

**SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

DATE: MAY 7, 2008
TIME & PLACE: 7:00 P.M. – HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY CLASSROOM
KIND OF MEETING: REGULAR MEETING
ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT: QUANDT; REINHART; SCHLIEDER, SCHULTZ, SPIES, WILBER
ELECTED MEMBER(S) ABSENT:
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 SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
LINDA NEVULIS, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & PUPIL SERVICES
SHAWN GATHEN, SUPERVISOR OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
1 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES; 13 DISTRICT RESIDENTS;
2 FACULTY MEMBERS; 4 STUDENTS

President Spies called the Public Budget Hearing and Regular Board of Education Meeting of May 7, 2008 to order at 7:05 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion was made by Miss Wilber, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 21, 2008.

APPROVE MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
4/21/08

Yes – 5

No – 0

Abstain – 1 (Reinhart)

Motion Carried

President Spies reviewed the Agenda and May and June calendars of events and facilities use. He said there were additions to the agenda as follows:

CALENDAR AND
AGENDA

- Personnel-Administration – Tenure Recommendation
- Personnel-Instructional – Change two “Terminations” to “Resignations”
- Personnel-Non-Instructional – Unpaid Leave of Absence

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

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President Spies offered the privilege of the floor. No one requested to speak.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT

BOARD OF EDUCATION
REPORT

Public Hearing on Proposed 2008-2009 Budget

PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED 2008-09
BUDGET

Superintendent Sherman gave a Power Point presentation on the 2008-09 proposed budget. The presentation included the objective/goals for the 2008-09 Budget which is to “maintain and improve the fiscal capacity and infrastructure of the school district in order to adequately support and provide for the programs and services to students.”

Superintendent Sherman said some important items to keep in mind are:

- Revenues (especially state aid) are merely estimates and are still subject to change next year due to formula calculations based on student actual attendance this year.
- Several items of state aid for 2008-09 (transportation, excess high cost for students with disabilities, BOCES) are based on actual expenses from the current year.

The “Big Picture” highlights of the 2008-09 proposed budget are:

Total Budget amount of \$19,709,534

- Increase from 2007-08 adopted budget of \$1,038,152 (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
- The change in the tax levy is projected to be about 4.44%

Major impact factors include:

- Salary adjustments for employees (\$342,535; 32.99% of total budget change)
- Health insurance for employees cost increase (\$214,570; 20.67% of total budget change)
- BOCES costs increases (\$154,300; 14.86% of total budget change)
- Debt Service Payments (buses and capital projects); (\$167,049; 16.09% of total budget change. These costs are offset by state aid in same year)
- Heating Oil and Diesel Fuel (\$98,000; 9.44% of total budget change)

It was noted that these five major cost items account for \$976,454 (94.05%) of the total proposed budget increase for 2008-09.

New items in the 2008-09 Proposed Budget are:

- Tech Valley Tuition for 2nd student (\$18,000)
- Gym Lockers (\$25,000)
- Additional Textbooks for the Elementary School (\$33,777)

Superintendent Sherman noted the following impact on property owners:

- The projection is for about a 4.44% increase in the tax levy.
- Based on recent trends, the actual tax rate percentage per \$1,000 change should be less than 4.44%

The following items are on the ballot to be voted on by District residents on May 20, 2008:

- 2008-09 Proposed Budget
- Proposition #1 – Bus Purchase (not to exceed \$300,000)
- Proposition #2 – Capital Reserve Fund
- Proposition #3 – Schoharie Free Library (levy of \$55,000)

The following persons have filed valid nominating petitions for three-year terms for the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011 for the Schoharie Central School District Board of Education. Two seats are the terms held by F. Christian Spies and Zachary Reinhart, whose terms expire on June 30, 2008. An additional vacancy for the unexpired term due to the resignation of Shawn Gathen shall also be filled. The unexpired term shall commence on May 20, 2008 or as soon thereafter as the individual may be sworn in, and would expire on June 30, 2010. On the May 20, 2008 election ballot are:

Pamela Newell
Linda Isles
F. Christian Spies

Superintendent Sherman 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 2008-09 proposed budget.

Mrs. Marion Jaqueway said she had sent a letter to Board Members regarding her concern that the GED program was not in the 2008-09 proposed budget. She asked that members consider it for the 2009-10 budget.

No one else present requested to speak.

President Spies declared the Annual Public Budget Hearing on the 2008-09 proposed budget to be closed at 7:20 p.m.

President Spies called the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2008 to order at 7:21 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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REPORT

SMARTBoard Presentation

Superintendent Sherman introduced Mrs. Erika Loucks, High School Math Teacher who gave a presentation on the SMARTBoard, several of which the District purchased this year. Mrs. Loucks gave a demonstration on how she uses it in her classes. The SMARTBoard is an interactive tool which helps students during class, such as taking notes. Mrs. Loucks thanked the Board members for the purchase of this new technology tool.

SMARTBOARD
PRESENTATION -
E. LOUCKS

Capital Project Update

CAPITAL PROJECT
UPDATE

Superintendent Sherman said that he, Mr. Bonaker and Mr. Gathen, had recently met with the architect and the construction management firm regarding the EXCEL Project. He said after attending the meeting, they felt that there may be a problem with work being completed over the summer since the State Education Department has yet to review the architects' plans, even though they had been submitted last December. The rising cost of fuel has had a major impact on the project budget.

Superintendent Sherman proposed the following cost reductions:

- Leave the stairs in the auditorium (audience left) \$14,425
- Modify theater demolition (done by staff) \$12,000
- Donation of a washer and dryer \$ 2,200
- Modify lockable top to control booth \$ 2,600
- Move abatement component in the Elementary School '52 gym to alternate bid \$16,800
- Reduce asbestos allowance in High School \$12,200
- Leave the existing collapsible wall in gym \$31,000
- Alternative funding for the rubber floor in the fitness center \$ 7,400
- Delete the skylights in fitness center \$15,000
- Gym wall replacement padding (different grade) \$ 3,000
- No additional lockers \$12,950
- Exterior ramps at gym doors (do in-house) \$22,725
- Reduce scope of ceramic tile work in locker room TBD
- Reduce number of lights in auditorium \$18,000
- Modify amplifier system in auditorium \$14,000
- Leave bathroom commode at single unit instead of two stalls in girls' locker room \$50,000
- Reduce theater rigging \$ 9,000
- Reduce asbestos allowance in auditorium \$19,151

The total for the above possible cost reductions is \$249,571

Superintendent Sherman noted that we are proceeding with the track, as budgeted.

PERSONNEL – ADMINISTRATION

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Schlieder that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to award tenure to Maryellen Gillis as follows:

Appointee: Maryellen Gillis
 Position: Elementary Principal
 Effective: August 22, 2008
 Tenure Area: Elementary Principal
 Certification: Permanent – School District Administrator
 Permanent – Nursery, Kindergarten & Grades 1-6
 Permanent – Health

AWARD TENURE
 M. GILLIS
 ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

Yes – 5

No – 1 (Wilber)

Motion Carried

PERSONNEL – INSTRUCTIONAL

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

THAT the Board of Education accept the resignation of Cecile Perez, High School French Teacher, effective 6/30/08.

RESIGNATION
 C. PEREZ, HIGH
 SCHOOL FRENCH
 TEACHER

THAT the Board of Education accept the resignation of Tim Fiorillo, High School Math Teacher, effective 6/30/08.

RESIGNATION
 T. FIORILLO, HIGH
 SCHOOL MATH TEACHER

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 accept, with regret, the resignation of Matt Schmidt, Technology Teacher, effective retroactive to 4/18/08.

RESIGNATION
 M. SCHMIDT
 TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mrs. Schultz that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint David Delaney to a 2-Year probationary appointment as Technology Teacher as follows:

Name of Appointee: David Delaney
 Title of Position: Technology Teacher
 Effective Date: Retroactive to 4/18/08
 Probationary Period: 9/1/07 – 8/31/09 (previous tenure)
 Certification: Permanent – Technology Education
 Salary Status: Masters Step 11, plus 3 - \$46,932 (pro-rated)
 Based on 2006-07 STA Contract and subject to change

APPOINT
 D. DELANEY
 TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Schlieder that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint Shawn Gathen as a Volunteer Assistant Coach for Varsity Softball for the 2007-08 school year.

APPOINT
 S. GATHEN
 VOLUNTEER ASSISTANT
 SOFTBALL COACH FOR
 2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR

Yes – 5

No – 1 (Wilber)

Motion Carried

Superintendent Sherman said that Mr. Gathen has met all requirements for coaching.

PERSONNEL – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to appoint Caitlin Willsey and add her name to the Non-Certified Substitute List, effective 5/08/08.

APPOINT
NON-CERTIFIED
SUBSTITUTES

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 an unpaid Leave of Absence to Carol Misener, Teacher Aide, from 5/19/08 – 6/1/08.

APPROVE UNPAID
LEAVE OF ABSENCE
C. MISENER
TEACHER AIDE

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

BUSINESS

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Schultz 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:

CSE, CPSE
AND/OR 504
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. #0123 Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting
2. #06737 Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting
3. #9751 Initial Eligibility Determination Meeting

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Miss Wilber that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Superintendent Sherman to adjust the 2007-2008 School Calendar as follows:

ADJUST 2007-08
SCHOOL CALENDAR

May 23, 2008 No School Due to unused emergency closing days

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mrs. Schultz, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education approve the 2008-2009 School Calendar. (copy attached to official Minutes)

APPROVE 2008-09
SCHOOL

CALENDAR

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Superintendent Sherman explained that the calendar follows the BOCES calendar. He also noted that November 4, 2008 and March 12, 008 have been added as Staff Development Days, for a total of 181 student days and 4 Staff Development Days. Superintendent Sherman explained that Staff Development Days count as pupil days.

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education authorize the Business Administrator to proceed with the process of offering direct deposit of employee's paychecks through the District's bank depository, NBT Bank. Direct deposit would be for those employees voluntarily selecting this option who already have a personal bank account with NBT Bank or who subsequently open an account with NBT Bank.

AUTHORIZE DIRECT
DEPOSIT PROCESS -
BANK ACCOUNTS AT
NBT BANK

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Miss Wilber, seconded by Mr. Quandt that the Board of Education accept, with thanks, a donation in the amount of \$400 from Fenimore Asset Management, Inc. for the 2007-08 school musical.

ACCEPT DONATION
FROM FENIMORE
ASSET MANAGEMENT
FOR 2007-08 MUSICAL

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Miss Wilber that the Board of Education authorize the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) trip to the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA from 6/24/08 – 6/29/08.

AUTHORIZE FBLA TRIP TO ATLANTA, GA. 6/24/08 – 6/29/08

Yes – 6
No – 0

Motion Carried

Ashlee Kalisz, President of the FBLA, spoke to Board Members on behalf of the FBLA. She had written a letter to the Board of Education requesting financial support for a member who will be competing at the national conference after having placed high in the business math competition in New York State. She said they are requesting financial support in the amount of \$691. Ashlee said that they have had fundraisers to help with the finances of all who were attending and they will have several more fundraisers in the near future.

Motion was made by Mr. Quandt, seconded by Mr. Reinhart that the Board of Education authorize financial support in the amount of \$691 to the FBLA for their trip to the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, GA from 6/24/08 – 6/29/08.

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF \$691 TO FBLA FOR NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TRIP

Yes – 5
No – 1 (Quandt)

Motion Carried

There was a lengthy discussion by Board Members regarding financial support to clubs. Mr. Schlieder said that the Board needs to develop a policy and a process for equalizing financing for various groups. Mr. Quandt said that if financial support were given, it would be difficult to turn down the next request.

Members agreed that a policy should be developed and in place by September.

OTHER BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

The following items were distributed to Board members for information:

1. Invitation to Schoharie County School Boards Association Spring Dinner Meeting on May 15, 2008 at the Holiday Inn Express, Schoharie
2. Various news articles pertaining to Schoharie Central School District
3. Elementary School menu and calendar for May
4. Winter 2007-08 End-of-Season Interscholastic Athletics Reports

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

NEXT MEETINGS

- Tuesday, 5/20/08 – Budget Vote and Board Member Election – 9 am – 9 pm in the High School Library Lobby
- Tuesday, 5/20/08 – Regular Meeting – 8 pm – High School Cafeteria

Motion was made by Mr. Schlieder, seconded by Mrs. Schultz 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 8:28 p.m.

RECESS

The Executive Session came to order at 8:35 p.m. with Mr. Spies, Mr. Schlieder, Mr. Quandt, Mr. Reinhart, Mrs. Schultz, Miss Wilber, Kristine A. Lanchantin from the firm of Girvin and Ferlazzo (District’s Attorney), Superintendent Sherman, and Mr. Bonaker present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Mr. Quandt to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the meeting.

RECONVENE MEETING

Yes – 6
No – 0

Motion Carried

President Spies reconvened the meeting at 9:22 pm.

Motion was made by Mr. Reinhart, seconded by Mr. Quandt to adjourn the meeting.

Yes – 6

No – 0

Motion Carried

ADJOURN
MEETING

President Spies declared the Regular Meeting of May 7, 2008 to be adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Wilber
District Clerk