

Superintendent Phelan shared with the Board Assemblyman Cahill's inquiry as to the District's budgetary need and the possibility of a Bullet Aid grant. Superintendent Phelan warned that in past years, when the District had received bullet aid through their legislators, the funding typically was announced after a finalized budget. The Board added that they wished to communicate with legislators again of the District's budget shortfall.

Mr. Burnell went over the historical budget information document handed out at the meeting, which shows the budget to budget increases, tax levies, tax rates, full value property rates and percentage increases over the last 10 years. Mr. Burnell outlined the additional tax revenue if the Board wished to pierce the tax levy limit cap. Mr. Burnell estimated that the maximum tax levy limit increase in a taxpayer's tax bill for a median home (\$293,700) would be approximately \$55.

The Board discussed various scenarios for piercing the tax levy cap and how each different scenario would shape the budget and affect programs and staffing, as well as affect the community. Superintendent Phelan explained that there are still some moving parts, such as the possibility of a bullet grant and the placement of special education students, which could affect the budget positively or negatively. Superintendent Phelan explained the challenges of staffing due to the smaller incoming seventh grade class.

Board members briefly discussed the possibility of a summer workshop to focus on a long term plan to deal with the declining enrollment problem (Declining enrollment is a trend for all districts in the region.)

Various Board members expressed their opinions regarding piercing the tax cap and by how much. Superintendent Phelan urged the Board to be ready to make a decision by the next Board meeting, April 12. Superintendent Phelan explained that should the budget presented to voters that pierces the tax cap not pass by a 60+% margin; the District has a few options to pass a budget as follows:

- make all the cuts outlined and stay within the tax cap;
- put up the same proposed budget again; or
- make some of the cuts and reducing the percentage of the tax cap.

The Board wishes to communicate the budget plan with the community through the District newsletter as well as ask the PTSO and the RSF to share the information with their members.

4.2 2016-17 BOCES Annual Meeting and Administrative Budget and Board Member Vote*

Superintendent Phelan reminded Board members that the Dutchess BOCES Administrative Budget Vote and Election will be on April 26, 2016. The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 9 at the Career & Technical Institute starting at 11:30 am.

4.3 Board Committee Reports (Finance, Communication)*

Finance Committee

President Fleischhauer reported that the Finance Committee was updated on the school lunch program. The Program is running at a deficit, the same as last year at this time; however, it is still much lower than in prior years. Free and reduced price lunch participation is approaching 20% of the student population. The reason for the increase is that SNAP and Medicaid recipients are automatically enrolled in the program. Additionally, approximately 1,500 breakfasts are sold each month, which is a great increase from the past. The Committee discussed a price increase in 2016-17 for meals.

The Committee discussed transportation bids which will be discussed in detail during Executive Session. The Committee also discussed the 2016-17 budget, which was discussed earlier this evening.

Communication Committee

Ms. d'Albertis reported that the Communication Committee discussed the 2016-17 budget as outlined earlier in the meeting. The Committee discussed a timeline for communicating with District voters the current budget gap due to a historically low tax cap limit. Ms. d'Albertis added that according to a release from NYS Comptroller, Thomas di Napoli, the percentage of school districts planning to override the tax cap has nearly doubled, with nearly 13% of districts facing a "negative" tax limit.

The Committee wishes to inform voters with the historical budget information, as well as emphasizing how even a 2.85% increase would still fall well below the tax levy increases in the recent past. Additionally, Mr. Burnell pointed out that in districts that remain below the tax levy increase this year, voters would receive very small rebate checks.

Moving forward, the Committee desires to assemble a task force with members of the community to talk about creative solutions to the declining enrollment. The Committee also discussed a RCSD smart phone app.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Ticket sales for the Spring school musical, Fiddler on the Roof, are robust. Spring sports have started.

5.2 Old Business

President Fleischhauer reminded Board members of the "Get to Know Your Regent!" presentation this Thursday, April 7th at Arlington High School. The Board briefly discussed the state assessments and the amount of students who refused the tests. Ms. d'Albertis suggested that the School Start Time Committee meet again after the school vote to make plans for preparing students for the upcoming changes to the school day.

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

President Fleischhauer reported that the NYSSBA area director is looking for school boards to appoint an advocacy liaison - to be the same person as the delegate for the annual convention. Ms. Burns asked that information be put on the website on how to obtain absentee voter applications.

6.0 Action Item

6.1 Motion by Burns, 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 declare the attached items as surplus for disposal.*

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

6.2 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to certify Steven Jensen as a qualified Lead Evaluator of classroom teachers during the 2015-16 school year, having successfully completed the training requirements prescribed in 8 NYCRR 30-2.9 (b).

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

6.3 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the list of additional emergency conditional substitute teachers and substitute non-instructional staff for the 2015-16 school year.*

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

6.4 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Elaine Arbuckle, Senior Typist, for the purpose of retirement, as stated, effective the close of business on June 30, 2016.*

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

6.5 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Laura Magley, Senior Typist, for the purpose of retirement, as stated, effective the close of business on Monday, August 15, 2016.*

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

6.6 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to accept the resignation of Gary Fingar, Custodian, for the purpose of retirement, as stated, effective the close of business on June 30, 2016.*

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

6.7 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve a leave request under the Family and Medical Leave Act from Nicole Sandoval, to commence on or about September 20, 2016, with such leave to be taken as paid medical leave through the period of disability as certified by a physician in writing, to the extent of her accrued sick leave and, thereafter, such leave to be taken as unpaid child care leave through the conclusion of the 2016-17 school year.*

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

6.8 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve an athletic merger with the Pine Plains Central School District for football for the 2016-17 school year.*

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

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 9:50 pm for the purpose of discussing the employment history of a particular person and a vendor.

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

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board appointed Joseph Phelan as Clerk Pro Tempore.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to return to Regular Session at 10:36 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 10:37 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan
Clerk Pro Tempore