

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 18, 2006

7:00 p.m.

Sheridan Preparatory Academy

PRESENT: Edward Brown, President
Teneka Frost, Vice President
Barbara Gaffuri, Secretary
Judy Doesschate
Susan Kushner

Dr. Eva Joseph
Jeffrey Honeywell
Terrance White
Joseph Dragone
Kathleen Wetmore
Linda Jackson-Chalmers

Absent: William Barnette
Jackie Jenkins-Cox

Call to Order:

Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 7:105 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Brown welcomed the members of the audience and thanked them for taking the time to attend the meeting. Mr. Brown called for a moment of silence in memory of Russell Holt, an employee of the district who passed away this week. Mr. Brown noted Mr. Barnette and Ms. Jackie Jenkins-Cox are both out of town and are not present at this meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Joseph advised the performances of "Carousel" at Albany High School last week were recognized with outstanding actor nominations. Dr. Joseph noted the nominations speak for the great performances.

Dr. Joseph advised the district launched its initiative with the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education, bringing the community together with the district with the same focus of quality education and every child succeeding at the same high level.

Dr. Joseph noted the NAACP has announced a program, adopting Philip Livingston Magnet Academy with literacy education initiatives. Dr. Joseph noted the NAACP would be providing tutoring to students through this initiative.

Mrs. Gaffuri clarified a quote in this morning in the newspaper related to the Budget & Educational Planning Committee stating that the committee had been disbanded. Mrs. Gaffuri noted that this is a board appointed committee and the board has not disbanded the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Robert Fullam addressed the board relative to a re-vote on the budget.

ACTION ITEM

Final Vote Canvass

Mr. Brown presented the certified tally of the May 16, 2006 budget vote. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to approve the final vote canvass. Ms. Frost seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Resolution to Approve Borrowing Funds to Pay Tax Certioraris

Dr. Joseph advised the resolution supports the budget based on the need to pay tax certioraris, which have exceeded the budgeted amount to the sum of \$1,900,000. Ms. Wetmore advised part of next year's budget includes an appropriation of \$1.9 million. That is dependent on the district borrowing \$1.9 million this year, which would allow the district to have excess fund balance for appropriation next year. Ms. Wetmore advised the borrowing is necessary based on a budget amount of \$200,000 for tax certiorari claims with an actual figure of \$1.5 million and in current year the figure is approximately \$700,000. Ms. Wetmore noted the budget line item is over expended and it is prudent to borrow the \$1.9 million. Ms. Wetmore advised one of the causes of this deficit is the significant increase in the number of homeowners who protested their assessments this year, and the resulting judgments against the district to repay taxes previously paid. Following additional discussion, Mr. Brown advised this item will be brought forward to the June 6, 2006 meeting for action.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

2006-2007 School Budget

Dr. Joseph presented a comprehensive review of the original budget that was defeated on May 16th and also reviewed a revised budget. Dr. Joseph noted the district has a commitment to sustain the long-term vision of the district and the inherent goals that propel and compel progressive movement and positive achievement in an urban environment; strong early childhood programs, smaller class size, quality teaching force. Dr. Joseph advised the district has not lost any singular focus on any one of those elements. Dr. Joseph noted at the same time the district faces the fiscal challenge of seven – soon to be nine – charter schools. Dr. Joseph noted the original budget presented on May 16th was \$101,972 above the contingency budget figure.

Ms. Wetmore reviewed a listing of non-contingent budget expenditures, including the use of school buildings and grounds by outside agencies, equipment, pupil services, non-instructional employees who are not members of a collective bargaining unit, non-essential maintenance and capital expenditures, except in an emergency. Ms. Wetmore noted these items would have to be cut from the budget should the board decide to go to a contingency budget. Dr. Joseph discussed the ramifications of adopting a contingency budget this evening. Dr. Joseph noted there are mandated reductions that the district would be cutting from the budget, which would free up approximately \$800,000 that could be used for additional programs.

Dr. Joseph advised that her recommendation, taking into consideration conversation she has had with staff and the public, is to reduce the original budget by \$101,972, bringing the figure down to the contingency level at \$169,873,960. Dr. Joseph advised the district identified areas that would have the lowest impact on staff and resulting impact on students such as operational areas

rather than instructional areas. Dr. Joseph noted, while the budget amount would be the same figure, a publicly approved budget would not have the restrictions on spending that a contingency budget presents. Dr. Joseph reviewed a list of reductions that would have the lowest impact including the purchase of maintenance equipment to total the reduction figure of \$101,972. Estimated tax increase would be 7.09%. Dr Joseph advised the district continues to work very hard for charter school relief aid.

Following additional discussion, Ms. Kushner made a motion to adopt the proposed budget put forth by the superintendent. Ms. Frost seconded the motion.

Ms. Kushner suggested the option of reducing the budget a nominal amount below contingency so that it wouldn't affect the budget next year, i.e. \$100 or \$500 to come from the Board of Education budget line item. Following discussion, Ms. Frost offered a friendly amendment that in addition to the superintendent's recommendation, the budget amount would be reduced an additional \$500, which would be taken from the Board of Education budget line item. Ms. Kushner accepted the friendly amendment.

The board voted unanimously (5 – 0) to approve the motion.

A budget figure of \$169,873,460 will be presented to the public on June 20, 2006 for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Wayne Morris addressed the board in favor of the motion.
2. Leo Levy addressed the board relative to the responsibility of the Legislature to address the inequity of present charter school funding.

Budget Re-vote Resolutions

Mr. Brown presented the following resolutions in preparation of a re-vote on June 20, 2006:

ADOPTION OF BUDGET

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Albany City School District adopt the proposed budget for 2006-2007 to be presented June 20, 2006, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amounts stated in such proposed budget in the total amount of \$169,873,460 be and hereby are appropriated as estimated expenditures in the amounts and purposes therein specified, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the total amount of estimated revenue and the amount necessary to be raised by real property tax in addition thereto and to finance the total estimated expenditure shall be and become applicable in the amounts therein stated for the purpose of meeting said appropriations.

BUDGET VOTE

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, pursuant to Education Law Section 2022, the Board of Education of the Albany City School District shall conduct a budget vote for the 2005-2006 school district budget on June 20, 2006 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

BUDGET VOTE DATE AND LOCATIONS

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, pursuant to Education Law Section 2022, the Board of Education of the Albany City School District shall conduct a budget vote for the 2006-2007 district budget on June 20, 2006 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, vote shall occur at the polling places so designated as follows:

Election District "A" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the First Ward with the voting location to be School 18 (formerly Montessori Magnet School), 75 Park Avenue, Albany, New York 12202.

Election District "B" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Second Ward with the voting location to be the Giffen Memorial Elementary School, 274 South Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12202.

Election District "C" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Third Ward with the voting location to be the Sheridan Preparatory Academy, 400 Sheridan Avenue, Albany, New York 12206.

Election District "D" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Fourth Ward, Districts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with the voting location to be the Arbor Hill Elementary School, Arbor Drive, Albany, New York 12210.

Election District "E" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Fourth Ward, Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 12 and the Twelfth Ward, Districts 2, 4 and 9 with the voting location to be North Albany Academy (formerly School No. 20), 570 North Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12204.

Election District "F" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Fifth Ward with the voting location to be the Philip Livingston Magnet Academy, 315 Northern Boulevard, Albany, New York 12210.

Election District "G1" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Sixth Ward with the voting location to be the Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology, Lincoln Park, Albany, New York 12202.

Election District "G2" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Seventh Ward with the voting location to be the St. James School, 50 Summit Avenue, Albany, New York 12209.

Election District "H" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Eighth Ward, Districts 1, 2, 3, 9, 11 and 12 with the voting location to be the Albany School of Humanities, 108 Whitehall Road, Albany, New York 12209.

Election District "I" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Eighth Ward, Districts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10 with the voting location to be the St. Catherine of Siena School, 35 Hurst Avenue, Albany, New York 12208.

Election District "J" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Ninth Ward with the voting location to be the School 19, 369 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, New York 12208.

Election District "K" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Tenth Ward with the voting location to be the Albany High School, 700 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12203.

Election District "L" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Eleventh Ward with the voting location to be the First Lutheran Street, 646 State Street, Albany, New York 12203.

Election District "M1" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Twelfth Ward, Districts 6, 7, 8 and 10 with the voting location to be the Montessori Magnet School (formerly School 26), 65 Tremont Avenue, Albany, New York 12206.

Election District "M2" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Twelfth Ward, Districts 1, 3, 5 and 11 with the voting location to be the Harriett Gibbons High School, 75 Watervliet Avenue, Albany, New York 12206.

Election District "N" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Thirteenth Ward with the voting location to be the Pine Hills Library, 517 Western Avenue, Albany, New York 12210.

Election District "O" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Fourteenth Ward and Fifteenth Ward, Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 with the voting location to be the Eagle Point Elementary School (formerly School 27), 1044 Western Avenue, Albany, New York 12203.

Election District "P" shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the Fifteenth Ward, Districts 4, 6 and 7 with the voting location to be the Teresian House, 200 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12203.

BOARD OF REGISTRATION

WHEREAS, Education Law §2606 requires the Board of Education to establish a Board of Registration for the upcoming budget vote on June 20, 2006,

BE IT RESOLVED that the following school district employees are recommended for appointment to said Board for the June 20, 2006 Budget Vote:

Catherine Cutting, Clerk of the Board
Serafina Hume
Stephanie Primero
Jo-Anne Vogel
Marilyn Westervelt

VOTER REGISTRATION

BE IT RESOLVED that, pursuant to Education Law §2606, the Board of Registration shall accept new registrations on Tuesday, June 14, 2006 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the School Administration Building, Academy Park, Albany, New York.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ALBANY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with the provisions of the Education Law, the Board of Education of the City School District of Albany will hold a public hearing on **June 6, 2006** at 7:00 P.M. at the Albany High School, 700 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York for the purpose of discussion of the expenditure of funds and the budgeting therefore for the school year July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that copies of a detailed statement of the amount of money which will be required for the said school year may be obtained by any taxpayer of the school district as of **June 6, 2006**, except Saturdays and Sundays, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. in each of the public schools within the district and including the School District Administration Building in Academy Park.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that on **Tuesday, June 20, 2006**, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M., votes will be taken on the following issues:

1. **PROPOSITION #1** - To adopt the annual budget of the City School District of Albany for the fiscal year 2006-2007 and to authorize the requisite portion therefore to be raised by taxation on the taxable property of the District.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that votes on the above issues will be taken on **Tuesday, June 20, 2006** between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 P.M. at the following sites:

Election District A – First Ward	School 18 (Previously Montessori Magnet School) 75 Park Avenue
Election District B – Second Ward	Giffen Memorial School, 274 South Pearl Street
Election District C – Third Ward	Sheridan Preparatory Academy 400 Sheridan Avenue
Election District D – Fourth Ward Districts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11	Arbor Hill Elementary School Arbor Drive
Election District E – Fourth Ward Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 12 –Twelfth Ward Districts 2, 4 and 9	North Albany Academy (Previously School 20) 570 North Pearl Street
Election District F – Fifth Ward	Philip Livingston Magnet Academy 315 Northern Boulevard
Election District G1 – Sixth Ward	Thomas O’Brien Academy Lincoln Park
Election District G2 – Seventh Ward	St. James School 50 Summit Avenue
Election District H – Eighth Ward Districts 1, 2, 3, 9, 11 and 12	Albany School of Humanities 108 Whitehall Road
Election District I – Eighth Ward Districts 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10	St. Catherine of Siena School 35 Hurst Avenue
Election District J – Ninth Ward	School No. 19 369 New Scotland Avenue
Election District K – Tenth Ward	Albany High School 700 Washington Avenue
Election District L – Eleventh Ward	First Lutheran Church 646 State Street
Election District M1 – Twelfth Ward Districts 6, 7, 8, and 10	Montessori Magnet School (Previously School 26) 65 Tremont Street
Election District M2 – Twelfth Ward Districts 1, 3, 5 and 11	Harriett Gibbons High School 75 Watervliet Avenue
Election District N – Thirteenth Ward	Pine Hills Library 517 Western Avenue
Election District O – Fourteenth Ward	Eagle Point Elementary School 1044 Western Avenue
Election District O – Fifteenth Ward	Eagle Point Elementary School

Districts 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 1044 Western Avenue
Election District P – Fifteenth Ward Teresian House.
Districts 4, 6 and 7 200 Washington Avenue Ext

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Board of Registration shall meet on **June 2, 2006** from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. at the City School District of Albany Administrative Offices, Academy Park, Albany, New York, for the purpose of preparing a register of the said qualified voters of the school district for Annual Budget Vote, at which time any person shall be entitled to have his/her name placed upon such register, provided that at such meeting of the Board of Registration he/she is known or proven to the satisfaction of such Board of Registration to be then or thereafter entitled to vote at said Annual Vote.

Additionally, any person otherwise entitled to vote at said Annual Vote may register at the Office of the District Clerk at the District Administration Office, Academy Park, Elk Street, Albany, New York on any school day between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. through **June 14, 2006**.

The register of the qualified voters of said School District shall be used by said Board of Registration as the basis for said Annual Vote to be held on **June 20, 2006**. In addition, any person otherwise qualified to vote who is registered with the Board of Elections of Albany County under the provisions of the Election Law, shall be entitled to vote at said Annual vote without further registration.

Immediately upon its completion, said register will be filed in the Office of the District Clerk and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the District no later than **June 13, 2006** to the day of the vote **June 20, 2006**, on any business day between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that applications for absentee ballots may be applied for at the Office of the District Clerk on any business day between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. If the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, the completed application must be received by the Clerk of the District no later than seven (7) days before the vote, **June 13, 2006**. If the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter, the completed application must be received by the District Clerk no later than 4:00 P.M. on **June 19, 2006**. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the Clerk of the District not later than 5:00 P.M. on **June 20, 2006**.

A list of all persons whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available in the office of the District Clerk on each of the five days prior to the day of the vote and on **June 20, 2006**, between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. except Saturdays and Sundays.

The boundaries of the school election districts are as follows:

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "A" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **FIRST WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "B" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **SECOND WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "C" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **THIRD WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "D" - shall be coterminous with Election Districts 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the **FOURTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "E" - shall be coterminous with Election Districts **1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 12** of the **FOURTH WARD** and Election Districts **2, 4 and 9** of the **TWELFTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "F" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **FIFTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "G1" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **SIXTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "G2" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **SEVENTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "H" - shall be coterminous with Election Districts **1, 2, 3, 9, 11 and 12** of the **EIGHTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "I" - shall be coterminous with Election Districts **4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10** of the **EIGHTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "J" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **NINTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "K" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **TENTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "L" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **ELEVENTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "M1" - shall be coterminous with Election Districts **6, 7, 8 and 10** of the **TWELFTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "M1" - shall be coterminous with Election Districts **1, 3, 5 and 11** of the **TWELFTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "N" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **THIRTEENTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "O" - shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the **FOURTEENTH WARD** and Election Districts **1, 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9** of the **FIFTEENTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

SCHOOL ELECTION DISTRICT "P" - shall be coterminous with Election Districts **4, 6 and 7** of the **FIFTEENTH WARD** of the City of Albany.

Only qualified voters who are duly registered will be permitted to vote.

Catherine Cutting
District Clerk

June 5, 2006
June 13, 2006

CAST AND CANVASS AFFIDAVIT BALLOTS OF JUNE 20, 2006 VOTE

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that, the Board of Education of the Albany City School District hereby appoints Catherine Cutting and Jo-Anne Vogel to cast and canvass the affidavit ballots from the June 20, 2006 budget vote in accordance with the requirements of Education Law Section 2019-a.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the appointed committee shall set a time and place for the canvass in accordance with the requirements of Education Law Section 2019-a.

Ms. Frost made a motion to approve the resolutions as presented. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the motion.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Ms. Doesschate advised she attended a fundraiser for Two Together held at Giffen Elementary School. Ms. Doesschate advised variety of foods were part of the fundraiser. Ms. Doesschate advised in attendance was Mr. Fleming, a volunteer, the former Dean of Education at SUNY Albany. Ms. Doesschate this is one example of the quality of people who are making a commitment to students. Ms. Doesschate encouraged people to support this program and similar programs throughout the district.

Adjournment

Ms. Frost made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Catherine L. Cutting
Clerk of the Board