

March 31, 2009

President John Wapner called the Special Town Hall Meeting to order at 6:34 PM. The meeting was held in the high school auditorium. Board members in attendance were Elizabeth Macfarlane, Vice President; Ric Campbell; Michael Clark; Denise Dapice; Fred Hutchinson (left the meeting at 7:40 p.m., returned at 7:43 p.m., departed at 8:07 p.m.); Francis Iaconetti; and, David O'Connor. James Toteno was absent.

Also present were Lee Bordick, Interim Superintendent; Diane T. Malecki, Business Administrator/District Clerk; Dr. Jean Scheriff, Director of Pupil Services; Larry Dreher, Transportation Supervisor; Charlotte Frye, Elementary School Principal; Gordon Fitting, Middle School Principal; Ron Davis, High School Principal; and, John Thorsen, High School Assistant Principal.

The audience consisted of staff, members of the public, and one newspaper reporter.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the following took place.

#### Special Meeting Discussion Topic

- Proposed One-Bell Transportation System:

Mr. Bordick spoke to the process of the transportation study and public concern for efficiency and safety. Mr. Bordick's power point presentation pointed to the many years of low ridership with the current 2-Bell System and the results presented by the transportation consultant's report in December 2008.

#### ONE-BELL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Mr. Bordick's presentation reviewed the move from a 17.46% increase on the tax levy which translates to closer to 20% increase with the District's added loss of state aid revenues to the current 1.55% increase in the tax levy over the levy for 2008-2009.

Mr. Bordick re-emphasized that the goal of the 2009-2010 budget process is to 1) preserve the core educational programs, 2) reduce positions without affecting staff and 3) reduce staff based on student enrollment. Much of this will be possible through the various retirement incentives offered to District staff.

At this time, the district has reduced the 2009-2010 budget by \$444,444 or 1.67% from the 2008-2009 operating budget.

Mr. Bordick reviewed the District enrollment over the past 10 years to emphasize the continued decline for the District. In 1998-1999 the District had 1,558 students enrolled. In 2008-2009 the District has 1,293 students enrolled. In spite of the decreased enrollment, the District still operates the same size bus fleet.

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Mr. Bordick spoke to the fact that the \$194,000 is a conservative estimate of the cost savings afforded by the District's move to a 1-Bell system. If the District eliminated transportation benefits there could be substantially more savings. However, the transportation staff are members of the community and parents to many of the students in the District.

The critical component in the 1-Bell system is "the safety of the students". The District Bus Drivers are the key to keeping our students "safe". Mr. Bordick commended the drivers for all of their efforts to meet this critical component with each day that they drive our students.

A review of the plans to reconfigure the High School parking lot to allow for a safer and more structured process for dropping students off in the morning and loading in the afternoon was shown and discussed by both Mr. Bordick and Mr. Dreher, the District's Transportation Supervisor.

Policies and procedures will also be considered and revised to coordinate the 1-Bell process in the most efficient manner while considering all safety issue prior to implementation.

The last topic discussed by Mr. Bordick detailed the anticipated restoration of \$654,819 in NYS aid to the District. Mr. Bordick reiterated the fact that this money is a 1 to 2 shot deal and should not be used to purchase or implement any program that creates ongoing expenses to the District.

Mr. Bordick answered audience questions about issues related to the 1-Bell system and the Stimulus money received from NYS.

- The Board of Education must adopt the 2009-2010 budget by the April 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.
- The Board of Education will continue to review the budget at both the April 7<sup>th</sup> and the April 21<sup>st</sup> meetings with final adoption at the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Motion by Denise Dapice, seconded by Fred Hutchinson, that the Board of Education appoint Lee Bordick as District Clerk Pro-Temp for the remainder of the meeting. **Motion Carried 8-0**

Motion by Denise Dapice, seconded by Fred Hutchinson, that the Board of Education enter Executive Session to discuss issues relating to the employment history or promotion of a particular employee. **Motion Carried 8-0**

RESTORATION OF STATE  
AID

2009-2010 BUDGET

DISTRICT CLERK PRO-TEMP

EXECUTIVE SESSION

March 31, 2009

Entered Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Denise Dapice, seconded by Ric Campbell, that the Board of Education return to Open Session. **Motion Carried 8-0**  
Resumed Open Session at 9:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by David O'Connor, seconded by Fred Hutchinson, that the Board of Education adjourn the March 31, 2009 Special Town Hall Meeting. **Motion Carried 8-0**  
Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m..

Diane T. Malecki  
District Clerk

Lee Bordick  
District Clerk Pro-Temp