

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
VALATIE, NEW YORK 12184

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2006

A Budget Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School was held on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006 in the Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Bagnato	William Martin
Edmund Brooks	William Murphy, MD ( <i>arrv 7:25</i> )
Landra Haber	John Phillips ( <i>arrv 7:55</i> )
Edward Helfer	Kevin Reis
Andy Kramarchyk	

SCHOOL OFFICIALS PRESENT:

James Dexter, Superintendent, Karen McGraw, Assistant Superintendent, Gregory Giammarco, Business Administrator, Maureen Van Deusen, Middle School Principal. John Stickle, Assistant Middle School Principal, Frank McKinney, Elementary Principal, Robert McCloskey, Special Education Director and Tamara Proniske, District Clerk

ALSO PRESENT:

Roberta Rose, Spec. Ed Dept. Chairperson

President Bagnato called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Bagnato conducted the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Mission Statement.

PUBLIC BUDGET FORUM - DEVELOPMENT OF 2006-2007 BUDGET

The public budget forum was held from 7-8 p.m. Nine people were in the audience. The following signed up to speak:

- 1) Robert Novak – asked for an explanation as to how we build our budgets and if they are based upon zero based or roll forward budgeting. Greg Giammarco responded that we use zero-based budgeting.
- 2) Kathy Koryzinski – indicated she felt parents were being left out as far as communication regarding budget meeting schedules; she commented on the MHG Elevator Project, the lack of funding for a storage shed and the expense involved in renting space for storage.
- 3) David Daly - urged the board to consider taking an objective look at a plan for instituting football. He mentioned looking into corporate sponsorship as a way of funding a team. He also asked if the board had ever considered an option to intermix with Chatham's football team. Mr. Daly

mentioned he had not been notified as to whether or not his request to use the high school for Pop Warner Football sign-ups had been approved. Jim Dexter said he will follow-up.

- 4) Rory Hamilton - also spoke in favor of having a football team and asked what parents could do to start the process.

Comments were heard on the topic of football. Gary Bagnato said the board is willing to talk about this even though the board has held previous discussions on all the aspects involved in instituting a football program at ICC. He cautioned however that the board is facing a lean, bleak budget picture for 2006-2007.

Andy Kramarchyk remarked that he too was interested in expanding the athletic program but realizes that managing the budget and programs we currently have is a constant balancing act.

Additional Public Comments Included:

Jill Leinung – stated she found communication between the school and parents has been excellent. She complimented the information contained on our district website which provides a listing of all board meetings.

Cindy Novak – did not speak about budget items; however, she said that sports only benefit a select few.

John Phillips arrived at 7:55 p.m.

Additional Comments from Board Members Included:

- it is a herculean task to continue to provide a top quality education with the least cost per student among all the county schools
- we need a state budget passed on time in order to know what we will receive before going to the voters - need to contact our legislators and urge that a budget is passed by April 1.
- state aid has remained the same or decreased in past years making it difficult to enhance or add new programs.

The Budget Forum was concluded.

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Greg Giammarco brought the following to the board's attention:

- Bus Garage has always had two bus lifts – originally there were two in-ground lifts with one of those being replaced two years ago by a post-type above ground lift. Greg has been informed that our mechanics are starting to experience problems with the remaining in-ground lift and steps to either repair or replace will need to be taken. Greg explained that due to the size of our bus fleet, one lift is not sufficient to meet DOT inspection requirements.

Discussion was held on whether there were options the Board could consider when it becomes necessary to replace costly equipment i.e., front-end loader, new vehicles, bus lifts, etc. John Phillips asked if information could be presented in written form to provide the Board with an opportunity to completely review all options available.

#### MOTION HELPER 2<sup>ND</sup> HABER

To approve the 01/31/06 Budget Meeting Minutes as prepared  
Carried, 9-0

#### 2006-2007 BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

##### SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Robert McCloskey, Director and Roberta Rose, Special Education Chairperson,

were present to review the proposed 2006-2007 Special Education Budget. Bob noted that the basic core budget has not changed in the past five years. He explained that increases in the BOCES budget are due to a number of factors including more students coming into the district with special needs, and BOCES itinerant services and private placement costs which continue to escalate. Bob stated that approximately 365 students are classified under special education. He will continue to monitor and refine his budget numbers.

##### 2006-2007 SALARY PROJECTIONS

Gregory Giammarco prepared a document showing the existing staff salary projections as determined by current collective bargaining agreements. He explained this document more accurately reflects the actual salary cost associated with our district programs. Gary Bagnato asked if Greg could note those areas in which grant money had been previously used to fund particular employee salaries.

#### BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

- John Phillips requested information that would help board members prepare for future budget discussions and to enable them to respond to questions from the public: number of employees in each bargaining unit, number of non-Taylor Law employees, list of HS students involved in off-campus programs, number of students who participate in sports, cost per pupil, and enrollment reports. \_
- An article published in the Independent contained misinformation regarding assessments/tax information for the Town of Stuyvesant . No one called Central Office to verify the information.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one asked to speak.

MEETING DATES:

03/07 (Tue) - Regular Board Meeting - 7 p.m. - ICMS Library

03/14 (Tue) - Special Budget Meeting - 7 p.m. - ICMS Library

03/28 (Tue) - Special Budget Meeting - 7 p.m. - ICMS Library

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BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

02/15 (Wed) - Audit Committee - 5:30 p.m. - C.O. (*KR, DrM, BM, GB*)

03/07 (Tue) - Policy Committee - 5:30 p.m. - C.O. (*LH, DrM, KR*)

03/28 (Tue) - Facilities Committee - 6 p.m. - C.O. (*EH, AK, EB,GB*)

MOTION MARTIN 2<sup>ND</sup> BROOKS

To adjourn the budget meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Carried, 9-0

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Tamara N. Proniske, District Clerk