir. of School Bus. Admin./Clerk; Ms. Pamela Buddendeck, Executive Director of Employee Engagement & Accountability.

**Other Present:** Mr. Donald Budmen, School District Counsel

**Interested Citizens:** 0

MR. D. PAUL WALTZ, PRESIDENT, CALLED THE REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AT 5:00PM AT THE ESM DISTRICT OFFICE.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION/RECOGNITIONS:** None

## REPORTS:

A. Acceptance of Minutes

None

B. President/Vice President/Board Member Reports

None

C. Superintendent Reports

Summer Programs 2025

Ban on Internet-Enabled Devices

Staffing Transfer (FYI):

Name	From	To	Eff.
Oksana Stechyshyn	Custodial Worker 1 East Syracuse Elementary School M-F 3pm - 11:30pm. Summer 7am-3:30pm	Custodial Worker 1 Pine Grove Middle School M-F 3pm - 11:30pm. Summer 7am-3:30pm	7/23/2025
Teaching Assistant (Special Education) Vacancy [Nancy Nash Retirement]	Teaching Assistant (Special Education) @ Woodland Elementary	Teaching Assistant (Special Education) @ Central High School	8/28/2025

“RESOLVED THAT, the Reports A – C, as recommended by the Superintendent be approved.”

Moved by MRS. GALLERY  
Ayes - 6      Nays - 0

Seconded by MRS. CUSHING  
**Carried**

**FIFTEEN MINUTE PERIOD:** No one spoke

**ACTION ITEMS:**

A. OCM BOCES Lease Agreement

“**WHEREAS**, the East Syracuse Minoa Central School District (the "District") is committed to providing comprehensive educational services to its students, including those requiring special education services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Onondaga-Cortland-Madison Board of Cooperative Educational Services (OCM BOCES) requires suitable facilities to operate its Extended School Year (ESY) special education Summer School program for the 2025 summer session; and

**WHEREAS**, Pine Grove Middle School has available space suitable for the operation of the OCM BOCES ESY special education Summer School program during the summer months when regular District programs are not in session; and

**WHEREAS**, the terms and conditions of the proposed lease agreement between the District and OCM BOCES are deemed to be fair and reasonable;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the East Syracuse Minoa School District hereby approves the lease of Pine Grove Middle School, to OCM BOCES for the purpose of operating its Extended School Year Special Education Summer School program; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of the Board of Education, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents, including the lease agreement, and to take all necessary actions to effectuate the terms of this Resolution.”

“RESOLVED by MRS. CAIN, Seconded by MRS. GALLERY that Action Item A, as recommended By the Superintendent, be approved.”

Ayes - 6      Nays - 0

**Carried**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Updated 2025-2026 School Board Meeting Dates  
Surplus Library Books - Woodland Elementary

“RESOLVED by MRS. CALLAHAN, Seconded by MRS. CAIN that the Consent Agenda, as recommended By the Superintendent, be approved.”

Ayes - 6      Nays - 0

**Carried**

**PERSONNEL ITEMS:**

A. Retirement/*Amended* Retirement

Anne Cohen, Teaching Assistant (Special Education) - Pine Grove Middle School, Eff. 8/16/2025  
Ernest Fish Jr., Maintenance Worker I - Districtwide, *Effective 10/31/2025*

B. Appointments/*Amended/Rescinded* Appointments

Instructional, Four-Year Probationary Appointments

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Education for the East Syracuse Minoa Central School District hereby appoints the following probationary employee(s):

Alicia Pease, Elementary (Grade 2) Teacher - Fremont Elementary, Eff. 8/28/2025-8/27/2029  
Lori Beers, Teaching Assistant (Spec. Ed.) - Central High School, Eff. 8/28/2025-8/27/2029

The probationary period expiration date will depend on the individual’s APPR ratings. To receive tenure, the individual must receive an overall APPR rating of effective or highly effective in at least three (3) of the four (4) preceding years. Probationary employees who receive an ineffective APPR rating in their final year of probation will not be eligible for tenure at that time.”

Instructional, Annual Appointment (1-year only)

Jenna Berry, Kindergarten Teacher - Woodland Elementary, Eff. 8/28/2025-6/30/2026

Instructional, Part-Time Annual Appointment

Elizabeth Crump, Instr. Specialist for Pre-K to 12 Learning Support (0.4FTE) - Districtwide, Eff. 8/28/2025-6/30/2026

Non-Instructional, Provisional Appointment

Nichole Fersch, School Secretary I (11-month) - Minoa Elementary, Effective 7/28/2025

2025-2026 Central HS Professional Learning Team Leader Appointment

Global II	Emily Casazza
-----------	---------------

*Amended*, 2025 Summer School Appointments

*Amend* Lisa Gelatt - T. Assistant - Spartan Academy Summer School - *working weeks 2, 3, and 4 only*

*Amend* Diandra Western - T. Assistant - Spartan Academy Summer School - *working all 4 weeks*

*Amend* Kathleen Vertigan - T. Assistant *Sub* - Spartan Academy Summer School - *working week 1 only*

*Rescind*, 2025-2026 Central HS Professional Learning Team Leader Appointment

Life Science: Biology	Jesse Aquilino
Global II	Christine Kowanes

C. Personnel Change

Name	From	To	Effective
Kyle Willey	Laborer I [Summer M-F 7am-3:30pm], [Fall/Spring Tues.-Sat. 7am-3:30pm], [Winter Tues.-Sat. 7am-3:30pm]	Laborer I [M-F 7am-3:30pm]	7/23/2025

D. Create Positions

“RESOLVED THAT, the positions listed below be created, as outlined in the enclosures, and as recommended by the Superintendent.”

Teacher Aide (Special Education) - Pine Grove Middle School

Teacher Aide (Special Education) - Fremont Elementary School

“RESOLVED by MRS. CALLAHAN, Seconded by MRS. CAIN that Personnel Items A - D, as recommended by the Superintendent, be approved.”

Ayes - 6      Nays - 0      **Carried**

**POLICY DISCUSSION:**

A. Board Policy #5685 - Maximum Temperature for School Buildings & Indoor Facilities

**POLICY ACTION:** None

“RESOLVED BY MRS. CUSHING, SECONDED BY MRS. CALLAHAN THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC OFFICER’S LAW SECTION 96, SUBDIVISION I, THE BOARD ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AT 5:41PM.” ATTENDING WAS, DR. DONNA DESIATO, SUPERINTENDENT; MR. GRENARDO AVELLINO, DEPUTY SUPER-INTENDENT; MRS. KATHERINE SKAHEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION; MRS. PAMELA BUDDENDECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY, MR. DONALD BUDMEN, SCHOOL DISTRICT COUNSEL.”

Ayes - 6      Nays - 0      **Carried**

“RESOLVED BY MRS. CUSHING, SECONDED BY MRS. GALLERY THAT, THE EXECUTIVE SESSION BE ADJOURNED AT 6:06PM.”

Ayes - 6      Nays - 0      **Carried**

“RESOLVED by MRS. CAIN, Seconded by MRS. CUSHING that the Special Meeting be adjourned at 6:07PM.”

Ayes - 6      Nays - 0      **Carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Katherine Skahen, District Clerk

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
Filed \_\_\_\_\_



July 22, 2025 ~ 5:00pm  
Special Meeting of the ESM Board of Education  
ESM District Office ~ Upstairs Conference Room

---

## **AGENDA**

**I. SPECIAL PRESENTATION/RECOGNITIONS:** None

**II. REPORTS:**

- A. Acceptance of Minutes  
None
- B. President/Vice President/Board Member Reports  
None
- C. Superintendent Reports  
Summer Programs 2025  
Ban on Internet-Enabled Devices  
Staffing Transfers (FYI)

**III. FIFTEEN MINUTE PERIOD:**

**IV. ACTION ITEMS:**

- A. OCM BOCES Lease Agreement

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Updated 2025-2026 School Board Meeting Dates  
Surplus Library Books - Woodland Elementary

**V. PERSONNEL ITEMS:**

- A. Retirement/*Amended* Retirement
- B. AppointmentS/*Amended/Rescinded* Appointments
- C. Personnel Change
- D. Create Positions

**VI. POLICY DISCUSSION:**

- A. Board Policy #5685 - Maximum Temperature for School Buildings & Indoor Facilities

**VI. POLICY ACTION:** None