

**SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

DATE: APRIL 4, 2007
TIME & PLACE: 7:00 PM – HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
KIND OF MEETING: REGULAR
ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT: GATHEN, QUANDT, REINHART, SCHLIEDER, SPIES, STODDARD, WILBER
ELECTED MEMBER(S) EXCUSED: N/A
APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: BRIAN SHERMAN, SUPERINTENDENT
ROBERT BONAKER, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
ROSEMARY WILBER, DISTRICT CLERK
ALSO PRESENT: STACEY BIRDSALL, JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
GEORGE WILBER, SUPV. BUILDINGS, GROUNDS & TRANSPORTATION
JAMIAN ROCKHILL, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
1 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE, 7 DISTRICT RESIDENTS, 14 STUDENTS

President Spies called the regular meeting of April 4, 2007 to order at 7:13 p.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Gathen to approve the Minutes of the regular Board of Education Meeting of March 21, 2007. MINUTES
3/21/07
Yes – 5
No – 0
Abstain – 2 (Reinhart; Quandt) Motion Carried

President Spies reviewed the Agenda and April calendar of events and facilities use. CALENDAR &
AGENDA
He said there were no changes to the evening's agenda. He also made note of the following:
The April elementary menu/calendar had been distributed to Board Members.
The Elementary Discovery Fair is being held this evening.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

President Spies offered the privilege of the floor. No one requested to speak. PRIVILEGE OF
THE FLOOR

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT

Superintendent Sherman noted the following items:

1. The High School Musical, "Titanic" was favorably reviewed and well attended. He said the cast and crew did a tremendous job for the performances during March 30, 31 and April 1.
2. The new school website is up and running. Superintendent Sherman, Rebecca Rockwell, Debra Cardella and Rose Wilber attended training to maintain and update the new website. The training was held at BOCES.
3. Each year the Capital District Chapter of NYSASBO (New York State Association of School Business Officials) awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a designated school district in the name of an outstanding School Business Official. The 2007 recipient of this award is Robert Bonaker, S.C.S. Business Administrator. The \$1,000 will be awarded to a graduating senior of Schoharie Central School District who will be attending a four-year college and will major in education or business. Board members all congratulated Mr. Bonaker for this honor. Mr. Bonaker said he appreciated the honor and was pleased that a S.C.S. senior will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Budget Presentation

2007-08 BUDGET
PRESENTATION

Superintendent Sherman stated that the preliminary budget is now a tentative budget because Board Members will be asked to approve it tonight. He stated that anything added at this

point will add to the tax levy.

Superintendent Sherman distributed information to Board Members which followed the Power Point Presentation. He said some important items to keep in mind include:

- Revenues (especially state aid) are still preliminary estimates and are subject to formula recalculations based on student enrollment/actual attendance, and other factors.
- Several items of state aid in 2007-08 (transportation, excess high cost for students with disabilities, BOCES) will be based on actual expenses during 2006-07 (we are only 3/4 of the way through the current school year).

The presentation also gave a State Aid Update comparing the Governor’s proposal of January 31st to the Legislature’s budget of April 15th as follows:

Increase in Foundation Aid	\$ 45,537
Decrease in Excess Cost Aid	-\$ 1,462
Decrease in Categorical Aid (Learning Materials)	<u>-\$ 1,761</u>
	\$ 42,314

New estimate of Expense-Driven Aid (BOCES & Incarcerated Youth)
\$ 7,000

Reclassification of Revenue for Class Size Reduction **\$ 51,106**
 (changes from Grants Budget to General Fund Operating Budget)

TOTAL STATE AID CHANGE \$100,420

However, the figure above of “Reclassification of Revenue for Class Size Reduction of **\$51,106**” merely represents a shift of monies from the Special Aid Fund (Grants Budget) to the General Fund, so the expense must also be reflected in the appropriation side of the budget.

So, the actual net gain in State Aid is \$49,314....not \$100,420.

Another item Mr. Bonaker made note of is that “We have had an opportunity to reexamine the projected miscellaneous revenues. Based on a recalculation, we can increase the anticipated revenues for the Medicare Part D drug cost reimbursement for retired employees/spouses by \$12,500.”

Due to the additional “net” revenue of \$61,8714, the tax levy increase would be 5.49% instead of 6.71% (stated at the last Board Meeting on March 21st).

Superintendent Sherman continued with his presentation of the 2007-08 Tentative Budget, giving a summary as follows:

Big Picture Highlights:

Total Budget amount of \$18,641,382:

- Increase from 2006-07 contingent budget of \$1,281,275.
- 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.
- Adds back critical positions cut last year to get to the contingency budget threshold: High School Math Teacher, Elementary Reading Teacher, Elementary Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Teacher Assistant, Club Advisors and Maintenance Worker.
- Other major cost changes include monies for equipment and computer replacements.

Major Impact Factors:

- Salary adjustments for employees and replacement positions (\$554,037; 43.24% of total budget change)
- Employee benefits cost increase (\$507,744; 39.63% of total budget change)
- BOCES costs (\$194,230; 15.16% of total budget)

These 3 major cost items account for \$1,256,011 (98.03%) of the total tentative budget increase.

Some Contingency impacts include:

- Many after school clubs were not available to our students.
- Our students took classes from a non-certified math teacher.
- Class size was increased for our high school students and PE classes, and grade 3 (e.g. by 6 students).
- Severe limitations were placed on staff servicing our remedial reading students at the elementary level and special education students at both levels.
- The enrichment program was cancelled.
- The intramural program for our primary students was eliminated.

Superintendent Sherman said the following items are included in the Tentative Budget:

- Additional money for library books and supplies
- Repair of the lift in the bus garage
- New big mower
- 1 Reading Teacher
- 1 Mathematics Teacher
- 1 Elementary Teacher
- Club Advisors
- Enrichment Program
- Increase BOCES Technician by one day per week
- Computer hardware and software
- Replacement furniture and equipment
- Increase in PE position for .8 to 1.0 FTE
- Maintenance Worker
- 1 Special Education Teacher
- 3 Coaching Positions
- 1 Teaching Assistant

Superintendent Sherman concluded his presentation with the following Key Dates:

- Board will be asked to adopt the proposed budget this evening
- Public Hearing on Proposed Budget – May 2 (7:00 pm)
- Vote by Public on Proposed Budget / Bus Purchases / Board Members – May 15 (9 am to 9 pm)

President Spies said the Tentative Budget was open for discussion by Board Members. Mr. Stoddard asked if the repair for the lift was in this year's budget or next year's. Superintendent Sherman noted that a new one may have to be purchased. George Wilber, Supervisor of Transportation, said he has been in contact with 5 different companies regarding the repair of the lift. Two of those companies said that the current lift cannot be repaired and three of the companies were interested in the repairs. Mr. Wilber said the current lift was installed in 1985 and the life expectancy is 15-20 years. It was his opinion that buying a new one was the way to go. Mr. Bonaker said a plausible solution could be to put it under the EXCEL Aid project. However, he was unsure if the repair/replacement could wait until the summer of 2008. He said that the cost of a new lift is not eligible for Transportation Aid; however it is eligible for Building Aid. Mr. Wilber said the purchase of a new lift could be in two stages as there are two parts to the lift.

Superintendent Sherman shared a letter with Board Members from Elementary School staff members who were advocating for an additional Reading Teacher and Teaching Assistant. Mr. Bonaker noted that the cost for an additional Teaching Assistant is approximately \$28,000. If this item was added to the tentative budget, the tax levy would rise from 5.49% to 5.88%

It was Mr. Quandt's opinion that there was a need for reinstating 2 Alternative Education slots and thought that they had been put back in the budget. President Spies said that it was a matter of balancing all needs and that Board Members felt this item did not carry as much need as other items, such as a Teaching Assistant for the Elementary School (reading program).

Motion was made by Mr. Gathen, seconded by Mr. Schlieder that the Board of Education adopt the 2007-08 Budget in the amount of \$18,671,382, including the addition of \$30,000 for a Teacher Assistant position. The proposed budget is to be considered by District residents on May 15, 2007.

ADOPT
2007-08 BUDGET

Yes – 5
No – 2 (Stoddard; Wilber)

Motion Carried

Board Members thanked Superintendent Sherman and Mr. Bonaker for their detailed information on the presentations during the entire budget development process. They also extended their appreciation to the Building Principals and staff for their input.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

BOE REPORT

Mr. Schlieder Mr. Spies, and Mr. Gathen reported that they recently attended the mandatory training for Board of Education members which was held at the Schoharie BOCES. They gave copies of their certificates to Mrs. Wilber, District Clerk, to be filed.

PERSONNEL – INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Miss Wilber to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to approve Tenure Appointments with congratulations to the following teachers:

APPROVE
TENURE APPTS.

DOREEN BUZON

Tenure Area: Reading
Probationary Appointment: 9/1/04
Tenure Commencing: 8/31/07
Certification Status: Permanent
Certification Area: Reading
Other Certification: Pre-Kindergarten, K-6

DEBRA HENRY

Tenure Area: Elementary
Probationary Appointment: 9/1/04
Tenure Commencing: 8/31/07
Certification Status: Permanent
Certification Area: Pre-Kindergarten, K-6
Other Certification: Reading Teacher (K-12)
Speech & Hearing Handicapped

JENNIFER MCCLURE

Tenure Area: Business
Probationary Appointment: 9/1/04
Tenure Commencing: 8/31/07
Certification Status: Initial
Certification Area: Business & Marketing Education

MARTIN MESSNER

Tenure Area: Health/Physical Education
Probationary Appointment: 9/1/04
Tenure Commencing: 8/31/07
Certification Status: Provisional

ROBIN OGILVIE

Tenure Area: Science
Probationary Appointment: 9/1/04
Tenure Commencing: 8/31/07
Certification Status: Provisional
Certification Area: Biology (Earth Science – pending)
Other Certification: Chemistry, General Science 7-12
Physics 7-12 & 5-6 Extension
Technology Education

JOSEPHINE TRACEY

Tenure Area: Foreign Language
Probationary Appointment: 9/1/04
Tenure Commencing: 8/31/07
Certification Status: Initial
Certification Area: French

Yes – 7

No – 0

Motion Carried

Mr. Stoddard extended a thank-you to the Administration for the paper work that accompanied the recommendations.

PERSONNEL – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Miss Wilber that the Board of Education appoint the following personnel to serve on May 15, 2007 as assistant Clerks and Inspectors for the Annual Budget Vote and set the rate of pay as the current minimum wage rate of \$7.15 per hour:

Hetty Butler, Barbara Miers, Darlene Schultz, Pauline Putman, Marilyn Foland, Doris Madison, Cathy Luz, Margaret Puotinen, Karen Gannon, Pamela Guest, Terry Manchester, and Mary Schultz

Yes – 7

No – 0

Motion Carried

APPOINT
BUDGET VOTE
PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Stoddard that the Board of Education appoint the following personnel to serve on May 15, 2007 as substitute assistant Clerks and Inspectors, if needed, for the Annual Budget Vote and set the rate of pay as the current minimum wage rate of \$7.15 per hour:

Linda Zimmer and Lyndsey Gannon

Yes – 7

No – 0

Motion Carried

APPOINT
SUBSTITUTE
PERSONNEL
BUDGET VOTE

Motion was made by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education appoint George Wilber as Chief Inspector for the Budget Vote on May 15, 2007.

Yes – 7

No – 0

Motion Carried

APPOINT
G. WILBER
CHIEF INSPECTOR
BUDGET VOTE

Motion was made by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint Matthew Deffer and add his name to the Custodial Substitute List, effective April 5, 2007.

Yes – 7

No – 0

Motion Carried

APPOINT
M. DEFFER
SUBSTITUTE
CUSTODIAN

BUSINESS

Motion was made by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education accept a \$500 donation to the Wrestling Team from Dunkin’ Donuts and News Channel 13. This was in recognition of a S.C.S. student, J.J. Goblet.

ACCEPT
DONATION TO
WRESTLING TEAM

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education approve a field trip for 7th Grade students to the Boston Museum of Science on 6/14/07.

APPROVE
7TH GRADE
FIELD TRIP

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Miss Wilber, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education approve a field trip for 6th Grade students to the Bronx Zoo on 6/15/07 (Rain Date: 6/18/07).

APPROVE
6TH GRADE
FIELD TRIP

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Mr. Stoddard that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Committees and approve the authorization of funds to implement the special education program and services and placements consistent with such recommendations regarding the following students:

CSE, CPSE
AND/OR 504
RECOMMENDATION

- 1. #08065 Annual Review
- 2. #6909 Manifestation Determination
- 3. #08072 Transfer Student
- 4. #9405 Transfer Student

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education approve the Student Health and Welfare Services Agreement between Schoharie Central School District and the Scotia-Glenville Central School District.

APPROVE
STUDENT HEALTH
& WELFARE SERV.
AGREEMENT W/
SCOTIA-GLENVILLE
CS DISTRICT

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Schlieder that the Board of Education authorize President Spies to sign the Tennessee Gas PILOT Agreement as recommended by the District’s Attorney.

AUTHORIZE
SIGNATURE
TENNESSEE GAS
PILOT AGREEMENT

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Miss Wilber that the Board of Education approve the installation of a CENTREX Phone System from Middleburgh Telephone Company. This is an upgrade from analog to a digital system.

APPROVE
CENTREX PHONE
SYSTEM
MIDDLEBURGH
TELEPHONE CO.

Yes – 7
No – 0

Motion Carried

Superintendent Sherman noted that the current phone system was installed in 1984 and the District is looking to upgrade the system. The new system will have an Auto Attendant and will have the capability of conducting conference calls. Board Members expressed concern regarding an automated system and would want to minimize confusion of callers spending a lot of time trying to get to the person or office they need.

OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were distributed to Board Members for review:

- 1. Various newspaper articles regarding Schoharie Central School
- 2. Memo from Mrs. Gillis, Elementary Principal, advocating for an additional Teaching Assistant (signed by some Elementary School staff members).
- 3. Elementary School Newsletter
- 4. March/April 2007 Schoharie Central School District Newsletter

President Spies made note that the next regular Board of Education Meeting and BOCES Vote will be on Monday, April 23, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Room. Subsequent Board of Education Meeting Dates are:

NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 2	Regular Meeting	7:00 pm
Tuesday, May 15	Regular Meeting	7:00 pm
Tuesday, May 15	Annual Budget Vote and Board Member Election	9:00 am – 9:00 pm

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Mr. Gathen to enter into Executive Session to discuss Utility Contracts, Negotiations and specific Personnel Issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Yes – 7
No – 0 Motion Carried

President Spies declared the meeting to be in recess at 8:55 p.m.

The Executive Session came to order at 9:05 p.m. with Mr. Spies, Mr. Quandt, Mr. Gathen, Mr. Schlieder, Mr. Reinhart, Mr. Stoddard, Miss Wilber, Mr. Sherman and Mr. Bonaker present.

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

RETURN TO MEETING

Yes – 7
No – 0 Motion Carried

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

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

ADJOURN MEETING

Yes – 7
No – 0 Motion Carried

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Wilber
District Clerk