

**SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

DATE: MAY 2, 2007
TIME & PLACE: 7:00 PM – HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
KIND OF MEETING: PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR
ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT: GATHEN, QUANDT, REINHART, SCHLIEDER, SPIES, WILBER
ELECTED MEMBER(S) EXCUSED: STODDARD
APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: BRIAN SHERMAN, SUPERINTENDENT
ROBERT BONAHER, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
ROSEMARY WILBER, DISTRICT CLERK
ALSO PRESENT: STACEY BIRDSALL, JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
MARYELLEN GILLIS, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
LINDA NEVULIS, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & PS
1 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE, 14 DISTRICT RESIDENTS, 1 STUDENT

President Spies called the Annual Public Budget Hearing of May 2, 2007 to order at 7:07 pm.

ANNUAL PUBLIC
BUDGET HEARING

Presentation of the Proposed Budget for 2007-2008

Superintendent Sherman and Mr. Bonaker gave a Power Point presentation on the 2007-08 proposed budget. The presentation included the fiscal goal for the 2007-08 Budget which is to “Build and then maintain the fiscal capacity and financial infrastructure of the school district in order to adequately provide for and enhance the education programs and services to its students.”

PRESENTATION
2007-08 PROPOSED
BUDGET

The following positions existed in 2005-06 but had to be eliminated to meet the limits of the contingency budget for 2006-07:

- Teacher for Elementary School Reading Program
- Teacher for High School Math Program
- Teacher for Elementary School (3rd Grade)
- Special Education Teacher
- 2 Teacher Assistants for Elementary School.

These positions were reinstated to the 2007-08 proposed budget.

Mr. Bonaker noted that the proposed 2007-08 budget continues ongoing strategic initiatives to control costs:

- **Health Insurance**
Consortium membership (rate increase not as steep)
Prescription plan is self-funded (considerable savings)
- **Worker’s Compensation**
Pooling of large risks to control premium increases through membership in a group with other school districts
- **Operations/Maintenance**
Energy management system to improve energy efficiency and curtail electricity usage

The “Big Picture” highlights of the 2007-08 proposed budget are:

Total Budget amount of **\$18,671,382**

- Increase from 2006-07 contingent budget of **\$1,311,275**
- Accounts for basic instructional and operational needs (moves 2006-07 program into 2007-08)
- Maintains programs to improve teacher training, student testing and curriculum revisions to comply with state learning standards and graduation requirements
- Other major cost changes: dollars for equipment, computer replacement

Major impact factors include:

- **Salary Adjustments** for employees, replacement positions and restored positions (\$584,037; 44.54% of total budget change)
- **Employee Benefits** cost increase (\$507,744; 38.72% of total budget change)
- **BOCES** costs (\$194,230; 14.81% of total budget change)

It was noted that these three major cost items account for **\$1,286,011** (98.07%) of the total proposed 2007-08 budget increase.

Superintendent Sherman said that he had just received information from the State Education Department regarding per pupil expenditures for the most recent data collection year (2004-05). He noted that in general education Schoharie Central School District per pupil expenditures are slightly more than similar school districts. In comparison to all public schools in New York State, the cost for Schoharie Central School is less. In the area of Special Education, the cost per pupil for Schoharie Central School is less than similar school districts as well as all public schools in New York State.

District resident Mike Meadows noted that according to this information, special education students in Schoharie Central School District were under-funded and asked if the proposed budget will try to close that gap. Superintendent Sherman responded that we have begun the process of improving our special education services and bringing up staffing needs to provide more adequate services. This would be a multi-year process, but was a priority area for the district.

Superintendent Sherman continued, noting the following public requests:

- Restore special education position lost last year (was added)
- Increase vocational offerings by restoring some alternative education slots (was not included)
- Improve the soundproofing in the elementary gym (include in future project)
- Restoration of programs for gifted and talented students at both the primary and secondary level (was added at elementary level)
- Restoration of a maintenance staff member position (was added)
- Support Literacy and Reading program (was added)

Other items included in the proposed budget are:

- Library books and supplies
- Repair of the garage lift
- Mower
- Club Advisors
- Enrichment Program
- Increase BOCES Tech to four days per week
- Computer hardware and software
- Replacement furniture and equipment
- Increase in PE position from .8 to 1.0 FTE
- 3 Coaching positions

Superintendent Sherman displayed a graph showing where the money in the budget goes. District resident Bruce Voorhees asked how much property value would increase. Superintendent Sherman responded that in the proposed budget there will be a 5.88% increase in the tax levy. He said that based on recent trends, the actual tax rate percentage per \$1000 change should be less than 5.88%.

Superintendent Sherman noted the impact of another contingency budget as follows:

- A contingency budget for 2007-08 would be capped at a 3.84% increase over the 2006-07 contingency budget.
- About \$564,023 in reductions from the proposed 2007-08 budget would be required under a contingency budget.
- A contingency budget would negatively impact the district's ability to help all students meet standards for learning and graduation requirements.
- Non-mandated programs and services would be decimated and some would be eliminated.

Mr. Bonaker reviewed the Bus Purchase Proposition as follows:

- Total Proposition Limit = \$270,486
- Less Transportation Aid @ 81% (\$219,093)
- Budget impact over 5 year life of bond \$ 51,393
- Annual Average Impact (already budgeted) = \$ 10,279

He said that debt service payments begin in the school year following the bus purchase, which in this case would be 2008-09.

District Resident Morris Hodder asked what happens to the old buses and how is it determined if a new bus is needed. Mr. Bonaker replied that a general guideline is 10 years and 100,000 miles. Another determination is if it would be cost effective to repair.

Mr. Hodder also asked if the District kept a record of the number of miles driven per bus. Superintendent Sherman responded yes, that it is mandatory.

Mr. Hodder also asked how many schools outside of the District do our buses deliver students to and has the District looked into sharing bus runs with other Districts. Superintendent Sherman said the District buses currently deliver students to five Parochial Schools as well as eight Special Education runs. He said that the District is looking into bringing some of those students back to the District. He said that the District does share some bus runs with other school districts.

Superintendent Sherman said that three district residents have filed as candidates for three seats on the Schoharie Central School Board of Education. Each seat carries a three year, unpaid term, beginning July 1, 2007. On the May 15th election ballot are:

- Shawn Gathen
- Edythe Schultz
- Mark Quandt

He said the names of these candidates were drawn by lottery and will appear on the ballot as listed above.

President Spies offered the privilege of the floor regarding the proposed budget. Bruce Voorhees asked what the cost of benefits is per month, per employee. Mr. Bonaker presented the appropriate information.

Morris Hodder asked if the District considered having auctions for equipment no longer used, such as computers. Superintendent Sherman said that the District liquidated items earlier this year, and a major auction will be later in the summer and would include computers. He said the auction would be publicized.

Mike Meadows made note of a recent article in the Times Journal regarding an energy program. He felt it was a good idea, but the District should be careful of the formula used, for example a mild winter would make an impact. Mr. Reinhart said that there was a presentation by the energy education company at the last meeting and it was explained that it was taken into consideration.

President Spies thanked Superintendent Sherman, Mr. Bonaker and the administration for their work on the budget.

President Spies declared the Annual Public Budget Hearing to be closed at 7:53 p.m.

President Spies called the Regular Meeting of May 2, 2007 to order at 7:53 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Gathen, seconded by Miss Wilber to approve the Minutes of the regular Board of Education Meeting and BOCES Vote of April 23, 2007.

MINUTES
4/23/07

- Yes – 5
- No – 0
- Abstain – 1 (Quandt)
- Absent – 1 (Stoddard)

Motion Carried

President Spies noted that the minutes could be viewed on the District’s new website.

President Spies reviewed the Agenda and May calendar of events and facilities use.

CALENDAR &
AGENDA

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

President Spies offered the privilege of the floor. Mrs. Pamela Newell, President of the EPTSO (Elementary Parent Teacher Student Organization) distributed a list of events that the EPTSO sponsored this year and included events that are coming up as well. She said they need the support of Board Members for the Meet the Candidates Night and extended an invitation to Board Members to attend. She said it would be more like a “meet and greet” as there were only 3 candidates. It will be held on May 10th at 7:00 pm in the Elementary Cafeteria. She also asked Board Members to help serve ice cream at the annual Father/Daughter Dance which will be on May 11th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

PRIVILEGE OF
THE FLOOR

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT’S
REPORT

Budget Update

2007-08 BUDGET
UPDATE

Superintendent Sherman noted that the budget update was given during the Annual Public Budget Hearing portion of the meeting.

School Resource Officer Information

SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICER INFO.

Superintendent Sherman referred to information that was sent in Board Members’ information packets. He said that the information was a proposal for another school district. He said that he would be meeting with Sheriff Bates on May 3rd. He said that there was currently no funding at the Federal level. He said that this was not a recommendation from the Administration, and that he was gathering information requested by Board Members.

EXCEL Project Update

EXCEL PROJECT
UPDATE

Superintendent Sherman said that regarding the proposed EXCEL Project, information was being reviewed. He suggested having different committees meet with the architects and give reports to the Board Members. President Spies felt that we should start small in terms of committees, possibly forming a “functional” group which would include Superintendent Sherman, Mr. Bonaker and 2 or 3 Board Members as a starting point. Mr. Quandt, Mr. Gathen, and President Spies volunteered to be on the committee. A date will be set to meet soon.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

BOE REPORT

Miss Wilber said that community members had approached her praising Superintendent Sherman and the Board of Education for updating the District’s electronic technology.

PERSONNEL – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion was made by Mr. Gathen, seconded by Mr. Quandt to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint Elizabeth Mistretta and add her name to the Non-Certified Substitute List.

APPOINT
E. MISTRETTE
NON-CERTIFIED
SUBSTITUTE

Yes – 6
No – 0
Absent – 1 (Stoddard)

Motion Carried

President Spies made note that the next regular Board of Education Meeting will be on May 15, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. in the High School cafeteria. The Annual Public Budget Vote, Bus Purchase Proposition and Board Candidate Election will be on May 15, 2007 from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm in the High School Cafeteria.

NEXT
MEETINGS

Motion was made by Mr. Gathen, seconded by Mr. Quandt to enter into Executive Session to discuss negotiations and specific personnel issues.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent – 1 (Stoddard)

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the meeting to be in recess at 8:20 p.m.

The Executive Session came to order at 8:30 p.m. with Mr. Spies, Mr. Quandt, Mr. Gathen, Mr. Schlieder, Mr. Reinhart, Miss Wilber, Mr. Sherman and Mr. Bonaker present.

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Miss Wilber to conclude the Executive Session and return to the Regular Meeting.

RETURN TO
MEETING

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent – 1 (Stoddard)

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the Regular Meeting to be reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Mr. Gathen to adjourn.

ADJOURN
MEETING

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent – 1 (Stoddard)

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the regular meeting of April 4, 2007 to be adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Wilber
District Clerk