

SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
EDEN JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL
CAFETERIA
MARCH 7, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Paul Shephard, Ms. Cheryl Carpenter, Mr. Jack Cuddihy, Mrs. Marlene Grunder, Mrs. Jennifer Horschel, Mrs. Ellen Kindley, Mr. Donald Sutfin

ABSENT:

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mrs. Sandy Anzalone, Superintendent; Mrs. Laura Feldman, Director of Finance; Mrs. Barbara Thomasulo, District Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Mary Banko, Head Bus Driver; Loran Carter, GLP Principal; Mr. Jeff Cervoni, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Mrs. Shawn Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel; Mrs. Lucinda Karstedt, Director of Technology; Mr. David Martin; Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds

At 7:47 p.m., Mr. Shephard called the meeting to order and asked those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Called to
order**

- ◆ Special Education – Mrs. Johnson reported that she has an increase of \$103,000 in the Special Education budget due to an increase in private placements, outside placements and the BOCES line. There are no new programs. On a positive note, Special Education student graduation rates have increased, as well as the number of local diplomas to Regents diplomas. A new 1.0 FTE Special Education teacher is needed for the Middle School/High School next year. There are three teachers currently servicing sixth grade and five resource rooms without a teacher for next year. Mrs. Feldman clarified that the overall increase for the Special Education budget is 8.66%. Two students from North Collins and Orchard Park will be paying tuition. There will also be mental health training for all Middle and High School personnel this year. Next year, training will be for all staff. There are families in crisis in the District. We are looking at ways to train PK-12 staff with little increase in the budget, but we have only one social worker. The increase of students in outside placements is due to mental health issues. Mrs. Horschel stated that this is happening everywhere. There is a bigger population of children with emotional issues who have bad coping strategies. Mrs. Johnson said that the needs are similar, but resources are different – limited.
- ◆ Transportation – Mrs. Banko reviewed the number of drivers, attendants, routes, buses and transportation locations in the department. Getting back on a rotation system has allowed us to have some spare buses. She has been trying to consolidate runs. Eden has a good relationship with North Collins. They are currently transporting one of our students to his home, while we take one of theirs to Aurora Waldorf School. The late run has mainly Elementary

**Budget
presentation**

students on it. Many of the High School students do not use it. About 410,000 miles are logged per year. Beginning in 2009, all buses were purchased with camera systems. Buses purchased before 2009 have been outfitted with camera systems this winter. The cameras are mainly used for investigating student discipline issue and accident investigations. VersaTrans Routing Software will replace BusBoss. It will automatically upload from PowerSchool nightly. VersaTrans includes GPS and MyStop. Parents can download an app on their phone and securely track the bus location using a code specific to their child(ren). The next big project is to re-route the District to make space on the Middle/High School bus run for the 6th graders. Buses can hold two students per seat for 5th – 12th grade and up to three for Pre-K-4. We will try to get the buses to full capacity, but not all students ride all the time. A contingency plan is necessary for times when all students ride the bus home. Middle School students will take the Eden Elementary bus home if they stay for intramurals. AEP participation has skyrocketed. We may be able to tweak the runs if necessary. The increase is less than ½%. A lot of time has been spent on getting the fleet back to a better level. The purchase plan for 2018-2019 is for three large buses, two small buses and one Expedition or similar vehicle. There are currently five vehicles that are 12 years old and another four that are 11 years old. Mrs. Horschel suggested a minivan instead of an Expedition, but Mrs. Banko said the Expedition is safer due to the size, and it is on State bid, pricing it below a Cavalier.

- ◆ Technology – Mrs. Karstedt thanked the Board of Education for giving the Technology Department a sustainable budget. She reported that technology has been on a regular replacement plan. The budget is neutral, except for a couple of BOCES services that have increased. Last year, the initial pilot at GLP was funded from the Technology budget. This year, some Smart School Bond funds and budget money allowed us to fully implement all classes at GLP with I-pad mini's. The pilot program was started at Eden Elementary with Chrome Books for one teacher in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades and a full set to be shared with the other classrooms to train. In 6th grade, a full 1:1 was implemented. Two classes in 7th and 8th grades were also able to go 1:1. We expect to move forward with full 1:1 next year for K-8.
- ◆ Staffing & Benefits – Mrs. Feldman stated that the budget proposal contains no staffing cuts. Proposed increases include a School Resource Officer, which we hope to contract with the Town for cost sharing, two Middle/High School monitors, one greeter/attendance clerk, two Elementary level teachers, one Special Education teacher, a .5 FTE instructional coach/teacher, and existing staff FTE increase of 1.19 in Library, Music, Physical Education, Technology, Business and Art. Teachers' Retirement System rate increased .83% and Employees' Retirement System rate increased .05%. General support will increase 12.73%, instruction cost is up 3.67%, pupil transportation is up .49%, civic activities, employee benefits, debt service and interfund transfers are up .64%. The total general fund

expenditures are up 3.71%. We are planning on a 5.63% increase in State Aid. To be conservative, the sales tax amount was decreased a little. If appropriated fund balance and reserves stay the same, a deficit of \$460,000 is expected. The current scenario includes the use of \$1.4 million in reserves. Last year, about \$400,000 in reserves from the Transportation Department were used. This year, it will be a little over \$600,000, which includes \$92,000 for a mowing machine for the grounds and \$504,000 for new bus purchases. Mrs. Feldman notified the State that we are potentially planning to go over the tax cap. There will be a budget workshop March 21st (now rescheduled to April 10th). Three final scenarios will be presented to the Board for their input on things like whether or not they would like to apply reserves, etc. One scenario will be for a tax compliant budget at .46%, one will be for a 2% tax cap, which will be an override, and a third will be a contingent budget. State Aid will come in March 31st. April 17th is the Board Meeting when the budget will be adopted.

Mr. Sutfin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shephard to adjourn. Carried **Adjourned**
unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara J. Thomasulo
District Clerk

SA/bt

