

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL
VALATIE, NEW YORK 12184

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

JANUARY 16, 2007

A Budget Development Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School was held on TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2007 in the Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Bagnato	Andrew Pellettieri
Landra Haber	John Phillips
Andy Kramarchyk	Kevin Reis
William Martin	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edward Helfer
William Murphy, MD

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS PRESENT

James Dexter, Superintendent, Gregory Giammarco, School Business Administrator, Brett Miller, High School Assistant Principal, John Stickles, Elementary School Principal, Melissa Murray, Primary School Principal and Tamara Proniske, District Clerk .

President Bagnato announced the fire exits and called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

President Bagnato conducted the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement as follows: *"In our quest for excellence, the Ichabod Crane Central School District is dedicated to preparing all students to meet the challenges of our future and to appreciate the value of their own lives by nurturing each individual's unique talents, instilling a desire for life-long learning, and fostering a strong spirit of community."*

MOTION PHILLIPS 2ND MARTIN

To approve the agenda as prepared
Carried, 7-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Jim Dexter announced all of the areas in which the budget development meetings have been posted: district newspapers, sandwich boards, district website, Berkshire Cable and flyers have been sent home with students

Gary Bagnato mentioned that this was the first of several opportunities for the district to publicly discuss the budget for the 2007-2008 school year. He stated that the first 20 minutes of every budget meeting would be dedicated

to public feedback, and that additional opportunities would be available for public input at the end of each meeting.

James Dexter stated that the purpose of the first two meetings was to hear the instructional needs of the various teacher leaders. Greg Giammarco explained the baseline budget process that is being used by the district. It was noted that any requests for additional funding above and beyond the baseline, not related to enrollment or program changes, would be maintained on a "Request to Add Log" which would be considered by the Board throughout the budget process.

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2007-2008 BUDGET

(8) members of the public were in attendance.

- Both Amy Sample and Michael Birmingham asked for an explanation on how the baseline budgets were calculated.
- John Piddock voiced his concern with the teacher/student ratio in his daughter's 2nd grade classroom and urged the board to consider correcting this as the budget is developed.

The following 2007-2008 Budgets were presented:

PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADES K-2

Budget proposals were presented by Melissa Murray, Primary School Principal, Melanie Moon, 2nd Grade Chairperson, and Mary Ann Gorke, 1st Grade Chairperson.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (MVB & MHG) GRADES 3-5

John Stickles, Elementary Principal presented the budgets submitted by the Grade Level Chairs.

2007 SUMMER SCHOOL & SUMMER INVITATIONS PROGRAMS

Brett Miller, summer school principal and John Stickles, former summer school principal, reviewed the summer school budget proposal. There was a discussion on whether we could obtain two driver education cars. Brett will inquire about the possibility with a number of local car dealerships.

Melissa Murray, coordinator of the Invitations program, reviewed the expenses associated with running this Reading/Language Arts instructional program for 20 days during the summer

ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

Ernie Waldman, Director presented the supply budget for the 2007-2008 adult education program. Ernie reviewed the courses offered and said the tuition collected from the participants results in the program practically paying for itself.

BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

- Andy Pellettieri asked for information on the number of teaching positions reduced last year and whether or not they would be restored. The response was that staffing will be a topic at the next cabinet meeting.
- John Phillips suggested looking into developing a document outlining the long term needs for our district which would be helpful for future budget development. Suggestion was to find out the cost associated with completing this type of analysis.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- John Piddock commented in regard to the budget presentations.

ADDITIONAL JANUARY/FEBRUARY BUDGET DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

- 01/23/07 - 7PM - ICMS LIBRARY - (preceded by a Facilities Meeting at 6 pm)
- 01/30/07 - 7PM - ICMS LIBRARY
- 02/13/07 - 7PM - ICMS LIBRARY

MOTION HABER 2ND PELLETTIERI

To adjourn tonight's budget meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Carried, 7-0

Tamara N. Proniske, District Clerk