

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The Annual Public Budget Hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Superintendent and Chairman, Timothy M. Calice, in the Auditorium, Middle School/High School campus, 40 South Canal Street, Greene, New York.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **ROLL CALL**

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. John Fish – President  
Mr. Douglas Markham – Vice President  
Mr. Seth Barrows  
Mrs. Natalie McMahon  
Mr. Brian Milk

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Andrew Bringuel, II  
Mr. Nicholas Drew

### **ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:**

Mr. Timothy Calice, Superintendent of Schools  
Mr. Mark Rubitski, Business Manager

### **OFFICER(S) PRESENT:**

Mrs. Shiela Walker, Clerk of the Board

Also present were ten (10) community members – six (6) adults and four (4) students -- of the Greene Central School District.

Superintendent Calice welcomed everyone to the presentation of the 2022-2023 school year budget and stated that if anyone has questions to feel free and ask throughout the presentation.

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

District Clerk, Shiela Walker, read the Notice of the meeting.

## **PRESENTATION OF 2022-2023 BUDGET**

Superintendent Calice presented the 2022-2023 budget and highlighted the following:

- Everything presented this evening is on the GCS website under the Business Office department page.
- Proposition 1 – the general, or District budget, was presented.
- Proposition 2 – the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund was discussed. The next capital project will be around 2025. This will allow the reserve to be in place. Mr. Calice stated that we are ninety percent (90%) aidable.

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Mr. Calice discussed the GCS budget guidelines and stated that he's proud of the long-term planning and the amount of stakeholder feedback. He also said that there are an order of events: we have to allocate funds which are approved by the State Education Department. Once the money is spent then the district is reimbursed.

With reference to the CARES Act, Mr. Calice stated that the federal government gave out money; however, New York State held it back.

Regarding new positions within the district, Mr. Calice discussed such things as UPK, Art and coding classes. He said that a couple positions may not be filled. If there are no high quality candidates, we aren't just going to plug them in. Finally, he stated that we will be able to have a social worker in each building.

**Question from Christopher Austin** – is the Student Resource Officer full time? Mr. Calice replied that it is a ten-month position.

**Question from Mike Flanagan** – Which campuses will the Student Resource Officer be in? Mr. Calice answered that Mr. Frair will be in all buildings and attend as many events as possible.

Mr. Calice also discussed the Assistant Business Manager position and the hopes to have someone hired to shadow Mr. Rubitski for one year while he moves on to retirement.

**Question from Mike Flanagan** -- After the one year is the plan to have the Assistant Business Manager transition into the Business Manager position? Mr. Calice replied yes, that is the plan.

**Question from Christopher Austin** – Can we try BOCES Shared Services for this? Mr. Calice reported that other districts have tried this, but it isn't going well.

Next, Mr. Calice discussed public information service as well as a Central Registrar's Office, which would allow parents/guardians to go to one place to register their students instead of individual buildings.

Mr. Calice discussed the savings of not having a director of facilities and, rather, using the BOCES shared service, which also drives aid.

Mr. Calice was pleased to announce that starting in the fall we will have two social workers. This will help families by not having to travel out of town for this service.

Next, Mr. Calice discussed where the district revenue comes from. He reported that 70.3% of the budget comes from state aid. Debt services is ninety percent (90%) aidable. Also, he pointed out that sixty three percent (63%) of the budget is salary and benefits.

Mr. Calice mentioned the Buildings and Grounds Survey. He also showed the three-part budget, which every district in New York State is required to show.

**Mike Flanagan** asked why the admin component was going up by over \$300,000. Mr. Calice responded that this is from BOCES increases. Fourteen different program line items are in this.

After Mr. Calice discussed the capital component of the budget **Mike Flanagan** asked what kind of deal the school can make for a bid for transportation. Mr. Calice stated that fuel is out to bid now.

Student **Emma Braman** asked what is considered "school library and media". Mr. Calice replied that it includes the two librarians and all databases that students use. **Miss Braman** then asked how much for library supplies and that Mrs. Page informed her that there was a limit for spending. Mr. Calice responded and said that the number that was mentioned by Miss Braman was much lower than actual amounts.

**Jim Weir** asked that if improvements were just made to the garage why is there \$10,200 in the budget? Mr. Calice stated that this is the cost to run the building, including heat.

Next, Mr. Calice discussed the Historical trends – spending and taxes. The actual budget increase is approximately 2 – 2½ percent. When you look at the numbers, this could have gone up 3.86%. Due to current fuel and grocery prices, the Budget Committee wanted to be more conservative and hold it to 2.0% to taxpayers.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATES**

Superintendent Calice announced and recognized Board Members in attendance as well as Board Member Candidates:

- Mr. Seth Barrows, incumbent candidate
- Mr. John Fish, incumbent candidate
- Mr. Brian Milk
- Mr. Doug Markham
- Mrs. Natalie McMahon
- Mr. Christopher Austin (candidate, present)
- Mr. William (Mitch) Brower (candidate)
- Mr. Ken Pickard (candidate)
- Mrs. Emily Riggs (candidate)
- Mr. Jeremy Snively (candidate)

He also reminded everyone that the Budget Vote and Board Member Election will be held next Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium lobby.

**Mike Flanagan** mentioned food services. Mr. Calice stated that we are in the good for the food services department for \$250k, which is more than we are supposed to be according to our auditors. He further stated that one detriment of each student receiving breakfast and lunch at no cost is that the Applications for Free and Reduced Price School Meals/Milk are not submitted by as many parents, which affects aid. Since all meals were free for all students it is hard to convince parents to hand in the forms and the school needs to do a better job getting these applications in.

**Mike Flanagan** discussed how much food is wasted due by students. Mr. Calice said that federal mandates state that students must take fruit and milk, for example.

**Question from Marion Braman** – what percentage of parents hand in the Free and Reduced Price Meal applications? Mr. Calice said that mainly elementary level families hand them in and the district would like to transition to a digital form to make it easier. The district also hands them out at Open Houses.

**Question from Emma Braman** mentioned budget amounts again. Mr. Calice stated that all teachers get a budget that he was willing to meet with students and the teacher to discuss this further.

**Patricia Arnold** mentioned nutritional values and stated that some students couldn't eat the food due to them finding it unappealing. Mr. Calice stated that the district tries to engage students regarding meals, including feedback from them. Mr. Calice also stated that the school is offering the Middle and High School students several meal choices, including a main course, salad bar, pizza, and parfaits every day.

**Student Jenna Fox** thanked the district for having the salad bar as she enjoys having this option.

## **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Superintendent and Chairman, Mr. Calice, adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shiela Walker  
Clerk of the Board