

THE ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF TROY, NY

**TODAY'S
STUDENTS.**



**TOMORROW'S
LEADERS.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Date of Meeting: April 3, 2013
Type of Meeting: **SPECIAL WORKSHOP**
Location: School 1
Time: 6:00 pm

MINUTES

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

At 6:05 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds, President, called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mrs. Anne Wager-Rounds, President
Mr. Bill Strang, Vice President
Ms. Ilene Clinton
Ms. Elizabeth Denio
Mrs. Carol Harvin
Mr. Tom Mayo
Mr. Jason Schofield
Mr. Michael Tuttman
Ms. Martha Walsh

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Dr. Brian Howard, Interim Superintendent
Mr. John Carmello, Assistant Superintendent
of Curriculum and Instruction
Mrs. Kristen Miaski, Director of Human Resources
Ms. Kathleen Cietek, District Treasurer

Citizens Advisory
Committee: Mrs. Mary Ellen Adams
Mr. Richard Ellis
Mr. David Heyward
Mr. Ken Hughes
Mrs. Jeannie Steigler

CAC Absent: Mr. Tom Meyer

III. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

IV. 2013-14 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

A special workshop meeting was scheduled to finalize 2013-14 budget figures and for Board members to make decisions regarding cuts needed to reach a budget which maintains programs for our students and is fiscally responsible to taxpayers.

As follow up to March 27th workshop meeting, Mr. Carmello stated that the Charter School reporting error has been corrected and our transitional aid numbers are now based on more accurate enrollment numbers. The District will receive an increase in state aid of \$659,297 more than the Governor originally proposed. This is a direct result of our advocacy efforts.

Mr. Carmello briefly reviewed the progression of drafts which were discussed at previous workshop meetings, noting that our tax cap is 4.01%.

Draft 1	\$99,998,448	15.27% tax levy
Draft 2	\$99,396,762	10.90% tax levy
Draft 3	\$99,509,933	8.23% tax levy
Draft 4	\$97,755,587	3.97% tax levy

Mr. Carmello made a power point presentation and distributed Draft 5 of the budget. He described the expenditure changes since Draft 4 which include utility and phone reductions, elementary monitors transferred to lunch fund, reducing the charter school student projection by 11 students and athletic reductions through the reduction of non-league home games. Additional reductions in expenditures for Draft 5 are as follows: not replacing a retiring custodian and equipment reductions.

Discussion:

Mrs. Harvin asked if not replacing the custodian would leave a building without staff, and Mr. Carmello indicated that no building would be without staff. Additionally, this is priority restoration item, should the funds be restored. Mrs. Rounds-Wager suggested that the priority restoration list be fully developed, so that when figures are finalized in the October/November time frame, we are prepared to restore what we can.

Mrs. Rounds-Wager asked how the elementary staff reductions will impact class size. Mr. Carmello responded that there is only one section at PS16 that will need adjusting, but all other elementary classes remain at or about 24 pupils per class. Mrs. Steigler asked if there are teaching assistants or aides assigned to classrooms, and Mr. Carmello noted that staffing will be adjusted based on final enrollment numbers, with special sensitivity being paid to Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2. Dr. Howard added that by recapturing only four charter school students, we can fully fund a teaching position. Mrs. Adams requested additional clarifications of the charter school enrollment numbers and a timeline for the new student campaign. Mr. Schofield requested the number of transportation requests made to date be made available to the Board. Dr. Howard indicated these would be available for the April 10th meeting.

Mrs. Rounds-Wager polled the Citizens Advisory Committee for feedback on the 2.99% proposed increase. Mrs. Steigler agreed, citing the programs and long-term needs the budget is addressing. Mrs. Adams agreed, recommending the proposal be accompanied by an explanation of how it can be above the 2% state cap being discussed in the media. Mr. Heyward agreed, but indicated that the presentation of the proposal over 2% may be made easier if other districts have more significant increase proposals. Mr. Hughes agreed to the 2.99%, and recommended the presentation include the ramifications (in program and staff cuts) of reducing the proposed budget to 2%. Mr. Ellis suggested that our per pupil expenditure is high compared to other local districts. Dr. Howard pointed out that the statistic Mr. Ellis cited was calculated differently than the universally-used State Education calculation. A comparison of the calculations will be made available at a later date.

Mrs. Harvin agreed the 2.99% increase should be proposed, and suggested the Board be polled. Ms. Clinton recommended fewer cuts and suggested an increase at or around 3.25% would be acceptable. Mr. Tuttmann said that the community cannot tolerate additional increases that are preventable, and he recommends putting a 2.99% increase forward. Mr. Mayo indicated the increase is realistic, especially considering the tax assessments recently released.

Mr. Carmello reminded the Board that the proposed budget closes the gap, shows fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers while preserving the educational experiences and opportunities available to our students. It was agreed that the Board will vote on the 2013-14 budget proposing a 2.99% tax levy at the next business meeting.

The Citizens Advisory Committee prepared a list of recommendations for budget savings to the Board of Education (attached) dated April 3, 2013.

V. ADJOURN

At 7:00 pm Mrs. Wager-Rounds made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Strang and carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nadia Carey
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent
(in absence of Mary Beth Bruno, Board Clerk)