

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

Date: March 12, 2013
Spencerport, New York

Members Present: Ms. Gillette, Mr. Oberlin, Ms. Tyler, Mr. Sweeney

Absent: Mr. Bracken, Mr. Hutton, Mr. Young

Others Present: Mr. Crumb, Mr. Zinkiewich, Mr. Wood, Ms. Lupiani

The Study meeting of the Board of Education of the Spencerport Central School District was called to order at 6:38 p.m. E.D.S.T. by the President, Mr. Sweeney, in the Board of Education Conference Room in the Administration Building.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. Gillett and seconded by Mr. Oberlin to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel. The Executive Session meeting was moved to the Human Resources Conference Room.

Vote of the Board: Yes: 4

Yes: 4

No: 0

Mr. Young entered the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney moved us out of Executive Session and back into Study Session at 7:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Vote of the Board: Yes: 5

Yes: 5

No: 0

4. BOARD RECOGNITION

Winter Athletes –Mr. Pelin, Director of Athletics, introduced Mr. Nellist, Coach of the High School Swim Team. Coach Nellist then introduced Max Wersinger who was recognized for his accomplishments and his participation in the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Boys Swim State Championship. Coach Nellist was also very proud to share that Max had broken the 1985 Spencerport record in the 100 meter breast stroke.

Mr. Pelin then introduced Mr. Glover, Coach of the High School Wrestling Team. Coach Glover introduced and acknowledged the Section V Champion students; John Hass (106 weight class) Tahj Eaddy (126 weight class), Trent Egenlauf (182 weight class), Collin Pittman (195 weight class), and Austin Coleman (285 weight class). He also noted this year's NYSPHSAA Wrestling State Championship participants; Collin Pittman, Trent Egenlauf, John Hass (placed 3rd), and Austin Coleman (placed 2nd)

Mr. Pelin introduced Mr. Farnand, Coach for Indoor Track and Field. Coach Farnand introduced the Section V Champions; Eric Zemaitis, winner of the Long Jump and Maddie Kopp, winner of the 55 and 300 meter races. Eric and Maddie also participated in the NYSPHSAA Indoor Track State Championships.

Mr. Pelin introduced Ms. Bates, Coach of the Varsity Cheerleading Team. Coach Bates introduced the Varsity Winter Cheerleading Team and recognized them as the Section V Class AA2 Winter Cheer Champions. Coach Bates introduced all the Cheerleading members present and absent; Rayne Dennis, Sofia DiFrancesca, Danielle DiLorenzo, Jennifer Evarts, Hanna Gooding, Kylee Hayes, Casey Kitrinos, Melanie, Kitrinos, Jessica Leonard, Alyssa Longo, Shelby Lopa, Julia Lotta, Brooke Marginean, Kayla Marino, Alexandria Morabito (Capitan), Cassidy Nau-Hix, Jessica Orlando (Captain), Kayla Privitera, Brianna Sanders, Jennifer West, Kathleen Wolf, and Hanna Wolfanger.

Mr. Pelin presented three (3) athletic awards; a Section V Championship trophy with all names engraved on it, a permanent recognition Section V Championship Banner to be displayed in the high school gym, and a Monroe County Public Schools Athletic Conference Division III Champions plaque.

5. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR none

6. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Gillette to approve the consent agenda.

Vote of the Board: Yes: 5

Yes: 5

No:0

Old Business

6.1 Approval of minutes of the February 26, 2013 Board of Education meeting.

6.2 Approval of the amended School Calendar for the 2013-14 School Year.

7. BOARD OF EDUCATION

7.1 President's Report and Communication

Mr. Sweeney commented on the STA volleyball tournament for United Way which raised over \$5,000 dollars. He shared that it was a great time for the faculty, board members, and a wonderful opportunity to raise money for a great cause.

7.2 Board of Education Member's Report – Ms. Tyler attended an information exchange luncheon. There was a discussion on personal electronic devices in schools and their acceptable use in schools. Other districts have adopted changes in their technology policies. Mr. Sweeney stated the Spencerport Policy for technology is currently being reviewed. Ms. Tyler also commented on the robotics competition she attended and that we have a strong team.

The High School Band Concert was mentioned as having had a great format. The transitions between the choral section and the band made for a very nice concert. Mr. Sweeney also mentioned that March is "Music in our Schools" month. He noted that we have great faculty to help our students develop their talents. Spencerport placed 3rd overall in the jazz competition and will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting in the spring.

Mr. Oberlin noted that he attended the MapleFest celebration and was impressed with the knowledge and enthusiasm of the Academy students who participated. He stated that this was a wonderful event and an excellent opportunity for the Academy students to show their strengths.

7.3 Discussion of the New Paltz Resolution

Mr. Sweeney commented that parents are encouraging government to re-look at the high numbers of required state tests. Studies and research are showing that this may be hindering our students' performance and may not be in their best interest.

Mr. Sweeney believes we should start with our Mission Statement and our primary responsibilities to students and staff. He stated it is the Board's responsibility to provide highly qualified teachers to develop student growth. Over-testing may be hampering our students and the teachers who have to focus on testing instead of actual instruction in the subject matter.

Mr. Sweeney asked for the Board's thoughts. Mr. Young commented about finding money for teachers to find time to teach for testing and are these tests really good for the students.

Mr. Sweeney noted a need to upgrade technology to accommodate on-line testing and the need to find the money to do this. Mr. Young commented that he would like to look at the amount of money that would be needed to accomplish this. Mr. Sweeney noted that we are obligated to follow State law but that we also need to advocate for students and employees when we think something is not right. Mr. Sweeney suggested this topic be placed on the agenda for discussion in a couple of weeks after the Board gets a chance to study the information further. Mr. Crumb was asked and agreed to provide web links with related information that would be helpful.

Mr. Sweeney stated he would forward our concerns onto NYSSBA and work through them to see if they would take up this cause. Mr. Sweeney stated that taking a first step is important and he believes this is a worthwhile adventure to pursue. Mr. Oberlin agreed in theory but was concerned that it may

not be very smart politically. There is concern that we would get a negative reaction if we act alone; we need to act as a group with other districts.

Ms. Gillett believes this is a second or third step; we need to talk with our staff, board, and district personnel first to get their thoughts. There are other things to consider like APPR for example. Ms. Gillett would like to see the pros and cons of this endeavor.

Ms. Tyler is looking for links for the history behind this policy.

Mr. Sweeney asked for a roundtable with key speakers on this subject. Mr. Crumb will arrange for this to occur at the March 26 meeting.

8. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

8.1 Presentation of the Superintendent's Budget for the 2013-14 school year.

Mr. Crumb rolled out the recommendations for the 2013-2014 Budget. He thanked the budget focus group for their participation.

There are three (3) propositions:

1. Approve a budget with expenditures of \$71,464,222 and dissolve the Property Loss Reserve (\$813,190) and appropriate the funds to reduce the tax levy.
2. Approve use of \$323,894 from the Capital Reserve for buses and motor vehicles.
3. Create a new Capital Reserve for technology and classroom equipment (five year term, \$4 million maximum contribution).

Mr. Crumb then presented the function analysis and highlighted employee benefits expenditures. He stated that benefits alone impact the budget by 3%. Mr. Crumb reviewed the budget progress from December to now and proposed a budget-to-budget increase of 3.53%. He then reviewed the calculated maximum allowable levy limit of 4.05% and shared the budget challenges of getting to his recommended budget:

1. Reducing the Budget by \$240,675 more
2. Sequestration Reduction of \$72,201
3. Recalibrate Building Aid by \$362,562

Discussion followed specific to the recalibration of building aid. Mr. Crumb shared that interest reimbursement for building accounts was lowered from 4.5% to 2.375%. Mr. Wood stated that we have a financial advisor assisting with bonds that may qualify for a waiver. Mr. Oberlin asked what makes the bonds qualify? Mr. Wood noted that Mr. Donegan's office is assisting us in understanding this process.

Mr. Crumb presented strategies for reducing the budget such as staffing (attrition, retirements, and enrollment changes), negotiations, contingencies and trend line data, and identifying and maximizing contingencies. Specifically, Mr. Crumb shared a chart showing the correlation between enrollment and staffing reductions. He also shared any additional reductions made between February 26 through tonight.

Mr. Crumb expounded on the reductions being looked at to reduce the budget noting we are not looking for reductions that affect our children. Transportation reductions, not adding a special

education position at High School as well as other examples were given. The District has also had a meeting with Mr. Wager and Mr. Donegan to help us look at strategies for our budget.

We are looking to dissolve our property loss reserve which can only be dissolved by a majority vote of the community. This would result in a \$830,190 fund balance to be used to reduce the tax levy. In addition, we will be asking the community to establish a new capital reserve for technology and classroom equipment.

Bus purchases were discussed and Mr. Proukou noted that we purchase the same number of buses every year. Ms. Gillette asked what the typical life span for buses were. Mr. Proukou commented 9-10 years for a large bus because of the climate we live in and seven (7) years on smaller vehicles as they are not made as heavy duty as the large buses.

Mr. Crumb noted that we are anticipating the government will finalize the State budget by March 21st which will impact our budget.

Mr. Wood then presented. He discussed increases or reductions for each major functional area; general support, instruction, pupil transportation, and undistributed. He also reviewed any changes in regards to revenue. Discussion followed with changes in revenue and expenditures.

Mr. Crumb gave an overview of what he needed to see happen in the following months:

1. Analyze anticipated increase in state aid
2. March 26, 2013 - discussion, approve 45 day notices
3. April 9, 2013 – adopt budget

Mr. Oberlin asked what we may anticipate in state aid. Mr. Crumb could not answer definitely as this will depend on the formula the state will use. Discussion followed as to the way the budget will be presented to the community, specifically; inactive employee benefits, recalibration of state aid and tax levy, and tax rate history.

Ms. Gillette commented on the use of appropriated fund balance and reserves and expressed concern about the sustainability of this budget recommendation. She felt an additional \$500,000 should be reduced from the budget including program reductions. Mr. Crumb shared that our use of reserves has been sustainable and we should plan to use reasonable amounts of appropriate fund balance when available.

Mr. Young commented on our limited financial resources and we should work with what we have and not depend on our reliance on state aid. He suggested we use state money as a bonus for next year. Mr. Sweeney stated that he believed that this is exactly what Mr. Crumb has done.

A discussion ensued that suggested we may have to eventually look at reduction in programs. Mr. Sweeney commented that we only have control of ½% of the budget and that health insurance is the other 3 % increase of which we have no control over. It was noted this is what we need to convey to the community. Mr. Oberlin agrees that at some point we may need to look at cutting programs but at this time he is comfortable with the current presented budget.

Ms. Gillette agrees the budget is good but believes the 3.5% increase needs to be dialed down. She suggested reduction of buses. Mr. Wood pointed out that this would reduce our aid. She would like to look for more places to cut costs. Mr. Oberlin pointed out that 0% in economic growth impacts our budget. Ms. Tyler is comfortable with the budget and agrees we need to convey where the increase is

coming from to the public. Mr. Young commented that he disagrees with blanket contract increases in salaries. He said we did a great job with what we have but he would like to see a change in negotiation of salaries. Mr. Sweeney shared the budget was well thought out and acknowledged the hard work to retain programs and class sizes. He believes the economic growth is in the upswing but we need to look at what to do if the economy does not turn around and what we can eliminate.

Mr. Sweeney thanked the budget focus group for attending and looks forward to seeing everyone at their next meeting.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:02 p.m. a motion was made to move back to Executive Session by Mr. Young and seconded by Ms. Tyler for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Mr. Sweeney moved the meeting out of Executive Session and back into Study Session at 9:41 p.m.

9. MEETING EVALUATION

There was no meeting evaluation.

10. ADJOURN

Motion was made by Mr. Oberlin and seconded by Mr. Young to adjourn the meeting.

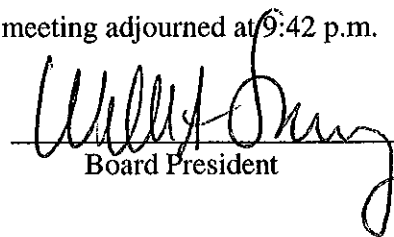
Vote of the Board: Yes: 5

Yes: 5

No: 0

As there was no further business, Mr. Sweeney declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.


Assistant District Clerk


Board President