

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education held at Newfield Central School on March 5, 2015.

Members Present: S. Allinger, R. Borgella, H. Cooper, P. Miller, J. Pawlewicz, M. Rynone, G. Wiltsie

Members Absent:

Also Present: C. Thomas, Superintendent; J. James, Business Administrator; C. Shipos, District Clerk

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The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by S. Allinger, President.

Motion was made by H. Cooper, seconded by J. Pawlewicz, to enter negotiations at 5:35 p.m. to discuss labor negotiations. Motion carried 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

(R. Borgella arrived at 5:37 p.m.)

(G. Wiltsie arrived at 6:04 p.m.)

(M. Rynone left at 6:12 p.m.)

(J. Pawlewicz left at 6:15 p.m.)

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:47 p.m.

Privilege of the Floor was offered to all in attendance.

There were no Board of Education Comments.

Dr. Matteson and representatives from the TST BOCES administrative team were present to provide information on their proposed budget. They reviewed the services provided by BOCES and Newfield's participation levels. Their overall budget is projected to increase by 9.7% based on service requests from component districts. The administrative budget, which is the part that will be voted on April 22nd, will increase 3.78%. Also included on the ballot are vacant seats in Groton, Lansing and Newfield.

S. Yapple reported on the facilities, including the replacement of floor tile in the elementary kitchen, the air handling unit above the elementary gym and the continuing boiler issues. The district is currently running on one boiler, with the other two out of commission due to leaks. Johnson Controls does not recommend attempting to repair the boilers at this time if the district is looking at replacement. There is a temporary solution to stop the leaking, similar to a radiator additive available for cars. S. Yapple is looking for the best price on this product and feels confident that the work can be done in-house. He urged the Board to move forward with the energy project for a long-term solution as soon as possible. S. Allinger assured him that the facilities committee would be continuing to pursue this, with the help of the newly appointed architectural firm, but that it was important to proceed thoughtfully, carefully and methodically. G. Wiltsie asked about the availability of temporary boilers in the worst case scenario. H. Cooper thanked S. Yapple for his dedication and hard work.

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C. Thomas and J. James gave a presentation on the administrative component of the proposed 2015-16 budget. There were no new items included in this section. The 1.6% increase is mostly due to a 7% increase in health insurance, offset by a reduction in the retirement contributions for ERS and TRS. J. James also mentioned the transfer to the cafeteria fund to help cover the cost of benefits for food service employees. She assured the Board that was not an uncommon practice, although it hasn't always been the case here. C. Thomas commented that the line-by-line budget would be discussed at the next meeting. She believes that there will be very little if any gap between proposed expenditures and revenues for the Board to fill.

As part of the Superintendent's Report, C. Thomas shared a draft resolution provided by NYSSBA that asks Governor Cuomo to release the state aid projections to school districts.

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by G. Wiltsie, to amend the agenda and adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New York State School Boards Association and the Newfield Central School District call upon the state to immediately release a 2015-2016 state aid proposal and corresponding school aid runs allocating the approximately \$1.1 billion increase as presented in the Executive budget proposal; and

WHEREAS, in our memory, it is unprecedented for the state to withhold the release of executive budget aid runs. These aid runs are not simply a state budget "tradition," they are necessary and indeed critical to the local budget development process for hundreds of school districts across the state; and

WHEREAS, just like at the state level, the budget process begins well before any voting deadlines. All stakeholders in the school district community, including taxpayers, parents, teachers, students, school boards and other school leaders play an important role; and

WHEREAS, in fact, the property tax cap, first proposed and enacted by the state in 2011, requires school districts to utilize the executive budget aid runs to formulate a tax cap calculation. Under current law, school districts are required to submit a "2016 Proposed Levy" to the state by March 1st in order to calculate a district-specific tax cap figure. Establishing a proposed tax levy is impossible without a projection of state revenue; and

WHEREAS, in order to establish the tax cap calculation State Education Department guidance directs school districts to use "applicable executive budget computer runs" to estimate anticipated building aid and transportation aid. The withholding of aid runs makes this impossible; and

WHEREAS, the budget bills released Wednesday, January 21, 2015, also do not include any language regarding how any potential state aid would be distributed. Even if our school districts had the capacity to decipher proposed school aid formulas, they do not have the information needed to do so; and

WHEREAS, this is not a matter of politics or even a policy debate. This is a matter of basic government function and a transparent, informed decision-making process for our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Newfield Central School District hereby calls on New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to amend his Executive budget to include a state aid proposal that allocates and distributes to school districts the approximate \$1.1 billion school aid increase.

Motion carried 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

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C. Thomas pointed out that the Board meeting schedule included a meeting on April 2, 2015, which falls during Spring Break. After a brief discussion, it was decided to leave the meeting on the calendar as is.

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by P. Miller, to accept the following resignation(s):

- a. Breanna McConnell's resignation from her position of part time, 10-month Teacher Aide effective February 23, 2015
- b. Alissa Elghazi's resignation from her position of Administrative Assistant, Level II, effective March 12, 2015

Motion carried 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by H. Cooper, seconded by R. Borgella, to approve the second reading of the following policy revision (Attachment 14-15-49):

- a. 8110 District Wellness Policy

Motion carried 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by P. Miller, seconded by R. Borgella, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Newfield Central School Board of Education has requested and accepted RFP's for architectural services; and

WHEREAS, proposals from several architectural and engineering firms were accepted and reviewed by the facilities committee and interviewed by the Board of Education during the months of January and February, 2015;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Education of the Newfield Central School District hereby awards the contract to Hunt Engineers, Architects & Land Surveyors, PC as the firm who best meets all requirements; and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** the Superintendent is authorized to enter into a multi-year agreement for architectural services as proposed.*

Motion carried 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by H. Cooper, seconded by R. Borgella, to accept the Superintendent's recommendation to grant the following tenure appointment(s):

- a. Jacob Kozlowski - tenure appointment in the area of Foreign Language effective May 10, 2015

Motion carried 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion was made by R. Borgella, seconded by P. Miller, to accept the following resignation(s) for the purpose of retirement:

- a. Karen Russell - resignation for the purpose of retirement from her position of School Nurse effective July 2, 2015, with thanks for her 28 years of service
- b. Betty Powell - resignation for the purpose of retirement from her position of English Teacher effective July 1, 2015, with thanks for her 14 years of service
- c. Richard Rogers' resignation for the purpose of retirement from his position of Special Education Teacher effective July 1, 2015, with thanks for his 28 years of service

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d. Melvin Voorheis - resignation for the purpose of retirement from his position of Social Studies Teacher effective July 1, 2015, with thanks for his 14 years of service
Motion carried 4 in favor, 1 opposed (G. Wiltsie).

G. Wiltsie commented that he hated to see the retirees go and that each had made a huge impact on the district. S. Allinger said she accepted their retirements with regret, but excitement for them.

Privilege of the Floor was offered to all in attendance.

Motion was made by P. Miller, seconded by R. Borgella, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine L. Shipos
District Clerk