

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
VALATIE, NEW YORK 12184

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MINUTES

MARCH 28, 2006

A Budget Meeting of the Board of Education of the Ichabod Crane Central School was held on TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2006 in the Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Bagnato	William Martin
Edmund Brooks	William Murphy, MD
Landra Haber	John Phillips
Edward Helfer	
Andy Kramarchyk	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Reis

SCHOOL OFFICIALS PRESENT:

James Dexter, Superintendent, Karen McGraw, Assistant Superintendent, Gregory Giammarco, Business Administrator, Linda Collett, HS Co-Principal, William Schneider, HS Co-Principal, Maureen Van Deusen, Middle School Principal, Melissa Murray, Acting Assistant Middle School Principal, John Stickles, Acting Elementary Principal, Robert McKinney, Special Education Director, Sherrill Phillips, Transportation Supervisor, Steve Marotta, Director of Facilities, Todd DiGrigoli, Food Services Manager, Juan González, Technology Coordinator and Tamara Proniske, District Clerk

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

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

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

To approve the agenda as prepared.  
Carried, 7-0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

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

- complimented the staff, administration and the students for the way in which the lockdown on Monday was handled

PRESENTATION OF DRAFT 2006-2007 BUDGET

At this time, all who were in attendance moved to the Middle School Large Group Instruction Room where the Superintendent gave a power point presentation. Topics of discussion included:

- student performance data & regents results
- comparative data showing enrollment, levy per student and cost per pupil for ICC and four local school districts
- statistics covering the past ten years showing the gap created by the decrease in state aid and the effect this has had on the tax levy
- major cost increases to the 2006-2007 proposed budget; estimated revenues and tax impact
- recommended reductions & potential impact of Phase 1 reductions and the effect on program
- impact of a contingency budget

At the conclusion of the presentation, Jim answered a number of questions and then asked everyone to return to the library to resume the budget meeting.

#### MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2006-2007 BUDGET

The following signed-up to speak:

- Andy Pellettieri – advocated for maintaining the Grade 3-4 combo and urged people to contact their legislators.
- Veronica Mangione – advocated for maintaining the Grade 3-4 combo and for keeping the Primary School family structure.
- Sabine Murphy – advocated for keeping the Grade 3-4 combo.
- Jill Leinung – spoke against cutting programs and urged all to write to their legislators.
- Nicole Sieppes – echoed the comments of others.
- Karen Horn – please try to only cut what affects the smallest number of children and try to inform taxpayers of the actual tax impact prior to the vote.
- Claudine Murphy – a high school student who urged that we write letters to our legislators that she will be able to deliver personally as part of a leadership program in which she is enrolled. She said the letters could be dropped off at the bookstore in Kinderhook.
- Chuck Shattenkirk – asked the board not to cut programs but to give the voters a chance to support the proposed budget. He also went on record to say that the Booster Club would not raise money for athletics if we go to a contingency budget.
- Mark Leinung – recognizes we have the lowest per pupil cost and he urged the board to get the word out to the community
- Donna Smith – asked that the tax information be put out to the public in a way in which it can be understood. She thanked Mr. Dexter for being forthright in his presentation of the budget.
- Inez Jacklin – said she represented the senior population who were on fixed incomes. While she emphasized with the budget predicament she still would like the board to draw the line on spending.
- Jeff Ouellette – asked if costs could be better managed and if there were other areas in which expenses could be trimmed.

- Michael Birmingham – stated he was very disappointed with our state aid figures and we must find a way to communicate this to our legislators.
- Tracy Freeman – from the Elementary PTA said there would be a sample letter that could be viewed on-line to help with the letter writing campaign to our legislators.

Dr. Murphy arrived at 8:10 p.m.

#### BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION ON DRAFT BUDGET

Board Members reacted to the information presented in the power point and the comments heard from the public. The current budget document showed the budget to budget spending increase to be at 13.4% which is a reduction from 14.10% presented on March 14.

After a lengthy discussion, it was determined that the board did not wish for administration to make any further program reductions. However, prior to the next budget discussion on April 4<sup>th</sup>, administration was asked to review where additional reductions could occur and what the implications of these reductions would be. Items mentioned included: incorporating a transfer of \$500,00 from reserves; postponing the installation of the elevator (\$250,000) which would result in relocating a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom to the Primary School. Also to be determined were options for replacement of a platform lift for the bus garage and whether to include the purchase of a Front End Loader for snow removal. The board requested a summary of costs associated with snow removal for the next meeting.

Jim mentioned that the first publication of the legal notice did include School Buses and a Front End Loader under Proposition #2; however, the Front End Loader can be removed for the remaining publications if the board chooses not to include it.

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

To extend tonight's meeting at 10:00 p.m. for an additional hour  
Carried, 8-0

The Board continued to discuss various aspects of the budget proposal. Board members asked for the potential program impact and the number of students that would be effected by the Phase 1 reductions. This will be prepared for discussion at the April 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION:

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

To approve and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to transfer funds for the 2005-2006 school year as annexed to the minutes  
Carried, 8-0

MEETINGS:

- 04/03 - (Mon) - Health & Safety Meeting - 3:15 p.m. - C.O.
- 04/04 - (Tue) - Next Regular Board Meeting - MS Library - 7 p.m.  
Please Note: Executive Session - 5 p.m.
- 04/11 - (Tue) - Special Budget Meeting (*If Needed for Budget Adoption*)
- 04/11 - (Tue) - QUESTAR Annual Meeting & Dinner (Col-Greene Ed Center)

BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

- 03/30 - (Thu) - Negotiations Committee - 5:00 p.m. - C.O.
- 04/06 - (Thu) - Audit Committee - 5:30 p.m. - C.O.
- 04/12 - (Wed) - Policy Committee - 5:30 p.m. - C.O.
- 04/13 - (Thu) - Communications Committee - 5:00 p.m. - C.O.

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION - INFORMATION

- 04/03 (Mon) - Petitions Available from District Clerk
- 04/17 (Mon) - Petitions Due to District Clerk by 5 p.m.
- 04/18 (Tue) - Drawing of Candidate Names for Position on Ballot - 1 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- Andy Pellettieri suggested a budget freeze be instituted - Greg responded that an April 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off has been established. Andy also asked if administration could take another look at the contractual agreement with BOCES to see if additional reductions could be made.

BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

- Dr. Murphy said he would be concerned that the District could face a significant shift in enrollment if we have to cut program offerings to students.
- Gary Bagnato reminded members to get back to him with input on the Superintendent's evaluation.

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

To adjourn the Budget Meeting at 11:00 p.m.  
Carried, 8-0

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Tamara N. Proniske, District Clerk