

**GREENE CENTRAL SCHOOL
GREENE, NEW YORK
ANNUAL PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017**

The Board of Education Annual Public Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman and Interim Superintendent Gordon Daniels, in the Auditorium, Middle School/High School Building, South Canal Street, Greene, NY.

CALL TO ORDER

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Brian Milk, President
Mrs. Tammie McCauley
Mr. Timothy Crumb
Mrs. Karen Hendershott
Mr. Seth Barrows

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Scott Youngs, Vice-President

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Gordon Daniels, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Mark Rubitski, Business Manager
Mr. Bryan Ayres, Director of PE & Athletics, Intermediate School Principal

OFFICERS PRESENT:

Mrs. Donna Utter, District Clerk

- Also present were 8 residents of the Greene Central School District.

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

NOTICE OF MEETING

- Chairman and Interim Superintendent Gordon Daniels, introduced Board of Education members present.

INTRO. OF BOARD MEMBERS

- None.

BOARD BUDGET COMMENTS

- Interim Superintendent Daniels started the presentation with a review of Greene's academic achievements:

2017-2018 BUDGET PRESENTATION

- Designated as a good standing district by NYSED
- 92% graduation rate (2015-16) – state standard 79%
- 69% of teaching staff “highly effective”; 31% “effective”
- Grade 4 Science State Test 100% proficiency (state wide 73%)
- Grade 8 Science State Test 80% proficiency (state wide 79%)
- Regents – 93% passing Biology; 94% passing Earth Science; 90% passing US History
- June 2016 graduates – 92% received a Regents Diploma
53% received Advanced Regents Diploma; 24% received CTE endorsement

- Mark Rubitski, Business Manager, presented the 2017-2018 school budget in the amount of \$26,168,454 with an estimated tax levy increase of 1.27%. The 2017-2018 budget represents a 2.95% increase over the 2016-2017 budget.

- Mr. Rubitski stated that the budget allows for add backs in the amount of \$120,000 in the areas of education and safety, while also supporting the district's mission statement and balancing the interests of all stakeholders. He 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. Rubitski thanked Budget Committee members, Administrators, and the Board of Education for their hard work on the development of the budget

- The following items within the budget were highlighted:

- 17% of the NYS budget goes towards education.
- Greene is financially healthy.
- Budget conservatively while maintaining instructional programs and fiscal responsibility.
- Every budget line is reviewed. 70% of line items decreased or remained the same over the past 6 years.
- State aid increased slightly from last year.
- Additional revenue (\$283,000) from RTF students

Administration:

- Chief School Administrator – reduction of 28.1% due to contractual arrangements, dues, office supplies.
- Public Information – reduction of 48.8% due to discontinuing a BOCES service.
- School Association Dues – increase for school dues, Board resources.

Program:

- Students w/disabilities – increase due to number of students and program placements.
- Occupational Education – reduction as not as many students are in the CTE program.
- School Library & Media – reduction due to BOCES services that we are not continuing. Libraries are staffed more appropriately by internal staff and additional funding from Title Grants
- Employee Benefits – increase in health benefits, reduction in retirement systems.

Capital:

- Operation of Plant – increase due to fuel costs and repairs to equipment
- School Bonds – increase due to current capital project. 90% of project costs are reimbursed by state aid.

- Mr. Rubitski closed his presentation by stating that the 1.27% tax levy increase represents an estimated \$22 increase on a property assessed at \$100,000.

QUESTION & ANSWER PERIOD:

JIM WEIR

- Mr. Jim Weir asked if the geothermal heating system is still providing a savings to the district.

MARK RUBITSKI

- Mark Rubitski responded that we are still realizing a savings (approximately 1/3 of fuel oil) from the geothermal wells, however the district still needs to supplement heat with boilers and the primary and intermediate schools still rely totally on traditional systems.

ELIZABETH SHAEFER

- Mrs. Shaefer stated that she would like to see improvements in the area of communication – web page and paper copies of newsletters.

**INTERIM SUPT.
DANIELS**

- Interim Superintendent Daniels stated that the district is looking into ways to better maintain the district web page which will allow for quicker updates.

ELIZABETH SHAEFER

- Mrs. Shaefer would like the district to better support the library services in the district by having more than one Library Media Specialist which has to cover 4 libraries.

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MARIE SCOFIELD**

- Marie Scofield asked what BOCES service is represented by the decrease of \$49,188 in the school library & media line item. she stated that the Library Media Specialist from BOCES was discontinued this school year and represented a decrease in the current budget. This represents a \$92,000 decrease over two years.

- Mr. Rubitski stated that there are many line items within that budget line item. Resources for libraries have increased (staffing in other budgets) and Title Grants have supplemented reading resources. **MARK RUBITSKI**

- Marie Scofield also commented that some other districts post their entire budget (all line items) on their web page. She asked what line items are being added back in. **MARIE SCOFIELD**

- Mr. Rubitski noted the following add-backs: **MARK RUBITSKI**

- PE LTA position to a teaching position
- FACS part-time position to full time
- Pavement refurbishing and seal coating
- Primary gym floor stripped and redone
- Field house storage

The contingent items are:

- RTI teaching position – federal grant
- Gym technology – SMART Bond
- Math technology (IT 84 calculators) – SMART Bond

- Michelle Evans, primary school teacher, stated that she has not had the opportunity to be involved in suggesting budgeting priorities. She would like to see more consistency with the number of sections from grade to grade at the elementary level (the 4th grade is 3 sections than 4, then back to 3). She also stated a concern with redoing the gym floor while there are still leaks in the ceiling. **MICHELLE EVANS**

- Interim Superintendent Daniels stated that any budget concerns suggestions should be discussed with building administrators. There was an administrative change in the primary building part-way through the year. Roof repairs/warranties are being reviewed.

- Marie Scofield asked in the administration budget what the increase in the Supervision Regular School was. **MARIE SCOFIELD**

- Mark Rubitski stated that it is represented by contractual obligations, training opportunities, and this line item was previously supplemented through grants, but is no longer. **MARK RUBITSKI**

- Marie Scofield asked how many reserve accounts are represented by the 5.9 million in savings and how much will be added to those reserves at the end of this school year. **MARIE SCOFIELD**

- Mr. Rubitski stated that there are six reserve accounts and the amount to be transferred into reserves is unknown until the year-end closeout of the budget. **MARK RUBITSKI**

- Interim Superintendent Daniels announced that three Petitions have been received for 3 vacant board member seats. He announced the candidates in the order they will appear on the ballot: **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS & INTRO. OF SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES**

- Jason Burghardt
- Nicholas R. Drew
- Douglas Markham

ADJOURNMENT

- Chairman and Interim Superintendent Gordon Daniels adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Marie Utter
District Clerk