

Budget Work Session/Business Meeting Minutes – April 2, 2009

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Tina Mackay, President PRESENT
Guy Cohen, Vice President
Trustees Frank Reale and Valerie Fitzgerald

Trustee Mary Maus was not present (notified)

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Marc Space, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Personnel
Paul Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and
Technology
Edward Hallisey, Middle School Principal
Jamie Edelman, Elementary School Principal

OTHERS: Student Representative to the Board of
Education Kevin VanDevelde, Reporter from
North County News, and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Work Session/Business Meeting at 7:02 p.m. and asked everyone to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance. CONVENE MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Mr. Paul Lee presented a summary of the current budget finances using the current legislative budgeted aid package of \$9,042,177.00--a slight increase over last year. This is significantly higher than the proposed Governor's amount, which would be a decrease in aid. The Board examined the possible impact on the fund balance. Given the current economic climate, the fund balance could be gone by 2012. If the District receives the legislature aid amount and applies \$1 million of the fund balance, the tax levy would increase 0.49%; if \$350,000.00 of fund balance were applied, the tax levy would increase 2.6%.

Dr. Fuchs presented a summary of Advanced Placement courses at the High School including enrollments. There would be limits set on AP class size in the range of five for performance classes and 10 for regular classes. The relationship with Syracuse University will no longer continue; but the relationship will continue with Dutchess Community College. Dr. Fuchs was asked to provide additional cost of AP courses (test charge) compared to costs of a Dutchess Community sponsored cost. She also discussed the K-12 coordinators and how they are an integral part of the education excellence, which the District strives to achieve. Part of their costs is covered by the Title I grant, which also funds TECH PATH.

Mr. Lee discussed shared services with BOCES, investigation of residency of students, Arts in Education and Destination Imagination. Arts in Education is a BOCES program, which is significantly funded by our PTA. Also discussed was the health insurance arrangement and a cost comparison with districts that self-insure. The consortium was a lower cost. The Board discussed employing an independent auditor/actuary to evaluate if the District, based on past experience, present exposure, and benefits offered could do better if we self-insure. It was noted that relative to the total yearly cost of the health benefit, the audit would be financially sound.

Dr. Space discussed three items brought forward by the Budget Committee: ticket prices at the PAC, going paperless by next year, and cuts in the sports program should wait until the new AD has had time to review the program. The Board thought the PAC ticket price should be kept to a minimum because this is an educational/family outing.

Ms. Mackay asked for questions/comments from the community: Advanced Placement versus Dutchess Community College costs, Arts in Education is not used at the High School and athletic participation fees for students on sports teams.

Dr. Space led a discussion on the use of the District athletic fields. It was noted that other districts do charge for field use. In Board Policy 1500 it is stated that charges are based on the number of Putnam Valley residents on the team, the maintenance of the field and replacement costs. The Board agreed that the District should revert to the prior policy of not charging teams to use the fields and to form a committee, which would evaluate the actual costs; maintenance, personnel, wear and tear, replacement, etc. and propose a plan for the Board.

Ms. Mackay asked for comments from the community. It was noted that the Tiger Club helped fund the turf field originally; increasing costs to families would not permit many to have their children participate- sports teach our children valuable lessons; and could the maintenance fund in the budget be used for field repair.

Student Representative to the Board Kevin VanDevelde summarized activities in the schools: Bye Bye Birdie performance in the Middle School was a success; spring modified sports at the Middle School have begun with large enrollments; High School students showing their art at Garrison Art Center starting April 4 through April 12 from 3-5 p.m.; High School Chorus in Montreal; and tickets for High School musical "Urinetown" on sale. Kevin explained that he and his classmates are making choices of which college they will be attending and are not anxious about college level courses because they feel they have been more than adequately prepared at the High School.

It was noted that the April 16 Board meeting would begin at 6:00 p.m. with a tour of the Elementary School and open to all. At 7:00 p.m. the Board would have their Business Meeting in the High School cafeteria.

Ms. Mackay announced the Board would move into Executive Session for one issue of collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service (Taylor Law) Law and 7 matters of discussion of a particular person on matters leading to appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person and upon the Board's return, no new business would be conducted.

At 9:02 p.m., on motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board, along with Dr. Space and Dr. Fuchs, Principal Edward Hallisey, and Principal Jamie Edelman moved into Executive Session to discuss one issue of collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service (Taylor Law) Law and 7 matters of discussion of a particular person on matters leading to appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION
09/313

At 9:23 p.m., Ms. Edelman left the Executive Session.

At 9:41 p.m., Mr. Hallisey left the Executive Session

At 10:03 p.m., Dr. Fuchs left the Executive Session.

At 10:33 p.m., on motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Reale, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 10:35 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN
MEETING
09/314

Submitted by
Guy Cohen
Vice President
Board of Education

Submitted by
Linda Pregiato
District Clerk