

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
GREENE, NEW YORK  
ANNUAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING  
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2015**

The Board of Education Annual Public Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Chairman and Superintendent Jonathan R. Retz, in the Auditorium, Middle School/High School Building, South Canal Street, Greene, NY.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Richard Boeltz, President (arrived @ 7:25 p.m.)  
Mr. Ethan Day, Vice-President  
Mrs. Helen Hunsinger  
Mrs. Tammie McCauley  
Mr. Timothy Crumb (arrived @ 6:55 p.m.)

**ROLL CALL**

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. James Strenkert  
Mrs. Karen Hendershott

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Jonathan R. Retz, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Mark Rubitski, Business Manager

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Mrs. Donna Utter, District Clerk

Also present were 12 residents of the Greene Central School District.

- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- District Clerk, Donna M. Utter, read the Notice of the meeting.
- Chairman and Superintendent Jonathan R. Retz, introduced the Board of Education members present.
- Board member Helen Hunsinger stated that she has been on the Budget Committee for 9 years, and this was one of the easier budgets to put together in several years.
- Board member Ethan Day echoed Hunsinger's comments. He also stated that while we are still not totally where we want to be, this budget represents what he hopes to be the beginning of a trend to add back positions and programs that are needed.
- Mr. Jonathan R. Retz, Superintendent and Chairman, presented the 2015-2016 school budget in the amount of \$24,787,407 with an estimated tax levy decrease of 0.009%.
- Mr. Retz reviewed the process used to develop the budget which included reassessing our priorities, a line-by-line analysis by the Administrative team and the Budget Committee and final review/adoption by the Board of Education. Mr. Retz thanked Budget Committee members, Administrators, and the Board of Education for their hard work on the development of the budget.
- Overall, the 2015-2016 budget represents a 1.04% increase over the 2014-2015 budget. Because of savings on some district expenditures, this budget reinstates several previously reduced positions.

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**INTRO. OF BOARD MEMBERS**

**BOARD BUDGET COMMENTS:  
HELEN HUNSINGER**

**ETHAN DAY**

**2015-2016 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

- Mr. Retz highlighted the following areas of the proposed budget through a Power Point presentation:

- 6<sup>th</sup> straight year of reductions in school aid (\$19,321)
- Expenditures up 1.04% largely due to 6.4 FTE add backs in positions to enhance student programs
- Revenue increase of 1.04% - OMH (Office of Mental Health) funds received for Stillwater students (\$316,517) – some excess from previous years; reserve fund transfer (\$311,600) – down from last year;
- Positions added back:
  - \*All retirements being replaced;
  - \*Aid support for libraries – 2 FTE
  - \*Elementary Teacher – 1 FTE
  - \*Foreign language Teacher – additional .4 FTE
  - \*Secondary Math Teacher – 1 FTE
  - \*Physical Education Teacher – additional .4 FTE
  - \*Social Worker – 1 FTE
  - \*Technology Teacher – additional .6 FTE
- Tax levy increase (actual decrease 0.009% this year) below the 2% tax cap and development of an efficiency plan allows property owners to receive a rebate on their school property taxes. Second year which will include last year's rebate plus this years – cumulative.
- Mr. Retz concluded the Budget Hearing by highlighting the following successes:
  - \*Business First Rankings – based on economic factors and student success rates on regents and 3-8 testing places Greene in 3<sup>rd</sup> in Binghamton/Elmira area
  - \*Top 25% for all Upstate schools
  - \*45% of graduates receive an Advanced Regents Diploma
  - \*43 college credits are taught with 80+ graduates earning college credit upon graduation.

**QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD:**

**QUESTION:**

- A resident asked where the \$513,200 fund balance transfer comes from and what our actual reserve balance is.

**ANSWER:**

- Mark Rubitski, Business Manager, stated that we have approximately 4.6 million in various reserve accounts which are similar to savings accounts and can be used for specific items such as – employee retirement and capital. Each year \$513,200 is transferred from our fund balance to help balance the budget. The fund balance amount is monies that were budgeted but not spent – such as fuel oil savings and student placement savings.

**QUESTION:**

- A resident asked if we are using savings realized from the end of bond payments in the capital portion of the budget to help fund added positions, how will those positions be funded next year.

**ANSWER:**

- Mark Rubitski stated that there is a lot of movement in the budget which makes it challenging. Hopefully NYS state aid will be more favorable next year and monies received back from the capital project should help.

- Mr. Retz also stated that when adding back in positions we look at trends, reserves and the sustainability of those positions. However, declining enrollment and the fiscal climate may necessitate the need to make adjustments.