

MEMBERS PRESENT: **DEIRDRE BURNS**
DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
STEVE JENKINS (arrived at 7:29 pm)
DIANE LYONS (arrived at 7:08 pm)
LISA ROSENTHAL
LAURA SCHULKIND

OTHERS PRESENT: **JOSEPH PHELAN, THOMAS BURNELL,**
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, MEMBERS OF THE
PRESS

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

President Fleischhauer opened the public hearing on the proposed school budget for the 2017-18 school year in the RHS/BMS Library at 7:05 pm.

Diane Lyons arrived.

Superintendent Phelan reported that the State requires a budget hearing a week before the budget vote, but the District, as in the past, has chosen to have an additional budget hearing before the adoption of the budget in order to give the community a chance to participate in the budget development process.

Tom Burnell reported that New York State has adopted a budget that will drive additional funds to the District. Mr. Burnell went over the state aid picture and reported that an additional \$31,453 in Foundation Aid will be received from the State, which brings the total Foundation Aid increase to approximately \$49,500. Other revenue includes BOCES aid. Mr. Burnell reviewed the deletions to the third draft budget which includes the loss of an elementary teaching position due to declining enrollment, one teacher assistant position due to retirement, and a second teacher assistant position for a graduating student at BOCES.

Steve Jenkins arrived.

Mr. Burnell reported that the District is looking at a 0.79% increase (\$212,000) over the tax levy cap limit. Superintendent Phelan added that the administration continues to look at items for reductions. The District is recommending that the Board approve a budget that pierces the tax cap to cover the \$212,000 needed. Superintendent Phelan is hopeful that the community will support the District's staffing and programs.

President Fleischhauer suggested that budget-related comments, as well as comments on other matters, be made during the meeting's Public Comments periods, then closed the hearing and moved to the regular meeting at 7:57 pm.

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

Following the public hearing on the proposed school budget for the 2017-18 school year, President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2017 Regular Meeting.*

**VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED**

3.0 Public Comment

Katelin Grande wished to express her gratitude to Superintendent Phelan and Mr. Burnell for the difficult work on the school budget and making the least impact on programs.

Frank Seldin said that as the budget was being reviewed, he felt that we will have the same problems again next year. Mr. Seldin stated that the District is defining everything around costs and not education. He felt that the budgeting process is broken and that the District needs to start over with a fresh slate. Mr. Seldin asked if research has been done to see at what point of exceeding the tax cap would be acceptable to pass a budget vote.

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 2017-18 Budget Development Update

Although the budget development update was discussed earlier in the meeting, Superintendent Phelan pointed out that this is an opportunity for the Board to discuss the budget further. Superintendent Phelan's recommendation to the Board is to adopt a budget of \$32,876,618 which pierces the tax cap by 0.79%.

Deirdre Burns stated that funding for the public sector is very different from the private sector and the District has done a tremendous job in managing the budget. The problem is that education is funded through property taxes. She feels that it has been a thoughtful work done by the administrators and she supports the Superintendent's recommendation.

Lisa Rosenthal stated that if the District is proposing to go over the tax cap that the District should not go to the point of just closing the gap but to exceed it as it would be prudent for us to plan a cushion for future years. The District expects minimal increases in state aid in the future and we will be starting at a base again next year. Should the community be willing to vote an increase this year, we cannot expect it again next year.

President Fleischhauer stated he would prefer to go with the Superintendent's recommendation.

Laura Schulkind reported that the District needs to continue looking at new ways to budget as she is not confident that the community will pass the budget with a super majority.

Steve Jenkins expressed that he is not in favor of going above the gap and would rather see the District do some long-range planning and provide a plan to the community and ask for their support at that time. He would prefer to delay exceeding the tax cap for an additional year and get a better strategy.

Diane Lyons stated that she can't support the idea of going above the tax cap. With declining enrollment, the District should do better long-range planning before going to voters to exceed the tax cap.

Deirdre d'Albertis supports the recommendation by Superintendent Phelan. She added that Rhinebeck schools have been well recognized by the public, and it is the responsibility of the Board to maintain programs while minimizing taxes. She advocated that long-range planning be the only Board goal for the coming year as it is extremely challenging to plan with so many variables.

Deirdre Burns added that the District should let the community decide and encouraged the Board to remain positive, as there's a lot of great stuff going on in the District.

President Fleischhauer stated that the Board has to make a decision as to whether the District should override the tax cap or not. The Board decided to have a special meeting on Thursday, April 20 in order to give Board members additional time to digest the available options.

4.2 School Start Time Review*

Deirdre d'Albertis reported on the school start time pilot, including the parameters set by the District, the initial concerns regarding the pilot, and how to assess the pilot's success. She went over the survey results from parents, teachers, and students all showing favorable views. Deirdre d'Albertis commented on the positive impacts as well as on-going challenges shared by staff and parents.

The Board briefly discussed the timing of afternoon busing at CLS. Superintendent Phelan reported that the busing challenges at CLS will be addressed by re-routing the three buses that go into the farthest areas of the District. Additionally, the District has an additional bus to use leaving CLS at the end of the school day, at no additional cost.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Board members commented on a great band trip to New York City. The District has been recognized once again with the Utica National's School Safety Excellence Award.

5.2 Old Business

None

5.3 Public Comment

Jaclyn Savolainen thanked the Board for the excellent work on the school start time pilot and for bravely supporting the Model UN at the high school, including their recent trip to Colombia to attend the Summit of Peace Laureates. She passed along a community member's misgivings on the choice of the spring musical.

5.4 Other

None

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the following consent items:

6.1.1 Motion upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the CSE and CPSE recommendations.*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

6.2 ***Tabled*****Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to adopt the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education hereby adopts the proposed Budget for the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$TBD, and authorizes the following proposition to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting on May 16, 2017:

"Shall the Board of Education of the Rhinebeck Central School District be authorized to expend the sums of money which will be required for School District purposes for the 2017-2018 school year, in the amount of \$TBD, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by Burns, the Board voted to table Item #6.2.
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

- 6.3** +**Motion** by d’Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve an extension of the leave request under the Family and Medical Leave Act granted to Cassi Wintermantel, effective January 23, 2017, with such leave to be taken as paid medical leave through the period of disability as certified by a physician in writing, through April 10, 2017, to the extent of her accrued sick leave and, thereafter, through May 31, 2017, such leave to be taken as unpaid child care leave as requested in writing.*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.4** +**Motion** by d’Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the extension of the appointment of Meagan Torre as a long-term substitute in the position of School Psychologist at the Rhinebeck High School/Bulkeley Middle School, effective January 23, 2017, to be extended through May 12, 2017, at the pleasure of the Board, at Step 3 MA+30+30 (\$68,104, prorated), in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2016-17. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the extension of the leave of absence granted to Cassie Wintermantel, School Psychologist at the Rhinebeck High School/Bulkeley Middle School.
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.5** **Motion** by d’Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to appoint additional 2016-17 CLS Before-School Enrichment Program instructors. (See attached.)*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.6** **Motion** by d’Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the trading partner agreement resolution with New York State Medicaid for the electronic exchange of information and data for the purpose of Medicaid billing. (See attached.)*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED
- 6.7** ******Tabled********Motion** upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to approve the appointment of Kacey Marinelli as a long-term substitute in the position of Elementary teacher at the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School, effective on or around April 5, 2017 through June 23, 2017, at the pleasure of the Board, at the salary of Step 1 MA+30+6 (\$62,156),

in accordance with the RTA Salary Schedule for 2016-17. This appointment is to fill the vacancy created by the leave of absence granted to Tennille Morrissey, Elementary teacher at the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School.

Motion by Lyons, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to table Item #6.7.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

6.8 +**Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Jim Delmar as Spring 2017 JV Softball coach.*

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:32 pm for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Rhinebeck Teachers' Association and the employment history of a particular person.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board appointed Joseph Phelan as Clerk Pro Tempore.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10:18 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

The Board had a brief discussion about procedures for the Special meeting on April 20, 2017.

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:24 pm.

VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 18, 2017
Public Hearing on the Proposed School Budget 2017-18 School Year
Regular Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Torres
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore