

DRAFT

**Horseheads Central School District
Budget Workshop of the Board of Education
Big Flats Community Center
February 11, 2010**

Present: Apgar, Brinthaup, Buck, Holleran, Jacobus, Lively, Lynch, Strollo

Also Present: Bostwick, Christiansen, Learn, Preston, Pollard

Absent: Marino (Participated by Telephone)

Call to Order: President Lynch called the workshop to order at 7:00 PM

Board President's Remarks:

President Brian Lynch stated that Dr. Marino is out of town at a Superintendent's Conference. Therefore, he will participate via telephone. President Lynch appreciates Assistant Superintendent Alice Learn filling in for Dr. Marino. He also thanked the presenters and the Board members for attending the first of three Budget Workshops. He thanked the Town of Big Flats for opening the Community Center and hosting the workshop for us. It is a very nice location with lots of space.

Presentation of Specific Areas/Departments of Proposed 2010-2011 School District Budget

General Support (Central Office, Facilities, Special Items)

Business Manager Michael Stuart reviewed the budget process and objectives, the district's revenues (state, taxes), emergency fund (estimated), operating expenses and the balance and the savings funds. Business Manager Michael Stuart stated at the end of the year it is required by law that the District have a balanced budget; the most that is allowed to be in savings is two percent and if the District has a reserve it has to be limited justified. He further stated that at this point in time the District is dealing with projections. He stated the budget was put together by a variety of people and a site approach was followed.

Business Manager Michael Stuart reviewed the General Fund – Appropriations – Estimates, General Support, Debt Service, Interfund Transfers, Employee Benefits Special Items, Board of Education, District Meeting (District Vote/Elections), Central Administration – Chief School Administrator, Business Administration, Auditing, Tax Collector, Fiscal Agent Fees and Staff – Legal, Personnel, Public Information and Services.

Business Manager Michael Stuart stated there are forty-one Cost Saving Practices that are done in the District. Examples of Cost Saving Practices include an Energy Consortium used to purchase natural gas and electric, state contract for gasoline and diesel, etc.

Vice-President Michael Buck inquired how much will the budget compound in the future if we do a good job with reductions, if we hit the target we want and cut down on expenditures? Business Manager Michael Stuart stated it will be a domino affect, whatever we cut the first year will be less the second year and will continue to be less in future years. By cutting the budget 2.5 this year it will also help cut it next year by that same amount. This year we cut 15% off all materials and supplies. For 2010-2011 we are projecting \$1.1 million to meet our projected budget. This savings could occur through budget cuts or from the many retirements.

Board Member Pam Strollo asked if this budget takes into the account any reserves that we use? Business Manager Michael Stuart stated only the reserves that are used this year. We are waiting for the State to let us know what kind of money we may receive.

Board Member Jim Jacobus also inquired if the retirements will cover the \$1.1 million shortfall. Business Manager Michael Stuart stated they could possibly take care of it along with the reductions in the rest of the budget(supplies,etc.).

Board Member Mary Beth Frederick asked if we were in better or worse shape than other districts surrounding us? Business Manager Michael Stuart stated it is proportional. It is all poverty driven. This year the Governor included the federal aid so there won't be more monies later. Everything is pretty stable with BOCES. All of the wealth ration items are the same.

Personnel

Director of Human Resources Judy Christiansen reported on the District Personnel Budget. She reviewed Instructional and Non-Instructional Salaries which are contractual. She stated overall the budget is down one percent from last year.

Facilities

Director of Facilities Tom Pollard reviewed the Facilities budget for 2010-2011 including Operation of the Plant, Maintenance of the Plant and Non-Instructional Salaries. He stated there will be two retirements this year. There is also a bid going out for Garbage Disposal which would save the District \$30,000. There has been a \$15,000 savings in energy usage due to the conservation of the use of appliances and heat. There will be about a \$30,000 in savings with retirements.

Tom reviewed the Maintenance of the Plant including Non-Instructional Salaries, Equipment, Contractual Expenditures, Materials and Supplies and BOCES Services. Tom stated that the Facilities Department has been held at zero growth for several years. He stated the budget was put together as a team effort by the Maintenance Staff. He is not able to control the salary line as it is contractual.

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Transportation

Supervisor of Transportation Ella Preston stated she is trying to be very, very careful with the Transportation Budget. Contractual has gone down 1% with the use of the BOCES software. The majority of the budget is fuel. Every time someone leaves, Ella is going to look at the transportation routes and see if it is possible to combine without making anyone one feel uncomfortable. She is trying to cut back on everything she can but without hurting the Department. Overall, there has been a decrease of 3.4% in the budget.

President Brian Lynch stated the numbers look good and he appreciates the administrators for taking the time to present such thorough presentations. He realizes it is going to be a tough year and that line items such as salaries are contractual which makes it even more difficult when it comes to putting a budget together.

Superintendent Ralph Marino thanked Assistant Superintendent Alice Learn for representing the District tonight in his absence and appreciates the administrators presenting at tonight’s first Budget Meeting.

Questions and Comments Regarding Agenda Items:

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

Adjournment

Moved by Brinhaupt, seconded by Jacobus.

RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education Meeting adjourned from its Budget Workshop of the Board of Education at 8:15 PM.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Apgar		
Brinhaupt		
Buck		
Frederick		
Jacobus		
Lively		
Lynch		
Strollo		
MOTION CARRIED		

Respectfully Submitted By:

Candy L. Maine,
Candy L. Maine, District Clerk

