

Galway Central School District  
Board of Education Meeting  
MINUTES  
Thursday, March 8, 2012

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**Executive Session:**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Board President Cheryl Smith at 6:00pm.

**Attendance**

Cheryl Smith, Nancy Lisicki, Dennis Schaperjahn, John Sutton, Joan Slagle, Kim LaBelle, Norm Griffin.

6:15pm Mr. Griffin exits executive session.

6:16pm Mr. and Mrs. Larson enter executive session.

**Adjournment**

Motion was made by John Sutton seconded by Joan Slagle to move out of executive session and into regular session at 6:40pm. All voted aye. Motion passed 5-0.

**Regular Session:**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Board President Cheryl Smith at 6:45 PM in the Large Group Instruction Room.

**Attendance**

Board Members Present: Cheryl Smith, Nancy Lisicki, Dennis Schaperjahn, John Sutton and Joan Slagle.

Board Members Absent: Thomas Rumsey and Janet Glenn.

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle, Superintendent of Schools; Linda Jackowski, Director of Pupil Services; Norman Griffin, Elementary School Principal; Peter Bednarek Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Paul Berry, Director of Assessment, Technology & Student Affairs; Community Members, Parents, Students and Teachers.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Was recited.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda:**

None

**Public Comment on Agenda**

None

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

**Motion:** Nancy Lisicki      **Second:** John Sutton  
To approve the Consent Agenda

**All voted aye.**

**Motion Passed 5-0**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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### **Minutes**

Accept February 2, 9 and 16, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes.

### **Personnel**

#### **Support Staff**

Accept Barbara Visco as a Substitute Cleaner effective March 9, 2012 at a rate of \$11.11 per hour.

Accept the resignation of Sheila Snyder from her bus driver position effective March 16, 2012.

### **New Business**

**Motion:** John Sutton

**Second:** Dennis Schaperjahn

**All voted aye.**

#### **Motion Passed 5-0**

Authorize the Board President to sign a Health & Welfare Service contract with the Ballston Spa Central School District for Health & Welfare services for thirteen students residing in the Galway School District and attending non-public schools in the Scotia-Glenville Central School District in the amount of \$6,058.

### **Discussion of the Stakeholder Recommendations to the Board**

*Board members sent Mrs. LaBelle their priorities on the Stakeholder recommendations. The following recommendations were discussed.*

#### **1. Academic Stakeholders Recommendations:**

##### **Elementary**

- 1) K-6 block with ELA and Math, NO pullouts.
- 2) More push in AIS services rather than pull out.
- 3) Eliminate extra art and music rotation
- 4) Eliminate activity period

Reduction in the elementary school program may have to be made regarding kindergarten, art and music. It was a consensus that everyone feels very strongly to keep kindergarten.

#### **2. Academic Stakeholders Recommendations:**

##### **Jr./Sr. High School**

- 1) Distance learning opportunities.
- 2) Add AP classes to distance learning.
- 3) Eliminate tutorials and add AIS.
- 4) Tally what students are choosing for classes.
- 5) Use professional development money for Galway teachers to teach on the distance learning Network.
- 6) Develop electives that are aligned with extracurricular clubs.

#### **3. Transportation Stakeholders Recommendations:**

- 1) Open CSEA contract to change the pay to a flat rate for trips.
- 2) Investigate cost of ½ days.
- 3) Reduce the number of bus stops.
- 4) Possibly create 1 afternoon run.
- 5) RFP is on a temporary hold. We are looking into a transportation consultant. The fee for the consultant service would be approximately \$5,000.

**Athletic Stakeholders Recommendations:**

- 1) Tiered structure for coaching salaries.
- 2) Team participation (keep the sports with highest numbers)
- 3) Check to see what teams will be playing in the WAC league due to budget cuts.

**March 8, 2012 Board Meeting Minutes (continued)**

**2012-2013 Budget Discussions**

Property tax cap filed (\$8.9 million tax cap)

This does not reflect the purchasing of any buses

District has indicated on the NYS Comptrollers website that we are going over the tax cap.

All tax cap information can be modified until mid April.

Information on bus purchases – Should we include or not into the 2012-13 budget?

Core Classes would mean significant reduction in programs offered.

<b>Cost:</b> \$17.9 million	<b>Revenue:</b> \$17.3 million	\$546,000 gap
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Program cuts would be art and music in the elementary school and many electives in the Jr./Sr. High School. Electives for graduation requirements would be those electives which tend to be popular with students. The current budget will maintain the business program, athletic program, replacing an administrative position, .5 mechanic, program materials for science and co-curricular activities.

We can use between \$350,000 and \$400,000 of our fund balance this year and still have funds left to use next year.

Mrs. LaBelle will be meeting with faculty and staff next week regarding potential lay-offs.

**Joint BOE Meeting with Hadley-Luzerne**

James Dexter, District Superintendent, recommended that districts develop a long-term plan to address financial issue. Each plan would outline a different scenario for the district. The Powerpoint presentation is available on the website.

Some typical shared services would include:

- School Business Official
- Shared District Business Office (i.e.: Payroll)
- District Learning classes shared with Hadley-Luzerne, or other districts
- Cost savings to go above the tax levy
- Tuition students – accept within district or tuition students to surrounding districts.

**Public Comment**

The public raised the following comments:

A community member spoke in favor of exceeding the tax cap, however is somewhat concerned that some of our taxpayers may not be able to afford the increase.

**Public Comment (continued)**

A concerned parent pleaded with the Board to not cut music!

It was suggested taking tuition students to help pay for cut programs as well as implement new ones.

An incoming kindergarten parent had a question as to what the tax levy is. He suggested defining a quality quotient and budget from there with a 5 year plan.

Another community member stated that music and art can be taught by classroom teachers, but teachers still contractually get their 40 minute planning period. She suggested creating a chart with what surrounding districts are offering would be helpful. She also recommended allowing tuition students to attend Galway. The tuition rate for Ballston Spa elementary is \$7,000 and for 7-12 it is \$11,000.

A question was raised as to how the declining enrollment plays into the budget.

A suggestion into looking to merge with other districts to help maintain quality education. Mrs. LaBelle stated that at the presentation that she and the Board attended last evening at Hadley-Luzerne, James Dexter said that merger studies show that schools do not reap financial benefits.

It was suggested if there was a way to get a dollar amount out there to the public rather than a percentage of how much taxes would be going up, people, especially people who don't understand how the rate is calculated, they would be more apt to vote affirmatively.

There was concern that the website didn't have enough information on the site regarding the budget. He suggested that more information be put on the web because a lot of people seek information there.

A Galway High School senior, expressed his opinion regarding the difference between this year and last with the cuts and how it has impacted students this year. Losing good teachers or having them cut to part time is hard for student morale. He hopes that programs can be saved.

**Executive Session**

**Motion:** Nancy Lisicki      **Second:** Dennis Schaperjahn      **All voted aye.**      **Motion Passed 5-0**  
To move into executive session at 9:07pm.

**Regular Session**

**Motion:** Joan Slagle      **Second:** John Sutton      **All voted aye.**      **Motion Passed 5-0**  
To return to regular session at 10:55pm.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** Joan Slagle      **Second:** John Sutton      **All voted aye.**      **Motion Passed 5-0**  
To adjourn at 10:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barbara A. Agresta*  
Barbara A. Agresta  
Pro Tem District Clerk