

Date of Meeting: May 24, 2011  
Type of Meeting: Special  
Place of Meeting: High School Dining Room  
Members Present: President, Kimberly Hentnik (6:15); Vice President, Edward Szumowski; Keith Buchanan; Charlie DeZolt; Brandt Minkler (6:50); Sari Stewart  
Members Absent: Paul Chizek  
Others Present: Stephen Tomlinson, Superintendent; Marco Zumbolo, Assistant Superintendent; Georgia Baldwin, Clerk; Christine Foglia, Director of Special Programs; Robin Blowers, H.S. Principal; Wayne Bell, MS Principal; Daniel Casey, IS Principal; Terry LaFountain, TLC Principal; Adam Barnhart, Director of Athletics/HS Asst. Principal; Marissa Hills, Student Rep.; Members of the community, staff and students

CALL TO ORDER At 6:00 p.m. President Hentnik called the meeting to order.

#### FLAG SALUTE

Mr. Szumowski addressed the audience and explained the three options available to the board. He stated that the board needed to make a decision tonight as to the direction they were going to take.

The floor was opened to public comment.

George Graham said that he has lived in Broadalbin for over 20 years and he would like to see it grow. Kelli Whitman and he tried to get no tax increase. He stated that he has attended many meetings and has learned quite a bit and has seen a lot of the numbers as well as feedback from the community at the round tables. The round table on February 15<sup>th</sup> was in the area of Academic Programs. Reductions totaled over \$1 million dollars. The round table on March 14<sup>th</sup> was the Final Budget Recommendations. Reductions totaled \$1 ½ million. Where are we? A 4.9% tax levy increase. To get to 0% we need \$600,000 in reductions. A flyer handed out at the May 9<sup>th</sup> forum proposed cuts totaling \$405,000 on the non-operations side of the budget. The community cannot stand a tax increase. People will have to sell their homes. We had two years of 15% tax levy increases back to back. I am strongly requesting a revised budget.

Mike Plunkett said that he is a lifelong resident. There is a possibility of more cuts. This is a critical time for education. If we diminish it would create a waterfall effect. To chase public opinion is not in the best interest of the community. It would be a huge detriment to the community.

Brian Clemente is a 2008 graduate of Broadalbin-Perth and is now attending SUNY Geneseo as a senior. He voted the in the last three years. Brian stated that he understands where people are coming from. People went to surprising great lengths to get petitions. Many programs would be eliminated like honors classes. Many have already been cut. Brian graduated high school with 31 college credits. He directed a program at SUNY Geneseo. He has also been invited back to direct summer drama at Broadalbin-Perth. The programs at Broadalbin-Perth have given him the confidence to start his own company. He has done many shows to benefit the community. A 0% increase would be a travesty. The school does not run on academics alone. Colleges look for students well versed in many things. Schools cannot survive without community support. Think of the big picture.

Shawn Montgomery is a long time resident. He said that he felt like a minority. Last year he was personally offended. This year he was dead set against it. A lot of people are struggling. This is a lot of tax increase. It's got to end. Take a hard look at what you are doing with the budget.

Winnie Wilhelm has been a resident for over 15 years. She is a retired teacher. She lived in a district where you made do. The size of the class makes a little difference but not much. You will drive people out of the community.

Mayur Patel is currently a junior at Broadalbin-Perth. He participates in many activities. You may not care what happens to me or future students. Realize the value of education. His family comes from India. The class size is about 60 students and they sit on benches. His father finished 48 out of 35,000 students. His parents value education and passed that down to him. That is why they came to this country, for the quality of education. Education is necessary for society to improve. For society to progress, it must grow. We moved into this district after having lived in New York City and Amsterdam, solely for its educational quality. We came here for the goal of education. Preparing ourselves to be better citizens. He wanted to thank the board for their work as they have been under attack.

Chuck Dumblewski is a lifelong resident and went through the school system here. His kids went through school here too. He looks to the board for leadership. There are necessary cuts that should be made. He runs two businesses. You are higher educated and should have a higher salary but as high as this? You have to take everybody's opinion. We all know why we are in this economic crisis. We borrowed. He hopes that we are teaching economics. Look to peers to find different ways to give an answer to a problem. He doesn't believe in an increase at this time. The school should be run like a business. There are solutions to these problems. Do you check the bids? Do you go with the lowest price? Borrowing more doesn't work. He believes every avenue needs to be discovered. If tough decisions aren't made it will fall.

Angela Pelneau is a lifelong resident. She is a prior business owner. You have to look at both sides. Until we deal with Albany and reform, we will get nowhere. She has never seen such enthusiasm on both sides.

Lauren Linart is currently a senior at Broadalbin-Perth. Her mom left an unhealthy relationship. She chose Broadalbin-Perth. Lauren had attended Oppenheim-Ephratah school previously. Her mom married and moved. She was given a choice. Attend Amsterdam and get a car or stay at Broadalbin-Perth and her mom would pay the tuition. She chose to stay at Broadalbin-Perth. It is a big thing for our community to stay together.

Jim Maier has lived in the district for over 20 years. He has attended a lot of roundtables. He has listened to a lot of emotional talk. There is not a lot of pro vs. against. It is economic. He can't make his house run for 1.6% more than last year. Look at how area schools are funded in New York.

Kellie Whitman has lived in the district for 10 years. You have seen my face in the papers and at school. She hadn't heard anything negative about herself before. She heard her first negative comment. She is entitled to her opinion. She heard that her group is running a smear campaign. That comment is short-sighted. She took out all of her tax bills since 2001. Something happened in 2007. The school tax catapulted past her county taxes. Her taxes will be \$5,000 than today when her children are in college. She stated that we are paying the taxes not the seniors in High School. She understands the value of education. She attended RIT. She said that she is not stupid. We (the community group) is going to be here next year and beyond. You need to shrink it down. This is a democracy. The budget was voted down. You need to come back with a revised budget. I know you love it here and it will still be wonderful. Don't railroad over the have-nots.

Jackie Mucilli is a 2010 graduate. She entered college as a sophomore with 33 credits. How different our school is from others. She is really happy that she came here. She appreciates it and said that it is important that everyone has the same opportunities. She thanked the board for everything that we have here.

Jennie Rogers is a parent, taxpayer and a teacher in the district. She doesn't think we are so far off from each other. We value a good education. As a parent very concerned about further cuts to the programs, we are cutting all of our advanced programs. Can we handle 30 kids in a classroom? Sure. She said that she can handle 50 but will they get individual attention? Nothing takes priority over academics. We have done more with less. Our business is to education children. She commended and congratulated the Board of Education for the budget that was proposed. Please maintain and do not cut academics or extra-curricular. Please find it elsewhere (cuts).

Jacob Samples is currently a senior. I feel a little insulted by the ignorant eye on us. Part of one of my classes was looking at the Town of Amsterdam budget. We looked at appropriations and revenues. Appropriations didn't match revenues. We're going to be spending more. "Teenagers don't understand economic crisis." On every level, there is little that you can do about it. I'm sure there are some areas that can be cut, but I don't think 0%.

Ashley Werner is currently a senior. She stated that students are not as naïve as everyone thinks. Photography class. She wanted to be a photographer since she was 13 years old. It's classes like that who make us who we are. The photography/entrepreneurship class made her change her major. It is really useful stuff. Classes like that are going to change students' lives.

Karen McConnell is proud of the students that spoke. She is proud of the district. Kids aren't cookie cutter. When her son was in second grade she didn't think that he would graduate. Now he is going on to college.

Kathy Tambasco is a proud parent of a senior and a freshman. Her child has earned 35 college credits which saves about \$53,000. Her child is getting multiple scholarships. Her taxes just passed what she paid in Amsterdam 18 years ago. Grades alone don't get you into college. Students know the value of a dollar because they have to pay for college.

Jeremy Spraggs said that it is not a matter of the district getting bigger but of funding dropping. His family is making 56% less than 3 years ago. You talk about doing with less. We are on the verge of an economic boom in Malta. This is an investment in our community.

Rick Simmons said not to have two sides to this. He applauds the students but we (the taxpayers) don't have anymore to give. He is looking at the people on the list (petition). Get it down the way they (Board of Education) should. The school has gotten out of hand. It has divided the community now. People need to come together.

Taylor MacFarland is currently a senior. It's really difficult right now. The school has done so much for her. It has completely changed her. She knows that we can make it happen. She doesn't want to take sides. She loves this school and has worked really hard. Parents are struggling with taxes.

With questions and comments concluded, Mr. Tomlinson read from a prepared statement.

Board discussion takes place. The board addressed each other and the audience.

With a motion made by Mr. DeZolt and seconded by Mr. Minkler, the board voted to adopt a contingency budget.

ADJOURN

At 8:05 p.m., Mrs. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Buchanan to Adjourn. The motion was unanimously carried.

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Georgia L. Baldwin, District Clerk