

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
VALATIE, NEW YORK 12184

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

MARCH 13, 2007

A Budget Development Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School was held on TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007 in the Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was preceded by an Executive Session at 5 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Bagnato

Andrew Pellettieri

Landra Haber

John Phillips

Andrew Kramarchyk

Kevin Reis

William Murphy, MD (*arrv 5:20*)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edward Helfer

William Martin

SCHOOL OFFICIALS PRESENT

James Dexter, Superintendent

President Bagnato called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

To adjourn to Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals.

Carried, 6-0

Dr. Murphy arrived in Executive Session at 5:20 p.m.

OTHER PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Search Committee Spokesman – Steve Fielman – left at 5:30 p.m.

Administrative Representative – William Schneider – left at 5:30 p.m.

Middle School Principal – Maureen Van Deusen – left at 5:30 p.m.

Interviews for the Assistant Middle School Principal position were conducted as follows:

5:30 p.m. – David Wallingford

6:00 p.m. – Brian Bishop

6:30 p.m. – Shannon Shine

Board Members left Executive Session and returned to the Middle School Library at 6:55 p.m.

President Bagnato reconvened the Budget Meeting at 7:05 p.m.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS PRESENT

James Dexter, Superintendent, Gregory Giammarco, School Business Administrator, Maureen Van Deusen, Middle School Principal, John Stickles, Elementary Principal, Melissa Murray, Primary School Principal, Steve Marotta, Director of Facilities, and Tamara Proniske, District Clerk

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 HABER 2<sup>ND</sup> KRAMARCHYK

To approve the agenda as prepared  
Carried, 7-0

PUBLIC BUDGET FORUM

## OPENING REMARKS

Gary Bagnato stated this was the 6<sup>th</sup> budget development meeting and he was pleased these meetings have provided a variety of opportunities to hear from the staff and public.

James Dexter indicated the percent of increase reflected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the proposed budget has been reduced from the initial proposal of 6.3% to 4.007%. A detailed listing of reductions in the facilities budget will also be reviewed tonight.

The following signed up to speak during the public budget forum.

Karen Vecellio – (teacher-Primary School) read a memo from the Primary School Faculty asking the board to address, in particular, two issues of concern: (1) increase the number of teaching assistants currently assigned to the Primary School in order to provide greater support to classroom teachers, and (2) a request for smaller class sizes for grades K-3. Karen referenced Project STAR which is a study that showed the relationship between reduced class size and improved student performance.

Mary Ann Gorke – (teacher-Primary School) thanked Jim for meeting with the Primary School faculty to discuss their concerns and said she was also advocating for an increase in teaching assistants and smaller class size for grades K-2. She mentioned the literacy component of the MacMillian reading series which is best taught in small groups. Utilization of teaching assistants would enable the classroom teacher to offer small group instruction to students.

Joan Murphy – (teacher-Primary School) also asked for more help in the classroom by increasing the number of teaching assistants for grades K-2.

She said students entering the primary school seem to have more needs and she stressed the importance of early intervention.

Michael Birmingham -(resident) made a number of statements relating to unacceptable tax increases throughout the county and said he was fed up with spending without accountability. He stated he supports smaller class size however he would like the board to pull spending within the range of inflation.

Veronica Mangione - (parent) stated she would advocate for smaller class size and adding teaching assistants at the primary school level. She also said the board needs to get more information out to the community regarding their meetings, etc.

James Dexter responded to concerns expressed with regard to staffing for next year at the Primary School. He said the proposed budget contains funding for two (2) additional Teaching Assistants.

John Phillips responded to the concern mentioned about communication with the public. He said there is a Board Communications Committee that was created to address the issue of increased communication with the public.

The Public Forum was closed.

#### REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS:

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR PROGRAMMATIC CONFIGURATION OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

Melissa Murray, Primary School Principal, and members of the Shared Decision Making Ad-Hoc Subcommittee, through a power-point presentation, shared their findings and recommendations for a building configuration plan that would most effectively meet the academic, social and emotional needs of the students in Grades K-2. The configuration recommended for next year is:

- (7) Kindergarten Classes
- (7) First Grade Classes
- (7) Second Grade classes

They will be organized by two "neighborhoods" in each hallway within the building as follows:

- (1) neighborhood of (4) classes of each grade level
- (1) neighborhood of (3) classes of each grade level

Additional recommendations were for each hallway to be given a street name and to the extent possible, organize lunch and recess periods by grade level to facilitate greater interaction between grade level peers.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONFIGURATION OF THE ELEMENTARY PROGRAM FOR THE 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

John Stickles, Elementary Principal presented the recommendation for the configuration for Grades 3-5. Both elementary schools (MVB & MHG) will have 10 classes in each building with the distribution as follows:

MVB	# of Classes	MHG	# of Classes
Grade 3	4	Grade 3	2
Grade 4	3	Multi-Age Grades 3-4	2
Grade 5	3	Grade 4	2
		Grade 5	4

John said the collaborative Special Education model in MHG for Grades 3, 4 & 5, will also be incorporated at MVB for Grades 3 & 5. The Resource Room, currently in the basement of MVB, will be moved to the second floor in order to make room for installation of a computer lab.

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

To approve the 02/06/07 Regular Meeting Minutes as prepared  
Carried, 7-0

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

To approve the 02/13/07 Budget Meeting Minutes as prepared  
Carried, 7-0

ADDITIONAL REPORTS - 2007-2008 BUDGET REVIEW

FACILITIES BUDGET – PRIORITY LIST

A number of reductions were made from the initial Facilities budget proposal and they were compiled as follows: Level 1 - Absolutely Necessary; Level 2 - High Priority and Level 3-Lower Priority. The board was told that all items with a "Yes" designation are included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the budget.

SUMMARY OF PROJECTED BOCES AID & 2007-2008 BOCES SERVICES BUDGET

Gregory Giammarco reviewed the revised budget summary for BOCES Aid which he projected to be \$643,658. This aid would be received as a revenue during the 2008-2009 school year and would be based upon services we purchase from BOCES during the 2007-2008 school year.

Greg also presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the 2007-2008 BOCES Services Budget and stated that it had been reduced by \$103,228 from the initial proposal. A discussion was held on the projected expenditures and in particular whether the "New Visions" program would be funded. Board members were polled and the consensus was they would be in favor of supporting the program if there were any students interested in applying.

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

To extend tonight's meeting at 10 p.m. for an additional 30 minutes

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

Carried, 5-2

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ANALYSIS OF REVENUES

Gregory Giammarco presented for review, revenue projections for the 2007-2008 school year. The amount projected to be raised by levy for draft 2 of the proposed budget is currently at 4.949%.

Greg also provided data tables showing comparisons for Columbia County and neighboring school districts for budget expenditures, tax levies, enrollment and per pupil expenditures for general education and special education.

## 2007-2008 BUDGET DOCUMENT DRAFT II

The second draft of the proposed budget was presented. James Dexter noted the percent of increase from the initial budget proposal of March 6<sup>th</sup> has been reduced from 6.3% to 4.007%.

At this time, the board discussed the possibility of restoring positions that had been eliminated last year due to budgetary restraints and what the impact would be on the proposed budget. Positions mentioned were teaching assistants at the Primary School and a (.4 FTE) music teacher at the Middle School. Administration will provide information for the board's consideration when the next budget meeting is held on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

MARCH MEETINGS:

- 03/20 - (Tue) - 6:30PM - COMMUNICATIONS MTG W/DISTRICT GROUPS
- 03/27 - (Tue) - 7PM - 2007-2008 BUDGET MEETING - ICMS Library
- 04/03 - (Tue) - 7 PM - BUDGET MEETING (Adoption of 2007--2008 Budget)
- 04/05 - (Thu) - 7PM - REGULAR BOARD MEETING - 7PM - ICMS Library\_

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

To adjourn to Executive Session at 10:30 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular individuals.

Carried, 7-0

MOTION MURPHY, 2<sup>ND</sup> PELLETTIERI

To appoint DR. MURPHY as Clerk Pro Tem

Carried, 7-0

## OTHERS PRESENT AT EXECUTIVE SESSION

James Dexter, Superintendent

Gregory Giammarco, Business Administrator - left at 11:10 p.m.

Maureen Van Deusen - left at 11:10 p.m.

MOTION PELLETTIERI 2<sup>ND</sup> REIS  
To adjourn tonight's meeting at 11:43 p.m.  
Carried, 7-0

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William Murphy, MD, Clerk Pro Tem

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Tamara N. Proniske, District Clerk