

MINUTES OF THE
April 3, 2008

SPECIAL MEETING
of the
Berne-Knox-Westerlo CSD
Board of Education

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District was held on April 3, 2008, in the District Office.

Members Present: Maureen Sikule Jack Harlow
 Helen Lounsbury Michelle Fusco
 Joan Adriance (arrived at 6:28 p.m.)

Others Present: Kimberly LaBelle Beth Bourassa
 Edward Ackroyd Joseph Golden
 Sean O'Conner Tyler Schuling, Altamont Enterprise
 Mark Raven Reporter

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Sikule at 6:03 p.m.

Executive Session

At 6:04 p.m., motion was made by Mrs. Fusco, seconded by Mr. Harlow to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. Motion was carried. 4 yes.

Mrs. LaBelle was present during executive session. School Attorney Beth Bourassa entered executive session at 6:08 p.m. Mrs. Adriance arrived at 6:28 p.m.

Beth Bourassa left executive session at 6:48 p.m.

Return to Public Session – Budget Workshop

At 7:02 p.m., motion was made by Mr. Harlow, seconded by Mrs. Adriance to return to public session. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Sikule at 7:06 p.m.

Mrs. Sikule turned the meeting over to the Business Administrator, Timothy Holmes. As presented and discussed at the Budget Advisory Committee Meeting, Mr. Holmes reiterated that the proposed \$20.4M 2008-2009 Budget translates into a 5.87% increase in the budget, with a tax levy increase of 1.95%. Mrs. Sikule asked if there were any new programs or initiatives in the proposal. Mr. Schrade noted the inclusion of a new Science initiative as presented by Mr. McConneelee and Mr. Baker at a prior Board Meeting, which carries a \$10,000 price tag for technical training and supplies. There is also the addition of a .6 FTE Special Education Teacher at the Middle/High School to meet the increase in the Special Education population and address these IEP demands.

Mr. Holmes reviewed expenditures by budget category, with brief descriptions of each. There was a limited discussion on appropriated and unappropriated fund balance. Mr. Holmes also elaborated on his projection of anticipated revenues. Mr. Golden asked for information on the District's capital fund reserves. In the event of a possible mid year reduction in state aid, Mr. Holmes stated that the District would have to reduce expenditures during the school year. Mr. Holmes explained that the anticipated revenues were based on the Governor's proposal. In the event of a decrease in the projected state aid figures, the District could hold a special meeting and revise the proposed budget. Mr. Holmes went on to say that if more revenue was received than predicted, that increase could be used to reduce next year's taxes.

Much discussion ensued regarding special education and other escalating expenses, strategies for reducing expenses in future years, educational funding, along with possible reduction of the appropriated fund balance. Mr. Golden felt it is the Board's obligation to advocate for a change in the way the in which New York State funds education.

Mrs. Lounsbury asked how Board Members could access e-mail messages received on the District Website from community members. Mr. Schrade will check with the technology staff.

Mr. Schrade informed the Board of the need to revise the end of the year calendar at Monday night's regular Board of Education Meeting to re-schedule the March 28th staff development day, which was canceled due to bad weather. He asked if they agreed conceptually, and asked permission to proceed with the planning of the day's activities before the formal motion takes place. It was determined that April 21st was the best possible date to hold the conference day.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Mrs. Adriance, seconded by Mrs. Fusco that the meeting adjourn. Motion was carried. 5 yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Denise J. Martin
District Clerk