

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**DEIRDRE BURNS  
DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS  
MARK FLEISCHHAUER  
STEVE JENKINS  
DIANE LYONS  
LISA ROSENTHAL (arrived at 7:34 pm)  
LAURA SCHULKIND**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

**1.0 Call to Order**

President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order in the RHS/BMS Library at 7:32 pm.

**2.0 Approval of Minutes**

**2.1 Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017 Regular Meeting.\*

**VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Schulkind);**

**0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Rosenthal)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2.2 Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2017 Special Meeting - Budget Workshop\*

**VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Schulkind);**

**0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 1 ABSENT (Rosenthal)**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3.0 Public Comment**

Elle Renaldo expressed concern for the proposed cuts to the AIS program at CLS.

Piper Woods suggested the Board look at the cost of health care as that cost went up dramatically.

**4.0 Reports and Discussion**

**4.1 Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates (Mr. Moor and student delegates)**

Gideon Moor, faculty member and advisor of the Model UN Club, thanked the Board, the administrators and the community (especially the Sunshine Comes First Foundation) for supporting the 17 students and staff who attended the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Bogota, Columbia. Various students presented on the backstory of the Columbian conflict, and the Summit itself, including the daily routines, brief bios of their favorite laureates, the itinerary, and the important lessons learned from this experience. The Board thanked the students for their presentation.

#### **4.2 Dutchess BOCES Budget Presentation**

Dr. Hooley, Superintendent of Dutchess County BOCES, presented on the vision of the BOCES such as:

- Being responsive to the component districts' needs such as
  - a regional summer school program located at the Hyde Park CSD
  - Intensive Day Treatment (IDT) Program Expansion
  - Literacy efforts
  - Critical Incident Stress Management Training
  - Leadership Academy: Seminar Series
- Bringing issues to Albany, the Commissioner, and SED
- Shoring up programs and personnel
- Having the BOCES staff and himself more visible and accessible

Dr. Hooley reported on some of the challenges and opportunities regarding the budget, such as enrollment shifts, tax cap, retirees' health insurance, and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Sherre Wesley, Ass't Superintendent for Business, presented on the BOCES financial structure. She explained how figures are formulated and billed to the component districts, and she reviewed Rhinebeck's participation in BOCES programs. She reminded the Board of the vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget and Board Members on April 25.

The Board thanked Dr. Hooley and Ms. Wesley for a very comprehensive presentation.

#### **4.3 2017-18 Budget Development Update**

Superintendent Phelan reported that in the latest draft of budget reductions, the District has been able to reduce \$255,700 from the budget without affecting staff. Should the Board decide to stay below or at the tax levy limit cap, the District would need to reduce the budget by an additional \$315,973. The following suggestions came to the Board:

- Adopt a budget that exceeds the tax cap by approximately \$305,000, or
- Cut an additional \$305,000 from the budget that will impact staff, or
- Cut an additional \$305,000 from the budget by adding other possibilities to the list.

The Board is only a few weeks away from having to make a decision to cut staff to get down to the 2.18% tax levy limit or bring a budget to the community that exceeds the tax cap.

At the Board's request for a recommendation, Superintendent Phelan's inclination is to do everything we can to preserve the staffing on the lists by putting it to a vote of the community to determine what they wish. In terms of the following year's

budget, there is no way beyond speculation for the District to know what future expenses are going to be. However, ongoing declining enrollment appears likely.

Comments were offered by members of the Board of Education in support of putting up a budget that exceeds the tax cap as well as comments that were not in favor of doing so. The Board discussed the need for strategic planning for coming years, as it is a fact that the District will be facing budget gaps and declining enrollment in the future. The Board discussed needing more time to make an appropriate decision in relation to the budget and suggested a special meeting for additional discussion.

#### **4.4 Board Committee Reports (Personnel, Finance, School Start Time, Curriculum, Communication)\***

##### **Personnel Committee**

Diane Lyons reported that the Personnel Committee discussed upcoming contract negotiations with the Rhinebeck Teachers' Association.

##### **Finance Committee**

Steve Jenkins reported that the Finance Committee discussed the budget development and cut list. The Committee also reviewed the master schedule and discussed the different scenarios that play out as students move through the middle and high school grades.

##### **School Start Time Committee**

Laura Schulkind reported that the School Start Time Committee met with Pupil Personnel Services to reflect on their experience of the school start time pilot. The school nurse reported a great decrease in visits to the nurse's office.

Tardiness/absence data did not show a decrease in the second quarter. Mr. Burg noted that there are too many variables in why/when students are late or absent. The passing time between classes is not a problem most of the time. The middle school noted an improvement in at-risk students with a slight improvement at the high school. Transportation in the afternoon continues to be an issue at CLS. Mr. Burnell reported that he is looking at re-routing some of the students to improve transportation as well as adding an extra bus at the elementary level without additional cost.

##### **Curriculum Committee**

Deirdre d'Albertis reported that the Curriculum Committee spoke at length with Mr. Kreps about moving to a full inclusion model for classes in the high school. The Committee discussed the complexity of the master schedule and singleton courses and how it affects student choices.

##### **Curriculum/Communication Committee**

Deirdre Burns reported that the Curriculum/Communications Committees reviewed letters received from the community relating to budget development and exceeding

the tax cap. The Committee discussed better communication to our community about the importance of the work of all the staff, as civil service titles do not reflect the workload as it has increased through state reporting requirements and the APPR. The Committee discussed the problem of maintaining excellent programming in the context of a tax cap and continued declining enrollment.

**4.5 School Start Time Review\***

**Motion** by Deirdre Burns, seconded by d'Albertis, to table agenda item 4.5 School Start Time Review.

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

**5.0 Comments**

**5.1 Good News**

Laura Schulkind reported that the high school play was great.

**5.2 Old Business**

None

**5.3 Public Comment**

Dean Vallas commented that it is not an easy process to decide on tax increases. He suggested that the Board take steps to put together a strategic planning committee tasked to think “outside the box” since the tax cap is going to be around for a while. Additionally, he suggested looking at outside coordination with other programs, such as bridge programs, to help address high school program offerings. He thanked the Board for developing a great school system and suggested that trying to significantly pierce the tax cap may be a hard sell and not sustainable.

Roger Quon expressed appreciation to the Board for their commitment to the community and our children. He expressed concern that the budget does not uphold the values that the community holds and that there needs to be a commitment to address sustainability while maintaining quality. He suggested that the District communicate to the community what the plan is to address these challenges in the future.

Jaclyn Savolainen passed along an observation by a community member that the community appreciated hearing the assistant principals’ duties explained but would like more information on the duties of the Director of Technology. She suggested that a good way to communicate an increase in taxes would be to find a “magic number” such as something easily understood like “for the cost of a cup of coffee a day.”

**5.4 Other**

Board members supported Superintendent Phelan's request to pursue an inquiry into combining modified baseball with Red Hook for Spring 2017.

**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 Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to appoint the following individuals, whose names were provided by the Dutchess County Board of Elections, in the capacities and for the pay rates so noted, for their employment with respect to the conduct of the Budget Vote and Board Election on May 16, 2017 in accordance with the requirements and guidelines of the Dutchess County Board of Elections:

- Election Inspectors Trained on the Use of Optical Scan Voting Machines: Marc Savino, \$150; Rima Liscum, \$150
- Voting Machine Technician: Rich Perkins, \$150

**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 accept the donation of 150AAAS/Subaru SB&F Prize Winning and Finalist Books from Ruge's Subaru.\*

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

*The Board wished to thank Ruge's Subaru for their generous contribution.*

**6.4 Motion** by d'Albertis, 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 2016-17 school year.\*

**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 award the Environmental Testing and Design RFP to QuEST, Inc. in the amount of \$16,970.00.\*  
**VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

- 6.6** \*\*\*\*\***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 Tenille Morrissey, Elementary teacher at the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School.\**  
**Motion** by Lyons, seconded by Schulkind, the Board voted to table item 6.6 for discussion at executive session.  
**VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Jenkins, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

- 6.7** **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**

- 6.8** **Motion** by d’Albertis, 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 Fawn Johnson, to commence on April 17, 2017, 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 medical leave through June 2, 2017.\*  
**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 10:45 pm for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with the Rhinebeck Teachers’ Association.

**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 11:04 pm.

**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, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Kacey Marinelli as a per diem substitute teacher.

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

#### **8.0 Adjournment**

**Motion** by d'Albertis, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 11:06 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Torres  
District Clerk

Joseph Phelan  
Clerk Pro Tempore