

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

Special Board of Education Meeting - Budget
March 5, 2007

David M. Gibson, President
High School Cafeteria

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Board Members Present:

David M. Gibson, President
 C. James Coffin, Vice Present
 Richard K. Brackett
 Gary A. Hubert
 Kevin Kroencke
 Thomas McKenna

Board Members Absent:

Paige Pierce

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:

Linda Langevin, Sarita Winchell, Mark Diefendorf, Kenneth Lein

OTHERS PRESENT:

Waldo Greene, Mike Goyer, Dorothea Pflaiderer

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. and gave the proper procedure to evacuate the building in the event of a fire emergency. He noted that six Board members were present; Ms. Pierce was absent.

Call to Order:
 7:18 p.m.

Mrs. Winchell outlined items included in the presentation: estimated revenue increases, proposed budget increase, lax levy increase, highlights of budget changes, and proposed reductions.

**2007-2008
 BUDGET
 PRESENTATION**

Revenue Increase Projections

This number includes increases in State Aid, Boces aid, interest earnings, and other revenue changes. The sale of the public library was also included in the number. The District will lose revenue from rental of a classroom to BOCES who will require two classrooms in our District instead of three next year.

Projected revenue increase: \$196,086

Budget Increases

Discussion was held regarding budget increases for 2007-2008. These increases are summarized as general support, operations & maintenance, instruction, transportation, community service, employee benefits, debt service, and interfund transfer.

Total budget increase: \$1,129,755

Mrs. Winchell discussed factors that drive the budget increase.

- School districts are required to comply with mandates, regulations, or law requirements at the State and Federal levels.
- Unanticipated increases in 2006-2007 budgeted amounts
- Contractual agreements: these numbers include negotiated salaries, anticipated settlements (all UEV, VTA, retirement, and estimates for District Office staff earnings).
- Educational program improvements.

Other items discussed:

- Tax levy increase in dollars.

Budget increase	\$1,129,755
- Revenue increase	196,086
= Tax levy increase	\$933,669

As revenues increase, the tax levy increase will be reduced.

- 2007-08 salaries
- 2007-2008 fringe benefits
- 2007-2008 BOCES budget

The Board also discussed whether to approve the enrollment of one Voorheesville student who was accepted into the Tech Valley High School Program. Mrs. Langevin said a resolution would be presented at the regular March 12 Board meeting, and the Board could decide at that time. The Board also discussed the pros and cons of restoring the BOCES New Visions program vs. the CEIP program currently offered at the High School. CEIP provided internship opportunities to students after the New Visions program was cut several years ago. Mr. Diefendorf noted that CEIP does not take students away from their classes to the extent that New Visions did.

- Equipment:
 In 2006-2007, the equipment budget was cut substantially. The District must consider making up for that decision in 2007-2008.
- Teaching Supplies
- Special education residential placements and textbooks
- Teaching contractual obligations

The budget increase, as presented so far, is \$1,129,755 or 5.62%. This translates to a tax levy increase of \$933,669 or 6.87%

Mrs. Langevin discussed budget items that have been reduced from the original budget presentations. Thus far, the budget has been reduced by \$149,125. The district administrators have proposed additional reductions, which could decrease the budget by another \$147,428. These changes would result in a budget increase of 4.89% and a tax levy increase of 5.79%.

The Board discussed the need for a budget meeting on March 26, and agreed to meet for the purpose of reviewing numbers and refining the budget before approving a final budget on April 2. The Board asked the administration to make an effort to reduce the tax rate to below 5% and offer a new proposal at the March 26 Board meeting.

Data Analysis Follow-up: 5th and 6th Grade Comparisons

Mr. Paolino provided the Board with data analysis as a follow-up to his report on grades 3-8 ELA results presented on November 13, 2006, and mathematic exam results presented on December 11, 2006. He compared Voorheesville students to other similar schools within our region to determine if those districts experienced a decline in the number of 5th and 6th grade students scoring at Level 3 or higher on ELA and math exams. Although our school district showed a slightly higher than normal decline in the percentage of students earning a Level 3 or higher, it was noted that, as a whole, Voorheesville students scored near the top of the list for each assessment in terms of the percentage of students meeting the learning standard. In discussing student scores, the following factors were noted:

- The test was new to both the 5th and 6th grades in 2005-2006, the year reported.
- In the past, only 4th grade and 8th grade students took these state level tests in ELA and Math.
- There were different groups of students in the 5th and 6th grades last year so comparisons between the scores may yield inaccurate conclusions.
- Each year, the transition from the 5th grade Elementary School program, to the 6th grade Middle School program causes academic and social difficulties for some students.

Data Analysis
Follow-up re: 5th
& 6th Grade
Comparisons

ELA Exams
Mathematics
Exams

Executive Session:

8:45 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Brackett and carried unanimously, the Board moved into Executive Session at 8:45 p.m. to discuss current litigation.

Return to Regular
Session

The Board returned to regular session at 9.00 p.m.

Adjournment:

9:01 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Coffin, seconded by Mr. Kroencke and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

President

Clerk, Board of Education