

**Horseheads Central School District
Special Business Meeting of the Board of Education
High School Auditorium
April 19, 2011**

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

Also Present: Abrunzo, Bailey, Brock, Donahue, Hillman, Learn, Moyer, Pollard, Scaptura, Sechrist, Sotero, Suggs, K. Williams

Absent:

Call to Order: President Lynch called the Special Meeting of the Board Of Education to order at 6:01 PM

Board President's Remarks:

President Brian Lynch thanked everyone for being here tonight. He stated it is a really nice turnout considering it was not a regularly scheduled meeting. Brian stated the purpose of tonight's meeting is to hear a follow-up report from the Finance Committee as a result of the meeting they held yesterday. Brian stated tonight will be a Board Discussion only with an adoption of the Budget by the Board tomorrow night so that the District meets State guidelines. He stated there will be no Public Comments tonight; however, there will be a section of Public Comments tomorrow during the Public Hearing.

Report from the Finance Committee

Chair Jim Jacobus stated the Finance Committee met last night and was able to go through most of the agenda rather quickly, however; a considerable amount of time was spent discussing last Thursday's Budget Workshop. As a Committee, we are concerned that a 6% tax levy will have little or no chance of our budget passing when it goes to the voters on May 17th. As a group, our Committee is proposing to spend more money from the Reserves(\$4.3 million) to reduce proposed layoffs and reduce a proposed tax levy for 2011-2012 school year. The Committee is proposing to spend \$4.3 million from Reserves and reduce the proposed tax levy increase from 7.5% to 4.95%. We are further recommending not to spend the \$300,000 for the English Textbook Adoption but to use the State Textbook Aid for this program. Jim stated it will take approximately two years to adopt this program and by then we will have money from the State where we can use textbook funds. The Committee is proposing the following:

Restorations As Follows:

1. Regular Education Elementary Teachers due to a projected increase in enrollment.
2. Special Area Teachers and Programs
3. Any Leftover Funds will be used to restore Extra-Curricular Programs

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Discussion of Proposed 2011-2012 School Budget

Board President Brian Lynch stated that he is in full support of the Finance Committee's Recommendations and is very pleased that we are able to use the \$300,000 to save the taxpayers money and use the Textbook Money for the ELA Adoption.

Board Member Pam Strollo stated she is very happy that we are able to have the same level of restorations with a lower tax levy. She feels good about being able to put this in place and before the voters. Pam thanked the Committee for their efforts in making this possible.

Board Member Mary Anne Holleran stated the Finance Committee came up with a very good plan. She agrees that after leaving last week's meeting she was in fear that the budget might not pass and to see that we are able to get it back down below 5% and still be able to purchase the ELA Adoption is wonderful. Mary Anne thanked the Finance Committee for pursuing this and stated she is in full support of their proposal.

Board Member Mark Brinthead stated he is in support of the Proposed 2011-2012 Budget, however he is still a little concerned about the 6% being cut to 4.95% just based on the proposed use of the EBAL funds.

Board Member Rose Apgar thanked Jim and the Finance Committee for all of their hard work. Having the ability to lower the tax levy and being able to stay within the parameters we were given makes her very happy. She is in favor of this new Proposed 2011-2012 Budget.

Board Member Ruth Miller thanked the Finance Committee for their efforts in coming up with this new proposed 2011-2012 Budget. She stated she is in favor of it as long as it is staying with the same restorations as we agreed upon at last Thursday's Budget Workshop.

Board Member John Lively stated that he is in full support of this new Proposed 2011-2012 Budget and thanked the Finance Committee for their hard work.

Vice-President Michael Buck stated that he is not able to support this Proposed 2011-2012 Budget and that he will stand by his decision from last Thursday's Budget Workshop. He stated that \$6.1 million or about 8% of the budget is "soft money" which comes from Reserves or from Federal Jobs Bill money. If we keep everything the same next year, we will need another \$6.1 million. After two years, we will need \$10.4 million and in three years we will be out of a solution. If we stay with our decision of using only \$3 million, then we will go into the third year with \$3 million. Therefore, if we spend the \$11 million this will give us time to acquire more money. Our District has a lot of money but yet we have no Plan. If we want to spend \$4.3 million, Mike wants to see some plan to resolve this issue between revenue and spending. To date, he has not heard any solutions to replace the money that is being proposed to be spent. We had a budget forecast that looked out five years and the forecast had deficits but no Plan against it. Jim stated the Finance Committee has been working on forming a Plan for some time now. We have not had a Plan on how to solve the problem. We only have two choices of what we can do: 1. Increase the Taxes and 2. Increase Revenues through State Aid.

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Jim stated he will continue to lobby the Legislatures to increase State Aid for our School District. Mike stated he realizes that we cannot control State Aid or the amount we receive. The money side of the proposed budget is what concerns him. We need to know projections in order to save money. The Proposed 2011-2012 Budget does not seem to have any information behind it where money is coming from other than what is being taking from the savings.

Board President Brian Lynch stated he feels that Dr. Marino has done a very good job of making cuts since May 2009. He stated there will be a Plan going forward as Dr. Marino has started this by making cuts and saving the District money. We are moving in the right direction. We have to cut a number of positions as enrollment goes down and people retire. Brian stated he is in full support of the Proposed 2011-2012 Budget as it was presented by Jim.

Board Member Pam Strollo thanked everyone throughout this process who has made this new Proposal possible. She stated this Proposal should be brought forwards to the voters. This will give us some time to prepare and be creative with ideas to move forwards to help solve the District's future finances and at the same time come up with a Plan.

Board President Brian Lynch stated that we will go forward with the recommendations presented by the Finance Committee at tomorrow night's Public Hearing. Brian thanked the Board for the outstanding Budget Workshops that have been held this year. He stated the workshops have been well attended and he appreciates everyone who has attended them. It is a very tough situation that we are in and the Board is trying to do our best and plan so that the District does not run out of money. We all want the same thing, what is best for our students. Brian thanked the public for taking the time to be educated in the budget process of our District. This has been a very challenging year and Brian stated he appreciates all of the efforts of the Finance Committee, the Board, Central Office and the Public for being part of it.

Adjournment

Moved by Jacobus, seconded by Apgar.

RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education Meeting adjourned from its Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 6:20 PM.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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Apgar		
Brinthaup		
Buck		
Holleran		
Jacobus		
Lively		
Lynch		
Miller		
Strollo		

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted By:

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

