



THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY, NY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Board Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 2012
Type of Meeting: **SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP**
Location: School 1

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 6:00 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds, President, called the special workshop meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mrs. Anne Wager-Rounds, President
Ms. Mary Marro-Giroux, Vice President
Mrs. Ilene Clinton
Mr. Tom Mayo
Mr. Jason Schofield
Mr. Bill Strang
Mr. Michael Tuttmann
Mrs. Martha Walsh

Members Absent: Mrs. Carol Harvin

Also Present: Dr. Brian Howard, Interim Superintendent
Mr. John Carmello, Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Mary O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Ms. Kathy Culligan, Director of Human Resources

Citizens Advisory Committee: Laura Bevevino
Richard Ellis
Wallace Renfrew
Jeannie Steigler

III. BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Howard gave a power point presentation of the 2012-13 budget which reflects recent adjustments in revenues and staffing. The Board will need to decide what the tax levy should be put forth to the voters.

Dr, Howard reminded the public that the District has suffered by a reduction of its workforce by 91.5 in the past three years. He has concerns that current class sizes are too large. The district does not require a deadline for Kindergarten registration so it is difficult to project enrollment for that grade. He recommended a deadline in the future.

The starting point for 2012-13 budget is \$90,338,736. The includes the cost of job restoration fund and health insurance refund that brings budget to \$92,416,493. He provided an update on state aid.

Dr. Howard presented the budget in three stages with different tax levy percentages. He noted there is potential for cost savings with Questar III BOCES offering services for accounts payable, payroll and accounting. We are waiting for the results of special education savings in the *Futures Education* study.

Draft 1:

Savings shown in reduction of one team in the Middle School.

Draft 2:

Savings shown in retirements and shared services of Transportation.

Draft 3:

Savings from substitute costs, staff reductions of 8 FTE (less 12 reading teachers plus 3 elementary and literacy coach); retirement of 5 teachers and prescription change.

Health insurance costs increase.

The rationale for reducing reading teachers is Troy has highest number for district our size; results have not been significant and we need to convert from AIS to Rtl model. We have two schools in need of improvement.

Dr. Howard discussed the District's history of spending fund balance. The District has a reserve fund balance of \$4 million but Dr. Howard does not recommend that it be used because we do not know what the future holds in terms of repairs, etc.

The Board was given options to consider for the final budget number and tax levy increase. Dr. Howard explained the tax levy cap of 2% does not include the allowable exclusions for capital expenses and retirement systems contributions. Based on formula, District can go to 3.6% and still meet the tax levy cap requirement. BOE must look at the bottom line. If the revenue increases, Dr. Howard recommends restoring positions.

If the budget is defeated twice, the District would be required to adopt a 0% levy increase. Based on the 2% tax levy, budget would have to be cut an additional \$644,057 in expenditures. This would come from removing equipment, certain salary increases, a reduction in BOE contractual and 6 FTE instructional positions.

The Board was polled and it was agreed that the tax levy would be 2.89%. Citizens Advisory Committee gave support for 2.89%.

Public Comment:

Mark Walsh (TTA President) - He feels Board should set the tax levy at 3.4% which is in the best interest of the students. Budget does not help the elementary school students who struggle to read. He is concerned that we have no leadership or plan for the future.

Dr. Howard stated the Board has a long-term plan which will be rolled out in July.

IV. ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Beth Bruno
Board Clerk