

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL
VALATIE, NEW YORK 12184

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

MARCH 27, 2007

A Budget Development Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School was held on TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 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

Landra Haber

Andrew Kramarchyk

William Martin (*arrv 9:35*)

William Murphy, MD

John Phillips

Kevin Reis

MEMBERS ABSENT

Edward Helfer

Andrew Pellettieri

SCHOOL OFFICIALS PRESENT

James Dexter, Superintendent

President Bagnato called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS PRESENT

James Dexter, Superintendent, Gregory Giammarco, School Business Administrator, John Stickles, Elementary Principal, Melissa Murray, Primary School Principal, Sherrill Phillips, Transportation Supervisor, 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^N REIS

To approve the agenda as prepared

Carried, 6-0_

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Jim Dexter brought the following to the Board's attention:

- noted that Maureen Van Deusen, was named Principal of the Year by the Greater Capital Region Principal's Center
- QUESTAR tentative budget for 2007-2008 was sent to all board members (vote and election to occur on April 24th)

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Nicole Seipp, parent, spoke in support of adding Teaching Assistants to the Primary School classrooms

Tim Farley, parent, stated he would be disappointed if Teaching Assistants are not added to the Primary School classrooms and he added, he is willing to pay an increase in taxes if it means another professional would be in the classroom

Bob Cramer, resident, said as a retiree, he is on a limited income and would like to see the budget increase kept at a reasonable amount – he proposed a radical change in the way in which seniors between the ages of 55 to 65 are taxed

2007-2008 DRAFT III BUDGET DOCUMENT – (Options & Impact of Adding Additional Staffing)

The third draft of the proposed budget was presented and administration indicated the current budget-to-budget increase is at 4.007% and the levy increase is at 4.95%

Based upon discussions at the last budget meeting, the Board had asked administration to prepare a number of options for adding additional staff and the impact it would create on the current proposed budget and tax levy. The Board discussed the following options:

- the cost for adding another Teaching Assistant for the Primary School (*there are currently two additional T.A. positions included in the proposed budget*) and the cost for restoration of a (.4 FTE) Music Teacher position (estimated cost for one Teaching Assistant - \$30,335 *(salary & benefits)*) (estimated cost for .4 music teacher - \$29,885 *(salary & benefits)*)

In addition, the Board discussed the possibility of adding another section of Kindergarten due to an increase in projected enrollment. Further review of this possibility will occur as Kindergarten screening is conducted.

Before a final determination is made with regard to adding positions, the Board opted to wait to see if we will benefit from an anticipated increase in state aid, which might be known by next week if the NYS Budget is adopted by April 1st. The budget is scheduled to be adopted at the next budget meeting to be held on April 3rd.

BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

- Dr. Murphy mentioned articles in the current issue of On-Board pertaining to energy education and creative ways in which to use old buses (*storage, plowing snow, etc.*)
- John Phillips responded to comments in the newspaper concerning bloated administrative costs – he said we are not over populated administratively and our transportation department is run very efficiently

- Gary Bagnato said a listing of acronyms commonly used at ICC has been developed and is available – the listing will continue to be revised

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- Victoria Mangione, parent, voiced her concern for adding teaching assistants to classrooms that house special education students. Jim explained that the additional teaching assistants would be for the general education program students at the Primary School
- John Piddock, parent, urged the board to revisit classroom size

MEETINGS:

- 04/04 – (Wed) – 4:30PM ICTA NEGOTIATIONS
- 04/05 - (Thu) – 5PM – FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – C.O.
- 04/05 - (Thu) – 7PM - REGULAR BOARD MEETING
- 04/24 – (Tue) – 7PM – SPECIAL BOARD MEETING (*BOCES Vote & Election*)
- 04/25 - (Wed) – 6PM - AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING - C.O.
- 04/30 – (Mon) - 5PM - SPECIAL MEETING (*Feedback f/Search Comm.-Asst. Supt.*)
- 05/01 – (Tue) - 7PM - REGULAR BOARD MEETING – ICMS LIBRARY

ANNUAL BOCES DINNER MEETING

- 04/04 – (Wed) – 5:45 Business Meeting
 – 7:00 Dinner (Franklin Terrace Banquet Facility – Troy)

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES:

APRIL 2, 2007 (Monday)	PICK-UP BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE PETITIONS FROM DISTRICT CLERK’S OFFICE
APRIL 16, 2007 (Tuesday)	RETURN BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE PETITIONS TO DISTRICT CLERK BY 5PM
APRIL 23, 2007 (Monday)	VOTER REGISTRATION DATE (3-7pm) Held in Central Administration Office (Middle School)
April 30, 2007 (Monday)	VOTER REGISTRATION DATE (3-7pm) Held in Central Administration Office (Middle School)
MAY 8, 2007 (Tuesday)	ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING – 7PM Held in Middle School Library
MAY 15, 2007 (Tuesday)	ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE & BOARD MEMBER ELECTION HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM 8AM TO 9PM

MOTION HABER 2ND KRAMARCHYK

To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the employment history of particular individuals and collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law.

Carried, 6-0

MOTION REIS, 2ND MURPHY

To appoint ANDREW KRAMARCHYK as Clerk Pro Tem

Carried, 6-0

OTHERS PRESENT AT EXECUTIVE SESSION

James Dexter, Superintendent

Gregory Giammarco, Business Administrator

William Martin arrived at 9:35 p.m.

MOTION REIS 2ND MARTIN

To adjourn tonight's meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Carried, 7-0

Andrew Kramarchyk, Clerk Pro Tem

Tamara N. Proniske, District Clerk