

DATE: January 26, 2009

KIND OF MEETING: Special Meeting

LOCATION: Auditorium

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steven Curran Robert Devins Isabelle Dorey
David Dufrane Valerie Dunning Dennis Egan
Paula Niles Tracy Warren

MEMBER ABSENT: Stephen Perry

OTHERS PRESENT: Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools
Steven Grenville, Secondary Principal
Catherine Devins, Middle Level Principal/CSE Chair
Cynthia Lauzon, Interim Elementary Principal
Angela DeBeer, Treasurer
Marty Burnett, Head Custodian
Mary Ellen McKane, Food Service Manager
Darrin Jock, Transportation Supervisor
Connie Jenkins, Malone Telegram
George Martin Barbara Dishaw Levi White, Jr.
Rita White Diane Dimick Charles Dimick
Melissa Bilow Dale Martin Lyn Martin
Trudy Ross Lisa Bradley Jen Lynch
Kelly Tavernia Gerald Greeno John Martin
Wayne Bolster Terry Denno Lynn Poirier
Gayla LePage Julia Aubrey Adam Griswold
Susan Trimm Brenda Collette Craig Collette
Connie Terry Don Terry Gayle Martin
Connie Ghostlaw Susan Winters Cheryl McCarger
Susan Flint Nancy LaTray Linda Russell
Patricia Decker Dick Charlebois Lois Charlebois
Jill Vaughan Cheryl Rockhill Mary McGrath
Ronald DeBeer Donna Steenberg Sabrina Britton

CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting of the Brushton-Moira Central School District's Board of Education was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President, David Dufrane.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Members of the Board and those in the audience rose and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION: Board President, David Dufrane introduced the Board Members, Administrators, and the Community Budget Committee to the audience.

BUDGET PRESENTATION: Superintendent, Robin Jones presented a power point with Information regarding the 2009-2010 budget. See attachment.

PUBLIC INPUT ON 2009-2010 BUDGET: Sue Trimm asked how the Board could negotiate contracts when we don't know what revenue they have; everyone else is freezing salaries.

Board President, David Dufrane conveyed that the contract with the teachers is very conservative and not a financial burden.

Sue Trimm asked why the school employees didn't contribute to health insurance. Board Member, Isabelle Dorey asked Mrs. Trimm if she contributed to her health insurance. Mrs. Trimm stated yes she does and she believed it was approximately \$97 per pay period and she would get more accurate figures and get back to them.

Barbara Dishaw thanked each member of the Board of Education for inviting the public and holding this meeting so early; she thanked Mr. Grenville for the quick response to the questions that she had; as a Board of Education member you gathered sheets for petitions to be on the Board and you won, now we trust you to make sure that each BMC student receives the best education possible. We trust you as the Board to ensure that each student is prepared to achieve their long-term goals and succeed. We trust you to ensure that each student is treated equally regardless of race, color, gender. There will be tough decision that will need to be made in this economy, we trust that each employee will take ownership and work together for the benefit of our students. The precious gift given to us, our children, whether we be neighbors, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles the most important thing to give them is time.

Ronald DeBeer commented on the health savings account option that was looked at and is in place at Madrid-Waddington. There was significant savings for Madrid-Waddington. Has this fallen to the wayside and are we no longer pursuing it?

Dave Dufrane conveyed that no we are continuing to look at options for health insurance. However, our consortium does offer this, our teachers didn't want to be the first in our BOCES to go to this type of plan. The contract that was negotiated does state that the teachers will work with the district to discuss other comparable health insurance options that might be available.

Ron DeBeer asked what the status was of the cafeteria.

Dave Dufrane replied that significant gains have been made and we anticipate only having to put in a fraction of what we've had to transfer in previous years.

Trudy Ross mentioned that when she attended Malone School, they only had one guidance counselor. Now, we have two at BMC. Can't we do with just one?

Dave Dufrane stated that this was a result of the middle level concept. Mrs. Pribek-Britton not only provides guidance counseling but also disciplinary counseling which has resulted in less disciplinary referrals. This also has resulted in tests results going up.

George Martin asked now that the fuel oil and diesel prices have gone down, will there be any savings from that; did the district lock in their price?

Dave Dufrane stated that the Board chose to go with the fluctuating price and because of this we'll see significant savings in these areas which will help our fund balance.

Adam Griswold stated that double bus runs are not beneficial economically or ecologically. Why does the Transportation Supervisor drive around in the district owned vehicle; is this monitored; is the district paid back for personal use? Have we looked at Ticonderoga district? Have we looked at a wind mill tower? Why does such a small school district have a Transportation Supervisor and 2 mechanics? Why do we have 3 monitors on 1 bus? Why did we cut higher education learning and have no advanced placement? As a former employee, I have seen the waste in this school.

Trudy Ross stated that yes she agrees with some waste. Why does there need to be coffee machines and microwaves in every room?

Adam Griswold stated that the district should not cut places which directly involve the children. We are raising nothing more than Walmart greeters.

Terri Denno stated that there is so many positive things here at Brushton; we have a great elementary reading program; Saxton math is wonderful; Marty's staff is great; bless our school and she's proud to be an employee here.

Dave Dufrane agreed that we have a superlative staff, advanced placement is being looked into but it will be a couple of years before it can be implemented.

Jill Vaughan stated that the school is doing a wonderful job; she has had 8 kids go through this school and is very glad her kids have gone and are going to Brushton. She would rather have them have to take another semester at college as a trade off to the foundation and character building that they receive at BMC.

Michael Lahendro stated that our students can get college credits through North Country Community College.

Sue Trimm asked if the school has looked at other districts and any studies that shows the administrators/guidance counselors per student.

Ms. Jones replied that yes it has been looked at and they have that information available.

Gayle Martin asked how many teachers are retiring; are we looking at the possibilities of whether or not to replace?

Dave Dufrane informed Mrs. Martin that 4 teachers at this point are retiring.

George Martin stated that we shouldn't cut education; before we start cutting teaching staff we need to look at other avenues.

Terry Denno thanked George Martin for his appreciation towards the teaching staff.

Cheryl Rockhill introduced herself as a staff member, union president and parent. She as union president informed the community that there are 70 support staff employees at BMC; 68 of whom are local tax payers. Support Staff are just as important as teachers; everyone from the monitors to the cafeteria workers to the drivers and cleaners are serving a need and are here for your children.

Julia Aubrey stated that she was very familiar with cuts; her husband worked at GM and lost his job. We all work hard to make this a better place; she's proud to be a member of that. We all have to face cuts, but do not want the kids to feel the impact. If there are cuts the impact on students should be minimal. Any cuts to sports and other activities impact kids. Please be careful with cuts.

Lynn Poirier asked what the future of Reading First will be now that the funding is done. What's going to happen with the Teaching Assistants and the Reading Coach?

Dave Dufrane stated that we have not reviewed all of the staffing issues at this time.

Sue Trimm thought that each employee should take ownership; ask themselves what can I do to make or do things more cost effectively.

George Martin stated that every area knows where it can or could be cut.

Ron DeBeer felt that most people in the current economy could accept a 6 to 8% increase in their tax levy with STAR. He's afraid that a lot of tough decisions will need to be made. He wishes the Board luck.

Dave Dufrane thanked everyone for coming and their input.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion made by Dennis Egan, and seconded by Valerie Dunning, that the Board of Education shall enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation and upcoming Teacher Tenure, at 8:14 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes 0-No

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION:

Motion made by Valerie Dunning, and seconded by Tracy Warren, that the Board of Education shall return to Regular Session, at 9:52 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes 0-No

APPROVE FUEL BIDS:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Dennis Egan, and seconded by Steven Curran, that the Board of Education shall approve to participate in early bidding of fuel oil and

diesel for the 2009-2010 school year through the Cooperative Purchasing Agreement. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes 0-No

APPROVE AGREEING
WITH CEO'S RESPONSE:

Motion made by Tracy Warren, and seconded by Steven Curran, that the Board of Education is in agreement with the Chief Executive Officer's response to the Support Staff Grievance. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes 0-No

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Paula Niles, and seconded by Tracy Warren, to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes 0-No

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

Clerk of the Board