

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL
GREENE, NY
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2006**

A Board of Education Public Budget Hearing was called to order **CALL TO ORDER** at 7:30 P.M. by Chairman, Robert M. Larkin, in the Auditorium, Middle School/High School Building, South Canal Street, Greene, NY.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Christopher Austin, Vice-President
Mr. Jim Strenkert

ROLL CALL

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Gary P. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Gordon Daniels, High School Principal
Mrs. Judy Gorton, Middle School Principal
Mrs. Carole Stanbro, Primary School Principal
Mrs. Nancy Stiles, Business Manager/Treasurer
Mr. John Girton, Technology Coordinator

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Donna Utter, District Clerk

Also present were approximately 15 residents of the Greene Central School District.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

- District Clerk, Donna M. Utter, read the Notice of the meeting.

NOTICE OF MEETING

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS:

- Chairman, Robert M. Larkin, introduced the Board of Education members.

INTRO. OF BOARD MEMBERS

RECOGNITION OF BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Chairman, Robert M. Larkin, recognized and introduced members of the Budget Advisory Committee and commended them on their hard work in helping to prepare the budget.

INTRO. OF BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSITIONS:

BUDGET PROPOSITION:

- Mr. Gary P. Smith, Superintendent, presented the 2006-2007 school budget. Mr. Smith reviewed each portion of the budget, explaining any increases or decreases in the amounts and in what portions of the budget cuts were made which resulted in a change in the numbers represented in the Budget Brochure. The reason for the majority of the budget increases are due to an increase in the cost of health insurances, retirement costs, and gas and fuel oil prices and an overall decrease in the amount of state aid received.

2006-2007 BUDGET PRESENTATION

- Mr. Smith explained that the budget represents an increase in spending of 9.26% which represents an approximate tax levy of 5.2%. Mr. Smith cautioned that the tax levy is only an average and based on assessments, individual tax levy increases could be higher or lower.

QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD:

- AUDREY KNAPP** - Mrs. Knapp asked what the current enrollment in the school is?
- SUPERINTENDENT
GARY P. SMITH** - Approximately 1400 students K-12. Mr. Smith stated that unlike most neighboring districts, our enrollment has remained stable.
- MICHAEL FLANAGAN** - Mr. Flanagan asked for the specific items which were cut or reduced in the budget.
- SUPERINTENDENT
GARY P. SMITH** - Mr. Smith outlined the following areas in which cuts and/or reductions were made and the dollar amounts associated with the cuts and/or reductions:
Equipment \$26,050
Field Trips \$8,000
All Conferences \$13,275 (this does not include conferences which are provided through DCMO BOCES.
Assistant Coaches \$6,000
6th Periods (approximately 7) \$14,725
½ time Biology Teacher \$26,000 (this position was required this year as we had a large number of 10th grade students)
Summer Music Lessons \$3,075
IPA Reduction \$35,000
Cameras \$11,000
Custodial Position (from full time to part time) \$17,275
- MICHAEL FLANAGAN** - Mr. Flanagan questioned why the increase in the bond/school construction budget line item? Voters approved the construction project under the assumption that there would be no cost to the taxpayers?
- NANCY STILES** - Mrs. Nancy Stiles stated that we are borrowing for the current roof, paving and windows project. Monies are used from building aid to offset the bond payments.
- DAVE MORALES** - Mr. Morales questioned the significant increases (above overall budget increase) in the following line items:
- BOCES Administrative Charge Increase?
- JOHN GIRTON** - Mr. John Girton, Technology Coordinator, stated that a large portion of the increase is to cover updating the fiber optic wiring from BOCES to the school. The update is part of a regional project and by buying into the service through BOCES it is aidable and more cost effective than doing our own capital project to accomplish the same thing.
- DAVE MORALES** - Special Education Increase?
- SUPERINTENDENT
GARY P. SMITH** - Mr. Smith stated that we have more special education students with high needs. A number of one-on-one aides have been hired to meet individual student needs. Greene is slightly above the state average for the number of special education students at approximately 13-14%.

- Occupational Education increase? **DAVE MORALES**
- Mr. Smith stated that the cost is based on enrollment as of October 1st of the current year. **SUPT. SMITH**
- Mr. Gordie Daniels, High School Principal, stated that this year's 10th and 11th grade classes are large and therefore the number of students attending BOCES programs are larger and therefore the costs are higher. **GORDIE DANIELS**
- Mrs. Brita Jalbert asked what the enrollment is for 11th & 12th grade students? **BRITA JALBERT**
- Mr. Daniels answered between 125 – 130 students each. **GORDIE DANIELS**
- Pupil Services increase? **DAVE MORALES**
- Mrs. Nancy Stiles stated that there were a number of increased items within that line item such as: computer instruction, school library computer programs, audio visual, guidance office personnel and health services personnel. **NANCY STILES**
- Mrs. Jalbert asked how many pupil services personnel there are? **BRITA JALBERT**
- Mrs. Stiles replied: 2 full time Psychologists, 1 Social Worker, Guidance Counselors (2 H.S., 1 M.S., 1 Intermediate School). **NANCY STILES**
- Mr. Morales also questioned the line item "Bus BAN". **DAVE MORALES**
- Mrs. Stiles stated that this is how we now purchase our buses. The district usually purchases 3 buses each year to continue the replacement schedule. **NANCY STILES**
- Mr. Morales asked if the district anticipates receiving any additional monies and if so, is the Board committed to using those funds to offset taxes? **DAVE MORALES**
- Mr. Smith stated that he does not anticipate that the district receiving any additional revenues, in fact, hopefully we will keep what we have anticipated receiving. Mr. Smith also indicated that the Board is still committed to doing whatever possible to keep the tax levy down. **SUPT. GARY SMITH**
- Mr. Morales stated that at the rate the budget is increasing, we will be looking at a 30 million dollar budget by the year 2010. He stated that the district needs to look at long-range budget Planning. **DAVE MORALES**
- Mrs. Nancy Stiles stated that the district has been trying to plan ahead by the establishment of reserves to help offset costs associated with retirements and capital expenditures. The situation would be a lot worse without those reserves. **NANCY STILES**

- MICHAEL FLANAGAN** - Mr. Flanagan questioned the affect assessments have on the tax levy.
- NANCY STILES** - Mrs. Stiles explained that the assessments do not affect the amount of money that the district receives. The tax rate we project is what is estimated as needed to meet the district's costs. Changes in assessments and equalization rates affect the amount of the levy paid by each town and is divided among individual property owners based on their assessment. The total tax levy due to the district remains the same.
- MICHAEL FLANAGAN** - Mr. Flanagan asked if the savings caused by having three administrators leave has been calculated?
- SUPT. GARY SMITH** - Mr. Smith stated that the salary differences were calculated into the budget.
- AUDREY KNAPP** - Mrs. Knapp asked what the district's kindergarten enrollment is for next year and how many students are graduating?
- CAROLE STANBRO &
GORDIE DANIELS** - Mrs. Carole Stanbro, Primary School Principal, stated that right now kindergarten estimates are between 85-90 students.
- Mr. Gordie Daniels, High School Principal, stated that there are approximately 100 students graduating this year.
- CHAIRMAN ROBERT
LARKIN** - Chairman Larkin thanked everyone for their questions and stated that changes need to be made in Albany and encouraged everyone present to stay active in pursuing their concerns by expressing them to their elected officials.
- PETITIONS FOR
SCHOOL BOARD** - District Clerk, Donna M. Utter, presented two duly signed petitions for school board membership to Chairman, Mr. Robert M. Larkin, making them available to the community for review.
- Chairman, Robert M. Larkin, introduced the school board candidates:
1. Mr. Richard Boeltz
 2. Mr. Jim Strenkert
- CHAIRMAN ROBERT
LARKIN** - Chairman Larkin thanked all the parents, students, faculty and staff for another successful year. He also welcomed Mr. Gary P. Smith and thanked Nancy Stiles for her many years of hard work.
- ADJOURNMENT** - Chairman, Mr. Robert M. Larkin, adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Marie Utter
District Clerk

