

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL
GREENE, NY
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006**

A Special Board of Education meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President, Christopher Cox, in the Auditorium of the High School/Middle School complex, South Canal Street, Greene, NY.

CALL TO ORDER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Christopher Cox, President
Mr. Richard Boeltz, Vice-President
Mr. James Strenkert
Mrs. June Cooper
Mr. Robert Eldred
Mr. Christopher Austin
Mr. Craig Ketzak

ROLL CALL

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Christine Pollard
Mr. Kevin McCauley
Mrs. Linda Garbarino
Mrs. Jennifer Lee

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Gary P. Smith, Superintendent
Mrs. Nancy Stiles, Business Manager/Treasurer
Mr. Gordon Daniels, High School Principal
Mrs. Judy Gorton, Middle School Principal
Mr. Vincent Coletta, Intermediate School Principal
Mrs. Carole Stanbro, Primary School Principal
Mrs. Cynthia Ferguson CSE Chairperson
Mr. John Girton, Technology Coordinator

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Donna Marie Utter, Clerk

There were also approximately 50-60 individuals present who were community members and/or staff members at Greene Central School.

CALENDAR:

- April 4 – 9:00 a.m.-Comptroller’s Entrance Conference-BOE Room
- April 5 – 6:00 p.m.-Budget Advisory Committee Meeting
- April 6 – 6:00 p.m.-BOCES Annual Meeting-Harold Campus
- April 7 – 6:30 p.m.-Chenango County School Boards Association Mtg.
- April 7 – 6:30 p.m.-Workers’ Compensation Consortium Mtg.
- April 12 - 7:00 p.m.-Board of Education Meeting
- April 14-21 – Spring Recess – No Classes
- April 17 - 5:00 p.m.-Deadline for submission of Board Member Petitions
- April 25 - 7:00 p.m.-Board of Education Mtg.(Special date)
- April 29 – Greene Fire Department Open House & Dedication
- May 3 – 7:00 p.m.-Board of Education Meeting
- May 5 – 12:00-2:00 p.m.-SADD Demonstration – High School Parking Lot

CALENDAR

PUBLIC COMMENT FROM THE FLOOR:

- None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

**2006-2007 BUDGET
DISCUSSION
GARY SMITH, SUPT.**

- Superintendent, Gary Smith, reviewed with the Board the breakdown of the proposed anticipated state aid to be received per the legislative proposal as compared to the Governor's proposal.

Mr. Smith then reviewed the prioritized list of proposed budget reductions. How many items on the prioritized list are reduced will be determined by what amount of additional monies will be needed based on the tax levy increase proposed by the Board. Mr. Smith asked the Board for direction on what tax levy percent they felt the community would support.

Mr. Smith indicated that his recommendation would be a 5.2% tax levy, which would mean \$157,624 in reductions to the prioritized list. That would mean reductions in the following areas: cameras; primary school, middle school, special education and transportation equipment; IPA reduction; summer music lessons; .5 biology position; 6th periods (5 at middle school; 5 at high school); athletics (some assistant coaches); conferences; field trips; and some custodial and pool equipment.

SUMMER SCHOOL

- Board member Craig Ketzak asked what the impact would be of not having summer school?

Mrs. Judy Gorton, Middle School Principal, and Superintendent, Gary Smith, responded that with the increased requirements and tests in order to graduate some students need summer school to meet those requirements. Without summer school, students would be required to repeat courses, which would increase class sizes. Mr. Smith also stated that if our district does not participate in summer school, then our students couldn't attend our BOCES summer school on their own and would have to attend a summer school through BT BOCES, pay for the classes and provide their own transportation.

Board member Robert Eldred asked what the success rate was for summer school.

Mrs. Gorton indicated that she did not have the exact figure but that she believed it to be around 85%.

6TH PERIOD CLASSES

- Board member Craig Ketzak asked if having teachers teach a 6th period is required because of service to the same students who are struggling and need summer school?

Mrs. Judy Gorton stated that the necessity for a 6th period in most cases is to keep the numbers down in classes. For example in the middle school computer lab there are only 16 computers so numbers need to be limited in order to allow each student access to a computer. In Home and Careers and Technology it is a safety issue when the numbers increase.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006**

Page 3

- Board member Robert Eldred asked if there were any funds in the current budget, which could be applied toward some of the purchases for next year. Mrs. Nancy Stiles, Business Manager, stated that most leftover funds are rolled into the fund balance. However, in some areas such as textbooks, we do use leftover funds to purchase books for the following year.

**FUNDS
AVAILABLE
CURRENT
BUDGET**

- Mr. Kevin McCauley, Budget Committee member, stated that the proposed 5.2% increase in the tax levy and resulting reductions is a far brighter picture than what the committee had previously reviewed with a 7% increase.

**TAX LEVY
PERCENT**

- Board member Richard Boeltz, asked how safe we are using the legislative proposal without the Governor's final approval.

**LEGISLATIVE
PROPOSAL**

- Superintendent Gary Smith stated that the Governor appears to be leaving the school aid portion of the budget alone.

- President Christopher Cox stated that he feels that if we do not get the additional monies proposed by the legislature, that the board should revisit the proposed tax levy increase and not just make further reductions. He stated that there should be a balance between the tax levy increase and the budget reductions.

- Board member Christopher Austin asked for comments from the Budget Committee members present.

**BUDGET
COMMITTEE
COMMENTS**

- Mr. Kevin McCauley stated that the 5.2% tax levy increase and proposed reductions are still far better than where we were as long as the legislative proposal holds.

- Mrs. Linda Garbarino asked for an explanation on where the extra 1.2 million dollars in stated aid went.

- President Cox stated that some of the increases in state aid were in areas which cannot be used for instruction such as transportation aid and building aid. When you take out that aid, compared to last year's state aid received, we actually received \$42,000 less.

- Mrs. Stiles stated that \$100,000 is being transferred from debt service and \$170,000 from the employee benefit fund to help offset the local share.

- Mr. Kevin McCauley asked if we have looked to the future and where we will be then?

- Mrs. Nancy Stiles stated that while the district does plan for increases each year, the unforeseen large increases in fuel oil, gas, retirements and health insurance were not predicted. Mrs. Stiles stated that she hopes some of these expenses will level off over the next few years.

- Superintendent Gary Smith stated that long range planning is very difficult for poor rural schools that are so dependent on state aid. Mr. Smith also stated that we are putting in new windows as part of the previous project, which should have a positive impact on our heating costs.

- Board member Christopher Austin asked if sharing BOCES services and having BOCES perform other services for the district were investigated.

BOCES SERVICES

- Mrs. Stiles stated that sharing services was investigated. Transportation aid is more than BOCES aid, so it is still to the district's advantage financially to perform the transportation services the way we currently are. Mrs. Stiles stated that the BOCES budget was reviewed line-by-line for any areas that could be reduced.

- Mrs. Christine Pollard, budget committee member, stated that a review of the BOCES services was performed. The budget committee also reviewed pulling some services from BOCES and returning them to in-house.

TAX LEVY

- Board member Robert Eldred stated that he would recommend a tax levy increase of 4.7%. He stated that it is easier to add items than subtract.

- Mr. Kevin McCauley asked if there was any movement within the items on the prioritize list? Can the order of priority be changed based on the dollar amount associated with the item, or could a portion of the item be reduced?

- Superintendent Gary Smith stated that the budget committee needed a percentage so that they would have a target to work toward. The budget committee will meet again on Wednesday, April 5, 2006.

- Board member Craig Ketzak asked for a show of hands from those in the audience of how many were residents of the district and how many were employees of Greene Central School. To both questions, a majority of hands were raised.

- Motion made by Cooper, seconded by Strenkert to recommend to the Budget Advisory Committee a 5.2% tax levy increase.
Yes-5, No-2 (Ketzak, Eldred)

RESIGNATIONS:

**D. GORDON DANIELS
PRINCIPAL, H.S.**

- Motion made by Boeltz, seconded by Strenkert to accept the resignation of Mr. D. Gordon Daniels from his position as High School Principal effective June 30, 2006 with appreciation and good luck in his future endeavors.
Yes-7, No-0

**CYNTHIA FERGUSON-
CSE CHAIRPERSON**

- Motion made by Boeltz, seconded by Strenkert to accept the resignation of Mrs. Cynthia Ferguson from her position as CSE Chairperson effective June 30, 2006 with appreciation and good luck in her future endeavors.
Yes-7, No-0

**CHARLES HISSIN-
ASST. VARSITY
SOFTBALL COACH**

- Motion made by Boeltz, seconded by Strenkert to accept the resignation of Mr. Charles Hissin from his position as Assistant Varsity Softball Coach effective April 3, 2006.
Yes-7, No-0

**BRANDY STONE-
MODIFIED TRACK
CO-COACH**

- Motion made by Boeltz, seconded by Strenkert to accept the resignation of Ms. Brandy Stone from her position as Modified Track Co-Coach effective April 3, 2006.
Yes-7, No-0

**APPOINTMENTS:
JUDY A. WARNER-
COMPUTER
TECHNICIAN**

- Motion made by Austin to table the appointment of Ms. Judy A. Warner as Computer Technician until the April 12, 2006 meeting.
The motion received no second.

- Motion made by Boeltz, seconded by Ketzak to move the appointments on the Agenda until after an Executive Session at the end of the meeting.
Yes-7, N0-0

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006**

Page 5

- Mrs. Holly Mohr stated that she was a parent as well as a tax payer and an employee of Greene Central School.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT:
HOLLY MOHR**

- Mrs. Toni Walker asked why more of the fund balance could not be used to fund some of the reductions and if the public could be shown/explained how the fund balance figure is arrived at?

**TONI WALKER-
FUND BALANCE**

- Mrs. Nancy Stiles explained that the district has tried to keep the fund balance stable so that there is always the same amount of revenue to offset taxes. When there is no fund balance, the difference in the revenues must come from the tax levy or reduction in programs.

- Mrs. Karman Harrington asked if the district receives more money from the state would the reductions be removed or would the money be used to reduce the tax levy?

**KARMAN
HARRINGTON-
STATE AID**

- Mrs. Nancy Stiles and Superintendent Gary Smith stated that once the budget is adopted on April 12th, the expenditures for the ensuing year are set and any additional revenue received would have to be added to the fund balance or used to lower the tax levy. If less state aid is received than projected, we would need to reduce programs or raise the tax levy.

- Mrs. Harrington also stated that eliminating the 6th period for her computer classes would be very problematic. She stated that her classroom is small and would not accommodate additional computers that increasing class sizes by reducing the number of periods would require.

6TH PERIOD

- Mrs. Harrington also stated that reducing the assistant coaches at the modified level would be detrimental to the program. At the modified level, students are experimenting to see what sports they are interested in. By eliminating the assistant coaches, modified sports would need to cut the number of participants due to safety concerns.

**ASSISTANT
COACHES**

- Mrs. Tammy McCauley stated that reductions are tough decisions and that perhaps if students were more motivated to remain in in-house classes, money could be saved by not having them attend other programs outside the district.

**TAMMY MCCAULEY
BOCES
PROGRAMS**

- Mr. Michael Platta, school employee, asked if the public could be told of the other proposed cuts that might need to be made should the district need to go to a contingency budget.

**MIKE PLATTA-
ADDITIONAL
CUTS**

- Superintendent Gary Smith stated that he prefers to be optimistic that the budget will pass and we will not need to make additional cuts. He also stated that he does not want to create panic or premature stress over what additional reductions would need to be made. He did state that they would be significant as we would be looking at \$787,000 worth of reductions if a contingency budget was necessary.

- Mrs. Heather Kriesel asked if the items that are being cut will be at the top of the list next year for reinstatement?

**HEATHER
KRIESEL-
SUMMER MUSIC
LESSONS**

- Superintendent Gary Smith stated that he believes that is how the process will work.

- Mrs. Beth Koerts asked if it would be more palatable to the community if they could be given the specifics as to what is being reduced?

**BETH KOERTS-
COMMUNITY
AWARENESS**

- Superintendent Gary Smith stated that unlike his past district, Greene's board meetings do not seem to have press coverage. He suggested doing a press release to help inform the public.

**STACEY BENTLEY
SMALLER CLASS
SIZES**

- Mrs. Stacey Bentley thanked the budget committee for their hard work and difficult decisions. Mrs. Bentley stated that as in the past, when reductions are made, they very seldom get added back in. Greene needs to keep their programs, keep class sizes small, and look at what effects reductions have in the long run. Parents choose to send their children to Greene because of our strong academic and athletic programs.

**KIER MERRILL-
PRORAM REDUCTIONS**

- Ms. Merrill stated that programs and how many students are affected should be taken into consideration when looking at reductions.

**TONI WALKER-
ADMINISTRATIVE
REDUCTIONS**

- Mrs. Toni Walker asked if reductions at the administrative level were reviewed?

- Superintendent Gary Smith stated that all areas were reviewed.

- President Cox stated that Greene has one of the smallest administrative teams for the size of our district compared to surrounding districts.

LORI PICCIRILLI

- Mrs. Lori Piccirilli stated that she hoped the district would continue to support their professionals and paraprofessionals.

BARB NOVITSKY

- Mrs. Barb Novitsky stated that she feels that if staff members' jobs are in jeopardy at any point in the budget process, that they should be told even if it would not come into play until a contingency budget. She felt that people had a right to know so that personal planning could take place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- Motion made by Ketzak, seconded by Boeltz to adjourn to Executive Session for personnel matters pertaining to specific individuals and GESPA negotiations at 8:50 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0

- Motion made by Strenkert, seconded by Boeltz to adjourn Executive Session at 9:37 p.m.
Yes-7, No-0

RECONVENE:

- President Cox reconvened the regular meeting at 9:40 p.m.

**APPOINTMENTS:
JUDY A. WARNER-
COMPUTER
TECHNICIAN**

- Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Eldred, seconded by Boeltz to appoint Ms. Judy A. Warner, Computer Technician, effective April 19, 2006 for a one-year probationary period ending April 18, 2007.
Yes-6, No-1(Austin)

**BRANDY STONE-
ASST. VARSITY
SOFTBALL COACH**

- Upon the recommendation of the Athletic Coordinator, a motion was made by Eldred, seconded by Strenkert to appoint Ms. Brandy Stone as the Assistant Varsity Softball Coach for the remainder of the 2005-2006 season.
Yes-7, No-0

**BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2006**

Page 7

- Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, a motion was made by Austin, seconded by Cooper to appoint Mrs. Sharon White to the Substitute Typist and Teacher's Aide Rosters for the 2005-2006 school year.

Yes-7, No-0

**SHARON WHITE-
SUBSTITUTE
TYPIST & AIDE**

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion made by Eldred, seconded by Boeltz to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Yes-7, No-0

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Marie Utter
District Clerk