

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
APRIL 8, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Michael Byrnes, Mr. Michael Breeden, Mr. Colin Campbell, Mr. Scott Henderson, Mrs. Barbara Henry, Mrs. Patricia Krouse, Mr. Paul Shephard

ABSENT:

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mrs. Sandy Anzalone, Superintendent; Mr. Thomas Murphy, Director of Finance; Mrs. Barbara Thomasulo, District Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Loran Carter, GLP Principal; Mr. Jeff Cervoni, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Miss Marisa Fallacaro, Athletic Director; Mr. Marc Graff, Eden Elementary School Principal; Ms. Rose Heckathorn, Transportation Director; Mrs. Shawn Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel; Mrs. Lucinda Karstedt, Director of Information Technology; Mr. David Martin, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds; Mrs. Kelly Morgan-LaRosa, Director of Curriculum & Instruction and Staff Development Intern.

At 7:18 p.m., Mr. Byrnes called the meeting to order and asked those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Called to
order**

- ❖ There is a Special Board of Education Meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 15th. In the event that the Board of Education agrees on a budget tonight, that meeting will not be necessary.
- ❖ Major discussion centered on sports. Mr. Campbell would prefer that the Board not cut all JV sports. It would impact too many students, their development, and the quality of their experience. He didn't feel that the cost, in terms of the value, outweighs the benefits. It is a good value for students. He suggested taking \$66,000 from reserves to keep JV sports in place. The Board of Education had planned last year to use \$600,000 from reserves this year anyway. Ms. Fallacaro stated that she did not know of any schools that planned to cut JV sports for next year. Maryvale may cut modified. Springville may cut a team or two. Mrs. Henry disagreed with Mr. Campbell. She felt that Music, rather than sports, should not have any additional cuts. Mrs. Krouse agreed with Mr. Campbell about taking the money from reserves to pay for JV sports next year. Mr. Campbell felt that eliminating JV sports would deny opportunities to freshmen and sophomores. The District should pare down a strategy for the future. Mrs. Henry stated that athletics takes a huge chunk out of the budget. Mr. Campbell commented that Ms. Fallacaro does a lot with a little. He suggested that the Board start with taking \$50,000 from reserves and keep as much of JV as possible. Mr. Shephard agreed with Mr. Campbell. With the amount of kids involved, he felt it was worth spending the money. Mrs. Henry asked why modified wouldn't be cut instead.

**Budget
Discussion**

Ms. Fallacaro stated that not all 7th and 8th graders can make JV due to the fitness test.

- ❖ Mrs. Henry stated she would like to add the new part-time Technology Teacher. Mr. Henderson agreed with Mrs. Henry. Each year that another Technology Teacher is not added, the District gets further behind. Mr. Shephard inquired about independent study for Technology. Mrs. Anzalone said there is no independent study program for Technology.
- ❖ Mr. Campbell suggested that some of the building use revenue could be used for sports related things. Ms. Fallacaro said that groups will be charged for using facilities next year, as well as, charging admission for indoor sporting events to help with the budget.
- ❖ Mrs. Anzalone stated if a .34 Technology Teacher was added back to the budget, it would cost about \$24,000 for salary and benefits.
- ❖ Mr. Byrnes felt all kids should be given an opportunity to participate in sports. Mr. Campbell suggested transferring \$75,000 - \$80,000 from reserves to cover both JV sports and a .34 Technology Teacher. Mr. Shephard supported that idea. Mr. Byrnes asked how Ms. Fallacaro could save some money in the athletic budget line. She suggested possibly sharing more with North Collins. Another idea was to have a bus drop students at their competitions/tournaments, but not transport them home. Sharing turf with North Collins may save some money in grounds keeping here.
- ❖ Mr. Breeden is concerned with the proposal to eliminate pick-ups within a one mile radius. He would prefer to see the younger students ride the bus. Mrs. Henry felt it was safe for them to walk and beneficial, as well. Students would only walk in "safe zones." Mrs. Carter would be concerned if kids were crossing without supervision, but she felt that parents would probably drive the kids to school anyway. Mr. Breeden said the buses in his neighborhood are full. Mr. Shephard stated that they are full because of their routing starting out in the rural areas in order to get state aid on the route. Mr. Breeden felt taxpayers wouldn't want to purchase new buses if more students were going to walk. Mr. Byrnes asked what it takes to lower speed limits. Mr. Breeden asked what the cost would be to bus the GLP and Elementary students and have the Jr./Sr. High School students walk. Mr. Murphy said a rough guess would be about \$47,000.
- ❖ Mr. Murphy stated that it would be possible to realize more revenue, if people who were eligible for free and reduced lunch would apply.
- ❖ Leasing of buses was discussed. The cost is very close to owning a fleet. The drawbacks are that the lessor can increase the fee when they want to, and they would control times for field trips and sports trips.
- ❖ Mrs. Henry did not agree with adding .17 FTE back to German. Mrs. Anzalone stated that the numbers for students wishing to take German 1 was significantly higher than last year with 29 students signing up.

- ❖ The conversation turned back to sports. A suggestion was made to cut teams, rather than tiers; however, this could be an issue because of Title IX. Mr. Campbell said he was willing to help with legal advice, pro bono. Mrs. Anzalone suggested the possibility of cutting \$20,000 in legal fees.

Mr. Shephard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell to support a motion to transfer \$50,000 from reserves for sports and \$4,000 from reserves for a .34 Technology Teacher. Discussion ensued. Mr. Byrnes, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Henderson, Mrs. Henry, Mrs. Krouse, and Mr. Shephard voted yes. Mr. Breeden voted no. Motion carried.

**Approved
transfer of
reserves**

- ❖ Discussion regarding cuts in sports continued. Mr. Campbell suggested more fundraising. Ms. Fallacaro said it was in the best interest to work with fewer supplies rather than pitting one sport against another. Mr. Murphy reiterated that \$50,000 would be transferred from reserves to restore sports, \$24,000 would be allocated for a .34 Technology Teacher and that would be offset by a savings of \$20,000 in legal fees, for a total of \$54,000 to be transferred from fund balance.
- ❖ Mrs. Anzalone and Mr. Murphy will be arranging for outreach meetings regarding the budget at places such as the American Legion, the VFW Post, etc. She asked the board to let them know of other places that might be interested.

**Budget
discussion**

Mr. Shephard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Byrnes that the 2014-2015 budget in the amount of \$26,396,480, representing a 2.62% increase be approved as presented. Carried unanimously.

**Approved
2014-2015
budget**

Mr. Shephard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Campbell to cancel the April 15, 2014 Special Board of Education Meeting. Carried unanimously.

**Cancelled
4-15-14
special
meeting**

- ◆ Regular Board of Education Meeting – **Tuesday, April 22, 2014** – Future dates Jr./Sr. High School Cafeteria.

At 8:33 p.m., Mr. Byrnes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shephard to enter Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's contract. Carried unanimously.

**Entered
executive
session**

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Thomasulo

Barbara J. Thomasulo
District Clerk

**Returned to
regular
session**

At 9:54 p.m., Mr. Shephard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Breeden to return to Regular Session. Carried unanimously.

Adjourned

Mr. Breeden made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shephard to adjourn. Carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9: 54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Byrnes", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Byrnes
President, Board of Education