

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
DIANE LYONS
LISA ROSENTHAL
LAURA SCHULKIND
RICHARD WALKER**

MEMBER ABSENT:

DEIRDRE BURNS

OTHERS PRESENT:

**JOSEPH PHELAN, TOM BURNELL,
ED DAVENPORT, JOHN KEMNITZER,
BRETT KING, MARVIN KREPS,
RICHARD ZIPP, MARC BURG, FERN
LOX, STEVE JENSEN, MEMBERS OF
THE PRESS, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

1.0 Call to Order

President Fleischhauer called the workshop to order in the High School/Middle School Library at 9:10 am.

2.0 Introduction

Superintendent Phelan outlined the workshop process and ground rules, explaining that this is the Board's opportunity to meet and focus on a single topic, the budget. The Board will review, in public, the budget process to date.

3.0 Budget Process Overview

3.1 Discussion of the process for the "Rollover" Budget with fixed costs

Mr. Burnell gave a brief description of the rollover budget.

3.2 Discussion of the process for subsequent budget drafts

Mr. Burnell gave a brief history of the first three (3) draft budgets as he highlighted the additions and deletions to each draft budget as more information became available.

4.0 Tax Levy Cap Limit

Mr. Burnell reviewed the formula for the calculation of the maximum tax levy. The maximum allowable tax levy is 2.17% to maintain the budget without exceeding the tax levy cap.

5.0 Overview of the Budget Process To Date

Mr. Burnell explained that the budget development process began with a first draft budget in the beginning of February and has evolved as more information has become available.

Mr. Burnell reviewed the fourth draft budget, noting anticipated increases in BOCES costs. Mr. Jensen reported that although internet costs have increased. However, this additional bandwidth will benefit the District for the next decade. Additionally, the District had anticipated hiring a network manager last year to be responsible for the network, yet the District was unable to find a suitable candidate from the Civil Service list. Mr. Jensen proposed that the funds set aside for the hiring of a network manager be used to hire a computer technician instead, with funds set aside for the hiring of a consultant for higher level work, as needed. Moreover, Mr. Jensen explained that Dutchess County BOCES is looking at potential solutions to the cyberattacks that other districts in the County have experienced recently. Although the District has not been the specific focus of any attack, this problem impacts all school districts in Dutchess County because of the shared LAN.

Finally, the proposed budget shows a delta of \$299,450 between the proposed budget increase and the State tax levy limit.

6.0 Revenue Projections To Date

6.1 State Aid

Superintendent Phelan noted that state aid figures have not been finalized yet.

6.2 Other Revenues

Superintendent Phelan added that the more revenue we can gain, other than from the tax base, the lower the discrepancy between the estimated tax levy and the State tax levy limit. The District is trying to develop a budget that is acceptable educationally and that stays within the tax levy limit. He added that although the District may not need to override the tax cap this year, a time may come in the future when that may be necessary to maintain the integrity of the instructional program and program support..

7.0 Discussion and Review of Current Budget Proposal and Potential Adjustments

Discussion turned to how to overcome the \$299,450 gap in the budget. If the Governor restores the entire GAP Elimination Adjustment, the District would see \$365,000 in additional funds. This would eliminate the 2015-16 budget gap as it stands currently, with additional monies to fund other things. If the State does not provide state aid figures soon, the District will need to cut the budget by the current gap with the understanding that items can be restored if the District receives funding later.

To address the fact that the District will need to cut \$299,450 in the event we do not receive any state aid increase, the administrators have put together options for budget reduction. Superintendent Phelan went over the Tier 1 proposed options for budget reductions, totaling \$224,600. The Board discussed at great length the proposed removal of an additional Kindergarten teacher based on Kindergarten registration to date and the possibility of moving to a 3-section class for the current second grade due to the small cohort of students.

The Board discussed the gradual sunseting of the Creative Services consultants who work with District teachers on the balanced literacy program and curriculum. Although the curriculum writing process is not finalized, the District is at a place where a curriculum

document is nearing completion and it seemed prudent to begin a phase-out of the project. Board members thought it may be wiser to move the funds to other professional development projects as teachers have a lot of work to do and they need the support.

Mr. Kemnitzer reported that the intramural program is on the Tier 1 list due to the difficulties in procuring a person to run the activities. Mr. Kemnitzer spoke to the reduction of a section in each Grade 6 core class due to declining enrollment. Even with the reduction, classes in Grade 6 will average only 17-18 students.

Mr. Jensen expressed his concerns with the technology plan's move to a 1:1 at CLS. The District looked at alternatives and instead focused on BMS by recommending one cart per grade plus one ipad cart to be shared among the grades. As for the BMS computer lab, the District wishes to upgrade the lab due to aging computers. Given budget constraints, the District is looking into writing a grant to enhance the lab. The Board discussed the updating of the technology curriculum and the lab by September. Mr. Jensen reported that it would not be feasible if the hardware purchases are made through a lease-purchase agreement through BOCES due to the amount of time needed for the paperwork and approvals. If purchased through a grant, the District would be in a position to purchase what is needed outright, without delays for approvals, as well as have the lab up and running by September. Currently, planning meetings are taking place to discuss rewriting the computer curriculum program for Grades 6-8.

The Board had a brief discussion of the wish list. Wish list items likely will not be included in the budget unless the District receives a State Aid windfall from NYS. The Board discussed the foreign language program at the middle school.

Mr. King spoke to the Extended Response program and how the structure is in place for a professional learning community. Currently, he is discussing next steps as well as having the teacher participants write a grant proposal to the Rhinebeck Science Foundation to continue the work with the assistance of Dr. Ric Campbell.

Superintendent Phelan thanked all those present for their attendance.

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Rosenthal, seconded by d'Albertis, the Board voted to adjourn at 12:07 pm.

**VOTE: 6 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker);
0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Burns)**

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk