

Webutuck Board of Education held the March 31, 2008 meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Library.

The following Board members were present:

Dale Culver, President

Bernadette Coniglio

Joseph Herald

William McGhee

John Perotti

Also Present:

Dr. Richard N. Johns, Superintendent

Linda Peters, School Business Administrator

Absent:

Andrew Jablonsky

Susan Lounsbury

½

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Culver called the business meeting of March 31, 2008 to order at 7:35 p.m.½

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following comments were made by audience members:

- Wanted it brought to the Board's attention that he submitted a letter to the Board regarding retroactive pay for substitute bus drivers and would like the Board to consider it.
- Submitted a letter to the Board regarding a bus incident that occurred last week which brought to light a dangerous situation the District and for bus drivers.½ There needs to be cameras on all buses.½ Discussion ensued.
- Discussed retroactive pay being past practice so why don't the substitute bus drivers get it now.½ The letter CSEA employees received never stated anyone was excluded. There has only been one time in the last eighteen years that substitute bus drivers received retroactive pay and that was a mistake.½ Discussion ensued.
- The ACE Program is on the cut list this year and parent brought her daughter (ACE student) along to state that this is a necessary program.½ The program has helped several students who are now in high school and most likely would have dropped out of school had it not been for ACE.½ Her daughter has done well in the program and the daughter stated that school doesn't suck anymore½ because of the ACE program. ACE teaches students who were thought to be un-teachable.

DISCUSSION

Retro pay for Substitute Bus Drivers

The Superintendent explained that during the negotiations at the Union's request, retroactive pay was only for current employees.½ The Union does not bargain for substitutes, they are excluded from the recognition clause.½ The Superintendent drew

up a new policy that will remove substitute from any tie-bar with the CSEA.½ The Board will deal with substitute pay at the reorganization meeting and the CSEA will negotiate their pay separately from their substitutes.

The Board President stated he did not believe at the time they negotiated the current CSEA contract, they were excluding any employee except those that had left the District.½ Another Board member stated if substitutes do not join the union they should not be entitled to retroactive pay.½ Discussion ensued.

Mr. Perotti made and Ms. Coniglio seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education of Webutuck School District will allow the non-precedent setting retroactive payment to substitute employees for the period of July 1, 2006 through February 10, 2008, for an aggregate total of \$5,641.04, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

The five Board members present voted to approve the motion.½ The motion carried unanimously.½

Relative to the bus drivers letter submitted and concerns raised at the meeting tonight regarding cameras on buses we should continue the discussion.½ The Superintendent stated the installation of cameras began this year.½ Cameras cost \$1800 each. A Board member questioned the past practice of buying buses with cameras already installed. The School Business Administrator stated the quality of the cameras is a problem. The picture is grainy and you cannot hear what is being said therefore the District have been upgrading cameras as we go along. At the present time the District has 11 buses with no cameras, 6 buses that have cameras that do not work, 6 cars/vans with no cameras and 7 buses with working cameras. A Board member questioned if the District could use Senator Leibell's money (approx. \$50,000) because he did not put a stipulation of use on it. The Superintendent will discuss with the Transportation Supervisor solutions to this problem and speak about it at the April 7 Board meeting. Discussion ensued.

2008-2009 Budget

The Superintendent stated at the Board's last Finance Committee meeting it was decided that having a high property tax and cutting programs were not acceptable ways to reduce the Budget. The Committee members also looked at the variance and are looking towards the State budget. State Revenue may go up to a 3 % level which could mean in the neighborhood of an additional \$100,000. The Superintendent and School Business Administrator went over the budget with the following thoughts; to not go over 5.5% in property taxes, to not reduce four teachers, to not reduce more than one Teaching Assistant and at the same time hold the District variance at about 8% or 1.6 million dollars. The District is looking at some increased revenue from this year which will help the appropriated fund balance going forward into next year. It is up to the Board to decide if these are the right provisions for the Budget. Discussion ensued.

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

1. Notice of Annual Meeting Authorization

Mr. Herald made and Ms. Coniglio seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs the District Clerk to give notice to the qualified voters of the School District of the Annual Public Hearing on the Budget on Monday, May 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m., for the purpose of

presenting the budget document for the 2008-2009 School Year and the Annual Meeting, School District election and Vote on the Budget to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. The five Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Authorization of Transportation Proposition to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of the qualified voters on May 20, 2008.

Mr. Herald made and Ms. Coniglio seconded the following motion:

A Board member discussed adding language in the proposition to include cameras and radios. It was agreed upon by Board members and the proposition is amended to read as such.

2008-2009 TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE PROPOSITION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following proposition be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of the qualified voters of the Webutuck Central School District, to be conducted on May 20, 2008:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, be authorized to (1) purchase two 65-passenger school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$93,675 each, one 17 passenger minivan at a maximum estimated cost of \$25,525, and one 28 passenger van at a maximum estimated cost of \$43,000 for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$255,875, (2) equipped with radios and cameras (3) expend such sum for such purposes, (4) levy the tax necessary therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education, taking into account state aid received, and (5) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, to issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount at a maximum estimated cost of \$255,875, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due.

The five Board members present voted to approve the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Policy Committee Chairperson stated that five policies that had been remanded back to the Committee in December will be in all Board members' packets this Friday. She requested Board members to make any changes they feel necessary and to hand them back for Monday's meeting.

A Board member questioned if the District buses have governors on them. It was thought they did not.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Herald made and Mr. McGhee seconded a motion to adjourn to executive session at 8:55pm for the purpose of discussing negotiations and personnel issues. The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Herald made a motion to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the public session at 9:47 pm. The five Board members present voted. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Herald made a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 31, 2008 at 9:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Trotter
District Clerk