

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert J. Baron, President
C. James Coffin, Vice President
Richard K. Brackett
John A. Cole
Thomas McKenna

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joseph F. Pofit
Thomas M. Thorpe, Jr.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Alan R. McCartney, Sarita Winchell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Bannon (Spotlight), Kevin Kroencke, Molly Belmont (Altamont Enterprise), Michael Goyer, and Deann DellaPenta

Mr. Baron called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and gave the proper procedure to evacuate the building in the event of a fire emergency. He noted all Board members were present, with the exception of Mr. Pofit and Mr. Thorpe.

Dr. McCartney began his presentation of the 2004-2005 Proposed Budget.

The increase of 2.25% in the Central/Business Administration and Staff section provides contractual salary adjustments for Central Administration and salary adjustments for the central office staff. The number of employees will not increase – staffing will remain the same.

The Operations and Maintenance of Plant increase of 11.84% was briefly discussed with special mention of the “field maintenance” plan. Two employees, one being Mr. Goyer, will be taking the course on Chemical treatment of the playing fields and school grounds. This course will give the employees license and training for the application of these chemicals. It will take approximately two years for them to be fully licensed for this process. Mr. Coffin asked for more information on the people being trained. It was explained that once Mr. Goyer and Mr. Relyea were licensed, it would “umbrella” staff working under them. As long as they are supervised, those staff members would be able to do maintenance on the fields.

Our utilities have increased due to a SC3 user rating. This rating is given to all who use 100 kw per hour.

We have saved on our snow removal with the O & M staff taking care of the plowing. Some modification of the equipment may be necessary to make it last. We have also saved money in the fuel cost by purchasing through the county.

The increase also addresses under-budgeting of the HVAC and Alarm Systems, the paving needs at the Elementary School, and the first year of the “Three Year Equipment Replacement” that was given with the 03-04 budget plan.

Special Item increase of 6.6% reflects the increase in BOCES charges for Administration and Risk Management. This includes an increase due to repairs being done to the Maywood School roof. This increase also reflects an increase in postage and liability, theft and student accident insurance. We are looking into a new carrier for the student accidents.

Dr McCartney commended Mrs. Winchell on a job well done with the transportation section of the budget. Thanks to her hard and diligent work, the total has decreased from the 2003-2004 budget. This summary provides for salary adjustments for 28 employees and reflects the savings due to consolidation of bus runs and the bus fleet. It was recommended to have a separate proposition for the three buses; this was based on the transportation replacement plan. The three new buses would replace three of the four carpenter buses that are still on the fleet.

There are many plans for the schools this year with the focus being on the Elementary school. Repainting the hallways to get away from the “industrial colors” was mentioned and a recommendation from the board to ask the PTA if there were any decorators that would like to have input on the color scheme.

There has been no notification of retirements with the exception of Mr. Diegel. There are as many as 2 that will be eligible and may resign for retirement reasons.

There are 92 students (on paper) for the 2004-2005 kindergarten class. The projection will be approximately 82. Some parents chose to send children to full-day kindergarten, some will be held back a year. The number of students in each class was discussed at length. According to the latest census data, the number of children per household has dropped, but the number of households has increased. There seems to be a “bubble” where the number of students in the class is in excess of 100, but after that the number falls back within the 90’s range.

Meeting Call to Order:
7:35 p.m.

Discussion:
2004-2005
Budget

The board asked to be informed of the number of teaching assistants/aides that are required in classes with special needs students.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 9, at 7:30 pm in the commons area of the high school.

If necessary there will be a special budget meeting held on February 23.

March 8 is a regular board meeting to be held at 7:30 pm in the high school commons area.

Dr. McCartney is putting the proposed budget and the "search" for Elementary Principal on the web site.

On a motion made by Mr. Cole, seconded by Mr. Coffin, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Adjournment:
8:28 p.m.

President

Clerk

Recording Secretary

