

# Minutes

## Board of Education Special Meeting

April 7, 2011

7:00 P.M.

Elementary Gymnasium

Draft until approved by the Board at their next meeting.

### Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by the Board President, John Sutton at 7:06 p.m. in the Elementary Gymnasium.

**Board Members Present:** John Sutton, Cheryl Smith, Janet Glenn, Terry Ostrander, Mark Pribis, and Bradley Rooke (Bradley Brooke was present via Skype.)

**Board Member Absent:** Joan Slagle

**Administrators Present:** Trent Clay, Linda Jackowski, Paul Berry, Peter Bednarek, Norman Griffin, Tammy Looman, and Kimberly LaBelle

**Other Present:** Approximately 150 Community Members, Staff and Students

### At 7:07 PM the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board President Sutton thanked all for coming to the meeting, He stated the purpose of tonight's special meeting was to share with the community what the present plans are regarding the proposed Budget, and that the Board would hear as many comments and concerns as possible. He went on to say Mrs. LaBelle would first be presenting a PowerPoint the Proposed 2011-12 Budget.

### Additions/Changes to the Agenda were Noted

None.

### Public Comment on Agenda Items

None at this point of the meeting.

### Superintendent's Report

Superintendent LaBelle's PowerPoint presentation first chronicled the Budget process to date. She outlined the currently proposed reductions to staff/programs. In conjunction with the restoration of \$187,000 in state aid, the Board and Administration have listened to the community, and have deemed to restore/add portions of the enrichment/technology, foreign language, and art programs. She outlined the BOCES Services which will be reduced or eliminated. Changes in athletics were also reviewed. Other reductions include classroom supplies, teacher conferences, Board of Education expenses. New, since the last meeting, is the submission of a Proposition to purchase school buses. This is precipitated by the upcoming expiration of bus leases, and the proposed reconfiguration of bus runs within the District. Mrs. LaBelle informed the public that the Administration will be proposing a Bus Bond Proposition to be voted upon at the Special Meeting, to be held on April 14, 2011, and after adoption, placed on the May 17, 2011 Annual Election Vote Ballot. There will be no financial implications until the 2013-14 school year, at which time approximately \$26,000 per year will be paid over a five year bonding cycle.

Mrs. LaBelle noted that Galway's State Aid allocation has been decreased by \$704K from the current (2010-11) school year. The \$6,851,056 includes the recently restored aid in the amount of \$187K. With the use of \$1.2 million in fund balance, this proposal computes to an estimated tax levy increase of 4.6%. She explained the process/options, should the proposed Budget be defeated. Initial calculations for a Contingency Budget show an estimated tax levy of 4%, this would necessitate additional cuts in the amount of \$44,765. Next steps in the Budget process include adoption of the proposed 2011-12 Budget on April 14<sup>th</sup>; the Budget Hearing on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.; and the Budget/Board of Education Member/Proposition Vote on May 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

## Board Member Comments

Before opening discussion to the floor, Board President Sutton noted that the Board has some flexibility in regard to a Contingency Budget. He reiterated that the District is currently using \$1.2M in unreserved funds; and that the Governor's numbers from February included \$425K of Jobs Funds that the District has saved, and will use in next year. However, the Legislative runs did use that number. The District is still looking to use \$1.2M of fund balance next year.

## New Business – Budget Discussion

Much discussion ensued. There was concern expressed regarding drawing down the Fund Balance; uncertainty regarding next year's State Aid; salary freezes and benefit concessions by District-Wide Staff; on-going negotiations; loss of enrichment programs; tax levy; order of cuts; administrative cut; BOCES program cuts; consolidation of bus routes and elimination of a mechanic as it relates to student time on the bus, safety, bus capacity; exploration of outsourcing janitorial, transportation, and food service operations; detailed budget information; use of Employee Benefit Reserve; soliciting of grants; reconfiguration of technology/enrichment positions; unfunded mandates, state contract and cooperative purchasing/bidding; Elementary class sizes; AP courses; fund raising /donations; priority list for reinstatement; contacting Governor/Legislators in regard to funding for education, as well as equitable distribution of aid statewide.

Mr. Sutton stated the Board and Administration will continue to discuss and finalize the Budget information. More detailed information will be posted on the District Website as it becomes available, along with the 2010-11 Budget information, as requested.

## Executive Session

9:07 p.m. Motion: Cheryl Smith Second: Janet Glenn All voted aye. Motion Passed  
6-0

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Galway Central School District enter into executive session to discuss under the exemption provision of Open Meetings Law CSE/CPSE recommendations which are confidential by law and exempt from Public Meetings Law; contract negotiations, and to discuss materials which may lead to particular individual(s) losing their positions at the school or the otherwise change in their position at the school, and the Superintendent's evaluation

Mrs. LaBelle was present during executive session.

## Regular Session

Motion: John Sutton Second: Janet Glenn All voted aye. Motion Passed  
6-0

To return to regular session at 9:55 p.m.

## Adjournment

Motion: John Sutton Second: Janet Glenn All voted aye. Motion Passed  
6-0

To adjourn at 9:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Demise J. Martin**

Denise J. Martin  
Interim District Clerk