

**Horseheads Central School District
Special Business Meeting of the Board of Education
High School - Multi-Media Center
April 20 2011**

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

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

Absent:

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

Board President's Remarks:

President Brian Lynch welcomed everyone to tonight's Special Meeting of the Board of Education to adopt the 2011-2012 Budget. Brian stated there will not be an Executive Session. He also reviewed the process for the Questions and Comment Section for the Public and stated that each person will be given three minutes to speak so that everyone will have an opportunity.

Questions and Comments from the Public

Jamy Brice-Hyde, 708 Tiff Avenue, spoke as a parent and a taxpayer. She stated her daughter was called to the Guidance Office today and was told that some of the classes she wanted to take next year she is not able to as four of the six classes will not be offered. Mrs. Hyde asked to how these decisions could be made now when the budget had not even been presented to the voters yet? She stated she has traveled to Albany two times this year to advocate for more money for the school district. One of the things that was said in the speech to the teacher union in New York City is that the Governor supports education. On Tuesday, he released the restrictions on the budget for the school district. Her concern is if we do not use the money that has been released to us that we are being told to use this year, they will not give us any more money next year. They will say they did not use what was available to them this year so why give it next year. Mrs. Hyde is deeply concerned why we are not using all of the money the State is giving us this year when it is available to do so. Board President Brian Lynch stated this is something that the Board did struggle with. The Board is trying to keep the balance for next year and by doing so chose not to use all of the money this year.

Nancy Simons, 2215 Grand Central Avenue, commented regarding the 2% tax cap that she fears is going to come down from Albany. Does the public really understand what will happen if this takes place. It will come down to where Districts will be forced to go bankrupt and we will all be placed into county or region schools. Nancy stated she appreciates the fact that the Board will institute \$300,000 back into the budget, however; her concern is with the stipends where she is a little disconcerted the restorations are going to come top down without asking the parties involved which ones should be

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reinstated. Nancy stated when these positions are restored you need to look at it even though it may be a smaller club in number it may reach and affect every child in the school not just a few. She pleaded with the Board not to use numbers when reinstating these extra-curricular activities.

Mark Mucci, 242 Blue Jay Drive, wants the Board to understand that as a Board you have a tough job to do and that this is not personal. This is the way himself and others feel that the Board is failing. Shouldn't the education come first, is that not what your job is? It sounds as though you can only see the number in the dollar signs not the number in the lives of students who are changed by the teachers who come in contact with them on a daily basis. He stated the Board is listening to a survey that was done long before the people realized the financial crisis we are in. You only seem to see the financial impact not the student impact. Board President Brian Lynch thanked Mr. Mucci for his concerns and stated that he is sorry that he feels the way he does. The Board received the letter directly before tonight's meeting and he looks forward to reading it. Brian stated as he looks around the Board there are two retired teachers on the Board, a number of Board members who are parents or have had children attend this District so we are all aware of how our decisions affect the children of our District. There has been a very adverse group of at least 50-75 people who have spoken regarding taxes at either the Board Meetings or Board Workshops. Ninety percent have said that they want less than a 4% increase. One person spoke wanted between 5% and 7% increase but no higher. Brian stated the Board does not take this lightly. Every decision we make is made with the future of Horseheads in mind. Brian stated our Board is a group of very dedicated people and he is very pleased to say that we have put a lot of thought into this budget.

Jennifer Bryant, 1483 N. Hoffman Street, Elmira, a Physical Education Teacher at Center Street Elementary School, inquired as to what the rules and regulations are if the District ends up with a Contingency Budget? Dr. Marino stated the Board would have a decision to make if the Budget is voted down. They can decide to present the same budget again, modify the budget or go directly to a Contingency Budget. If a Contingency Budget occurs, the District is not able to make any capitol improvements; there can be no equipment purchases, outside agencies can not use the buildings, etc.

Theresa Pedicone, 63 Scotch Pine Lane, Erin, commented that when the very first budget proposal was put on the table we did not know what would happen to the EBLAR and wanted to know if the other funding was pulled off the table that the Board was discussing and if we were mandated to go into this fund or if we were allowed to. What happens if we get the 2% caps down the road? We need to be forward in our thinking and not tap into these funds as much and think about where we will be raising money in the future. Theresa stated a lot of the positions that are being proposed to be reinstated will be on the line in 2012-2013. In addition she is concerned with this final budget if the public will know in advance before they vote on the budget which positions will be put back. Will we know which programs and extra-curricular clubs will be reinstated or will we be voting on a "blanket budget" and how much money is coming from the

reserves fund. She also stated the teachers should be given an incentive to get extra programs to where the funding can come from. Board President Brian Lynch stated next year's staffing is also a concern for the Board. Brian stated bringing back positions, programs and services for only one year and then losing them the following year is a major concern for the Board also.

Board Vice-President Michael Buck stated he does not support the Finance Committee's proposal, even though last Thursday he did state he was in favor of the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget. The reason he has changed his decision is because this new budget proposal is not fiscally responsible to accept the recommendations of last Thursday when it has gone from a \$3 million to \$4.3 million with no plan how the money would be replaced the following year. He stated when he was in favor of it, the figure was at \$3 million and before he knew it, it was at \$4.3 million without the Board really having ample time to absorb the information that was presented and make a solid decision that he would feel comfortable with.

Resolution Casting One Ballot for Three of the Four Candidates Nominated to Serve on the Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Moved by Apgar, seconded by Holleran.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education Meeting cast one ballot for each of the following candidates for membership on the Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services: L. Jay Dickson, Donald M. Kedell and Michael Gorman.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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Apgar		
Brinhaupt		
Buck		
Holleran		
Jacobus		
Lively		
Lynch		
Miller		
Stollo		

MOTION CARRIED

Board Member Rose Apgar presented the Resolution to cast one ballot for three of the four Candidates nominated to serve on the Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany Board of Cooperative Educational Services to the Board for Board action. Rose recommended the three incumbents be nominated to serve.

Board Member Mary Anne Holleran stated she is not familiar with the candidates, however; she admires Rose and her opinion. Mary Anne stated she knows Dr. Webster as a member of the Corning Painted-Post School District and knows he is a man whose interest and background is in education. She would like to see him become a member of the Board.

Board Member John Lively stated that looking at Dale Wexell's candidacy profile he is a man who is very intelligent and well versed in Education as a former board member of the Corning Painted-Post School District, a Professor at Elmira College and very heavily involved in the community, therefore, John recommends Dale Wexell for a position on the Board.

Board Member Ruth Miller stated that she worked with Don Kedell in the Elmira City School District and highly recommends him for a position on the Board.

Moved by Apgar, seconded by Lively.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education Meeting withdraw its cast of one ballot for each of the following candidates for membership on the Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services: L. Jay Dickson, Donald M. Kedell and Michael Gorman due to all four members receiving a nomination.

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

Moved by Apgar, seconded by Holleran.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education cast one ballot for candidate for membership on the Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services: L. Jay Dickinson, Dale R. Wexell, Donald M. Kedell and Michael Gorman.

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

Moved by Apgar, seconded by Holleran.

Due to a tie, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education cast one ballot for each of the following candidates for membership on the

Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services: J. Jay Dickson and Dale R. Wexell.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Holleran, seconded by Apgar.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board cast one ballot for each of the following candidates for membership on the Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services: Dale R. Wexell, Donald M. Kedell and Michael Gorman.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Board President Brian Lynch stated that the following candidates, Dale R. Wexell, Donald M. Kedell and Michael Gorman, will be recommended by the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education for membership on the Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

Resolution Approving the 2010-2011 Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany Board of Cooperative Educational Services Administrative Budget as Proposed

Moved by Lively, seconded by Apgar.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education approves the 2011-2012 Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services Administrative Budget as proposed.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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- Apgar
- Brinthaup
- Buck
- Holleran
- Jacobus
- Lively

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Lynch

Miller

Strollo

MOTION CARRIED

Board President Brian Lynch brought the proposed 2011-2012 Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany BOCES Board of Cooperative Educational Services Administrative Budget to the Board for Board action. Brian stated that the Board approves this budget on an annual basis.

Final Adoption of the Proposed 2011-2012 School Budget

Moved by Jacobus, seconded by Holleran.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education approves the proposed budget of the Horseheads Central School District for 2011-2012 in the amount of \$69,329,181 in accordance with Section 2022 of the Education Law and that the balance of said budget after applying available public monies thereto, be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of said district.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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Apgar

Brinthaup

Buck

Holleran

Jacobus

Lively

Lynch

Miller

Strollo

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Ralph Marino brought the Resolution to accept the proposed budget of the Horseheads Central School District for 2011-2012 in the amount of \$69,329,181 in accordance with Section 2022 of the Education Law and that the balance of said budget after applying available public monies thereto, be raised by a tax upon the taxable property of said district. Ralph stated once the budget meets Board approval it will be presented to the voters on May 17th. The budget is a 0.95% increase over the 2010-2011 budget.

Board Vice-President Michael Buck stated he appreciates that Mrs. Pedicone understands where he is coming from in being the sole Board Member in opposition of the 2011-2012 school budget. He also responded to Mr. Mucci's comments that he is a graduate of the District, has children in the District and also feels the impact on his family. He is employed through Ithaca College and is familiar with budget constraints as he lives with them on a daily basis. He understands the research involved in education, the budget process and would like to believe that he has the ability for leadership which is why he is opposing the Proposed 2011-2012 Budget. He is not in favor of the District spending \$10.6 million of \$11 million in two years. Next year we will be looking at positions through the Federal Jobs Grant that will not be funded the following year,

2012-2013. Mike stated he is very concerned if the money is gone in two years and there isn't a plan or a plan for a plan to replace it what will happen in the future. It is very important the people understand that our nest egg of \$11 million will be gone in two years. If \$3 million is used it would give us three years to plan on how to save programs and still be sustainable.

Proposed 2011-2012 Property Tax Report Card

Moved by Jacobus, seconded by Holleran.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education approves the proposed 2011-2012 Property Tax Report Card as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

Dr. Ralph Marino brought proposed 2011-2012 Property Tax Report Card to the Board for Board action. Ralph stated these figures are estimates of what we may have next year and needs to be filed with the State by Friday.

Questions and Comments from Board Members

Board Member Mary Anne Holleran stated she believes that we have all had a difficult last number of months. She stated she is proud to be part of the Board and thanked the public and the teachers for coming forward to share their personal stories, their concerns and for being up front with us. She thanked Dr. Marino and the Finance Committee for the work they have done on this budget. She also thanked Dr. Marino, Assistant Superintendent Alice Learn and Director of Elementary Education Virginia Abrunzo for revising the budget so that the ELA Program will still be able to be purchased and implemented in the District. Mary Anne believes that the comments that have been made about the members of the School Board from the letter that was received this evening were personal. Mary Anne stated she was in the classroom for 34 years as a teacher and still loves it. She has served as a Student Advisor for SUNY Cortland and still substitutes in the Corning Painted-Post School District because she truly loves being in the classroom. Furthermore she is proud to state that her three children have made very successful lives for themselves because of the teachers in this District. She thanked everyone for being here tonight but she asked them to please not say that the Board does not care about children or their education as that simply is not true. We are here for the children.

Board President Brian Lynch thanked the public, the staff and the parents for being so involved in the 2011-2012 Budget process. He stated this is the most educated group the Board has ever had in attendance at our Budget Workshops and Board Meetings. He stated it is very important for people to attend the workshops/meetings and

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understand the reality of the budget and its process. Brian thanked everyone for attending, for letters that were sent and for comments and suggestions that were presented to the Board. He thanked Dr. Marino, the Administrative Team, the Finance Committee and the Board Members for meeting long hours to ensure that the 2011-2012 Budget was ready to be voted on in May.

Board Vice-President Michael Buck stated that he echoes Board President Brian Lynch's sentiments. Michael stated it has been a very challenging Budget season for all of us. He stated when we leave this room we all are in support of the Board and its decisions. We need now to get a budget passed. Michael stated that even though he was in opposition of the Budget when he leaves this room tonight he will support the action the Board has taken and will work hard to make sure the voters understand that we acted in the best interest of the stakeholders in the community. He will encourage everyone involved to do the same as a Contingency Budget is not where we want to be.

Adjournment

Moved by Holleran, 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 7:43 PM.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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Apgar

Brinthaup

Buck

Holleran

Jacobus

Lively

Lynch

Miller

Stollo

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted By:

Candy L. Maine,

Candy L. Maine, District, Clerk