

Date of Meeting: May 10, 2010
Type of Meeting: Special – Public Hearing on the 2010-11 School Budget
Place of Meeting: Auditorium
Members Present: President, Wendy Perry, Vice President, Kim Hentnik; Paul Chizek, Joe Renaud, Ed Szumowski
Members Absent: John Pecora, 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. Mr. Tomlinson gave an overview of the agenda for the evening.

Remarks for the Board of Education. Ms. Perry addressed the audience. She then introduced the five 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. Byron Armstead Barker spoke first, followed by Mr. Brandt Minkler, Mr. Floyd Douglas, Mr. Keith Buchanan and Mr. Charlie DeZolt.

Audience members were then able to make a comment or ask the candidates questions.

Joe Meuse – This has been a difficult year. I hope you had a chance to read the literature. It is disappointing. Mr. Meuse spoke about different facets of the budget newsletter.

Nikki – For all of the candidates and continuing board members, what immediate family members are employed by the district?

Joe Meuse – If the state comes through with the money, what do you think it should go to?

Lou Giles – In the years that I have lived here my taxes have gone up 400% but my income has gone up 0%. We are all on fixed incomes, not just the elderly. It is getting closer to where you can't live in your house anymore. You should make more effort into keeping the budget flat. If you put the proposed budget to the students, I wonder if the students would vote yes or no. The private sector is taking pay cuts and layoffs. It is not justified for the school employees to get pay increases. I have a problem with it. What about volunteerism? Can we set up funds for programs that people could donate to? Taxes are a seizure of property.

George Murphy – My background is in athletics. If the budget is not passed, athletics are cut. You could cut modified until you can get it back. I would hate to see music, art and PE cut. I assume that chaperones are paid. This district has NFL syndrome. High School games are not the NFL. I am opposed to night games. We don't need artificial turf. How much does Hudson River/Black River owe? Also, it is not a good idea to have family members work in the district.

Community Member – Mr. Douglas, what are some of the things you can help with for students with disabilities?

Kerri Barker – I'm the family member. I've been in this district for many years. I am doing what I think is best for children, which is why these men are here.

Mr. Tomlinson went over the following areas:

- Budget Scenario in Review
- Community Roundtables
- Community Budget Development Process
- 2010-11 Projected Expenditures
- Spending Reduction Specifics
- Staff Reduction Specifics
- Expenditure Plan Summary
- 2006-07 Per Pupil Expenditures

Mr. Tomlinson then introduced Mr. Zumbolo who went over the following areas:

- Bus Referendum
- 2010-11 Projected Revenues
- Expenditure vs. Revenue
- The Albany Effect
- 2009-10 Actual Revenues

2010-11 Projected Revenues
Projected School Tax Impact
True Value Tax Rates
Contingent Budget Scenario

Ms. Perry made closing comments including reminding everyone to vote on May 18th.

A video was presented showcasing the school district titled "I am Broadalbin-Perth".

The floor was then opened to questions from the audience.

Annette Intelisano – Why do we need three new school buses? You say that it won't add to the tax levy but it looks like an increase to me. You say you are getting rid of staff on the web site you have two new job openings. How many teaching assistants are there? I went back quite a way looking at class pictures and yearbooks. There were usually 29 kids in a class and no teaching assistant. We don't need teaching assistants. After 25 years a teacher needs to go. I don't have any kids in the district currently or grandchildren. We don't need new buses, maintain them. I've been laid off for the past 11 months. I still have to pay my taxes.

Megan Floyd – Eight years ago my family faced a difficult decision. We left Ballston Spa to come here. We are now facing another difficult decision. If Broadalbin-Perth can't offer the courses and extra-curriculars we may have to move them to North Colonie where my husband works. As a teacher in this district I can tell you we do a heck of a lot with a little.

Laurie Tambasco – I am proud my son goes to this school. The teachers and administrators go above and beyond. I don't like taxes but will pay. Thank you.

Katie Bolibaugh – SUNY used to be safe schools. College level courses mean everything. It is the difference in getting into college. No one likes to pay taxes. Things can be difficult. We went for 11 months with no income. We thought we were going to lose our home. We want our students to come back to the area. If we don't have what they need, they won't come back.

Mr. Tomlinson thanked everyone for coming and with no further questions from the audience, the public hearing concluded at 9:30 pm.

Georgia L. Baldwin, District Clerk