

**Horseheads Central School District
Community Budget Workshop
Multi-Media Center, High School South Wing
April 6, 2017**

Present: Boulas, Christmas, Christiansen, Conklin, Dale, Johnson, Lynch, Minor, Sadler, Strollo

Absent:

Guests: Bostwick, Buzzetti, Christiansen, Donahue, Douglas, Gill, Holloway, Moyer, Scaptura

Call to Order: Board President Pam Strollo called the Community Budget Workshop to order at 6:02 PM

Board President's Remarks:

Board President Pam Strollo welcomed everyone to tonight's Budget Workshop and explained the guidelines and format of the Workshop as per Board Policy 2370: Public Participation at Board Meetings for Board of Education Community Budget Meetings, noting that the Public Comments come after the Budget Presentation and those wishing to speak need to state their name and address.

2017-2018 School Budget

State Budget Update

School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti stated that the District is still waiting to learn what we will receive in State Aid, therefore, we are going to go with the Governor's Run that was released back in January, noting that he doesn't plan to take anything away, however, we don't know what he will give us yet. Hopefully, by the next Board meeting on April 19th, we will have the figure in time for the Board to take Board action at that meeting.

Update on the Proposed 2017-2018 Budget

School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti presented a Re-Cap of the Department Budgets, the Tax Cap Summary and the Proposed Property Tax Levy noting there have been no changes since they were last presented two weeks ago. We are still looking at a Maximum Allowable Tax Levy Limit of \$36,082,023 and the Proposed Property Tax Levy Change From Prior Year is \$774,419, (2.19%), with the Full Value Tax Rate Change still unknown at this time. Katy presented an overview of State Aid from 2016-2017, 2017-2018(Est. Budget) noting a change from 2016-2017 at \$50,236.00. Katy stated there was one minor change in Building Aid and assuming we are not going to receive any more State Aid, we looked at other adjustments to balance our Budget such as adjustments to BOCES Expenses primarily in the area of Special Education, taking out the one-time expense for various equipment purchases which have been made, a \$50,000 adjustment to Transportation, cutting the Computer-Based Testing in half which leaves a -\$165,069 in Budget Adjustments. Katy presented an overview of the Revenue Adjustments(\$40,385) noting a decrease in PILOTS(we will not start collecting from the Solar PILOT which was recently approved by the Board until the following school year so it was adjusted down). Katy also stated that we have not received formal confirmation yet but we are anticipating that Elmira Heights is going to take back three of their four bus runs.

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Overall, Katy stated the Budget Gap has been brought down to \$3.9 million which does not include at this point an increase in the Tax Levy or any use of the Fund Balance or Reserves.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Thomas J. Douglas stated that when we started to formulate the 2017-2018 School Budget there was a shortfall of \$5.2 million and with adjustments that have been made, we are now at a \$3.9 million gap. Dr. Douglas stated we have to be very cautious moving forward with a zero increase in State Aid because at this time as we do not want to trim off the positive restorations that we have been able to bring back over the past two years. We want to put the District in its strongest standing without having to use the Reserves. The Board held a thorough discussion regarding the latest projections, the STEM Academy and other ways in which the Gap could be closed and noted that each reduction affects the gains we have made. Dr. Douglas stated that the Administrators will have to go back and look for additional reductions in their Budget, however, we don't want to put a strain on education or operations.

Future Meeting Dates and Budget Vote/Board of Education Election Reminder

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent of Schools, presented the future Meeting Dates, noting the April Board of Education Meeting will be held on April 19^h, which is a Wednesday, at Ridge Road Elementary School at 6:00 PM, Thursday, May 4^h, the Public Hearing on the Budget will be held at the Multi-Media Center at 6:00 PM, Monday, May 8th, a Candidate's Forum will be held at the Multi-Media Center at 7:00 PM and the Budget Vote and Board of Election will be held on Tuesday, May 16th, at Big Flats, Ridge Road and the High School from 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM.

Board of Education Discussion and Questions Regarding the Presentation

School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti explained the use of the Fund Balance and the Reserves, the history of the money in the funds, where it comes from and the total balance in them. Katy stated the idea is to allocate the use of the various Reserves and refund them at the end of each year with any surplus that may have generated in the Budget. It is not a long-term plan to rely on them without some form of a plan to replenish them or there will be nothing left in the Fund Balance to rely on. They are good tools in the Spending Plan, however, you need to be cautious moving forward of how you use them as you want to keep a healthy balance. Dr. Douglas reiterated that we are fortunate that we have had money in the Reserves to use because other Districts don't. Dr. Douglas stated at the April 19th Board Meeting, the Board will receive a breakout of the various Reserves the District has, how they are utilized and their balance and a ten-year history of budget cuts. He noted the District's trend has been to end the year with a surplus which isn't known until the end of June when the books are closed out. Dr. Douglas also noted that we have only had one Addition that we included in the Budget which was a Special Education Teacher which is mandated. However, there were about \$600,000 in additions that we were given which were not brought forward because we want to be very cautious about adding anything otherwise we would have to adjust the Gap. If we do receive an unexpected increase in State Aid, then we could look at other Additions that were not brought forward and also take a closer look at the STEM Academy and also Special Education.

Public Comments

There were no Questions or Comments from the Public.

Final Board of Education Discussion and Questions Members

There were no Questions or Comments from the Board.

Adjournment

Moved by Boulas, seconded by Conklin.

RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education adjourn from its' Budget Workshop at 7:21 PM.

| <u>Ayes</u> | <u>Noes</u> | <u>Abstained</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
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|-------------|-------------|------------------|---------------|

Boulas

Christiansen

Christmas

Conklin

Dale

Johnson

Lynch

Sadler

Strollo

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by:

Candy L. Maine,

Candy Maine, District Deputy Clerk

