

BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET HEARING
JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
MAY 7, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Steven Cerne, Mr. Michael Byrnes, Mr. Michael Breeden, Mr. Scott Henderson, Mrs. Barbara Henry, Mrs. Kristen Pinker

ABSENT: Mr. Colin Campbell

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mrs. Sandy Anzalone, Superintendent; Mrs. Loraine Ingrasci, Interim Director of Finance; Mrs. Barbara Thomasulo, District Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Loran Carter, GLP Principal; Miss Marisa Fallacaro, Athletic Director; Mr. Marc Graff, Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Mrs. Shawn Johnson, Director of Pupil Personnel; Mrs. Lucinda Karstedt, Director of Information Technology; Mr. Richard Schaefer, Eden Elementary Principal

At 7:04 p.m., Mr. Cerne called the meeting to order and asked those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to
Order**

Mr. Cerne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Breeden that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the 2013-2014 Commitment for BOCES Services be approved as presented. Carried unanimously.

**Approved
2013-2014
BOCES
Service
Commitments**

Mrs. Ingrasci presented the 2013-2014 budget. The proposed budget is \$25,720,426. It represents a 2.1% budget to budget increase over last year, with a property tax increase of 1.99%. The allowable increase under the tax cap for Eden is 2.92%. Enrollment over the past ten years has decreased by 13.23%; however, staffing has only decreased by 2.29%. Revenue sources over the past ten years include a 66.87% increase in property taxes and a 25.45% increase in State aid. Some of the changes in the budget from last year are the reduction of one administrative position, the elimination of the third & fourth grade Gifted & Talented program, the elimination of five faculty positions, a \$400,000 reduction in staff and/or benefits, a 10% reduction in materials & supplies; a 5% reduction in athletics and non-mandated music and art, the elimination of the 5 pm bus run, and an increase in state aid in the amount of \$231,801. In addition, a teaching position was added at GLP and a retiring teacher from Eden Elementary School will be replaced due to enrollment. If the budget does not pass, there will be another chance to vote. If it fails a second time, the tax levy must be frozen, and \$255,788 will then have to be cut from the budget.

**Annual
Budget
Hearing**

Mr. Byrnes asked Mrs. Anzalone if it was possible to find a way to keep the assistant principal position and some of the teaching positions.

Mrs. Anzalone had asked the Principal to look at a more traditional secondary schedule. The process has just been started.

Comments Mr. Cerne asked for comments from the public.

- ◆ Mark Vona, Elementary Music Teacher, stated that public education is being defunded. It is a difficult time for the teaching profession. Our teachers know how to work together with administrators. Teachers are being attacked and defunded.
- ◆ Tebra Howard, President of the CSEA and taxpayer, inquired where the money that was in reserves for several years went. She went on to state that the district had in excess of the 4.5% fund balance allowable by state law. Mrs. Howard stated that morale is low. CSEA negotiations should have started March 1st. CSEA took a 20% decrease and pay more into health insurance. Mr. Cerne responded that the reserves were being used each year. Some of the reserves were used to cover a \$1.6 million gap for next year.
- ◆ Earl Cooper, resident, has lived in Eden for 63 years. He stated he has never seen cuts here like those proposed. He objected to the cut to the 3rd and 4th grade Gifted and Talented program. He thanked Mrs. Henry and Mr. Byrnes for responding to his e-mails, and he expressed his dissatisfaction about the way things are going.
- ◆ Sarah Rockwood-Klute, Jr./Sr. High School Science Teacher, feels that by cutting classes, we are doing a great injustice to students who need guidance, discipline and a solid education. All teachers strive to do the best for the kids. She would like to be a voice for the students, whose concerns are not being heard.
- ◆ Molly Barnard, sophomore, is against cutting teachers. Cutting teachers will give students fewer opportunities to get individual help. She asked the Board not to get rid of teachers that students need.
- ◆ Emily Hale, sophomore, said she came to Eden for the 80 minute classes. Emily feels that 40 minute classes do not give students enough learning time. She also is opposed to cutting late buses. If she stays for sports, she will not get home until 7 pm because of her parents' work schedules. Emily does not want cuts in Music. She inquired about study hall in the new schedule. Mrs. Anzalone said there would be study hall, more opportunities, and more likelihood that students would get a class they asked for.
- ◆ Kayla Stamper, student, would like to continue her art skills in tattooing and piercing. Electives are a big part of her education, as there are no tattooing colleges. She asked the board not to cut teachers, the assistant principal and classes.
- ◆ Hailee Jarrell, junior, asked the board not to change the schedule. She said coming from a school with 40 minute classes, her grades are much better now with 80 minute classes.
- ◆ Stacy Nadrich, student, would like to keep the 80 minute class schedule. In Physics and Math, she needs more time. She feels that test scores will be lower with 40 minute classes.

- ◆ Sue Wilhelm, parent and teacher, feels that class sizes will be too large with the teacher cuts, and student needs won't be met.
- ◆ Makahla Stang, student, expressed concern over teacher positions being eliminated. She cannot focus in larger classes. She feels that test scores will drop and fewer electives will have a negative impact on students applying for college.
- ◆ Chris Clark, parent, coach and Orchard Park teacher, asked that people stand in solidarity for a cause – education. (Most stood.) He stated that teachers have now become a target. The people present would not be here without the educators who put them here. He would like his children to have the same opportunities.
- ◆ Nancy Koester, parent, suggested that the district try a 60 minute schedule, if people felt 80 was too long and 42 was too short. She also spoke in favor of the AP teacher position that is slated to be cut.
- ◆ Jennifer Hale, parent, stated she is in private education. She thanked the teachers for the wonderful job they did with her daughter the previous year. She asked the board not to fail us now. She also asked the board to keep the late bus. Without it, her daughter won't be able to play sports.
- ◆ Eric Cooper, parent and teacher, stated the only reason for going to a traditional 40 minute schedule is to cut teachers. As a professional educator, he sees the benefits to having longer class times. It was stated that the top five schools in the county are on 40 minute schedules, but he added that the bottom five schools are also on 40 minute schedules. There is more to education than the bottom line.
- ◆ Carol King, first grade teacher, spoke in favor of AP courses and electives.
- ◆ Laura Feasley, Math teacher and ETA treasurer, asked that they look at the drop in enrollment compared to the drop in teaching staff, as opposed to all staff. Teaching staff has decreased over the past years, but Special Education teaching staff has increased.
- ◆ Colleen Gaglione, parent and PTA representative, asked where to find more information regarding the teaching cuts before the budget vote. Mr. Cerne responded that there are five teachers slated to be cut, possibly more, and that the Board is trying to come up with the best possible solution.
- ◆ Paula Farrell, Math teacher, mentioned that a Rochester school Valedictorian was unable to gain admittance to a SUNY school, because she did not have an ample sampling of necessary coursework. She does not want our students to have these issues. She reminded the Board that the prior year they proposed the use of reserves. She inquired at which meeting they decided to retract their commitment to use surplus money. Regarding health insurance, she stated that one week was not enough time to choose a new health plan. Due to our overall wellness, the budgeted 14% increase in health insurance rates will only be mid-single digits. During negotiations, teachers took a pay concession for this year, and they are increasing their insurance contribution an additional 5% in the upcoming school year.

- ◆ Monica Donovan, English teacher, inquired if larger class sizes, few or no electives, loss of the Gifted and Talented program and having only one administrator in the Jr./Sr. High School will get us into the top ten schools.
- ◆ Jen Horschel, parent, stated that the future of education seems to be going backwards by cutting teachers, support staff and programs at an alarming rate. Without supporting the school, we will have no community, because our children will not move back here. She feels that districts should not be responsible for the financial woes of the community. The real issues are Medicaid and prison systems. Why are we spending more for benefits for hardened criminals, than for our children? We cannot cut our way to solvency, especially with the increased mandates. She asked that people write their politicians.
- ◆ Patty Krouse, parent, thanked the board members who stayed after the last meeting to speak to the public. There was an ad in the Pennysaver about Miss Menkiena's duties. It is disturbing that the other administrators will have to assume all of her duties.
- ◆ Colleen Griffin, Speech teacher and committee member for the Autism Walk, stated that over 500 people came out to support the Autism Walk. She feels that many people would be willing to pay a little more in taxes to save programs.
- ◆ Paul Shephard, parent, thanked the teachers on National Educators' Day for what they do for the district, especially while under stress. The new APPR standards put added stress on the Principal. Without an Assistant Principal, how will he do all the evaluations required and keep up with discipline. That would be a safety issue. He asked that the Board reconsider the Assistant Principal position and a few of the other cuts.
- ◆ Don Johnson, parent, stated that his taxes have doubled in the last ten years. If taxes keep increasing, his kids won't be able to stay here. If cuts are made, their programs will be cut. He asked where do we come up with the money.

Future dates

- ◆ Next Regular Board of Education Meeting – Monday, May 20, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. – Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium
- ◆ Annual Board of Education Budget Vote – Tuesday, May 21, 2013 – 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium Foyer

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Thomasulo

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District Clerk

At 8:20 p.m., Mr. Cerne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Breeden to enter executive session to discuss the Director of Finance contract, the Driver Education contract and the employment history of a particular person. Carried unanimously.

**Enter
executive
session**

Mrs. Pinker was excused at 9:30 p.m.

**Mrs. Pinker
excused**

At 9:45 p.m., Mr. Cerne made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Henry to return to regular session. Carried unanimously.

**Return to
regular
session**

Mr. Cerne made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Henry to enter into a contract with Ron Uhlman to run summer driver education 2013 subject to terms and conditions set forth by the Superintendent. Carried unanimously.

**Approve
driver ed
contract**

Mr. Cerne made a motion, seconded by Mr. Breeden to adjourn. Carried unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,



Steven P. Cerne, President
Board of Education

SC/bt

