

MEMBERS PRESENT:

**DEIRDRE BURNS
DEIRDRE d'ALBERTIS
MARK FLEISCHHAUER
DIANE LYONS
LISA ROSENTHAL
LAURA SCHULKIND
RICHARD WALKER (arrived at 7:26 pm)**

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

**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 7:06 pm.

Superintendent Phelan reviewed the history of this year's budgeting process. Originally, the rollover budget would have driven a budget increase of 2.36%. The District's tax levy cap would allow a 1.26% tax levy increase to stay within the cap. This year's tax levy increase is the lowest increase in the past five years.

The District has had six iterations of the draft budget. The fifth draft budget resulted in a \$453,875 budget gap above the tax levy limit. The sixth draft budget resulted in a \$216,875 budget gap, after the draft proposed budget was reduced through anticipated changes to special education expenditures, as well as other items. At this time, the District is looking at a 2.13% budget increase which drives a tax levy increase of 2.08% which is still above the tax levy cap of 1.26%, with a budget gap of \$216,875. The District is facing an unusual situation where, for the first time in the recent history of the tax cap, the District is in a position of having a proposed budget that is driving a levy that is above the New York State tax cap levy limit.

Mr. Burnell reviewed the revenue side of the budget, including the District's state aid figures. State aid for the 2016-17 school year is not as robust as the District had hoped.

Superintendent Phelan provided the Board with two additional options below the current draft budget. He reminded the Board that if the District proposes a budget that is above the tax cap, it will require at least a 60% voter approval rate:

- adopt a proposed budget of \$32,329,408, a budget increase of 2.05% that would result in a 1.9952% tax levy, and which would require \$22,627 in additional budget reductions and a voter approval rate of at least 60%; or
- adopt a proposed budget of \$32,135,122, a budget increase of 1.44% that would result in a 1.26% tax levy which would require \$216,913 in budget reductions that would not directly impact programs and services for students and would not require a supermajority voter approval rate.

Richard Walker entered at 7:26 pm

Superintendent Phelan explained that as he developed the options for budget reductions, he took into consideration items that the Board wanted to maintain and he attempted to spread the impact as equitably as possible over the three school buildings and the various departments. He explained that budget cuts to equipment, other expenses, general supplies, and textbooks generally do not affect student programs and services directly. The building principals were given the opportunity for feedback on his proposed options for budget reductions before the list were given to the Board.

President Fleischhauer offered an opportunity for public comment and none commented.

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to close the public hearing on the proposed school budget for the 2016-17 school year at 7:38 pm.

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

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR MEETING

1.0 Call to Order

Following the Public Hearing on the Proposed School Budget for the 2016-2017 School Year, President Fleischhauer called the meeting to order.

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016 Special Meeting*

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

MOTION CARRIED

3.0 Public Comment

None

4.0 Reports and Discussion

4.1 Review of the Proposed 2016-17 Budget Under Development*

Board members thanked Superintendent Phelan and Mr. Burnell for their hard work and resourcefulness in working with the budget to present options for the Board’s consideration. Superintendent Phelan reported that cuts to equipment and software will not shut down any programs. Mr. Burnell explained that the reduced figures in equipment budgets should not have a significant impact on courses, as typically those equipment budgets do not get overspent and sometimes not spent at all.

Most Board members were in support of not exceeding the tax cap at this time; however, moving forward, the District needs to be thoughtful in terms of long-term budget planning.

Lisa Rosenthal was undecided as to her support of staying at the tax cap, due to various reasons including that the District will not have any margin for the budget next year. She urged the Board to move towards more long-term budget planning, especially since the state has been decreasing funding to schools. The District will not be receiving a Gap Elimination Adjustment refund next year and should not expect higher foundation aid.

Deirdre Burns stated that it is good to show our community that the District continues to responsibly stay within the tax cap. Although she has serious concerns on further cuts that impact students, this year may not be the year to exceed the tax cap.

Diane Lyons reminded the Board that we have excellent schools and offer great programs for our students and felt that we should do all we can before exceeding the tax cap.

4.2 Board Committee Reports (Curriculum)*

Curriculum Committee

Laura Schulkind reported that the Curriculum Committee will have Mr. Kreps present on the annual Student Achievement report. The online New York State Data Dashboard provides access to data that can be examined in a granular way. The links will be posted on website. The Committee asked Mr. Kreps to interpret the data to provide a better understanding of how our program promotes student learning and engagement, and where the District should focus their attention in the CDEP, budgeting, and long-range planning process. For purposes of his presentation, Mr. Kreps will focus on 3-5 year trend data. Mr. Kreps reported that the State has called for a full review of the State Learning Standards for all core subjects.

5.0 Comments

5.1 Good News

Superintendent Phelan announced that Rhinebeck High School has once again been recognized by US News and World Report as one of the best high schools in New York State.

5.2 Old Business

None

5.3 Public Comment

None

5.4 Other

Superintendent Phelan clarified the meeting schedule of the Policy Committee, the Curriculum Committee, and the Finance Committee.

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 approve the Treasurers' Report (General Fund and Extra Classroom Fund, March 2016).*

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 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 2016-17 school year in the amount of \$32,135,122.00, and authorizes the following proposition to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting on May 17, 2016:

"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 2016-2017 school year, in the amount of \$32,135,122.00, and to levy the necessary tax therefore?"

VOTE: 6 AYE (Burns, d'Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Schulkind, Walker); 1 NAY (Rosenthal); 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 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 grants from the Rhinebeck PTSO in the total amount not to exceed \$5,087.61, as stipulated. (See attached.)*

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

Prior to the vote, the Board wished to thank the PTSO for their generous contribution to District programs.

6.5 Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board voted to approve the extension of the

appointment of Richetta Laporte as a long-term substitute for the leave replacement position of Grade 7 Science Teacher at the Bulkeley Middle School, from June 17, 2016 to June 22, 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 a grant from the Rhinebeck Science Foundation to fund “STEM at Time and the Valleys Museums” submitted by Henry Frischknecht, in the total amount of \$1,550, as stipulated. (See attached.)*
VOTE: 7 AYE (Burns, d’Albertis, Fleischhauer, Lyons, Rosenthal, Schulkind, Walker); 0 NAY; 0 ABSTAIN; 0 ABSENT
MOTION CARRIED

Prior to the vote, the Board wished to thank the RSF for their generous contribution.

7.0 Proposed Executive Session

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

8.0 Adjournment

Motion by Burns, seconded by Rosenthal, the Board voted to adjourn at 8:25 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