

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

**Special Board of Education Meeting - Budget**  
**March 24, 2008**

**David M. Gibson, President**  
**High School Cafeteria**

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**Board Members Present:**

David M. Gibson, President  
C. James Coffin, Vice Present  
Timothy E. Blow  
Gary A. Hubert  
Kevin Kroencke  
Thomas McKenna  
Paige Pierce

**Board Members Absent:**

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Linda Langevin, Sarita Winchell, Mark Diefendorf, Kenneth Lein, Theresa Kennedy, Robin Jacob, Michael Goyer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bob Stapf, Lyn Stapf, Suzanne Keenan, Carol Conley, Shara Biernacki, Sue McMillen, Edward Hampston, Chuck Voss, Mike Bates, Tanya Hensel, Janet Strominger, Alan Fiero, Kathy Fiero, Theresa Gallagher, Tanya Hensel, Chris Allard, Jay Conde, Jordan Murphy, Alyssa Cave, Michael Thamsen, Brenda Clair, Scott Murray, Gary Bates, Colleen Bates, Donna Fitzgerald, Matthew Zell, Richard Bogdany, Richard Brackett, Laura Minnick, Wendy Burke, Thomas Sweeney, Mike Zemanek, Dawn Danz, Charles Calisti, Dorothea Pfleiderer

Mr. Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 with the exception of Ms. Pierce. Ms. Pierce arrived at 8:10 p.m.

**Call to Order:**  
7:05 p.m.

**Item 2.1 & 2.2: District-wide Growth Analysis / 2008 Student Enrollment Projection,**

*C. Voss – CT Male Associates; L. Engstrom – Capital District Regional Planning Commission*

Chuck Voss presented the growth analysis and explained that the purpose of the analysis is to assess and identify areas of growth and development in the Town of New Scotland and its impact on the district. He discussed current and proposed large-scale development projects and how enrollments would be affected. Mr. Engstrom presented elementary school, middle school, high school, and district-wide enrollment data from 1987 to the present. Enrollment projections for the next five years indicate that district enrollment will drop in the next two years, with a student population increase beginning in the 2010-2011 school year.

**PRESENTATIONS**

*District-wide  
Growth Analysis*

**2008 Student  
Enrollment  
Projection**

**Item 2.3: Class Size at Elementary School, K. Lein**

Mr. Lein discussed research that supports the conclusion that smaller class size in the early grades benefits student performance in upper elementary grades, middle school, and high school; however, small class size alone does not lead to higher student achievement. He presented the current elementary enrollment, by grade, and the projections for next year. Mr. Lein said he feels that grades 2, 3, 4, and 5 have sufficient support staff, which includes teaching assistants, speech therapists, occupational and physical therapists, a counselor, and AIS support in reading and math. Mrs. Langevin added that test scores for students in grades 3-8 are excellent, and she agreed that the district has sufficient staff to meet the needs of the elementary students.

*Class Size at  
Elementary School*

**Item 2.4: Tech Valley High School Tour, L. Langevin, F. Faber, M. Diefendorf, B. Stumbaugh**

Mr. Stumbaugh presented the report on behalf of the group that attended the study tour at TVHS on February 26 (*Mrs. Langevin, Mr. Faber, Mr. Diefendorf, Mr. Stumbaugh, and Mr. Blow*). Discussion included: (1) key points to the TVHS model with special emphasis on project/problem based learning (PBL); (2) the pros and cons of utilizing the TVHS model at Voorheesville; and (3) the long-term strategy for utilizing our connection to TVHS. It was noted that VCSD faculty members would have an opportunity to take tours of the Tech Valley campus in the next few months to bring new ideas to the Voorheesville classroom. The Board discussed TVHS in relation to the 2008-2009 budget and whether to approve tuition for an additional student to attend next year.

*Tech Valley High  
School*

**Item 3: Budget Discussion / Presentation**

Mrs. Langevin discussed projected district enrollment and staffing needs for 2008-2009. A full-time curriculum coordinator is recommended, and one current full-time business position will be reduced to .5 FTE. The impact of the TVHS tuition and BOCES aid was reviewed. Based on BOCES aid and the Board's decision whether to approve TVHS tuition for one or two students, the budget to budget tax levy could range from 1.20% to 2.43%; actual budget tax levy range would be 2.8% to 4.05%.

*2008-2009  
Budget*

In relation to the budget Mr. Gibson polled the Board on the following items:

- Would they support hiring additional teaching staff at the elementary school?  
5 members were opposed; 2 members were in favor
- Would they support TVHS tuition for one or two students in 2008-2009?  
The Board agreed that they would support tuition for the student currently attending TVHS only.

Opportunity for Public to be Heard

**Item 4: Opportunity for the Public to be Heard**

Items/Concerns discussed:

- A number of elementary school parents voiced concern about class size for next year's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- Tech Valley High School was discussed. Mrs. Hoffman-Simsek spoke of the benefits of a TVHS education and asked the Board to consider allowing a second student to attend next year.
- A group of parents spoke out on behalf of a middle school teacher and asked the Board to continue his employment with the district.

Resolution:

Reduction in length of term for BOE members

**Item 5: Resolution re: Reduction in length of term of office for Members of the Board of Education taking office on or after July 1, 2008**

A motion was made by Mr. Blow and seconded by Mr. McKenna to approve the following proposition and direct that it be placed before the voters at the May 20, 2008 School District Meeting:

Shall the term of office for Members of the Board of Education of the Voorheesville Central School District be reduced from five years to four years effective with terms commencing on or after July 1, 2008? Pursuant to Education Law section 2105, such change shall be made without affecting the current terms of office of the present incumbent Members of the Board of Education.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5-2. Mr. Kroencke and Mr. Hubert voted no.

Resolution:

School Lunch Deficit

**Item 6: Resolution re: School Lunch Deficit**

On a motion by Mr. Blow, seconded by Mr. Coffin and carried unanimously, the Board adopted the following resolution re: the School Lunch Fund deficit:

WHEREAS the Voorheesville Central School District School Lunch Fund currently has an operational deficit of \$95,000, and

WHEREAS the District has unappropriated fund balance available in the General Fund sufficient to offset this deficit, and

WHEREAS the Board of Education would like to submit a proposition to the school district voters to receive their permission to subsidize the school lunch program with a one-time transfer of fund balance in the amount of \$95,000.

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Education is authorized to subsidize the school lunch program with a one-time transfer from the General Fund to the School Lunch Fund in the amount of \$95,000, as an interfund transfer, and funded with unappropriated fund balance, on or before June 30, 2008, and it is further

RESOLVED that the District Clerk shall place a proposition question on the ballot of the school district meeting to be held on May 20, 2008, to allow voter consideration of this resolution.

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Kroencke and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following items:

Acceptance of Technology Donations

**Item 7: Acceptance of Technology Donations**

The Board gratefully accepted the following donations from Sheila Lobel to be received by the Technology Department:

<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Value</i>
<i>The following items were donated by Sheila Lobel</i>		
1	HP Pavillion 700 SN: MX242AII59 Pentium 4 computer w/keyboard, mouse 17" monitor, firewire card, network card, modem	\$ 250.00
1	HP Photosmart printer: #7260 CN3501BIGs	\$ 50.00
1	HP printer, model 930C #MYO91164KR	\$ 30.00
<b>Total value of donations</b>		<b><u>\$ 330.00</u></b>

Appointment of Long-Term Substitute Teacher

**Item 8: Long-Term Substitute Teacher**

Approved the appointment of Heather Higgins as first grade long-term substitute teacher (for Mrs. Lendrum)

Effective: March 20 through June 26, 2008

Salary: Step 1 (MA) of VTA Contract: \$41,650 (pro-rated)

**Item 9: Signatory – Extra Curricular Fund**

Added Susan Arditi, Deputy Treasurer, as a signatory for the Extra Curricular Fund. This is in addition to Mark Diefendorf, Anne Smolen, and Kathleen Parsons. The checks for this fund require two signatures.

Additional  
Signatory for  
Extra Curricular  
Fund

On a motion by Mr. McKenna, seconded by Ms. Pierce and carried unanimously, the Board moved into Executive Session at 10:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing negotiated agreements and pending litigation.

Executive Session:  
10:40 p.m.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 12:34 a.m.

Regular Session:  
12:34 a.m.

On a motion by Ms. Pierce, seconded by Mr. Hubert and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 a.m.

Adjournment:  
12:35 a.m.

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President

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Clerk, Board of Education