

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
VALATIE, NEW YORK 12184

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

A Budget Development Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School was held on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007 in the Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was preceded by a Communications Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Bagnato	Andrew Pellettieri
Landra Haber	John Phillips
Andrew Kramarchyk	Kevin Reis
William Murphy, MD <i>(arrv 7:20)</i>	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edward Helfer  
William Martin

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS PRESENT

James Dexter, Superintendent, Gregory Giammarco, School Business Administrator, William Schneider, High School Principal, John Stickles, Elementary Principal, Melissa Murray, Primary School Principal, Robert McCloskey, Special Education Director, Steve Marotta, Director of Facilities, 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 2<sup>ND</sup> HABER

To approve the agenda as prepared  
Carried, 6-0

MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To approve the 01/30/07 Budget Meeting Minutes as prepared  
Carried, 6-0

Dr. Murphy arrived at 7:20 p.m.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS

James Dexter brought the following to the board's attention:

- the bids for the MHG elevator project came in lower than expected (total of \$468,300) and the (3) contract awards for General, Mechanical, & Electrical are on the agenda for approval
- an analysis of the initial state aid estimates, based upon the Governor's Budget proposal, is attached and will be discussed – Jim noted there are 3 types of aid categories – General Operating/Excess Cost Aid, Expenditure Driven Aid & Categorical Aid

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

(25) members of the public were in attendance.

(14) residents signed up to speak on a number of topics including:

- Program Options for Honors Students, in particular the New Visions Program. This program was not funded in the 2006-2007 budget – parents urged the board to include funding for this program next year.
- Support for the New Tech Valley High School – an 8<sup>th</sup> grade parent asked the board to support budgetary allocations for the Tech Valley High School. Also, he encouraged the board to allow for more than one student from the present 8<sup>th</sup> grade to attend if this option becomes available.
- Consideration for adding more accelerated program offerings for 2007-2008 in order to meet honor students' needs.
- Request to restore Teaching Assistants in the Primary School.
- Question was posed as to what the board is doing to reduce wages, pension payments and health insurance costs.
- Request to improve budget development process and give better estimates
- Cannot continue to increase school taxes – concern in general with Columbia County's escalating taxes.
- Concern with whether taxpayers are getting value (regarding student academic achievement) for what the district is spending – encouraged board to focus on the quality of education our students are receiving

#### 2007-2008 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

##### INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS PRESENTATION

Paul Thompson, Athletic Coordinator, presented the Athletic Budget proposal and pointed out areas in which he was asking for additional funding. Paul is asking to purchase (60) eye goggles for our field hockey teams at \$70/pair and he noted an increase in the officials' fees per our contract with Section 2. Paul said currently eye goggles are only "recommended" by the National HS Federation for Field Hockey; however, there is a possibility that they may become "mandatory" equipment. Paul also presented proposals for adding two additional winter teams - Indoor Track and Boys JV Volleyball. The

proposal to add two additional sports to next year's budget was the result of recommendations from the Ad Hoc Athletic Advisory Committee.

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION

Robert McCloskey, Special Education Director, presented the initial budget for Special Education; he provided a summary of special education programs along with current staffing; and, he reviewed an analysis of the district's speech program. Bob indicated that based upon current estimates, an increase of a (.2 FTE) in speech service is necessary for 2007-2008 in order to provide the same level of service as students receive this year.

Bob responded to a number of questions that were raised concerning reasons the special education budget has increased by approximately one million dollars over the past two years. Background information was provided and Jim Dexter said a report is scheduled for the April agenda.

#### MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To extend tonight's budget meeting at 9:55 p.m. for an additional 35 minutes.

BAGNATO	YES	PELLETTIERI	YES
HABER	NO	PHILLIPS	ABSTAIN
KRAMARCHYK	YES	REIS	YES
MURPHY	YES		

Carried, 5-1-1

#### REVIEW OF STATE AID REVENUES

Jim Dexter and Greg Giammarco discussed the 2007-2008 Executive Budget Proposal and compared it to last year's figures. An analysis of initial state aid estimates were reviewed; however, these totals may change once the state officially adopts a budget. It was noted that a significant portion of the aid to school districts will be distributed using a new proposed "foundation formula" which translates into an increase in operating aid for Ichabod Crane of approximately 3%.

#### 2007-2008 SALARY CHART

A projected salary chart for all Ichabod Crane employees was distributed.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES - BUDGET PRESENTATION

Greg Giammarco reviewed the Health Services proposal for all 5 health offices and said there had been a request for replacement furniture for the high school nurse's office.

#### DISCUSSION ACTION

##### 9(A) MOTION PHILLIPS 2<sup>ND</sup> HABER

To award, to the lowest responsible bidder, the bid submitted by AOW ASSOCIATES, INC. for CONTRACT NO 1 - GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, to be performed in accordance with the Martin H. Glynn Elevator Project, approved

by the voters on 12/12/06, for a contract award of \$385,900 (per bid opening conducted 02/06/07)

Carried, 7-0

9(B) MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To award, to the lowest responsible bidder, the bid submitted by HARKINS MECHANICAL & CONSTRUCTION, LLC for CONTRACT NO 2 – MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION, to be performed in accordance with the Martin H. Glynn Elevator Project, approved by the voters on 12/12/06, for a contract award of \$25,000 (per bid opening conducted 02/06/07)

Carried, 7-0

9(C) MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To award, to the lowest responsible bidder, the bid submitted by BROWNELL ELECTRIC CORP. for CONTRACT NO 3 – ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION, to be performed in accordance with the Martin H. Glynn Elevator Project, approved by the voters on 12/12/06, for a contract award of \$57,400 (per bid opening conducted 02/06/07)

Carried, 7-0

9(D) MOTION HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> REIS

To appoint JOAN B. ALEXANDER as an Impartial Hearing Officer for the Ichabod Crane Central School District, pursuant to Board Policy #4321, (*Impartial Hearings-Selection of Impartial Hearing Officers*)

BAGNATO	YES	PELLETTIERI	ABSTAIN
HABER	YES	PHILLIPS	YES
KRAMARCHYK	YES	REIS	YES
MURPHY	ABSTAIN		

Carried, 5-0-2

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Karen Vecellio asked that more budget handouts be available.

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To adjourn to Executive Session at 10:30 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals and to discuss collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law

Carried, 7-0

MOTION PELLETTIERI 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To appoint KEVIN REIS as Clerk Pro Tem

Carried, 7-0

Landra Haber left the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

Board members left Executive Session to return o the MS Library at 11:15 p.m.

MOTION REIS 2<sup>ND</sup> PELLETTIERI  
To adjourn the meeting at 11:20 p.m.  
Carried, 7-0

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Kevin Reis, Clerk Pro Tem

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Tamara N. Proniske, District Clerk