

**Horseheads Central School District  
Community Budget Workshop  
Big Flats Community Center  
February 9, 2017**

- Present:** Boulas, Christmas, Conklin, Dale, Johnson, Lynch, Minor, Sadler, Strollo
- Absent:** Christiansen
- Guests:** Buzzetti, Conklin, Donahue, Douglas, Gill, Holloway, Patterson, Scaptura, Wilcox
- Call to Order:** Board President Pam Strollo called the Community Budget Workshop to order at 6:04 PM

**Board President's Remarks:**

Board President Pam Strollo welcomed everyone to the first Budget Workshop of the year with the next one being held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Erin Town Hall. Pam 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 Session should not exceed 30 minutes, giving individuals at least 3 minutes to speak and if necessary the Board is able to make a motion to extend it. Pam stated there will be an Executive Session directly after the Workshop to discuss a Particular Individual Matter; however, there will be no Board action.

**State of Schools**

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas, Superintendent of Schools, opened the presentation by thanking the Town of Big Flats for hosting us and the public for coming. Dr. Douglas stated that tonight we will start to embark on an overview of the 2017-2018 Budget and that we will develop our Budget the best way possible with the initial runs of the Budget from Governor Cuomo. Dr. Douglas began the Budget Presentation by presenting an overview of the Pre-K-6, 7-8 and 9-12 Buildings discussing the condition of the buildings, epic events that occur throughout the buildings, special activities that enhance the learning environment, PTO events and how they all the buildings focus on the three R's – Rigor, Relevance and Relationships. Dr. Douglas also presented an overview of the District's Special Education Programs, the Arts and Music Programs, Athletics, Extra-Curricular, Community Service and the Collaboration amongst the staff, parents and students. Dr. Douglas reviewed the 2015-2016 State Assessments, College Entrance Exams, Food Service, Transportation and Facilities Departments and also the current Facilities Projects and Future Projects. Future Projects include Evaluating Current Programs, Continual Focus on Professional Opportunities and Research-Based Best Practices, Evaluation of the Assessment Practices, Establish Formal Written Curriculum with Exit Outcomes, Beginning Use of Paperless Board Meetings, Redesigning the District Website and the biggest initiative going forward is the Horseheads 2030 Project.

**Preliminary 2017-2018 School Budget Presentation**

**2017-2018 Budget Overview**

School Business Administrator Katy Buzzetti presented the Preliminary 2017-2018 School Budget consisting of the Governor's Aid Proposal for 2017-2018, Projected State Aid for 2017-2018, Key Points of the Tax Cap Calculation, Summary of the Total Preliminary Revenues and Expenditures, the Preliminary Gap and Transportation Department Overview to the Board.

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Katy stated the Projected State Aid for 2017-2018 is \$31,952,967, a total increase of \$29,027 or 0.09%. Katy reviewed the Key Points of the Tax Levy Limit which was implemented in 2011. The Tax Cap limits property Tax Levy Growth to 2% or rate of inflation(current inflation rate is 1.26%), whichever is less. Katy noted the current Tax Base Growth Factor is 1.0118 and the District may exceed the maximum allowable Tax Levy by a super majority vote. Katy reviewed the Tax Cap Calculation noting that we had an increase in anticipated budget year PILOTS(-\$1,042,475) and the Tax Levy before Exemptions is \$36,067,726 and the maximum allowable Tax Levy Limit is \$36,067,726. Katy stated the Proposed Property Tax Levy Change from the prior year is -\$16,231 or -0.05% and 2017-2018 is \$760,122 or 2.15%. Katy stated the Preliminary Revenue Totals is \$73,885,912 noting that Other Revenues includes items such as interest, admissions, rental income, tax penalties, donations and gifts and reclassification of Stop-Loss Insurance payments. Katy stated the Preliminary Total Expenditures is \$76,196,910. Katy presented an Overview of the Preliminary Gap and Gap-Closing Options noting there is a Gap of \$5.2 million, however, it does not include the Use of Reserve Funds or the Fund Balance.

### **Transportation Department Overview**

Supervisor of Transportation Peter Wilcox provided the Board with an overview of the Transportation Department Proposed budget for 2017-2018 stating the Projected Budget Total is \$2,789,249, the Transportation Salary/Position Information is \$1,949,374, Transportation Aid is \$2,370,615 (71% ratio) and Transportation State Aid is \$2,370,615. Pete reviewed the Bus Purchase History and the Bus Replacement Proposition which consists of the purchase of seven 65-passenger buses and two four-wheel drive transportation vehicles(to replace two mini-vans) at a cost not to exceed \$1,100,000.

### **Board of Education Discussion and Questions Regarding the Presentation**

Board Member Doug Johnson asked for Katy Buzzetti to summarize our State Aid Situation and also if there will be other Considerations that we will be looking at as Expenditures later in the Budget Process. Katy stated that we are up a little with the Governor's State Aid Proposal and are hoping to receive more. Dr. Douglas stated that there are over \$2 million of Considerations that have been reduced to \$600,000 that Central Office and the Building Administrators still need to talk about. Dr. Douglas emphasized that the Administrators realize that \$89,000 of the Considerations are necessities potential to the educational program. As we discuss them, we need to understand that the Considerations will make the Gap grow, but we can also take them out. Dr. Douglas stated as we continue to work on the Budget there may be some things that we cannot do and may have to look at them in future budgets. We are heading in a positive direction and will evaluate Considerations as we go along.

### **Questions and Comments from the Public**

Big Flats Town Supervisor Edward Fairbrother commended Dr. Douglas for what he is doing to move the District towards 2030, striving to bring back the Horseheads Brand and making Horseheads a District where people want to relocate.

### **Questions and Comments from Board Members**

Board President Pam Strollo thanked the Public for attending tonight's Workshop and stated the next Community Budget Workshop will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM, at the Erin Town Hall.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Dale, seconded by Lynch.

RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education adjourn from its' Budget Workshop at 7:31 PM.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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Conklin

Dale

Johnson

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Sadler

Strollo

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Dale, seconded by Boulas.

RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education go into Executive Session at 7:41 PM to discuss a Particular Individual Matter.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Boulas, seconded by Sadler.

RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education adjourn from Executive Session at 8:02 PM and reconvene to the Public Session.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Conklin, seconded by Lynch.

RESOLVED, that the Horseheads Central School District Board of Education adjourn from its Public Session at 8:03 PM.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by:

*Candy L. Maine,*

Candy Maine, District Clerk