

**SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

DATE: MAY 28, 2008
TIME & PLACE: 7:00 P.M. – HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
KIND OF MEETING: BUDGET WORK SESSION (SPECIAL MEETING)
ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT: QUANDT, REINHART, SCHULTZ, SPIES, WILBER, NEWELL,
LINDA ISLES, BOARD MEMBER ELECT
ELECTED MEMBER(S) ABSENT: SCHLIEDER
APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: BRIAN SHERMAN, SUPERINTENDENT
ROBERT BONAHER, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
BARBARA SMITH, SUBSTITUTE DISTRICT CLERK
ALSO PRESENT: STACEY BIRDSALL, JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
MARYELLEN GILLIS, ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
DAVID BARNES, ASSISTANT JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
JAMIE ROCKHILL, DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
CLIFF HASLUN, TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR
0 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE; 6 DISTRICT RESIDENTS; 6 STAFF MEMBERS

President Spies called the Budget Work Session Meeting of May 28, 2008 to order at 7:10 p.m. CALL TO ORDER

President Spies gave a review of what was discussed at last night's Board Budget Work Session. He referred to the handout provided. He reported what the impact of a reduced budget would be compared to the limitations that would be in place if a contingency budget were to be adopted. He reported that the reduced budget of \$19,576,161, would increase last years budget by 4.85%, reflecting an increase of the tax levy of only 2.68%, increasing the taxes approximately \$30 per \$100,000 assessed value.

Programs/items and costs which have been proposed to be reduced for a budget of \$19,576,161 are as follows:

Elementary School Position	Savings	\$65,853
Replacement Gym Lockers	Savings	\$25,000
Sealing of the Parking Lot	Savings	\$22,500
Transfer to Food Service Fund	Savings	\$20,000
Total Reduction of		\$133,353

from the proposed budget that was not accepted by the voters on May 20th.

Programs/items which would be impacted with a contingency budget would be as follows:

No Equipment (unaided)	Prohibited
Non-essential Maintenance (e.g. painting)	Prohibited
Community Use of facilities (unless fees are paid)	Prohibited
Non-mandated Programs	

Mr. Quandt asked what was meant by the Transfer of Fund Balance on the last page of the handout. Mr. Sherman explained that this was an amount that might be used for tax levy stabilization.

President Spies asked if anyone had any questions or wanted more discussion concerning what was discussed yesterday.

Mrs. Arlene Vrooman, a district resident, spoke on the need to cut back. She said the public has voted down the budget and the Board needed to listen and respect the vote. She told how hard it is for people on social security to live with tax increases. She spoke of the many taxes that need to be paid by the people living in the Village of Schoharie: Town, Village, School, and water/sewer. She told of how she has to make all her doctor appointments, shopping, pharmacy, and any other appointments for the same day one time a month, in able to cut back and save money due to the increased cost in gasoline. She felt the school needed to do likewise.

President Spies asked if there were any further questions or comments. No questions were given.

Superintendent Sherman said this reduced budget was designed to have minimal impact on programs for students and daily operations.

Mr. Bonaker provided the Board with a print out of major changes for the 2008-2009 budget as compared to the 2007-2008 budget as requested by the Board at a previous meeting. President Spies reviewed the information.

Shane Barton, a teacher, asked what would be cut in the case of a contingency budget. President Spies mentioned BOCES services and non-mandatory instructional programs. There was discussion regarding the students sent to BOCES. Superintendent Sherman stated that this school year 39 students attend the career/technical education programs at BOCES even though 51 students wanted to go.

Mrs. Vrooman suggested doubling up with other area schools to combine bus trips to outside locations, thereby saving gas. Superintendent Sherman stated that we do that now as much as possible, and have done so in the past, and would do so again next school year. The problem with combining all trips is that timing is a factor in getting students to all classes on time.

Mrs. Vrooman suggested renting out the school building in the summer months, put out some advertising so that the public would be aware of the school's availability for use. Mr. Sherman indicated that with a reduced budget that could be done but with a contingency budget there could be no community use of the facility, unless charges were levied.

President Spies told how the school is saving around \$20,000 this year already by implementing the Energy Education program.

Superintendent Sherman stated that sometimes emergency repairs or costs occur. Mr. Quandt asked what the emergency repair was. Superintendent Sherman replied that on the normal exit for the buses at the base of the hill on the left hand side as you face Main Street there is a culvert. There is a depression at the culvert, which is collapsing, and because of this the exit is now closed to the buses. The town says it is the school's responsibility to repair it. Shawn Gathen, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds is discussing this with the Town and Village as the school feels the cost should be shared. The previous collapse on the lower lawn this past year was repaired by the village. It is important to repair this because in the Spring and during heavy rainfall a lot of water passes through it. It was asked what is the dollar amount for the repairs. Mr. Bonaker stated that it has not been determined. Mr. Bonaker indicated the cost would be part of this school year's budget, as the repairs need to be made as soon as possible.

President Spies asked if there were any questions concerning the four reduction items discussed last night and this evening.

Mr. Quandt asked what grade would be impacted by the loss of the Elementary School position. Superintendent Sherman stated that it would be a 4th grade teacher. The class sizes would still be in compliance with class size restrictions (based on contract) with only three teachers for that grade level.

President Spies asked if the Board was ready to take action tonight on the budget figures proposed; the reduced budget in the amount of \$19,576,161, with a reduction from the previous budget in the amount of \$133,353.

Mr. Quandt stated that the impact to the public for the cost of the increased taxes with the reduced budget would be \$30.00 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation. If the assessed value was at the amount of \$200,000, this would amount to a little more than \$1.00 per week.

President Spies stated that we have a responsibility to our students to provide the best possible education within the budget. He also stated that a contingency budget cannot be more than 4% higher than the previous budget.

Mr. Bonaker stated that about 75% of the budget is salaries and benefits. One percent of the tax levy is about \$76,000.

Cliff Haslun, Transportation Supervisor, related the following to be considered. Two years ago we were on a contingency budget and the impact is still being felt. Historically the bus garage flushes out and changes the transmission fluid, which is not essential maintenance. What would have cost \$35 per vehicle has cost the school \$2000 as two transmissions have failed. Since the school has not had problems in the past with transmissions, he feels the problems are directly linked to the lack of this non-essential maintenance that year. He also related that the cost of oil and diesel fuel is going up and money will be needed to cover the higher cost to run the fleet.

President Spies asked if the Board would like to go with the suggested reductions in the budget.

Motion was made by Mr. Spies and seconded by Miss Wilber to adopt the reduced 2008-09 budget of \$19,576,161.00 as the new proposed budget for consideration by the voters on June 17, 2008.

**MOTION TO
ADOPT NEW
2008-2009
BUDGET**

Yes- 6

No- 0

Absent - Schlieder

Motion Carried

President Spies asked if there was any more business. There was no further business.

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

NEXT MEETINGS

- Wednesday, June 4, 2008 in the Elementary Cafeteria
- Tuesday, June 10, 2008 Public Budget Hearing – 7 pm – High School Cafeteria
- Tuesday, June 17, 2008 Budget Re-Vote – 9:00 am – 9:00 pm – High School Library Lobby
- Wednesday, June 18, 2008 in the High School Library Classroom

Motion was made by Miss Wilber, seconded by Mr. Reinhart to adjourn the Budget Work Session/Special Meeting.

**ADJOURN
MEETING**

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent- Schlieder

Motion Carried

President Spies declared the Budget Work Session/Special Meeting of May 28, 2008 to be adjourned at 7:55p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Substitute District Clerk