

RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 21, 2015
Public Hearing on the Proposed School Budget
Special Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**MARK FLEISCHHAUER
DEIRDRE D'ALBERTIS
LISA ROSENTHAL
DIANE LYONS
LAURA SCHULKIND
RICK WALKER**

MEMBER ABSENT:

DEIRDRE BURNS

OTHERS PRESENT:

**JOSEPH PHELAN, THOMAS BURNELL,
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FOR THE 2015-2016
SCHOOL YEAR**

President Fleischhauer called the hearing to order in the BMS/RHS Library at 7:02 pm.

Superintendent Phelan explained that this hearing is a recap of the last five months of budget discussions. Fairly recently, the District arrived at a proposed budget of \$31,678,665 which is a 2.68% increase.

Superintendent Phelan explained that revenue comes from two sources, the largest of which is local taxes. State aid follows, with a small portion from federal aid. Due to the Governor's refusal to release preliminary state aid figures, the District budgeted for no increase. When legislators finally approved the budget, the District was slated to receive \$120,000 additional State Aid refund from the gap elimination adjustment, as well as \$170,000 excess cost aid from special education. After applying the aid to the budget, the District still had a gap of \$180,000.

In order to close the gap, the District looked at some potential budget cuts that administrators had put together. One of the cuts included a placeholder for an elementary school teacher with the thought that if there is a spike in enrollment, the District has a plan in place that will not affect student programming. The District is also looking to cut a part-time ELA/AIS teacher in the middle school based, in part because we are going to 4 sections of 6th grade next year instead of 5 due to the small incoming class. The District also cut \$13,500 on a lease purchase for the middle school computer lab which the RSF has expressed an interest in funding through a grant. As a result of these and other budget cuts, the District made up the \$180,000 gap. At this point, taxpayers will be entitled to the State tax freeze refund like last year.

The District is recommending that the Board adopt the proposed budget of \$31,678,665 which is a 2.68% budget increase and still meets the tax levy limit of 2.17%.

Superintendent Phelan went over the three-part budget format as required by the state to be presented to the public.

The Board asked for an explanation as to the difference in the budget increase of 2.68% and the tax levy limit increase of 2.17%. Mr. Burnell explained that the 2.68% is the figure the District

expects the budget to increase, due to expenditures, for the coming year. The tax levy limit of 2.17% is lower. The difference is made up by using other revenues such as increased state aid. He explained that when a budget is higher than the tax levy limit, the delta needs to be made up by increased state aid. In our case, it was the increase in excess cost aid.

Mr. Burnell further explained that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is low, which has been a great help to districts. He warns that if the CPI were to increase, it will put great pressure on school budgets all over the state.

The Board stated that a good topic of discussion with legislators this year will be the restoration of the remainder of the gap elimination adjustment.

The District has received two petitions for candidacy to the Board of Education by the deadline from incumbents Mark Fleischhauer and Diane Lyons. The clerk did not receive any other petitions.

President Fleischhauer closed the public hearing at 7:38 pm.

SPECIAL MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

Following the Public Hearing on the Proposed School Budget for the 2015-2016 School Year, President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order.

2.0 Public Comment

None

3.0 Action Items

3.1 Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to cast one (1) vote for Dale Culver as a candidate in the annual election of members of the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES).*

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

MOTION CARRIED

3.2 Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to cast one (1) vote for Edward McCormick as a candidate in the annual election of members of the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES).*

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

MOTION CARRIED

3.3 Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to cast one (1) vote for Robert Rubin as a candidate in the annual election of members of the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES).*

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

MOTION CARRIED

- 3.4 Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adopt a resolution to direct the District Clerk to cast one (1) vote to approve the Dutchess County BOCES Administrative Budget in the amount of \$4,317,593 for the 2015-16 school year.*
VOTE: 6 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Schulkind, Walker, Rosenthal); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Burns)
MOTION CARRIED

- 3.5 Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted 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 2015-16 school year in the amount of \$31,678,665, and authorizes the following proposition to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting on May 19, 2015:

"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 2015-2016 school year, in the amount of \$31,678,665, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"

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

Prior to the vote, President Fleischhauer stated that, although Ms. Burns is absent, she supports the resolution to approve the budget. The Board thanked Superintendent Phelan and Mr. Burnell for their hard work in the development of the school budget.

4.0 Proposed Executive Session

There were no matters before the Board requiring an Executive Session.

5.0 Adjournment

Motion by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:42 pm.
VOTE: 6 AYE (d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Schulkind, Walker, Rosenthal); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Burns)
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Bovee
District Clerk