

Galway Central School District
Board of Education Work Session
MINUTES
Thursday, March 15, 2012

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The meeting began at 6:30 PM in the Large Group Instruction Room

Attendance

Board Members Present: Nancy Lisicki, Thomas Rumsey, Dennis Schaperjahn, Joan Slagle, John Sutton (Janet Glenn was present via a telephone conference call during the executive session portion of the meeting only at 8:25 PM.)

Board Members Absent: Cheryl Smith, Janet Glenn joined the meeting via telephone conference call during the executive session portion of the meeting only at 8:25 PM.

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle, Superintendent of Schools; administrators and approximately 35 community members and others.

A discussion of the 2012-13 budget took place along with the distribution of the budget bulletin and upcoming community chat information. Numerous comments and suggestions were heard from those in attendance.

An unfunded mandated relief resolution will be added to the next meeting for Board approval.

A transportation discussion took place regarding the purchase of buses, the number of students driving to school, the feasibility of one run in the afternoon, etc.

Mrs. LaBelle stated that the budget is one of the most challenging landscapes she has seen in years. The positive things are that the district has a strong and committed community and faculty and staff who are supportive of the district; developed transparent budget process to community; refunding bond/savings; and recent notification of a legislative grant in the amount of \$30,000 from Senator Hugh Farley.

The challenges are: fixed costs (ERS, TRS, Health Insurance); property tax cap; fund balance depletion; loss in jobs fund money.

Measures continue to investigate shared services. There are recent discussions in the Senate and Assembly regarding the redistribution of grant money the Governor put in his budget. Money may be reallocated back to districts. Information will be on the website to notify our representatives in Albany. All are encouraged to do this.

The request was to develop a Core Plus Budget which is complete, however in DRAFT form and very much a fluid document.

Mrs. LaBelle presented information to the faculty earlier today reflecting a budget of \$17.9 million.

State Aide/All Revenue - \$17,342,809

Fund Balance \$400,000

Shortfall of \$600,000

Tax Cap at 9.1

These are different numbers from what was presented last week, since the new numbers include purchasing six (6) buses.

Discussion on how to move forward from here took place. The Board received input from the community and from three different stakeholder committees. Once the Core Budget is presented, the Board needs to make decisions so the community is clear what will be presented to the voters on May 15th. Mrs. LaBelle recommended the following to the Board:

1. Reduce the number of buses for voter approval in May, since the District is considering a transportation consultant and if approved, the company may have different recommendations for consideration.
2. Currently the proposed budget includes a full athletic program. Given the significant number of academic reductions, athletics needs to be modified as well.
3. All co-curricular activities are in the budget. The Board should consider reducing co-curricular activities and run with only a selected few.
4. All district employees should consider a salary freeze. This would send a united message to the community that all of us show in support of our school.

Numerous questions, comments, concerns and suggestions were listened to and responded to by the Board regarding co-curricular activities, athletics, making the most out of Distance Learning, block scheduling, inundating Albany with letters from our students in support of our school, concerns of technology cuts, the number of students riding school buses, possibly smaller buses due to decreasing enrollments and holding onto the bus fleet longer, the number of bus runs, concerns of maintaining music and the arts, upcoming Community Chat, a hiring freeze, YMCA for athletics, educating students and making sure students get into college.

Executive Session

Motion: Joan Slagle Second: Nancy Lisicki All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0

To move into executive session at 8:25 PM to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

Adjournment

Motion: Dennis Shaperjahn Second: Thomas Rumsey All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0

To adjourn at 10:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly A. LaBelle