

**BELFAST CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OFFICIAL MINUTES**

Date: January 27, 2015  
Where Held: Auditorium  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kind of Meeting: Special  
Presiding Officer: Richard Hull, Jr.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cecy Curcio, Chris Enders, Randa Harington, Richard Hull, Jr., Patricia Krotz, Janine Preston; Josie Preston (stepped out 7:55, back at 7:58 p.m.)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Judy May, Superintendent, Robert Lingenfelter, District Treasurer, Eileen Ostrander, District Clerk; Ryne Wight & Tom McElheny, Clark Patterson Lee and James Schneider, Transportation Supervisor/Maintenance & Facilities Supervisor, (left at 8:59 p.m.)

At 6:30 p.m., President Hull called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Proposals for implementation of energy conservation measures at the Belfast Central School were heard from Smart/Edge, Tonawanda, JW Danforth, Buffalo, Siemens Industry, Amherst, and C & S Companies, Syracuse.

Proposals

Bob Grant and Chris Gump from Siemens opened the meeting listing the scope of the project and stating that the Siemen's control system is a state of the art system installed in 2009, branched off an older system, and it would be a substantial investment to replace the system. Discussion perused on the quality of service provided on the existing system by Siemens and that the present system is not performing accurately. Mr. Grant stated that the system needs regular maintenance and upkeep, and due to budget constraints, the service contract previously held had been eliminated. It was agreed there has been a lack of communication. Mr. Grant did not believe the State would pay to replace a system they are still paying for under a previous building project. He recommended utilizing the current control system and determining how we want the system to work. Certain software programs allow the system to work remotely. He stated we would have to work with Siemens whoever gets the performance contract. Mrs. May asked what Siemens could bring to the table and the response included: been in business 17 years, understand both sides, has integrity, they apologize for bad service and are working to improve. Siemens would like to modify operating programs for energy savings and comfort issues. \$15,000 per year cost cutting. It was mentioned Siemens coming to this area for service is sometimes an issue. Left at 7:10 p.m.

Gary Jacobs and Dan Rice from SmartEdge made the following points of interest: They spoke to energy conservation measures with building weatherization and domestic hot water. They provided building automation control diagrams and stated they would use all of the previous system. They are a systems integration company and SmartEdge communicates with Siemens. They would come back every year to prove savings. Could go full term 15 years for performance measures or District can cancel after three to five years if satisfied. They make sure they are meeting guaranteed savings. \$1,300 per year to do the M & V measurement and verification. Some companies do all their own service or could have a service agreement with SmartEdge; service agreements fluctuate. They are qualified on Siemens equipment. Mentioned a heat reducing film on building, Pangea - monitoring alerts to things not running, and they are locally owned. Software engineers are inhouse and they have software back into the 90's. They know system. May go around the Siemens system. Proprietary. Can tap into solar panels and walls in bus garage. All can be integrated. If they don't meet M & V have to give the District money. Never had to do that. (controls in B-R, technicians in Olean and lead person in Richburg.) Left at 7:55 p.m.

Jerry Wilson and TR Casamento presented on behalf of the John W. Danforth Company. They provided a list of facility improvement measures depicting what would most likely not be aidable. They would replace the front end of controls. Don't feel will fit in 18 year window. Financing was uncertain at this time. They have 170 years combined experience in a widespread territory and have been in the energy business for four years. 100% success rate. Danforth does the actual work. They feel they are presenting a longer list of items for same dollar than others and they are vendor neutral. The project has to pay for itself in 18 years. Municipal lease 10% less from SED. SED aid on interest rate. SED won't pay on maintenance but will if replaced within 15-year window. Last four years they have been a leader. To upgrade the computer they stated multiple options are yet to be determined. They have methods to work with Siemens. They are unclear if they can service Siemen's. Left at 8:27 (M. Alessi arrived at 8:02 and left at 8:30 p.m.)

Andrea Orlando and Jim Olcott of C & S Companies concluded presentations. Ms. Orlando focused on lighting upgrades - 70% reduction in energy usage. Lighting can be used as a security measure; can curtail usage with a flick of a button. Dashboard shows what light fixtures are doing - monitors classroom. Building control system would be open protocol. Own password. Integrates to everything - new control panel. Savings would be verified every year or District can cancel - cost would be \$3,000 to \$5,000 for VMR. Project cost figures were provided. They have five years in the business, do not outsource technicians, mechanical, electrical, and do not require a retainer. They are local. Controls significant savings. SED says they do not replace anything under 15 years old but C & S would restructure proposal if denied. They know what SED looks for in proposals and they don't include items not aidable. Office in garage is a grey area for aid but where buses are worked on is aidable. 18 contracts per year. Left at 8:59 p.m.

The following staff arrived at 9 p.m. to listen to the review of the District history presented by Mr. Lingenfelter and Mrs. May: M. Gilbert, J. Hazelton, R. Owens, C. Marsh, B. Mahon, W. Weaver, D. Borden, K. Dunham & Guest, S. Durrigan, M. Sullivan, M. Arnold, M. & R. Calanni, W. Hettinger, M. Enders, M. Brundage, K. Ralyea, P. Wilcox, J. Ross, E. Alessi, C. Burr, A. Enders; R. Webb (out 9:30, back 9:33). A. Heaney (out 9:36, back 9:40), M. Paulsen (arrived 9:29)

Mrs. May stated we are providing information looking back over the last ten years at Belfast - Where we've been and where we are going. What are our options and opportunities for the future? We don't know where we stand with state aid as the Governor's budget is unclear.

District  
Historical  
Information

Handouts presented included information over the past ten years as follows: enrollment comparison, staffing comparison, revenue/expenditure comparison general fund, revenue/ expenditure/fund balance comparison (general fund), major expenses comparison, cuts to program, revenue/ expenditure/fund balance comparison (school lunch), grant comparison (federal funds), a relationship between state aid cuts and tax increases, what we've done and suggestions from BOCES, information on tax cap, regionalization information, other options.

Mr. Lingenfelter stated we have seen a 16.7% drop in enrollment and teaching staff is down 12%. Other points of interest included: when the state audits reserves, we are in the allowable range. Appropriated fund balance is what is set aside each year to help with the budget, to bring it down to what the Board feels is an acceptable level of tax increase. Unappropriated fund balance was the highest in 06-07 but has gone down. Allowed to have 4%. In the past year - 4.2%. In comparing the reserves and fund balance figures, if you add the three figures together for 2010-11, we had \$1.6 million. For the same three figures in 2013, we had \$863,000; a 45.5% loss in three years. There is not much control over health insurance and special education spending. School lunch historically runs in red. Some schools have part-time workers in the cafeteria to curtail costs - negative money. We have lost 10% of Title I funds over the past three years. The prek grant had one minimal increase over 17 years although expenses increased. State took back aid which compounded our revenue problems. Wealthy districts make out better with state aid cuts.

Mrs. May reminded folks there is a battle in Albany with the Governor and Legislature. The tax levy limit for the 2015-16 budget has been established by the state to be 1.62%, which is subject to adjustments using the state formula. She referred to regionalization/consolidation, a Board of Regents hand out. We have been doing many things to cut costs that area schools are just starting to do. In 2012 community forums were held to discuss what our options are. We have been teaching online classes to gain revenue; this is becoming more common throughout the state. There may be a second special meeting in February to review our options. Good news is pension costs are going down, however we need an elementary teacher. Don't know where the budget is going due to state aid figures are unknown. Teachers and staff have gone above and beyond to help with the budget. Pink survey sheets were handed out depicting options for the future. Mrs. May thanked everyone for coming.

Staff members left at 9:55.

The Board discussed the energy conservation information presented for the energy performance contracts. Chris Enders, as building and grounds committee member, will review information further and report to the Board for the February meeting. It was mentioned if we didn't do the performance contract, we could replace the water heater and control panel and upgrade out of the capital project, however, the energy conservation project could be paid for through savings. Mr. Lingenfelter mentioned that once the final building project report is submitted, the project closes out and funds cannot be utilized. The Board would like to look further at Danforth and SmartEdge - wait and see what Siemens comes back with.

Energy  
Conservation  
Information

The Board briefly discussed the District historical presentation. Mrs. May stated we are looking into what our next steps might be. Mrs. May and Mr. Lingenfelter stated the continued sharing of services is not the only answer. We share many positions and learning experiences with other school districts, however, we are running out of ideas to share. It's a matter of surviving Mrs. May stated.

Historical  
Presentation

At 10:30 p.m., Janine Preston made the motion, seconded by Randa Harrington, to adjourn the meeting. Carried 7-0