

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OF THE SPENCERPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: April 14, 2015  
Spencerport, New York

Members Present: Mr. Bracken, Mr. Gibbardo, Ms. Gillette, Ms. Tyler, Mr. Sweeney,  
Mr. Zale

Absent: Mr. Oberlin

Others Present: Mr. Milgate, Mr. Crumb, Mr. Zinkiewich, Mr. Wood

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

An Executive Session was called to order by the President, Mr. Sweeney, for the purpose of discussing personnel and negotiations. A motion was made by Mr. Zale and seconded by Mr. Gibbardo to enter into Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney moved the meeting out of Executive Session at 7:06 p.m.

The Study Session of the Board of Education of the Spencerport Central School District was called to order at 7:09 p.m. E.D.S.T. by the President, Mr. Sweeney, in the Board of Education Conference Room in the Administration Building.

**1. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The Board of Education members and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Ms. Tyler and seconded by Mr. Gibbardo that the Board approve the Study Session agenda.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6

No: 0

**3. BOARD RECOGNITION**

High School Music Students and Teachers

Mr. Crumb introduced music teachers Ann Murphy, Laura Manse, Ben Osborn and John Viavattine. Mr. Viavattine took the opportunity to thank the Board of Education for all their support with the Music Department. The following students were then introduced: Ellie VanSlyke – Treble Choir

Representative, Sabine Adler – Vocal Jazz Representative, Alex Thornton and Amy Vorhauer – Jazz Ensemble Representatives and Camille Colby – Friday Jazz Band. The students took turns speaking on their trip to participate at the Heritage Music Festival held in New York City. They each noted some of the events they attended and sights they got to view such as performing in a cathedral, seeing the Statue of Liberty and also on the awards they won. The Friday Jazz Band received a Silver Award, the Treble Choir received a Gold award and placed second overall in the 3A Treble Choir category, the Vocal Jazz received a Gold award and two members received the Maestro Award for outstanding individual achievement. The Jazz Ensemble was awarded the adjudicator's award and the Band Sweepstakes award for having the highest score among all the participating bands. Also two Jazz Ensemble members won Maestro awards for outstanding solo work. Collectively, the four ensembles took home the Festival Sweepstakes award for having the highest score of any district that participated. Camille Colby note that she got to perform a piece that one of the judges had composed and he said she did a nice job on it.

Mr. Viavattine noted that we have awesome students and they all had a great time. He noted how the students are very humble and we are blessed to be working with these students. They are great musicians.

Mr. Sweeney noted that the music program is second to none. He also noted the music program has a great support system. He stated it was awesome to recognize the students and staff.

Mr. Crumb noted that our music department is something special and that they have a high level of excellence. He is very proud of the way the students represent themselves. He also commended the teachers for their life-long love of music.

**4. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

None

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

Old Business

5.1 Approval of the minutes of the Board of Education meeting of March 24, 2015.

5.2 New Business

5.21 Clerks and Inspectors for May 19, 2015 Budget Vote:

Co-Chairpersons of the Annual District Election: Valerie Lupiani, District Office  
Deb Ferraro, Terry Taylor School  
Phyllis Lavner, Wm. C. Munn School

Board of Election Inspectors: Ron Young, Administration Building  
John Steeves, Terry Taylor School  
Robert Collins, Wm. C. Munn School

<u>District Office</u>	<u>Munn Elementary</u>
6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Eileen Smith	6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Andrea Romano
6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Deborah Olmsted	6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Darlene Taft
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Donna Bianchi	4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Joanne Powers

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Marcy Clapper  
 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Ann Marie Adamack  
 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Lori Eichas  
 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Sherry Weber

4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Chris Davis

Alternates  
 Pamela Maier  
 Marilyn Law  
 Linda Kramb

**Taylor Elementary**

6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sue Mosher  
 6:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Terri Monsees  
 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Amy Lehman  
 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Tobie Bailey

5.22 Field Trip Request – FIRST Robotics

**The Spencerport High School requests approval for the following field trip for 2014-2015:**

1. The Ranger Robotics has qualified for the World Championship Competition in St. Louis, MO, April 22 – 26, 2015.

SCHOOL	GRADE LEVEL/ CLASS	DESTINATION CITY/PLACE	OBJECTIVE(S)	DATE S	SCHOOL DAYS MISSED	# OF STUDENTS /ADULTS RATIO	COST (EST.)
Spencerport High School	Ranger Robotics	St. Louis, MO	To participate in FIRST Robotics World Competition which allows students to identify needs for technical solutions, solve problems, manage time and resources in a technological project.	April 22-26, 2015	3	60 students 6 adults 10:1	\$280 per student

5.23 Certificated Personnel

1. EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND INTER-SCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

- a. Michael Bray, appointed Coach for the 2015 Unified Sports Basketball program. Stipend is \$1,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Gibbardo and seconded by Mr. Zale to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6  
 No: 0

6. **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

6.1 President's Report and Communication

Mr. Sweeney note that he attended the National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony. He was very pleased to attend such a great event and noted this was the largest number of inductees in the school's history (88 total students).

6.2 Board of Education Members' Reports

Mr. Zale noted he had learned that Mr. Drake would be attending the Utica National awards to receive the Titanium Award with honors for the highest award for the highest score in safety. Ms. Tyler noted she attended the annual BOCES dinner where an overview of their budget was presented. She also noted she enjoyed hearing a student that spoke about his experiences. She also noted that dinner was prepared by students in the BOCES Culinary Arts program. Mr. Gibbardo attended an in-house TCI training and noted that he also attended the BOCES annual dinner. He also attended a sports booster club meeting and the Canal View PTO as well as the high school talent show which he really enjoyed.

6.3 Authorization for Board President to Negotiate Superintendent's Contract

Mr. Sweeney had passed out to the board the resolution to negotiate the Superintendent's Contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Bracken and seconded by Mr. Gibbardo to approve the Resolution for the Board President to negotiate the Superintendent's contract.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6

No: 0

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

7.1 2015-2106 Budget Presentation

Mr. Crumb began the presentation on the proposed 2015-16 budget with an overview of expenditures, revenues, tax levy and forecasted tax rate. The recommended 2015-2016 school year budget is \$74,898,073. This budget represents an increase from the current year of 2.47%. He shared that for the first time in many years this budget would enable us to make enhancements to our instructional programs and student opportunities that align with the continuing pursuit of our mission.

He noted that this budget would achieve three (3) important goals:

1. Maintain and enhance our instructional programs and student opportunities.
2. Reduce our reliance on reserve funds and appropriated fund balance.
3. Minimize the tax levy increase and resultant tax rate for our school community.

The largest increase in State Aid was the reduction of the Gap Elimination from \$2.6 million to \$937,016. Building aid increased \$1 million and can be attributed to the receipt of aid for the 2012 capital project, special one-time reimbursement for an emergency replacement of bus lifts and a decision by the state to not recalibrate interest rate or previous capital projects. Additionally, Mr. Crumb projected a \$100,000 increase in State Aid associated with our participation in the Urban-Suburban program beginning in the fall of 2015.

Based on the favorable increase in State Aid, the recommended tax levy would increase 1.47%. This is under our recalculated tax levy cap of 1.87%.

Based on a 1.47% tax levy increase and preliminary information received from the town assessors, Mr. Crumb projected that the tax rate for our school community's homeowners would increase 0.78%, or \$0.19 per \$1,000 of assessed value for a tax rate of \$24.28.

In order to reduce our reliance on reserve funds and continue the commitment to long-range financial stability, the recommended budget reduces the use of reserve funds by \$900,000 and appropriated fund balance by \$500,000. These changes will enhance the District's ability to meet our financial obligation of \$1.9 million to fund the recently approved Monroe 2 BOCES Capital Project in July 2017 without incurring any debt.

Mr. Crumb noted that there is an increase in state aid but it comes with strings attached, one of which is that a new APPR for teachers and principals must be approved by November 15, 2015. Mr. Crumb shared that the State Education Department is required to distribute the requirements for the new APPR plan by June 30, 2015.

There was a discussion about possible modifications to the revenues, specifically appropriated fund balance, to reflect no increase in the projected tax rate. The pros and cons were discussed and responses from various board members reflected that we always need to be cognizant and prepared for the future and that we have to keep in mind we have a \$1.9 million financial obligation in July 2017 to BOCES for their Capital Project for which the District would like to avoid incurring debt and interest charges.

Mr. Crumb introduced Mr. Wood who spoke on expenditures with a specific focus on instruction, health care, pupil services, benefits and debt services. He also noted that for pupil transportation we are recommending the purchase of 10 buses, consistent with our bus replacement plan, and three motor vehicles.

Mr. Crumb addressed the Monroe 2 BOCES Capital Project and our financial obligation totaling \$3.37 million. Our goal is to avoid incurring debt for this obligation by trying to save \$1.9 million over the current and next fiscal years.

Additionally, Mr. Crumb discussed the second-year implementation of the New York State Property Tax Freeze program. All NYS public school districts will have until June 1, 2015 to put together an efficiency plan equal to 1% of the last approved tax levy for each of the 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

Mr. Bracken inquired about efficiencies that can be considered for the property tax freeze. Mr. Crumb shared that the suburban Monroe County school districts are exploring the possibility of the health insurance consortium to demonstrate the required efficiencies. Mr. Sweeney asked about how much time would be spent to achieve a plan and if the efforts were worth the result.

Mr. Bracken commented on being under the tax cap and relying less on fund balance and reserves. He questioned if it makes sense to reduce it further. Mr. Crumb noted that doing this would increase the tax levy. Ms. Gillette asked if we have a plan to not take anything from savings. Mr. Wood noted that we are always trying to reduce the use of appropriated fund balance but we still have some dependency. Mr. Crumb also noted that we can predict expenditures better than we can revenues. Mr. Sweeney noted that the state is actually giving us more aid because they actually owed us from previous years. Mr. Bracken asked where money for the BOCES payment would come from. Mr. Wood replied we would use excess funds that would be transferred to the capital fund. Mr. Zale spoke about how to change the budget to increase the levy and have a flat tax rate. There was skepticism about future state aid increases even though some of the elected officials in Albany have committed to end the Gap Elimination Adjustment next year.

A member of the Budget Focus Group, Todd Dunn, asked how much total reserves has been used over the last several years. Mr. Wood shared that our balances are \$13.4 million and he further explained that this included all reserves, including the capital reserves voted on by the community.

Mr. Sweeney addressed the Budget Focus Group on the increases necessary to be able to service our students and Common Core Standards and prepare teachers to provide instruction. He also noted that the Grant that allowed for the Humanities Director & addition of two teachers has been exhausted. Mr. Crumb noted that the addition of personnel is necessary to meet the ongoing implementation of Common Core standards and implementation of the new Social Studies framework and science standards.

Mr. Zale noted that he would still like to see a zero rate of tax increase. Janet questioned what would happen next year to pay the \$1.9 million to pay BOCES next year if we went to a zero rate of tax increase. Ms. Gillette asked what Mr. Crumb's recommendation would be based on the comments of the Board and the audience. Mr. Crumb's recommendation is to maintain the recommended plan for expenditures and revenues.

A Budget Focus Group member questioned where we were dedicating our money down the road. Ms. Tyler commented that we have a \$1.9 million payment to BOCES that we need to prepare for and we would rather plan now for the future to avoid unnecessary debt and interest.

Mr. Crumb noted that going to a zero tax rate would set an expectation that we wouldn't be able to replicate next year. Mr. Sweeney referred to 1999 when we had to ask the community for a 16 % tax increase. Mr. Sweeney reinforced that we need to think about the future, not just next year.

A motion was made by Mr. Bracken and seconded by Ms. Tyler to adopt the proposed 2015-2016 budget and property tax report card as recommended.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 5

No: 1

Mr. Zale voted No.

## 7.2 Assessment Update: Middle School

Mr. Crumb introduce Mr. Zinkiewich to report on findings of the middle school assessments. This was a continuation from a previous discussion based on the district's affiliation with the *Teaching is the Core* grant. Mr. Zinkiewich noted that we have completely revamped the curriculum throughout the district and provide our teachers tremendous support in the area of instructional delivery. He explained the different aspects of curriculum; the stages of where the district stands with revisions; and identified the gaps that exist and the steps to further align Spencerport's curriculum to the Common Core Learning Standards. Mr. Zinkiewich noted that an audit of our ELA curriculum was conducted and we will use this feedback this summer to make the necessary improvements. In addition, he spoke about professional development and the role that it plays here in Spencerport. Our teachers are afforded time to collaborate and receive direct support through our professional development office and we have targeted this work to address the shifts involved through the implementation of the Common Core. A video was viewed of Cosgrove students and their perspectives on assessments and how this information is used. Students commented on the importance of feedback from their teachers and how this serves to support their learning. Meaningful assessment provides information on what needs to be taught and measures student understanding of the curriculum. Students gave examples in music, technology and science where they had to create

and present something as a form of an assessment of their own which was graded by the teacher. Students also provided examples of ways that help them learn best such as hands-on activities and taking notes.

The level of enthusiasm for assessments was different than the K-5 presentation and it appears that there is too much of an emphasis on multiple choice questions. When asked what were some of the most memorable assessments students could remember they gave examples such as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade state reports and the 4<sup>th</sup> grade living museums. There wasn't an example from Cosgrove and this is something that the district's Assessment Design Team will address in preparation for the 2015-2016 school year. Students were asked on a scale of 1-10 how stressful assessments are and the most common answer was ten (10). After the video, Mr. Zinkiewich referred to assessments as a 3<sup>rd</sup> rail for teachers because it is personal to them. He noted that we currently have six teachers working to create performance-based assessments in grades 5 and 8 that will serve as exemplars. Mr. Allen and Mr. Zinkiewich are leading this work and then additional teachers will be recruited on June 26, 29, and 30 to develop additional assessments across the district.

Mr. Sweeney asked about Common Core moving to a more hands-on concept. Such things like the museum and state reports (hands-on) were eliminated due to the district's transition to the Common Core based on the limited information that we received at the time. The Common Core receives a negative label, but it in fact ensures rigor, creativity, and addresses the academic philosophy that Spencerport endorses. Ms. Gillette asked if teachers review test questions and Mr. Zinkiewich admitted that there is too much test preparation in our schools. Assessment of learning exists at the secondary level and we need to move to an assessment for learning model and avoid teaching to the test.

In closing, Mr. Zinkiewich noted that there would be more information on assessments in May and the focus will be on the commencement level.

### 7.3 Ratification of the Successor Agreement with Spencerport Transportation Association

The District began planning with the BOCES 2 Labor Relations Service for negotiating with the Association in November of 2011 with negotiations actually starting in May of 2012. A tentative agreement was reached by the negotiators on March 12, 2015. The Association ratified this tentative agreement on Monday, April 6, 2015 with an 88% yes vote. The vote of the 51 members was (45 yes, 6 no) out of the total Association membership of 60.

In summary, goals were met for both parties.

A motion was made Mr. Zale and seconded by Mr. Bracken to adopt the Ratification of the Successor Agreement.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6  
No: 0

### 7.4 BOCES 2 Administrative Budget and Local Election of Candidates

#### **MONROE 2-ORLEANS BOCES ANNUAL ELECTION/BUDGET VOTE BALLOT**

The undersigned, being the duly appointed clerk of the Spencerport Central School District (the

“district”), hereby certifies as follows:

The Board of Education of the district, at a meeting duly called and held on April 24, 2015, which six (6) members were present and one (1) was absent, and at which a quorum was present and voting throughout, took the following action: (check “yes” if the board adopted the resolution, “no” if the board voted against the resolution, “abstain” if the board decided not to vote).

Mr. G, B yes 6-0

RESOLVED: to cast one vote for the election of John Abbott, resident of the Hilton Central School District, as a member of the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES board for a term of office which will begin on July 1, 2015 and end June 30, 2018.

Vote  
Yes 6 No 0  
Abstain 0

RESOLVED: to cast one vote for the election of Michael May, resident of the Spencerport Central School District, as a member of the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES board for a term of office which will begin on July 1, 2015 and end June 30, 2018.

Yes 6 No 0  
Abstain 0

RESOLVED: to cast one vote for the election of Constance Rockow, resident of the Kendall Central School District, as a member of the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES board for a term of office which will begin on July 1, 2015 and end June 30, 2018.

Yes 6 No 0  
Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLVED: that the Board of Education of the Spencerport Central School District votes to approve the proposed BOCES administrative budget in the amount of \$5,824,070 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Yes 6 No 0  
Abstain 0

A motion was made by Mr. Bracken and seconded by to approve the vote on the BOCES Annual Election/Budget.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6  
No: 0

7.5 BOCES 2 Administrative Budget

**RESOLUTION FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
ON THE PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET OF THE  
BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES  
APRIL 14, 2015**

Whereas, the Spencerport Central School District is a component district of the Monroe 2-Orleans Board of Cooperative Educational Services, and



- Whereas, Education Law as amended in 1993 requires that the administrative budget of BOCES be approved by a majority vote of the component districts, and
- Whereas, the Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES proposed 2015-16 administrative budget of \$5,824,070, represents a 12.5% increase over the 2014-15 administrative budget of \$5,176,236, and
- Whereas, the net cost to be billed to the districts will be \$5,109,069, which represents a 14.1% increase over the 2014-15 billing cost; therefore be it
- Resolved, that the Spencerport Central School District approves the proposed 2015-16 Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES administrative budget of \$5,824,070.

Major driver was retiree costs. Salaries small percentage (.4). Nothing inappropriate –Janet.

Motion made by Mr. Bracken seconded by Ms. Tyler to approve the BOCES Administrative Budget.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6  
No: 0

8. **MEETING EVALUATION**

Mr. Crumb referenced the NYS Assessments that were taken today and that because so many students opted out of the test we didn't need a full day for rating. He asked what the board's thoughts were. It was noted that this would eliminate babysitting needs for many parents and students would have extra time in the classroom. Mr. Sweeney stated he thinks it is good idea for students to be in a classroom April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Zale noted that he thought the meeting went well. Ms. Gillette noted that nice work was done on the budget.

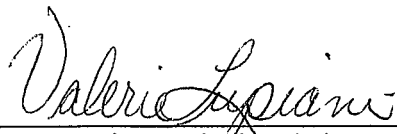
9. **ADJOURN**

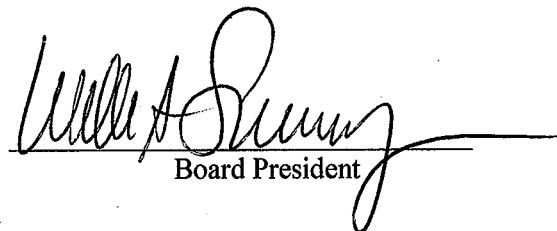
Motion was made by Mr. Bracken and seconded by Ms. Gillette to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Vote of the Board: 6

Yes: 6  
No: 6

As there was no further business, Mr. Sweeney declared the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

  
Assistant District Clerk

  
Board President

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