

Date of Meeting: May 6, 2009
Type of Meeting: Special – Public Hearing on the 2009-10 School Budget
Place of Meeting: Auditorium
Members Present: President, Sam Jackling, Vice President, Wendy Perry; John Pecora
Members Absent: Paul Chizek; Kim Hentnik; Matt Polikowski; Sari Stewart
Others Present: Stephen Tomlinson, Superintendent; Marco Zumbolo, Assistant Superintendent; Georgia Baldwin, District Clerk; staff and members of the community

At 7:00 pm Mr. Tomlinson welcomed everyone to the public hearing. Mr. Tomlinson reviewed the polling sites and who votes at each one. He then introduced the three candidates for the Board of Education.

Each board candidate spoke for approximately five minutes in the order that they will be placed on the ballot. Mr. Edward Szumowski spoke first, followed by Mr. Samuel Jackling and then Mr. Joseph Renaud spoke.

Remarks for the Board of Education. Mr. Jackling addressed the audience including an example of the total property tax per year on his home.

Mr. Tomlinson gave an overview of what would be talked about during the presentation and then introduced Mr. Zumbolo.

Mr. Zumbolo went over the following areas:

- 2009-10 Expenditures
- 2009-10 Expenditure Plan
- Breakdown of 2009-10 budget
- 2006-07 per pupil expenditure
- 2009-10 Revenues
- 2009-10 Revenues – Where the money comes from
- 2009-10 ARRA Funding
- Federal Stimulus
- 2009-10 Bus Referendum
- Facts About School Taxes in Broadalbin-Perth
- True Value Tax Rate Comparisons
- 2009-10 School Taxes Projected Impact
- 2009-10 School Tax Increases by Town
- 2009-10 school Tax Projections
- Contingent Budget Impact

The floor was then opened to questions from the audience.

Mike Taylor – True value doesn't mean that much. Gloversville is taking big steps – 34 [teaching] positions and a reduction in insurance. \$26,000 for medical insurance is a little ridiculous. Debt service – where are we getting the money from? Learning that our taxes are going up 14/5% is not easy to take. Think seriously about reducing teachers or the \$26,000 may have come way down.

Joe Meuse – Mr. Meuse read a letter to the editor that he wrote and didn't get in before the hearing. Last month you proposed a 1.57% increase in spending. This month it is 2.28% which is 40% higher than a month ago. How can you justify that?

Nick Terlaak Poot – I recently wrote a letter to the editor after reading about possible double digit increase. If this continues that means it could be 50% or so over the next three years. We're paying for retired teacher benefits. You need to take a hard look at this.

Andrea Hauser – The place I work at decided to forgo our raises to save a co-worker. All I hear is do it for the kids. Teachers don't care about their own. Teachers need to make concessions. Also, you're asking teachers to make concessions and you're taking increases. How can you stand there and expect the teachers to take a cut when you won't do the same? Shame on you!

Angelo Finateri – I need some clarification. On the examples of true value, a property assessed at \$51,000 is actually worth \$100,000? If residents aren't getting a STAR check, the increase is larger to that taxpayer. Programs have to be maintained. It will cost down the line. Get back to basics. I hope future boards keep that in mind. It's nice to be progressive but pull the reins back in.

Mike Taylor – You referred to programs having significant cuts. Doing that gradually? That's your job, but the board, that's another thing. Consider our future. You can cut a few programs and a few teachers if they won't bargain.

Angelo Finateri – Here is another alternative. We have FMCC. Seniors in high school can get credit by going there. We are paying taxes for that college to be there. We are paying taxes for this school to be here. It's a double whammy.

With no further questions from the audience, the public hearing concluded at 8:34 pm.

Georgia L. Baldwin, District Clerk