

DATE: March 24, 2009

KIND OF MEETING: Special Meeting

LOCATION: High School Library

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

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  
Mildred LaFlesh Eugene Pickering Darrin Jock  
Cheryl Rockhill Michael Foley Larry White  
Debbie LaBarr John Martin Barbara McCarthy  
Gerald Greeno Carrie Oakes Herbert Phillips  
Frank Snyder Connie Ghostlaw

CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting of the Brushton-Moira Central School District's Board of Education was called to order at 7:01 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Stephen Perry, and seconded by Tracy Warren, that the Board of Education shall enter into Executive Session to discuss Student Issues and Personnel Issues, at 7:03 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

9-Yes 0-No

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: Motion made by Stephen Perry, and seconded by Dennis Egan, that the Board of Education shall return to Regular Session, at 7:25 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

9-Yes 0-No

PUBLIC COMMENT: Eugene Pickering mentioned to the Board that he had asked to be on the Budget Committee to represent Support Staff; he stated that he was never told when the meetings were. Therefore support staff was not involved in this budget.

Gerald Greeno stated that the Elementary Principal position is very important and he believes that we definitely need one.

Debbie LaBarr expressed elementary concerns with moving 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the middle level. What does the Board expect to gain vs. what will we lose? With young children only 10 years old, the current program is working. What do we hope to gain?

Superintendent Robin Jones stated that the middle level concept was decided on to follow state guidelines recommending 5<sup>th</sup> grade to go to the middle level concept. Not transition anymore.

Mrs. Devins stated that it can still be a transition year but they will be more included and part of a middle level concept.

Ms. LaBarr expressed that she felt the schedule works for them now; the more you share staff/resources the less you get.

Board President, David Dufrane conveyed that the Board had empowered the administrative team to work with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and others to move toward this concept.

Ms. LaBarr hoped we still were in the preliminary stages and there was still room for give and take.

Support Staff President, Cheryl Rockhill stated that 98% of the support staff are district tax payers; they also receive the smallest wages. We don't want to affect the children but many support staff have children who attend this school and if we can't afford to take care of our children at home it will affect their education here. Please keep this in mind while you start chopping away at us.

Gerald Greeno felt that we need to look for grants that are out there. Everyone needs to look for more.

#### BUDGET UPDATE:

Treasurer, Angela DeBeer stated that the Legislative numbers should have been out a couple of weeks ago. However, they have decided to work on the budget behind closed doors with the Governor. So as far as State Aid numbers, there really aren't any changes to report. It does sound that they hope to have a budget produced by the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. It was announced this afternoon that a bigger deficit was projected and that Governor Patterson is stating he will lay off approximately 8900 state workers.

Currently our draft budget included the restoration of the \$361,000 deficit reduction assessment, although there has been no definite determination. She is pretty confident that with the federal stimulus money that this will be taken out of the final budget. She has not at this point increased foundation aid, the amount in the budget at this point remains flat consistent with the Governor's executive proposal.

Mrs. DeBeer went on to discuss the Fund Balance. The current draft budget includes \$500,000 from the appropriated fund balance, at this point to help alleviate some cuts she would propose increasing the fund balance by \$100,000 to \$600,000. The district should have some roll over from this year, especially due to the lower fuel costs.

If state aid comes in a lot higher than we expect, Mrs. DeBeer recommended taking it back in preparation for future years if the economic trend continues.

The current draft shows a 24.98% tax levy increase. Expenses are only up 3.58%, what is hurting us is that

budget revenues are actually down. Major increases in costs are the BOCES costs which are up \$600,000 from last year's budget. As discussed at the last meeting, we have had several students requiring services come into the district this year. BOCES Special Education alone is going up \$458,000. Other increases are the contractual salary increases. Teachers are set and we have budgeted the support staff increase. Health insurance premiums are going up 10.5%. A family plan will cost the district almost \$17,000 next year.

A handout was provided to the Board and Mrs. DeBeer stated that they could see the changes made to the budget since the 1<sup>st</sup> draft, resulting in a decrease and also the increases to the budget.

Please keep in mind these are based on the current state aid picture and could change. Any ideas to save money or to do things more efficiently are welcome.

Some possible reductions are:

1. elimination of 1 elementary teaching position through attrition
2. elimination of 1 .5 FTE home & careers teaching position
3. decrease in staff development expenses
4. decrease in chaperoning expenses
5. elimination of cheerleading
6. elimination of cross country
7. reduction of the FT Hall Monitor through attrition
8. eliminate LTBI Monitor
9. eliminate the Gatekeeper (reassignment of duties to ensure coverage)
10. eliminate 1 3.75-hour Security Monitor
11. eliminate 2 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Cleaners (shift would change and no loss of jobs)
12. eliminate 2 PT Cleaners
13. eliminate 1 Bus Driver position by combining 2 out of district Malone runs
14. also review bus monitors and students for the new year, we have some students leaving that required 1:1 monitors

Board President, David Dufrane asked Board Member for input. It was the consensus of the Board that since they had just received the list of possible reduction, they needed more time to review in order to give feed back. Board Member, Dennis Egan expressed concerns that he thought we were eliminating more than just 1 teaching position. Board Member, Paula Niles stated that the financial situation could last much longer, that with the stock market loosing so much it will be hard for New York State to find money; retirement rates will be increasing even more next year. Mrs. Niles also asked if the district still utilized the BOCES Elementary Music Teacher; if so how many days. Also has the district looked any more into Madrid-Waddington's health insurance plan; she heard they had saved a lot of money. Treasurer, Angela DeBeer stated they had looked into it; she met with Pat Calnon and had completed an

analysis. The analysis showed that there was not much potential to save money with that type of plan; the reason that Madrid-Waddington saved so much was that their premiums under the indemnity plan were much higher than ours are. The district is looking at the option of offering a PPO Plan that would give us a little savings. Board Member, Valerie Dunning stated that she hates to see any kind of cuts but understands given the financial situations; she hopes that some more state aid comes so that cuts will not be so great. Board Member, Bob Devins stated that he was still optimistic that there would be an additional increase in state aid; he also asked Athletic Director, Cindy Lauzon for information on participation numbers for all sports programs. Mr. Dufrane stated that he would like to schedule another community budget meeting after the Regular April Board meeting. He asked Mrs. DeBeer to contact him with a date and to make sure that all parties are invited.

**BOND REFUNDING  
UPDATE:**

Mrs. DeBeer informed the Board of the changes of the possible bond refunding. Last March the Board had agreed to move forward with refunding, however, the market conditions deteriorated and the potential for savings was no longer there. Fiscal Advisors has been monitoring the market and the potential for savings has materialized again, however, it is slightly less than what was first brought to the Board. Approximate savings at this point are \$30,000 per year. The Board instructed Mrs. DeBeer to move ahead with the refunding.

**INTENT FOR BUS  
PURCHASE FOR 2009-  
2010:**

Prior to discussion on the number of buses that should be purchased next year Mr. Devins felt that the Board should discuss the one bus run proposal. The study from TAS has been completed and committee members: Steve Curran, Dennis Egan, Dave Dufrane, and Mr. Devins have been given a copy of the report. There was a lot of concern that this was not the year to spend a lot of money as we would need to purchase more buses. There were ideas in the report on how to do things more cost effectively without going to 1 bus run. It was determined that the district not go to 1 bus run for next year but that it will be re-looked at. Board Members then spoke to Darrin Jock and drivers, Mike Foley and Frank Snyder about the switch from Thomas to International buses. Mr. Jock and the driver/mechanics were in favor of the switch. It was agreed upon that the district should replace 2 buses next year since the cost of buses will be going up \$6,000 to \$10,000 the following year due to new emission regulations.

**APPROVE NOTICE FOR  
ANNUAL BUDGET AND  
VOTE AND PROPOSITION  
NO. 1:**

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Stephen Perry, and seconded by Valerie Dunning, that the Board of Education shall approve the notification of the annual school district election and budget vote for 2009-2010 and the publication of Proposition No. 1 for the acquisition of 2 school buses not to exceed \$184,500. Motion voted and carried.

9-Yes

0-No

APPROVE MOTION TO START THE SEARCH TO FILL ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL POSITION FOR 2009-2010:

Motion made by Valerie Dunning, and seconded by Tracy Warren, that the Board of Education shall approve to start the search to fill the Elementary Principal position for the 2009-2010 school year. Motion voted and carried.

6-Yes

3-No-Steven Curran  
Dennis Egan  
Paula Niles

INSTALLATION OF BATTING NETS:

During the architect walk through Ms. Jones asked the architect, Steve Klempa if he could work with Marty Burnett to determine how the nets should be installed. Mr. Klempa will be contacting Mr. Burnett with instructions on how to install. Mr. Dufrane asked Ms. Jones if she would please relay that information to Chris Sabin-Boyea with the Booster Club.

DISCUSSION ON EXCEL PROJECT:

There was some discussion regarding the walk through by the architect that took place on Friday, March 20. Board Members, Bob Devins, Steve Curran & Dennis Egan were present during the walk through and were surprised by various items that they viewed. One particular item of concern was the cafeteria. They expressed their dissatisfaction of the prior architects handling of the cafeteria layout. They feel that it is a dangerous and inefficient place to work and needs to be addressed.

UPDATE ON BUS GARAGE:

An engineer from Tisdale & Associates visited the Bus Garage and also provided Mr. Jock and Mrs. DeBeer with names of companies to contact for proposals. The companies were contacted and provided proposals for sample testing as well as complete soil remediation. The thought was that since we know that the lift has leaked and there is soil contamination, it would make more sense to proceed with a completed remediation versus paying for testing. The 2 companies that provided proposals for remediation were: OpTech and Bach Companies. Both proposals had been provided to Board Members prior to the meeting. It was determined that the OpTech proposal was more precise and cost effective to the district.

EXEMPTION OF PROJECT FROM SEQR:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Stephen Perry, and seconded by Steven Curran, that the Board of Education shall approve the exemption of the bus garage hoist leak project from SEQR because it is a limited emergency project that is immediately necessary for the protection or preservation of life, health, property or natural resources. Motion voted and carried.

9-Yes

0-No

AWARD PROPOSAL FOR SOIL REMEDIATION, DISPOSAL & TESTING:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Valerie Dunning, and seconded by Dennis Egan, that the Board of Education shall award the proposal for bus garage soil remediation, disposal & testing to Op Tech. Motion voted and carried.

9-Yes

0-No

DISCUSSION ON  
ELEMENTARY  
CONFIGURATION:

Ms. Jones stated that there has been some concern expressed by teaching staff on the elementary configuration for next year. However, it felt that we needed to wait for more information regarding the budget before any definite decisions could be made.

TAKE ACTION ON  
REQUEST OF NON-  
RESIDENT STUDENT:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Tracy Warren, and seconded by Dennis Egan, that the Board of Education shall approve the request of Cassandra Boardway in grade 8 as a non-resident student from Salmon River Central School for the 2008-2009 school year. Motion voted and

6-Yes

3-No-Robert Devins  
Steven Curran  
Isabelle Dorey

APPROVE CSE  
RECOMMENDATIONS:

Motion made by Stephen Perry, and seconded by Valerie Dunning, that the Board of Education shall approve the following:

1. Recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for March 12, 13, and 19, 2009
2. Recommendations of the Committee on Pre-School Special Education for March 19, 2009
3. Recommendations of the Section 504 Committee for March 19, 2009

Motion voted and carried.

9-Yes

0-No

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Stephen Perry, and seconded by Dennis Egan, to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education. Motion voted and carried.

9-Yes

0-No

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

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Clerk of the Board