

**SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

DATE: MARCH 19, 2008
TIME & PLACE: 7:00 P.M. – HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
KIND OF MEETING: REGULAR & PUBLIC BUDGET FORUM
ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT: QUANDT; REINHART; SCHLIEDER, SCHULTZ, SPIES, WILBER
ELECTED MEMBER(S) ABSENT: NONE
APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: BRIAN SHERMAN, SUPERINTENDENT
ROBERT BONAKER, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
ROSEMARY WILBER, DISTRICT CLERK
ALSO PRESENT: MARYELLEN GILLIS, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
DAVID BARNES, JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
LINDA NEVULIS, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & PUPIL SERVICES
JAMIE ROCKHILL, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
2 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES; 12 DISTRICT RESIDENTS; 5 STUDENTS
8 FACULTY MEMBERS

A ceremony and reception was held prior to the Board Meeting for students in grades 5 and six who were on the second quarter High Honor, Honor and Honorable Mention lists. Approximately 75 students and their families attended.

President Spies called the Regular Board of Education Meeting of March 19, 2008 to order at 7:14 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Miss Wilber to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 5, 2008.

APPROVE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
3/5/08

Yes – 4

No – 0

Abstain – 2 (Spies; Reinhart)

Motion Carried

President Spies reviewed the Agenda and March calendar of events and facilities use. An updated Agenda was distributed.

CALENDAR AND
AGENDA

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

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THE FLOOR

President Spies offered the privilege of the floor.

Mrs. Arlene Vroman, a district resident, expressed her concerns regarding the development of the 2008-09 school budget. She asked that the proposed tax levy not be raised beyond 7%.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
REPORT

There were no reports from Members. Trustees Edie Schultz and Mark Quandt said they have attended the required Board of Education Fiscal Training and submitted their Certificates of Completion to Mrs. Wilber, the District Clerk.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTSUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**Office of the State Comptroller – Audit Report**OFFICE OF
COMPTROLLER
AUDIT REPORT

Superintendent Sherman reported that the official Audit Report from the Office of the Comptroller was received last week. He said that the complete report would be on the District's website (www.schoharieschools.org) for those who wish to see it. Mr. Sherman commented that it was a very good audit. He commended Mr. Bonaker and the Business Office staff for the audit results.

Presentation of 2008-09 Tentative Budget2008-09 TENTATIVE
BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent Sherman gave a power-point presentation on the preliminary 2008-09 budget. His presentation included the following:

Budget Goals

- To develop a fiscally sound educational plan.
- To maintain and enhance instructional programs.
- To provide services for special education students.
- To continue ongoing strategic initiatives to control costs for employee benefits:
 - Health Insurance-membership in a consortium discount rates.
 - Prescription Plan is self-funded (considerable savings)
 - Worker's Compensation – large risks are pooled with a group of area school districts to control premium increases.

Costs Impacting the Budget

- Non-controllable Cost Increases:
 - Health Insurance Premium Increases
 - Retirement System Contributions (TRS rate increase)
 - Contractual Salary Increases & FICA/Medicare
 - Costs for Students with Disabilities
 - School Bus Fuel and Heating Oil Increases

Important Items to Keep in Mind

- Revenues (especially state aid) are preliminary estimates and are subject to change due to formula recalculations based on student enrollment/actual attendance, and subsequent action by the Legislature in reaction to the Governor's aid to educational proposal.
- Several items of state aid (transportation, excess high cost for students with disabilities, BOCES) are based on actual expenses from the current year.

Budget Development Process

- The preliminary budget is a fiscal plan that encompasses the same needs for 2007-08 and projects those costs into 2008-09.
- At this point in the process, revenue estimates have no corresponding relationship to the preliminary appropriations, thus any subsequent modifications to the preliminary budget would have a direct change in relationship to the tax levy.

2008-09 Proposed Budget Summary

Total preliminary budget amount of \$19,710,197

- Increase from 2007-08 adopted budget of \$1,038,815 (5.56%)
- Accounts for basic instructional and operational needs (moves 2007-08 program into 2008-09).
- Maintains programs to improve teacher training, student testing and curriculum revisions to comply with state learning standards and graduation requirements.

Major Impact Factors

- Salary adjustments for employees (\$342,535; 32.97% of total budget change)
- Health Insurance for employees cost increase (\$287,020; 27.63% of total budget change)
- BOCES costs increases (\$154,300; 14.85% of total budget change)
- Debt service payments for buses and capital projects (\$167,049; 16.16% of total budget change)

It was noted that these 4 major cost centers account for 91.54 percent (\$950,904) of the total preliminary budget increase for 2008-09 over the amount budgeted and accepted by the voters for the current 2007-08 budget.

What's new that IS included in the preliminary budget?

- Tech Valley Tuition for 2nd student: \$18,000
- Gym lockers: \$25,000
- Software upgrade for accounting: \$5,000
- Computer hardware upgrades: \$20,000
- Tractor: \$18,000

What was requested that's NOT in the preliminary budget?

- Extra work on fields: \$10,000
- High School restroom repairs: \$20,000
- Additional Furniture and Equipment: \$45,000
- 3 Teacher Assistants for Elementary School: \$87,000
- Music Teacher for Jr./Sr. High School: \$63,000
- Teacher Assistant for Special Education: \$29,000
- Tech Lab equipment for Jr./Sr. High School: \$16,000 (partially included in hardware purchases)
- BOCES student programs: \$15,000
- Summer School for Jr./Sr. High School: \$50,000
- Summer School for Elementary School: \$12,000
- Additional Curriculum Writing: \$17,000
- Additional Textbooks for Elementary School: \$48,000
- Teacher Aide for Elementary School: \$14,000
- Additional class advisors: \$4,000
- Wee Read / Wee Count programs: \$4,500
- Athletics / PE items: \$25,500

At this point in the presentation, Superintendent Sherman asked if there were any comments or concerns from members of the audience.

Some of the concerns and comments included:

- Should a football program be included in the 2008-09 budget? It was felt that the money could be better spent on education programs.
- Important to include summer school for the Elementary School, as well as the High School.
- The high cost of employee health insurance. Could employees pay for a higher percentage of their health insurance? Superintendent Sherman explained that this was a negotiated item, and that we are currently in negotiations with two of the bargaining units.

Mr. Bonaker continued with the Power-Point presentation using charts to show the following:

Where the dollars go:

- General Support - \$1,849,037 – change of \$96,552 from 2007-08
- Instruction - \$9,586,311 – change of \$409,508 from 2007-08
- Transportation - \$1,294,125 – change of \$57,824 from 2007-08
- Employee Benefits - \$5,221,075 – change of \$307,882 from 2007-08
- Debt Service / Other - \$1,759,649 – change of \$167,049 from 2007-08

The total for the preliminary budget is \$19,710,197 – change of \$1,038,815 from 2007-08.

Where the dollars come from:

- State Aid - \$10,000,785 – change of \$384,737 from 2007-08
- Appropriated Fund Balance - \$800,000 – change of \$100,000 from 2007-08
- Real Property Taxes - \$8,476,912 – change of \$442,578 from 2007-08
- Miscellaneous - \$432,500 – change of \$111,500 from 2007-08

Total revenues for 2008-09 is \$19,710,197 – change of \$1,038.815 from 2007-08.

Budget Highlights:

- The Preliminary projection is for about a 5.7% increase in the tax levy.
- Based on recent trends, the actual tax rate per \$1,000 change should be considerably less than 5.7%.

Superintendent Sherman noted that recent cost containment or revenue maximization measures include the following:

- Energy Education / Management Initiative should cost avoid \$60,000 in 2008-09.
- Educating more Special Education students at SCS instead of more costly BOCES placements should save \$40,000 in 2008-09.
- Improved methods for claiming State Aid on high cost pupils (revenue increase of about \$47,000 in 2008-09).

Superintendent Sherman noted the following Key Dates:

- Board Budget Workshop – April 2, 2008
- Board could adopt proposed budget for 2008-09 – April 9, 2008
- Public Hearing on proposed budget – May 7, 2008
- Vote by public on proposed budget for 2008-09 / Propositions /Board Member Elections – May 20, 2008
 - Superintendent Sherman noted that there are 3 Board Seats up for election.

Superintendent Sherman asked the audience and Board Members if there were any additional questions or comments at this time.

Board members thanked Superintendent Sherman and Mr. Bonaker for their work on the budget.

President Spies said that the Board would enter into a discussion on the 2008-09 budget at this time.

Mr. Shlieder noted that Board Members had requested prioritized lists of requested items for the budget at the previous meeting. Mrs. Gillis distributed the Elementary School's prioritized list. Mr. Barnes was present to explain the prioritized list for the Jr./Sr. High School.

The prioritized lists were as follows:

Elementary School

- #1 Reading Program and Math Program: Increase in textbook allowance
- #2 Teaching Assistants (one additional)
- #3 Summer School
- #4 Summer Curriculum – Writing

Jr./Sr. High School

- #1 Summer School
- #2 Summer Curriculum Writing
- #3 BOCES – GED
- #4 Technology Department upgrade
- #5 Additional Music Teacher

Mr. Quandt asked about the cost of computer hardware upgrades. Superintendent Sherman explained that it is a continuation of the installment purchase program through BOCES which will cycle out the old computers and bring in newer ones.

It was noted that the District is reimbursed 71% for Tech Valley High School student tuition.

It was asked if the gym lockers were required this year. Superintendent Sherman explained that the old lockers would be disassembled/removed and the platforms for the new lockers would be installed through the Capital Project; therefore it would be required for lockers to be installed this year. (This would be done in-house by the maintenance staff.)

Mr. Schlieder asked if a new tractor was necessary next year. Superintendent Sherman explained that it could last one more year, but after that would no longer have any trade-in value. Mr. Schlieder said he would like more information at the Budget Work Session (April 2, 2008) on the tractor.

Mr. Reinhart asked if the cost of transportation was included in the \$12,000 for summer school for the Elementary School. Mrs. Gillis said it was not included. The program would benefit approximately 60-70 students and would be for 3 hours per day for 3 weeks. Mr. Reinhart noted that \$12,000 for Elementary Summer School (which would benefit 60-70 students) made more sense than \$18,000 for Tech Valley tuition which would benefit only one student.

Mr. Quandt agreed and said he would like to see it considered to remove the Tech Valley tuition and the tractor and include Elementary Summer School.

Mr. Quandt asked what was included in the equipment for the Tech Lab. Mr. Barnes said it would include the following:

- Computers / Notebooks
- LCD Display Projector
- Band Saw
- Belt Sander

Mr. Quandt said he would recommend one Teaching Assistant be included for the Elementary School.

At the conclusion of the 2008-09 preliminary budget discussion, Board Members once again thanked Superintendent Sherman and Mr. Bonaker for their work on next year's budget.

PERSONNEL – INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Mrs. Schultz that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to accept, with regret, the retirement resignations of the following:

APPROVE RETIREMENT
RESIGNATIONS

Rosalita M. Coons, Elementary Teacher, effective 8/30/08.

R. COONS, ELEMENTARY
TEACHER

Paul J. Sherman, Jr./Sr. High School Social Studies Teacher, effective 7/1/08.

RESIGNATION
P. SHERMAN, SOCIAL
STUDIES TEACHER

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Board Members thanked both Mrs. Coons and Mr. Sherman for their many years of service to the District and wished them both well in their retirement.

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to approve and grant tenure to:

APPROVE TENURE
V. BAKER
ENGLISH TEACHER

Appointee: Vanessa (Woodworth) Baker
Position: English Teacher
Effective: 9/1/08
Tenure Area: English
Certification: Initial – English Language Arts 7-12

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to approve and grant tenure to:

APPROVE TENURE
D. RUSSELL
SOCIAL STUDIES
TEACHER

Appointee: David Russell
Position: Social Studies Teacher
Effective: 9/1/08
Tenure Area: Social Studies
Certification: Initial – Social Studies 7-12

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Board Members expressed congratulations to both Ms. Baker and Mr. Russell.

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint the following and add their names to the Certified Substitute List, effective 3/20/08.

APPOINT
CERTIFIED
SUBSTITUTES

- 1. Patricia Clarke
- 2. Jacqueline Marks

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint Michelle Griffin as a Teaching Assistant (Conditional Probationary Appointment), effective 3/20/08 – 2/19/11, 6 hours per day (plus more as authorized)/ 3 days per week. SCEA Salary Step 1 - \$10,445 (based on 2006-07 contract and subject to change).

APPOINT
M. GRIFFIN
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

PERSONNEL – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint the following and add their names to the Non-Certified Substitute List, effective 3/20/08.

APPOINT
NON-CERTIFIED
SUBSTITUTES

- 1. Jeff Jones
- 2. Kimberlee White

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Miss Wilber, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint Bryan Deffer to the position of Driver/Mechanic, maximum of 8 hours per day/5 days per week. Salary as follows: Bus Driver – current \$30.69 per hour; Mechanic – Step 9 - \$16.22 per hour based on the 2006-07 SCEA Salary Scale and subject to change, effective 3/20/08.

APPOINT
B. DEFFER
DRIVER/MECHANIC

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

BUSINESS

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Miss Wilber that the Board of Education approve Agenda Business Items a-e (with the exception of Item c which was a discussion item) as follows:

THAT the Board of Education approve the Treasurer’s Report for February 2008.

TREASURER’S
REPORT

THAT the Board of Education authorize Budget Transfers as presented (copy attached to official Minutes).

AUTHORIZE
BUDGET TRANSFERS

THAT the Board of Education approve the payment of Warrant #9 as follows:

PAYMENT OF
WARRANT #9

Warrant #9 totaling \$449,454.03 from the General Fund; \$12,869.72 from the School Lunch Fund; \$665.00 from the Federal Fund; \$480.00 from the Capital Fund; and \$14,517.29 from the Trust and Agency Fund – Total of Warrant #9 is \$477,986.04.

It was noted that the payments had been pre-approved by the District Claims Auditor.

THAT the Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Committees and approve the authorization of funds to implement the special education program services and placements consistent with such recommendations regarding the following students: recommendations regarding the following students:

CSE, CPSE
AND/OR 504
RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. #09169 Requested Review
- 2. #0200 Reevaluation Transfer Student
- 3. #06909 Requested Review
- 4. #06881 Requested Review
- 5. #0189 Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Schultz that the Board of Education approve the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference in Ellenville, NY from 4/7/08-4/9/08. There will be no cost to the District.

APPROVE FBLA
STATE LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
4/7/08-4/9/08

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education approve a request by the Schoharie Fire Department for Use of Facilities on Thursday, March 20th and March 31st from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm, for Firefighter Physical Fitness Basketball.

Yes – 6
No – 0

Motion Carried

APPROVE USE OF FACILITIES TO THE SCHOHARIE FIRE DEPARTMENT 3/20/08 AND 3/31/08

Superintendent Sherman had recommended that there would be no charge to the Fire Department for the facilities use. The Board members concurred with this recommendation.

Band Trip – High School

There was a discussion by Board Members regarding the High School Band trip to Virginia Beach and the funding. This trip occurs every 4 years.

Motion was made by President Spies, seconded by Mr. Schlieder that the Board of Education contribute \$1,200 to support the Jr./Sr. High School Band Trip to Virginia Beach.

Yes – 6
No – 0

Motion Carried

APPROVE \$1,200 CONTRIBUTION FOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND TRIP TO VIRGINIA BEACH

There was a short discussion on this trip. It was asked if there was information on how the money will be used. President Spies said that it was outlined in a letter received from Mr. Pracher which was distributed to Board Members at the last meeting. Mr. Schlieder stated that he thought it necessary to address, at a future date, contributions to one school group over others.

OTHER BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were distributed to Board Members for information:

1. Various newspaper articles regarding Schoharie Central School.
2. 2008-09 Budget Calendar for planning purposes
3. Distribution of Board Seats by County
4. Letter from the Office of the Attorney General to the Capital Region BOCES
5. Caption Region BOCES – Notice of Annual Meeting
6. Labor Relations Report – March 2008
7. Invitation to the Annual Schoharie Area School Boards’ Spring Dinner Meeting hosted by Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central Schools
8. Elementary School Newsletter

President Spies stated that the next Board of Education Meetings will be as follows:

NEXT MEETINGS

- Wednesday, 4/2/08 – Special Budget Meeting – 7 pm in the High School Library Classroom
- Wednesday, 4/9/08 – Budget Adoption Meeting – 7 pm in the High School Library Classroom
- Monday, 4/21/08 – BOCES Vote & Meeting – 7 pm in the High School Library Classroom

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Miss Wilber to enter into Executive Session to discuss negotiations, contractual agreements, and personnel matters relating to specific individuals.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Yes – 6
No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the meeting to be in recess at 9:02 p.m.

RECESS

The Executive Session came to order at 9:17 p.m. with Mr. Spies, Mr. Schlieder, Mr. Quandt, Ms. Schultz, Mr. Reinhart, Miss Wilber, Superintendent Sherman, and Mr. Bonaker present. Also present were Mr. Randall Gunther, Mrs. Janice Mullins and Mrs. Ellen Langwig (from the Schoharie Teachers Association), Mrs. Gillis, and Mrs. Wilber.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Mr. Gunther, Mrs. Mullins and Mrs. Langwig left the Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.

Mrs. Gillis left the Executive Session at 10:15 p.m.

Mrs. Wilber left the Executive Session at 10:20 p.m.

Motion was made by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Miss Wilber to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the Regular meeting.

RECONVENE
MEETING

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies reconvened the Regular Meeting at 11:18 pm

Motion was made by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Miss Wilber to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURN
MEETING

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2008 to be adjourned at 11:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Wilber
District Clerk