

Webutuck Board of Education held the April 18, 2007 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Bernadette Coniglio, President

Joanne Boyd

Dale Culver

Joseph Herald

Susan Lounsbury

Joseph Matteo

John Perotti

Also Present:

Dr. Richard N. Johns, Superintendent

Kevin Geoghan, School Business Administrator

Tracy Trotter, Superintendent's Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Coniglio called the business meeting of April 18, 2007 to order at 7:34 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

An audience member asked about the meaning of #6 under Discussion on the agenda. The Superintendent explained what a Juul was. There were additional comments regarding concerns with the Budget: an increase in the budget does not necessarily mean better education, what increases to the Budget in the next ten years may look like; is there a referendum for a transportation garage in this election, be careful in your decisions as Board members whether it is land, vehicles, supervisors; taxpayers are at their breaking point, student population is shrinking. Discussion ensued.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent reported on the District's response to the emergency situation caused by heavy rains and flooding. Amenia Elementary served as a Red Cross Shelter Monday night and Tuesday morning. He explained the process of the early release on Monday and cancellation of school Tuesday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Committee Mtg. 4/9/07

Mr. Herald reported the Facility Committee discussion focused on:

- the well problem - and where the District is with it and getting to the controls and how Mr. Lounsbury is handling that situation,
- herbicides - Mr. Lounsbury spoke to Mr. Perotti about his concerns,
- land purchase/EXCEL aid – the architects came back and reported the financing with the state called EXCEL aid cannot be used for land purchase. The architects have to review the project so the District can present it as zero impact on the taxpayers. Discussion ensued.

Finance/Audit Committee Mtg. 4/16/07

Mr. Matteo reported to the Board the Finance/Audit Committee supported the current proposed budget of \$19,220,904. The budget is roughly \$77,000 less than the original proposed budget in February. The tax levy is 5.4%.

Mr. Matteo remarked about a local legislation forcing a meeting with Governor Spitzer to try to raise a supplemental school budget aid bill this week. They feel the Hudson Valley was cheated out of additional school aid, the majority going to Long Island.

DISCUSSION

1. Personnel

Is Gary Murphy coaching Varsity Baseball on his own if Ken Pomeisl is coaching JV? The Superintendent responded yes, that is how it always has been.

2. School Business Official Tenure

This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

3. District Calendar Approval

No comments were made.

4. Authorization for Tax Refund

A Board member questioned if the District knew this was out there. The School Business Official stated the District was aware.

5. Declare Books Surplus

A Board member suggested when receiving this information if the grade level or course it was used for could be added to the information.

6. Teacher Juul Agreement

No comment was made.

7. Cooperative Bid with Dover & Other Districts for School Lunch

A Board member questioned if milk was included in the bid? He stated by putting specifications into the bid the District could have the milk delivered in plastic containers instead of cardboard containers which can make milk products smell and taste unusual. Discussion ensued.

8. Piano Donation

A Board member stated this was great.

9. 2007-2008 Budget

Each Board member spoke about the Budget stating points on the \$77,000 from Variance and its impact on next year, recurring costs, much thought and planning on this Budget and feels it is a fiscally sound Budget, Reserve Funds, look at salaries in the future, maintaining programs, continue to look at Budget parameters, urge public to come to

Budget forums next year. Discussion ensued

Contingent Budget/Debt Service Cost – A Board member questioned the numbers used for the contingent budget. Discussion ensued

What is the Foundation Aid? It is suppose to cover the basic cost of educating a student. It is the new way Governor Spitzer packaged a number of aids for schools.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

1. Adoption of the 2007-2008 Proposed Budget

Mr. Matteo made and Mrs. Boyd seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby adopts the 2007-2008 Proposed Budget in the amount of \$19,220,904.00.

The seven Board members present voted. The motion carried.

Bernadette Coniglio	Yes	Joseph Herald	Yes
Susan Lounsbury	Yes	Joseph Matteo	Yes
Joanne Boyd	Yes	John Perotti	No
Dale Culver	Yes		

2. Authorization of Debt Service Costs in the 2007-2008 Contingent Budget

Mrs. Boyd made and Mrs. Lounsbury seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorizes the budgetary appropriation up to the full amount of 2007-2008 debt service costs to be included in the 2007-2008 Contingent Budget, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The seven Board members present voted. The motion carried.

Bernadette Coniglio	Yes	Joseph Herald	No
Susan Lounsbury	Yes	Joseph Matteo	Yes
Joanne Boyd	Yes	John Perotti	Yes
Dale Culver	Yes		

PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to what took place at Virginia Tech an audience member who is an employee had concerns with security at the High School. Are we going to be doing anything about security? Yes, the District is looking at a new lock system.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mrs. Lounsbury made and Mrs. Boyd seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:02 pm for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and land acquisition. The seven Board members voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Perotti made the following motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the public session at 10:28 pm. The seven Board members voted to approve the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Perotti motioned to adjourn the meeting of April 18, 2007 at 10:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Trotter
District Clerk