

**Galway Central School District
Community Chat and Board of Education Meeting
MINUTES
Thursday, March 22, 2012**

DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Community Chat began at 6:30 PM in the Junior/Senior High School Cafeteria and was followed by a Board of Education meeting.

Attendance

Board Members Present: Cheryl Smith, Nancy Lisicki, Thomas Rumsey, Dennis Schaperjahn, Joan Slagle, John Sutton

Board Members Absent: Janet Glenn

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle, Superintendent of Schools; administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents and community members.

A huge crowd attended the Board of Education's third Community Chart on the proposed 2012-13 school budget. The overflow of people were standing out in the hallway to hear the presentation by School Superintendent Kimberly LaBelle on the different scenarios of what could be cut or added to the proposed budget, depending on how much of a tax levy increase would be presented to voters on May 15th. The presentation is available on the district website or by calling the school for a paper copy.

Core Budget vs. Core Plus Budget was discussed:

Currently, there are two options: A "Core Budget" or a "Core Plus Budget." (The specifics of each budget are available on the district website or by calling the school for a paper copy.)

Mrs. LaBelle explained that basically, if the Board presents a "Core Budget" to voters it would mean using the maximum allowable tax levy increase of 3.29%, which translates to an estimated tax rate increase of \$1.24 per \$1,000 assessed value, (based on 2011-12 tax rates). The "Core Budget" would fund a "Core" program that offers what is required for students to graduate. The "Core Budget" would mean that 16.74 positions (10.74 teachers of which 3.0 are due to attrition and 6.0 teacher aides) would be cut and programs will be reduced. A simple majority of voters need to vote "yes" for this budget to be approved. If the Board presents a "Core Plus Budget" to voters it would mean using a tax rate that is 4.29% above the allowable tax levy for a total of 7.58% tax levy increase, which translates to \$2.84 per \$1,000 assessed value (based on 2011-12 tax rates). A "Core Plus Budget" would mean 13.61 (7.61 teachers and 7.0 teacher aides) positions will be cut, 3.13 restored, some programs will be restored and classes will be added. A total of 60% plus "one" of the voters need to vote "yes" to approve this budget option.

Mrs. LaBelle explained what happens if the budget is not approved by voters:

If a proposed budget is defeated by voters, a school district has the option of putting the same or revised budget up for a revote, or adopting a contingent budget. If a proposed budget is defeated twice by voters, a district must adopt a contingent budget. Certain existing contingent budget requirements remain in effect that prohibit spending in specific areas including community use of buildings, certain salary increases and new equipment purchases. More significantly, under the new law, a district that adopts a contingent budget may not increase its current tax levy by any amount, which would impose, in effect a 0% cap. This would mean further reducing the "Core Budget" by \$288,026.

The board listened closely to community feedback, questions and concerns and encouraged everyone to please keep their input coming to help them in making their budget decisions. Several students spoke to the Board encouraging them to not cut programs. All school employees are being asked to consider a salary freeze. The Board felt that agreeing to a salary freeze would send a good message to the community. Those discussions are continuing.

The Board encouraged everyone to stay positive and to dispel any negative rumors and rumors that the District is closing. They want everyone to know that the District will be offering the best programs they can. There are three vacancies on the Board of Education if anyone is interested. Petitions are available by contacting the District Clerk, Linda Casatelli. John Sutton will be running for another term of office on the Board of Education. Joan Slagle and Thomas Rumsey will not appear on the ballot for another term.

Call to Order

The Board of Education Meeting was called to order at 8:25 PM.

Board Members Present: Cheryl Smith, Nancy Lisicki, Thomas Rumsey, Dennis Schaperjahn, Joan Slagle, John Sutton

Board Members Absent: Janet Glenn

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle, Superintendent of Schools; administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents and community members.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Additions/Revisions to the Agenda were noted:

Consent Agenda:

Create a Junior/Senior High School Associate Principal - Grades 7-12 position instead of an Assistant Principal/Athletic Director position.

New Business:

Details of a Bus Proposition was added.

Details of an Opposing Unfunded and Under-Funded State Mandates Resolution was added.

Public Comment on Agenda - none

Recognition

Lions Club Citizenship Awards were presented to the following students:

Joshua Rumsey – Elementary School Student

Jacob Thompson – Junior High School Student

Nicolina Foti – High School Student

They were congratulated on receiving this honor.

Superintendent's Report

A few weeks ago the District submitted a request to three different transportation consultants for their services. After review of the proposals, Pupil Transportation Safety Institute, Inc. (PTSI) was recommended. (see below)

COMPANY	ADDRESS	ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION	SCOPE OF PROPOSAL	TIMELINE	FEE STRUCTURE
Pupil Transportation Safety Institute, Inc. (PTSI)	10 Adler Drive Suite 102 E. Syracuse, NY	PTSI is a 501c(3) not-for-profit educational organization founded in 1990.	Routing, investigation of contract vs. district-owned operation of pupil expenses with written report to BOE.	Have requested information March 15, 2012.	Total: \$5,350 (Includes all consult fees & expenses) To prepare an RFP for contract transportation-additional fee of \$5000.

Discussion followed on whether or not to appoint a consultant this year or next year since the district would not be able to obtain information back from them before the May 15th vote. They wanted information that could help them in making their decision about purchasing buses. They decided to appoint a consultant this year (see the New Business section of these minutes). The Board felt that the information they provide will be of benefit next year. They asked to receive a progress report or some information from the consultant before the budget vote. Mrs. LaBelle will look into this.

Consent Agenda

Motion: Thomas Rumsey Second: Joan Slagle All voted aye. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried
 To approve the following consent agenda:

Consent Agenda

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- February Student Activity Accounts Treasurer's Report
- February District Treasurer's Report
- Minutes of March 7 and 8, 2012 Board of Education Meetings

PERSONNEL

Abolish a Director of Assessment, Technology & Student Affairs position effective June 30, 2012.

Create a probationary position of a Junior/Senior High School Associate Principal - Grades 7-12 in the tenure area of School Administration effective July 1, 2012.

Appoint Heather O'Brien as a Division I Odyssey of the Mind Coach for the 2011-12 school year at a stipend of \$450. She has fingerprint clearance.

Appoint Jerri Ernst as a Division I Odyssey of the Mind Coach for the 2011-12 school year at a stipend of \$450. She has fingerprint clearance.

Board Member Comments

The Board was encouraged and pleased to see the large turnout this evening and encouraged everyone to stay involved and to keep their input coming because the Board really does listen and consider what they have to say when making their decisions.

New Business

Motion: Thomas Rumsey Second: Dennis Schaperjahn All voted aye. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried
 To approve participation in BOCES 2012 Summer School Program:

- WHEREAS**, the Galway Central School District intends to prepare an application to provide Special Education School Aged Summer School services for students for 2012; and
- WHEREAS**, the Galway Central School District has calculated that the cost of operating such programs in summer 2012 would be approximately \$3,122 per day, per student; and
- WHEREAS**, the Galway Central School District has been advised by the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex Board of Cooperative Educational Services (WSWHE BOCES) that it will provide the 2012 summer program at an approximate cost of:

ESY	2010 Cost	2010 STAC Rate	District Liability
Program	\$180	\$161	\$19
1:1 TA	\$141	\$ 84	\$57
1:1 Aide	\$ 82	\$ 84	\$ 0

Per Day, Per Student (Actual costs for ESY 2012 will be determined after completion of the program);
WHEREAS, the Galway Central School District cannot provide Special Education School Aged Summer School services in a more cost-effective manner than WSWHE BOCES due to the ability of WSWHE BOCES to offer and provide services to multiple Districts who are able to share costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Galway Central School District intends to participate in the 2012 Summer School and agrees to pay the actual WSWHE BOCES rate for the 2012 Summer School, notwithstanding SED tuition rates, as it is significantly less costly than providing the services in District; and it is further understood that districts will pay for at least one week of enrollment for a student who subsequently drops before the first day of summer school; and

RESOLVED, that no later than April 1, 2012, the Clerk of the Board shall notify the WSWHE BOCES in writing of the District's commitment as described herein and the District's intent to participate in the 2012 Special Education School Age Summer School.

Motion: Thomas Rumsey Second: Nancy Lisicki All voted aye. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried

To approve NYCLASS Notice of Amendment of Municipal Cooperation Agreement

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES (the "BOCES") gave notice to the governing board of the Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System Municipal Cooperation Agreement (the "Agreement") that they were resigning as Lead Participant. In addition, notice was received from Cutwater Asset Management that they wished to terminate their Investment Advisory Services. On February 23, 2012 the Governing Board voted to replace BOCES with the Village of Potsdam as Lead Participant under the Agreement. In addition the Governing Board, after a request for proposals process, selected First Southwest/J.P. Morgan Asset Management as the new Investment Advisor. The Agreement is now being amended to accommodate these changes:

Amendment Dated As Of April 23, 2012 To The Cooperative Liquid Asset Securities System Municipal Cooperation Agreement As Amended And Restated As Of October 20, 1999.

The Municipal Cooperation Agreement referenced above is hereby amended so that it shall now be by and between the Village of Potsdam and the Participants thereto. In addition, the following definitional changes are made:

Section 1. The definition of "Investment Advisor" means the investment advisor with which the Governing Board has contracted to serve in such capacity under the Agreement.

The definition of "Lead Participant" means the Village of Potsdam, but solely in its capacity as Lead Participant hereunder and not individually.

The definition of "Services Agreement" means the agreement between the Governing Board and the Investment Advisor, as the same may be amended from time to time, providing for administrative and investment advisory services to the Governing Board.

Motion: Thomas Rumsey Second: John Sutton All voted aye. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried

To accept an \$800 donation from the Galway Community Education Foundation for a Journalism Conference with sincere thanks and appreciation.

Motion: John Sutton Second: Thomas Rumsey All voted aye. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried

To approve a correction on the tax assessment for SBL#146.-2-18.1 per court order with a refund due of \$395.11.

Motion: John Sutton Second: Joan Slagle All voted aye. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried

To adopt the bus purchase resolution below that will appear on the May 15, 2012 Election Ballot:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Galway Central School District, Saratoga County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The proposition hereinafter set forth is hereby authorized to be submitted for the approval of the qualified voters at the annual school district election to be held in said School District, on the 15th day of May, 2012.

Section 2.The School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to include as a part of the notice of the annual district meeting and election notice with reference to the submission of said proposition in substantially the following form:

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that at said annual election to be held on May 15, 2012, the following proposition will be submitted:

PROPOSITION

Shall the Board of Education of the Galway Central School District be authorized to pay the cost of the purchase of three (3) school buses, including incidental expenses, at a maximum estimated cost of \$285,000, and that said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District shall be issued.

Section 3.This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion: Thomas Rumsey Second: Nancy Lisicki All voted aye. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried
To adopt the 2012-13 school calendar.

Motion: John Sutton Second: Dennis Schaperjahn All voted aye. Yes: 6 No: 0 Motion Carried
To adopt the following Opposing Unfunded and Under-Funded State Mandates Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Galway Central School District partners with the New York State Government to provide every student with quality instruction, learning opportunities, and an educational environment that promote classroom success, personal excellence, and responsible citizenship, and such a partnership requires collaboration in order to effectively accomplish these goals; and

WHEREAS, the State mandates through various State laws and regulations that the School District perform various tasks to ensure that State standards for education are upheld, such requirements commonly occurring in the areas of educational services, reporting, administrative tasks, compensation and staffing, personnel evaluations, construction, and other areas required for a comprehensive education; and

WHEREAS, many such mandates are imposed by the State with limited or no incremental funding from the State to accomplish the required tasks, which significantly reduces the ability of the School District to effectively manage its costs and services; and

WHEREAS, these unfunded and under-funded State mandates represent a barrier to effective collaboration and good governance, and the growing expense of such mandates, both individually and collectively, places financial burdens on local school districts — and ultimately on the taxpayer — by shifting the tax burden from the state to the local level, and has in many instances forced school districts to shift resources from classrooms to administrative tasks,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Galway Central School District calls upon the Governor and members of the State Legislature to enact comprehensive mandate relief legislation that takes into consideration the following among other relief measures: (1) to inventory and fund existing and future mandates and (2) to require that all future legislation include a full accounting of specific local fiscal impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, State Senate Majority and Minority Leaders, Assembly Speaker and Minority Leader, Senate and Assembly Education Committee Chairs, and the members of the Senate and Assembly representing the Galway Central School District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Additional comments were heard regarding the budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

To move into executive session at 9:37 PM to review CSE/CPSE recommendations and 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.

REGULAR SESSION

Motion: Joan Slagle Second: Nancy Lisicki All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To return to regular session at 11:45 PM.

CSE/CPSE RECOMMENDATIONS

Motion: Dennis Schaperjahn Second: Thomas Rumsey All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To approve the following CSE/CPSE Recommendations for the following students: Student #3557, 5277, 3874, 3334, 3819, 5216, 5417, 2554, 2948, 2762, 3404, 3326, 2825, 2679, 2696, 2685, 3407, 6032, 2564, 2820, 2724, 2711, 4588, 3868, 2757, 5061, 5566, 3019, 3046, 6064, 4657, 3159, 3305, 2832, 5037, 3485, 5061

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Thomas Rumsey Second: John Sutton All voted aye. Motion Passed 6-0
To adjourn at 11:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Casatelli
District Clerk