

**VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOL
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**Approved Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 5, 2020
Early Childhood School Boardroom
953 High Street
Victor, New York 14564**

- CALL TO ORDER** President Debbie Palumbo-Sanders called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.
- Members Present** Karen Ballard (arrived at 5:35 PM), Tim DeLucia, Chris Eckhardt, Kristin Elliott, Debbie Palumbo-Sanders, Christopher Parks, Mike Vistocco
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** A motion was made by K. Elliott, seconded by T. DeLucia, to enter executive session at 5:32 PM to discuss the employment history of specific individuals. The motion was carried. 6 yes 0 no
- REGULAR SESSION** A motion was made by C. Parks, seconded by K. Ballard, to return to regular session at 7:10 PM. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no
- CLERK PRO TEM** A motion was made by C. Parks, seconded by K. Ballard to appoint Lynne Lubaszewski as Clerk Pro Tem for the March 5, 2020 Board meeting. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no
- APPROVE AGENDA** A motion was made by T. DeLucia, seconded by M. Vistocco to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** Melissa Fantauzzo, a parent, urged the Board to keep in mind Special Education needs as budget development work continues.
- 2020-2021 BUDGET OVERVIEW** Superintendent Terranova welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said he appreciated everyone coming. He spoke of the revenue needs and the Board's work session and discussion of exceeding tax cap. He talked about the unfortunate circumstance of ramifications if the District does not exceed the tax cap. He spoke of need to maintain our current staff, the fact that we are understaffed currently, and need to strengthen our reserves.
- Assistant Superintendent for Business Jay Schickling spoke of the requirement to annually approve a reserve plan. He indicated the District is aiming to establish reasonable flexibility within the budget to allow the ability to absorb unanticipated/unexpected expenses without a significant impact on reserves. He spoke of the District's reserves being significantly below the percentages held by surrounding districts and that low percentages of reserve funds can have a negative impact on the District's credit rating which could increase the District's borrowing rates. Mr.

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2020-2021 BUDGET OVERVIEW Continued

Schickling talked about long term financial planning and that the development of this plan is based on historic trends that can fluctuate due to factors not controlled by the District. An example would be the consortium projecting next year's health insurance rates increasing by 8% due to current claims levels.

Dr. Terranova indicated the Board of Education is expected to approve the Reserve Plan at the next Board meeting. He reiterated that the District has a need to place funds in reserves but also needs to maintain current staffing and address the need for additional staff. He indicated additional areas that will need additional fund due to student enrollment. Farmington is indicating there were 70 new houses built this year. The District is also seeing enrollment of more students with complex needs and this area can be an unpredictable increased expense area. The District needs to work closely with the community on how to address ways to meet these expenses going forward. He indicated the district is continually working to maximize efficiencies.

Mr. Schickling spoke of the tax cap compliant scenario, which outlines long-term consequences. This scenario includes the positions required by change in regulation and/or desired ratios, reductions to program and staff are needed to close the budget gap, and it requires use of over \$1 million in fund balance and reserves to balance the budget after reductions. The reductions include co-curricular clubs, musicals and plays, teacher leader stipends, four full-time teacher aides, two full-time enrichment teachers, five full-time instructional coaches, standards leaders, increasing class sizes which would possibly include the elimination of three full-time secondary teachers and up to eleven full-time elementary teachers, modified instructional programs and elementary foreign language program.

Dr. Terranova discussed solutions to the current financial need. The initial proposal to override the tax cap includes continued efficiencies, and the new positions from the tax cap compliant model with the additional positions of a counselor in the Early Childhood School, Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, clerical supports, two cleaners, Safety Director, part-time art/business position and three youth assistants. These positions can have an immediate impact on District operations. The initial proposal also restores \$1.7 million of the proposed reductions, eliminates budgeted use over \$1 million fund balance and adds a net \$830,000 in staffing to areas of priority. Dr. Terranova said the enhanced override scenario adds the same required positions as the initial override proposal with the addition of a primary counselor, one elementary section and a Network Administrator. The net addition is roughly \$230,000 above the initial override. These positions can have an immediate impact upon District operations. Mr.

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2020-2021 BUDGET OVERVIEW Continued

Schickling indicated the initial proposal does not reach targeted balances and the enhanced proposal gives the ability to stabilize the reserves temporarily, but the long-term plan ends with a lower fund balance and reserves than where the District currently stands.

Mr. DeLucia spoke of his concern regarding the low levels of reserve funding. He realizes this can indicate the District is financially stressed, negatively impacting borrowing rates, causing more expense to the District and increasing risk to the District.

Dr. Parks spoke about the enhanced proposal and how it creates a positive impact for fund balance and reserves for only a two year time period before a downturn begins again. He requested to see a scenario at next week's meeting where fund balance and reserve position improves for a longer period of time. Mrs. Elliott agreed with Dr. Parks' request.

Dr. Terranova summarized the request for next week's meeting is to look at the two existing scenarios – initial proposal and enhanced proposal, but also a third proposal that stabilizes reserves and fund balance further into the future.

Mr. DeLucia asked if he was correct in pointing out that the two current proposals only address mandated or ratio driven positions. Assistant Superintendent for Personnel indicated that the intent of the current proposals is to address the most critical needs.

Mrs. Elliott asked if the override proposals were only barely meeting compliance and mandates. Mr. Haugh replied that is true.

Mrs. Palumbo-Sanders recognized that Dr. Terranova has only been with the District a short time, but asked if a strategic plan for the District would be his focus for the next year. Dr. Terranova indicated yes, and the current focus is on the District's financial challenge, maintaining the District's current staff, addressing the need to increase staff, protecting reserve balances and maintaining efficiencies. Mr. DeLucia stated that it is important to recognize that everything being discussed is aimed at supporting our students.

Dr. Terranova indicated that between now and the March 11th meeting, work would continue on the three scenarios to include more granular information to be provided to everyone. He encouraged everyone to read the community and staff letters and watch the District's video. He indicated there are critical decisions to be made in the next few weeks. Decisions are being made regarding a communication plan to continue to provide

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**2020-2021 BUDGET
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information as we move forward. He indicated he appreciated everyone attending the meeting. The approval of the 2020-2021 budget is scheduled for the April meeting and the public vote will be held on May 19th. There will be a lot of communication and transparency provided to the community between now and then.

Dr. Parks said he wanted to stress that although Victor Central Schools is facing financial challenges, the District is still doing great things and providing a great education.

Dr. Terranova requested everyone to encourage community members to communicate with the District, to use the District's email to communicate, or reach out to him with questions. Mr. Vistocco asked if the District had been contacted by the media. Dr. Terranova indicated the Democrat and Chronicle reached out today. Dr. Terranova and Mr. Schickling spoke with a reporter and it is expected that an article will run within the next day or two. Mrs. Elliott indicated the District has been operating without necessary resources and is hopeful the media will sympathize.

Mrs. Palumbo-Sanders thanked everyone. She requested that individuals encourage community members to contact the District if they are searching for information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None at this time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next regular Board of Education Meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 7:15 PM in the Early Childhood School Boardroom.

If needed, a special Board of Education Budget Meeting will take place on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 7:15 PM in the Early Childhood School Boardroom.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by C. Eckhardt, seconded by C. Parks, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. The motion was carried. 7 yes 0 no

Respectively submitted,

Lynne Lubaszewski
Clerk Pro Tem