

VOORHEESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Voorheesville, New York 12186
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 24, 2005
Special Budget Meeting

Robert J. Baron, President
High School Commons Area

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard K. Brackett
John A. Cole
Paige Macdonald
Thomas J. McKenna
Joseph F. Pofit

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robert J. Baron, *President*
C. James Coffin, *Vice President*

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Sarita Winchell, Mark Diefendorf, Ken Lein, Robin Jacob

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tony Thanopoulos, Kathy Fiero, Candy Raderman, Deann DellaPenta

Ms. Winchell called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and gave the proper procedure to evacuate the building in the event of a fire emergency. She noted all Board members were present with the exception of Mr. Baron and Mr. Coffin.

She noted that this was a Special Budget Meeting and that the only thing on the agenda for this meeting is the Special Education Budget.

Mrs. Winchell she would be working from the booklet handed out.

She began by discussing page two in detail. It was noted that the Kindergarten class was a full day. The first half being spent in regular half-day kindergarten, and the second half being spent with the Occupational Therapist and/or Physical Therapist.

There is grant money listed. The grant was filed late due to budget delay, and the December first count was used to file this. Ms. Winchell explained that they don't usually have figures for that until June – December figures were used.

The net cost of a student with a disability compared to a student without disabilities was briefly discussed. Ms. Winchell will provide these figures in a future meeting.

Ms. Jacob briefly discussed the Special Education Staff including Teaching Assistants. She also discussed the need for assistants to work one-on-one with students. Although the goal is to make students as independent as possible, it is necessary to have these assistants to help the more physically challenged students.

Special Education enrollment was discussed. Ms. Jacob explained that in the 1989-1990 school year, there were more students placed in the BOCES program as compared to the in-district students. Although the number of Special Education students has almost doubled, there only 11 out-of-district students. She also noted that the reason for the increase in 1994-1995 is that the emotional issues were better diagnosed. Ms. Jacob explained that she is very proud of these numbers, and that this could not be accomplished without the support of parents, staff and the administration. Mr. Diefendorf commented that the Special Education staff does more with less.

When asked what she would improve if there were more money for the program, Ms. Jacob said that more support with training for the upper grades would be on her wish list.

Ms. Winchell explained that the numbers have a lot of elasticity when budgeted. In March, the numbers would be refined.

There may be a need for a wheelchair bus; they are looking into that with the bus purchase. A cooperative transportation agreement with another district may be a solution.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

President

Clerk

Recording Secretary