

Date of Meeting: May 9, 2011
Type of Meeting: Special – Public Hearing on the 2011-12 School Budget
Place of Meeting: Auditorium
Members Present: President, Kim Hentnik, Vice President, Ed Szumowski, Keith Buchanan, Paul Chizek, Charlie DeZolt, Brandt Minkler
Members Absent: Sari Stewart
Others Present: Stephen Tomlinson, Superintendent; Marco Zumbolo, Assistant Superintendent; Georgia Baldwin, District Clerk; staff and members of the community and press

The public hearing began at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Tomlinson welcomed the audience to the forum and introduced the Board of Education members. The video, Broadalbin-Perth Today and Tomorrow was shown. Mr. Tomlinson then reviewed the guidelines for voting.

Mr. Szumowski, Vice-President of the Board, said a few words and introduced Board of Education candidate, William Boswell.

Mr. Boswell addressed the audience speaking about what made him to decide to run for the board.

Mr. Tomlinson then informed the audience that after the presentation questions would be taken and to please use the microphones in the aisles.

Mr. Tomlinson went over the following areas:

- Budget Scenario in Review (Expenditures/Revenues)
- Community Roundtables Schedule
- Community Roundtable Conversations
- 2011-12 Projected Expenditures
- What Will Be Reduced in General Academics
- What Will Be Reduced in Operations and Maintenance
- What Will Be Reduced in Special Education
- What Enhanced Opportunities Will Be Reduced
- What Will Be Reduced in Technology
- What Will Be Reduced in Athletics

Mr. Zumbolo went over the following areas:

- Expenditure Plan Summary
- 2008-09 Per Pupil Expenditures (Most recent information available)
- NYS School Report Card Fiscal Accountability Supplement
- Bus Referendum
- Voter Registration Proposition
- 2011-12 Anticipated Revenues
- 2011-12 Projected Revenues
- Three-part Budget
- Projected School Tax Impact
- True Value Tax Rates
- Contingent Budget Scenario

With the presentation concluded, the floor was opened to questions from the audience.

Paul Hoyt – It looks like you had elimination of jobs. It looks like the eliminated jobs are retirees which isn't much. Not many people are retiring. Most of the layoffs are in the sporting area. You paid about \$400,000 in early retirement (incentives). It doesn't sound like a savings.

Kellie Whitman – My questions are going to be directed at specific board members. I don't want anyone else to answer them. Mr. Minkler, what is the median family income? Mr. DeZolt, how many taxpayers are delinquent? How many paid late? Mr. Buchanan, (Ms. Whitman read a statement) where did I get this statement from? Mrs. Hentnik, you say you are approached a lot, at the store and so on, I haven't met one person yet who has spoken to you. No one is happy.

Karen McConnell – I don't make a lot of money. I haven't had a raise and health insurance has increased, but I feel really strongly that we can't do bare bones. We're there now. Kids are good at

different things, you can't just pigeonhole them into one thing. My son is taking the photography class. He will be going to college for that. If it wasn't for that class, he never would have known that he had a talent for photography. During the winter I walk in the building. There are lots of other people doing the same thing. It makes me feel good to see that the community is getting use of the building.

Dave Altieri – Who decides to give you (Mr. Tomlinson) a \$10,000 raise? You are not well liked. I think you are a bully. It's crazy what I paid in taxes.

Pam Terlaak Poot – Do you have declining enrollment? You are saving a lot on heating contracts. Do you put the contracts out to bid every year? I sent a note to the board, I don't know if you have seen it yet. Junior High Spanish is taught in two years instead of one. No other school does this.

Angel Pelneau – If you go to a contingency budget, could the 4.8% be higher?

Dave Altieri – If Broadalbin-Perth votes no, how does it go to contingency?

Thomas Campanile – We are at a critical economic crossroads. I am shocked that there is no salary freeze for the administrators and teachers. We are looking for a correction to this.

Paul Hoyt – When the districts were separate, how many administrators were there? Health costs are driving the cost up. You need to give some direction to the people, who to contact to change the state mandates.

Elaine Hitchcock – I am a teacher in a neighboring district. We are all interested in the kids, but we have had double digit increases. The only thing that you can do is a 0% increase. Reduce the staff. We the taxpayers cannot continue to endure this kind of increase.

Penny Szumowski – I am a taxpayer. I am proud to be a part of this district. I attended the roundtables and learned a lot. Mandates are a legal issue. It is the state, not the boards, fault. There are so many more students. The education world is so different today. The district would be totally irresponsible in not providing a quality education. I applaud Stephen and the board for the hours and hours of time they put in. I admire the dedication the people of this district have.

George Graham – I have made a point of attending board meetings and roundtables. I learned a lot of things. I have presented a detailed list of recommendations. Half of the things on the list are mandated. Every school district needs to get together. 47% in benefits. The teachers contract expires in 2012. Preliminary work has begun. We can't have these kinds of increases. We still determine what we pay the teachers. Why do we need a special education director? Couldn't the principals take care of special education? Why talk about roundtable feedback? You are getting feedback tonight. At the roundtables, 2/3 of attendance is by teachers. Feedback is useless, one-sided. Steve, why didn't you go with a no mandate budget? At the last board meeting I raised a conflict of interest issue. Board members with wives or relatives working for the school. Ed gave a very thorough data base presentation. It was excellent. However, supply and demand dictates salary. The school bus repair for Edinburg, where does that money go? Energy conservation – we accomplished so much and got an award. What about cutting 5% for the future?

Kellie Whitman – Before the next board meeting I would ask that board members be more in tune with how many people are delinquent or late on their taxes. Take that median income of \$48,000 and see how many are below and above that mark. I truly want this budget voted down and a revised one put in place.

Dave Altieri – If we pass this year, you're going to raise it again next year?

Fred Wilhelm – I respect the board. You applied for the board because you care. There is frustration on the part of the taxpayers. What are adjacent school districts doing? Northville's budget is 9.7 million. They are eliminating over 10 positions. The tax levy is 20% after that. Mayfield's budget is 16.6 million. They cut 21 ½ positions and have a 4.9% tax levy. What would the proposed percent increase be? What would the projection be for Broadalbin-Perth?

The public hearing concluded at 9:35 pm.

Georgia L. Baldwin, District Clerk