

DATE: January 25, 2010

KIND OF MEETING: Special Meeting

LOCATION: High School Library

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Devins Isabelle Dorey David Dufrane  
Valerie Dunning Dennis Egan Melissa Mills  
Stephen Perry Tracy Warren

MEMBER ABSENT: Steven Curran

OTHERS PRESENT: Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools  
Steven Grenville, Secondary Principal  
Nenette Greeno, Middle Level Principal  
Catherine Devins, Elementary Principal/CSE Chair  
Angela DeBeer, Treasurer  
John Warneck, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES  
Devin Delisle Joseph Delisle

CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting of the Brushton-Moira Central School District's Board of Education was called to order at 6:58 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.

FIRE SAFETY REPORT: John Warneck, Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, presented the Board with the Fire Safety Report and answered the Board's questions.

DISCUSSION ON GOLF: Mr. Joe Delisle discussed the benefits of having a team and the Board concurred to move forward with offering Golf for the 2009-2010 school year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Tracy Warren, and seconded by Isabelle Dorey, that the Board of Education shall enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues, Student Issues, Negotiations, and Management/Confidential Contracts, at 7:15 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 7:59 p.m. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes      0-No

4344: CHILD FIND: Ms. Jones informed the Board that this policy would be brought to the Board and the next meeting for adoption.

APPOINT 5-HOUR BUS DRIVER/2.50-HOUR MONITOR (CORRECTION): Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Tracy Warren, and seconded by Melissa Mills, that the Board of Education shall appoint Christine White to the position of 5-hour Bus Driver/2.50-hour Monitor, at Step 1, consistent with the Agreement between the Brushton-Moira Central School

District's Board of Education and the Brushton-Moira Support Staffs' Association, for a probationary period of January **25**, 2010 through January **24**, 2011. (correction) Motion voted and carried.

6-Yes                      2-No-Isabelle Dorey  
Dennis Egan

TAKE ACTION ON  
REQUEST FOR A LEAVE  
OF ABSENCE:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Valerie Dunning, and seconded by Melissa Mills, that the Board of Education shall approve the request of Christine White as 8-hour Cleaner for a six-month Leave of Absence, retroactively effective to January 25, 2010, due to being appointed as 5-hour Bus Driver/2.50-hour Monitor. Motion voted and carried.

6-Yes                      2-No-Isabelle Dorey  
Robert Devins

APPOINT MODIFIED  
BASEBALL COACH  
FOR 2009-2010:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Melissa Mills, and seconded by Robert Devins, that the Board of Education shall appoint Aimee Chase to the position of Modified Baseball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes                      0-No

APPROVE TV CART AS  
OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT  
AND DONATION:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Robert Devins, and seconded by Isabelle Dorey, that the Board of Education shall approve declaring a tv cart as obsolete equipment and donating it to the Brushton Adult Center. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes                      0-No

TAKE ACTION ON 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 January 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21, 2010
2. Recommendations of the Committee on Pre-School Special Education for January 20, 2010

Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes                      0-No

APPOINT 2.50-HOUR  
BUS MONITOR:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Melissa Mills, and seconded by Tracy Warren, that the Board of Education shall appoint Maureen Butterfield to the position of 2.50-hour Bus Monitor, at Step 1, consistent with the Agreement between the Brushton-Moira Central School District's Board of Education and the Brushton-Moira Support Staffs'

Association, for a probationary period of January 27, 2010 through January 26, 2011. Motion voted and carried.

7-Yes            1-No-Dennis Egan

APPOINT 3.50-HOUR  
BUS MONITOR:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Valerie Dunning, and seconded by Tracy Warren, that the Board of Education shall appoint Ann Wheeler to the position of 3.50-hour Bus Monitor, at Step 1, consistent with the Agreement between the Brushton-Moira Central School District's Board of Education and the Brushton-Moira Support Staffs' Association, for a probationary period of January 27, 2010 through January 26, 2011. Motion voted and carried.

7-Yes            1-No-Dennis Egan

APPROVE REQUEST  
FOR PATERNITY LEAVE:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Valerie Dunning, and seconded by Melissa Mills, that the Board of Education shall approve the request of Randy Todd for a Paternity Leave under the Family Medical Leave Act for 12 weeks, retroactively effective to January 4, 2010. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes            0-No

APPROVE LAND  
PURCHASE OFFER:

Upon presentation and recommendation of Robin Jones, Superintendent of Schools, motion made by Stephen Perry, and seconded by Dennis Egan, that the Board of Education shall moving forward with land purchase offer of parcel #121.-6-9, owned by Otis Mitchell. Offer of \$7,500 cash and a \$5,000 in kind donation letter, contingent upon approval of the voters at the Annual District Meeting to be held on May 18, 2010. Motion voted and carried.

8-Yes            0-No

BUDGET UPDATE:

Mrs. DeBeer and Ms. Jones presented a draft budget to the Board, per attached notes. Community Budget Committee members are: Robert Devins, David Dufrane, Melissa Mills, Steven Grenville, Robin Jones, Angela DeBeer, Gerald Greeno, Karen Avery, Terry Denno, George Martin, and Sue Trimm. Mrs. DeBeer and Ms. Jones will schedule a meeting the first week of February.

MEMBER LEAVES:

Tracy Warren left at 8:45 p.m.

UPDATE ON BOARD  
POLICIES:

A discussion occurred on the update of Board Policies from the Erie I BOCES and some changes were made.

CLERK OF THE WORKS:

Ms. Jones informed the Board that the district has received 7 applications. The Facilities Committee will review the applications after the January 28<sup>th</sup> Capital Project Meeting and choose candidates for interviewing.

EXTERNAL AUDITOR:

Mrs. DeBeer informed that Board that only one RFP was received from the request for External Auditor. The RFP was from Seyfarth & Seyfarth. The Board agreed they were

satisfied with the services provided from Seyfarth & Seyfarth and would like to continue with them.

APPOINT EXTERNAL  
AUDITOR:

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 appoint Seyfarth & Seyfarth as External Auditors for the 2009-2010 (\$11,000), 2010-2011 (\$11,500), and 2011-2012 (\$11,950) school years. Motion voted and carried.

7-Yes      0-No

REGIONAL SUMMER  
SCHOOL:

The Board feels that because of our Building Project that the District can not host Summer School this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

7-Yes      0-No

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

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Clerk of the Board

**2010-2011 Budget  
Draft #1  
Board Meeting 1/25/10**

**Revenue**

Gov. Patterson's proposal

- Foundation aid will remain frozen for an additional year through 2011-2012. This means that we have and will receive the same amount for foundation aid our main source of revenue for 4 years- 2008-2009,2009-2010,2010-2011 and 2011-2012. So despite increasing costs of salaries and benefits, our main source of aid will remain the same.
- In addition to the aid freeze which in itself is a "cut", the Governor's proposal also assesses each district with a GAP elimination adjustment. Our adjustment is approx. \$503,000 which by itself increases the tax levy by 21%.
  - This amount would have been higher but it is being offset by the remaining ARRA funds from the federal government stimulus.
  - Overall, our state aid is projected to decrease approx. 3.8% from last year.
- Aid for 2010-2011 would also be capped at the total aid (except for building aid) so therefore if expense driven aids such as BOCES, transportation, and excess cost aid comes in higher we would be capped at the lower amount.
- The Governor is also proposing again to shift a portion of the pre-school special education to the local school district.
- Reimbursement for Summer school Special Education would also be reimbursed based on the state sharing for Foundation Aid ration which would be anywhere from 80% to 10% , currently we are reimbursed at 80% for special education summer school.
- The Gov.'s proposal also calls for a reduction in the value of the STAR exemption which will also affect our local taxpayers.

**BM-Revenues**

- Budgeting the same for other revenues except for interest, at this time we are on track to make approx. \$25,000 this year which is a significant decrease.
- State Aid
  - Foundation Aid is flat
  - BOCES Aid- \$82,000 increase at this time, may change up or down when revised mid year numbers are rec'd from our local BOCES
  - Excess Cost Aid-up \$34,000
  - Building Aid- Increase of \$39,031 from Bus garage hoist/soil contamination project
  - Transportation Aid- Budgeted \$100,000 less that aid runs since this years aid came in \$200,000 less than was expected.
  - Medicaid-budgeting less- currently we are not able to bill, not sure when we will be able to start again and what we will and will not be able to bill for.
  - GAP elimination assessment \$503,301
    - The GAP elimination alone adds almost 21% to the levy.

**Expenses**

**Assumptions:**

- Teacher salaries as per contract
- Support Staff salaries and all other including administrators 4%.
- All current staff in place (no retiree's at this point)
- Benefits:
  - Health Insurance-premiums increase by 12%
    - Family Plan-\$18,198
    - Single Plan-\$6,935
    - Super Family-\$9,099
    - Assumption that 50% of current opt-out will remain
  - TRS:-9% of salaries

- ERS: 11% of salaries (we do have the reserve if this comes in higher)
- Fuel and Diesel- budgeting \$2.75/gallon
  - Early bidding again this year-so we will know the rates sometime in March
- Supplies-Slight increase in janitorial due to costs however all other supplies will remain the same
- Electricity- will budget same- realized savings through the SMEC should be able to maintain same budget.
- Legal Fees budgeted to remain the same
- 15% increase in Insurance (this includes the regular insurance and the student accident) we were under budgeted this year.
- Cheerleading was included in the Athletic budget
- Extracurricular includes Mentors and Department Chairs as well as stipend for Scholars for Dollars
- Hardware & Software remain the same
- BOCES cost to increase by 10%
  - Will adjust based on special ed predications for next year
- Did not budget clerk coverage next year in library
- Library book money was completed reinstated \$5000

**Items effecting Expenses:**

- We are required to have another GASB 45 actuarial valuation done next year which is about \$10,000. (code #1310.490)
- Equipment in Maintenance and Bus Garage includes upgrades to the radios for new FCC requirements that will go into effect on January 1, 2013.-Approx. \$17,000 (codes- 1620.200,5510.200 and 5530.200)
- Maintenance Contractual includes estimated charge for building condition survey that we are required to have next year approx. \$20,000-(this needs to be completed every 5 years.(1621.410)
- Salaries and Benefits for next year are also affected by the following positions that have been moved to the General Fund since the grant funding will be eliminated or reduced:
  - Reading Coach-Heidi Miltech (50% Reading 1<sup>st</sup> and 50% Title I ARRA)
  - Reading Teacher-Nancy Marshall ( Title I ARRA)
  - Yvonne Hozley-Title I ARRA
  - Jillian Riley-Title VI (decrease)
- New positions that have been added this year that were cut last year, bus driver and bus monitors as well as new special education 1:1 aides/asst./monitors
- Cafeteria transfer to increase \$10,000 to \$20,000 next year

Budget to Budget increase from 2009-2010 is \$1,099,536 or 7.21%

Last year the increase was only \$152,025 or 1.01%

Also, we have enclosed a budget option listing with 3 positions of a Math and English Teacher for the Secondary level and an additional PE teacher/AD/Director of PE. If all of these positions were to be added to the budget, it would increase by another 8.38% to 75% increase in levy.

For the tax levy this year 1% is only equal to \$24,389

Using \$600,000 again from fund balance in order to achieve a 4% levy, we need to come up with \$1,521,209 either in cuts or add'l revenues.

Even if the GAP elimination was taken away, we would still need to come up with over a million dollars to keep all current positions.

Even if we had a 0% increase in budget to budget expenses, we would still need to come up with \$530,000 worth of revenue or cuts.

## **Fund Balance projections**

I have projected estimated revenues for the remainder of the year and at this time I estimate revenue to be approx. \$14,424,634 (lower than budgeted due to decreases in transportation aid, lower interest earnings, and at this time, no billing for Medicaid).

Projected expenses are \$14,756,100 which means of the total \$600,000 of fund balance that we had projected to use towards the budget, we may only need to utilize \$332,000 at this point. I will continue to monitor and adjust as needed.

If we were to again apply \$600,000 of the fund balance to the tax levy , that would still leave us \$967,000 in unappropriated going forward into the future years,

Yes it is above the 4% and we would get written up but I would rather be written up than to use more this year for these reasons:

- 1) From all indications, 2011-2012 will be even worse than this year, Federal stimulus funds will be gone including add'l grant funding and result in the "funding cliff"., ERS and TRS rates are expected to increase even more. State budget gap is expected to grow from \$6.3 billion next year to \$14.3 billion the following year. Unless things change, the state simply does not have the money and we need to be prepared for flat aid for the next couple of years as the gov. has proposed. We must not only look at this year's budget, we must also tackle this as at least a 2 year problem , it would be irresponsible not to.
- 2) By using more and more fund balance, that is just putting a plug in the budget, when that additional fund balance is used up, we will need to come up with those funds in additional years with a different revenue source that may not be there.
- 3) Using more of the fund balance now may help a little this year and make us look good , but it will set us up for disaster in the next few years unless we make some significant changes or revenues increase dramatically and since we are most reliant on state aid, this probably won't happen.
- 4) By having a little extra in fund balance, we are in better shape for potential mid-year cuts next year, there is every indication that even if we get aid increase between now and April due to the politics in Albany, the reality is that if the state does not have the money, we will face mid-year cuts next year. It's a no win situation.
- 5) If you are worried about having additional monies in fund balance, we may be better off paying for the buses with fund balance vs, borrowing them, this would save on the debt service costs which would effect the budget in future years.