

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert J. Baron, President  
C. James Coffin, Vice President  
Thomas McKenna  
Thomas M. Thorpe, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Richard K. Brackett  
John A. Cole  
Joseph F. Pofit

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Alan R. McCartney, Sarita Winchell, Mark Diefendorf, Edward Diegel

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Martin Bannon (*The Spotlight*), Kevin Kroencke, Molly Belmont (*The Altamont Enterprise*), Deann DellaPenta

Mr. Baron called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and gave the proper procedure to evacuate the building in the event of a fire emergency. He noted that Mr. Brackett, Mr. Cole, and Mr. Pofit were absent.

Mr. Baron asked if there were any additional items from the Superintendent. There were no additional items.

Mr. Baron offered the public an opportunity to be heard. There were no comments.

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board approved the permanent appointment of Susan Arditi as Secretary I [*District Office*].

Effective: March 22, 2004

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Dr. McCartney gave his power point presentation on the 2004-2005 Budget; a copy of the presentation is attached. He reminded the attendees that he does not represent the Board of Education or parents. He represents the students.

A brief discussion was held on the proposed bus purchase plan. The district is on schedule in the bus rotation plan, and after this purchase we will have one carpenter bus left in the fleet. Buses should be run for more than 10 years. Carwell will put the undercoating on the buses and check them annually for body defects. Carwell offers a ten-year warranty on the body of the buses. Mr. Coffin asked if the new buses were any more fuel-efficient. Even though we are going to the lower sulfur fuel, the add-ons will make fuel-efficiency even. The district does not use carpenter buses anymore. Mr. Kroencke asked if the district recouped anything from the buses or if they were just scrapped. Dr. McCartney responded that we try to resell the buses.

Financial impact of the proposed budget was a 4.7% increase in the budget and an approximate 6.2% - 7.2% tax rate increase to support the budget.

Dr. McCartney reviewed important upcoming dates:

- April 19, 2004 – Adoption of Budget
- May 10, 2004 – Public Hearing on Budget
- May 18, 2004 – Budget Vote and Board Trustee Election

Mr. Thorpe was concerned about the amount in the fund balance. Mrs. Winchell said the district is trying to keep the fund balance around \$240,000.

Mr. Coffin asked about the tax rolls and the procedure used. We are in contact with the towns of New Scotland and Guilderland. Although the numbers at this point are extremely fluid, it will give us somewhat of an idea.

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. McKenna and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following resolution for the purchase of the buses:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Voorheesville Central School District, Albany County, New York, is hereby authorized to purchase buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$222,000, and that such sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and, if not paid for out of such tax levy, collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District may be issued.

On a motion by Mr. Thorpe, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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*President*

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*Clerk*

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*Recording Secretary*

Meeting Call to Order:  
7:30 p.m.

Additional items: Superintendent Opportunity for Public to be heard:

Approved Appointment:  
S. Arditi

Budget Discussion

Approved:  
*Bus Purchase Resolution*

Adjourned:  
8:15 p.m.