



PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 13, 2010

7:00 p.m.

Albany High School

PRESENT: Dan Egan, President
Judy Doesschate, Vice President
Rose Brandon, Secretary
Barbara Gaffuri
Edith Leet
Melissa Mackey
Wayne Morris
Dr. Raymond Colucciello
Tresa Diggs
Bill Hogan
Linda Jackson-Chalmers
Linda Rudnick

ABSENT: None

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Members of the audience were welcomed and thanked for taking the time to attend the meeting.
- The Mission Statement was read.

Mr. Egan asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include an action item to approve a resolution to accept a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City School District of Albany and the Albany Public School Administrator's Association. Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion to amend the agenda. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion.

Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM

Approval of Resolution to Accept MOA

The following resolution was presented for approval.

Approval of Memorandum of Agreement

Albany Public School Administrator's Association

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Memorandum of Agreement between the City School District of Albany and the Albany Public School Administrator's Association (APSAA), dated March 31, 2010 is hereby approved by the Board of Education.

Ms. Doesschate made a motion to approve the resolution. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion.

The Board voted 6 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention. Mr. Morris abstained.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Nadine Kozer addressed the Board regarding the elimination of the School Nurse Teacher position in the District. These teachers address important issues such as sexuality, puberty sexual abuse prevention and AIDS. School Nurse Teachers are vital not only to our children, but to our society.
2. Jan Parmalee addressed the Board regarding the possibility of eliminating Guidance Counselors from the High School. This would have an adverse effect on addressing the restructuring of Albany High School, with all the anticipated changes related to student schedules.
3. Liz Gialanella addressed the Board regarding the Guidance Counselors. Guidance Counselors serve a vital role in connecting staff, teachers and students.
4. Nolene Smith addressed the Board regarding the possibility of cutting modified sports. If middle school sports are cut, this will affect the high school sports program. Sports are what keep some kids in high school.
5. Robert Fullem addressed the Board regarding the budget and the need to make devastating cuts. Students who live in poverty need supports to guide them through high school. An important direct service for these students is the Guidance Counselors.
6. Marlon Anderson addressed the Board regarding the District having a product to present to parents to keep students in Albany.
7. Kenyette Currie addressed the Board regarding the importance of the School Nurse Teachers in the District, particularly for those children who do not have a parent to teach them about subjects as puberty and sexuality.

2010-2011 BUDGET PRESENTATION & BOARD DISCUSSION

Dr. Colucciello thanked the community in discussing their concerns and comments regarding the program the District provides for their children. He also extended his gratitude to the members of the Board, who have worked tirelessly through this budget process, asking the questions, the answers to which have been helpful in coming to the hard decisions necessary in these very difficult times. Draft #4 includes concessions made by APSAA and Tier I reductions. With the closing of New Covenant and other budget reductions included in draft #4 the increase in tax levy stands at 3.87%. An additional \$1 million in budget reductions would be necessary in order to get the projected tax increase of 2.87%. There is still a possibility of additional relief from union concessions and/or State-Aid restorations which could reduce the tax burden.

Mr. Hogan reviewed the tax levy indicating a zero-increase budget at a 4.84% tax levy, a contingent budget at 3.41% and the draft #4 budget at 3.87%. The contingent budget figure is (\$202,371,806) with a tax levy of 3.41% is \$469,144 less than the draft #4 budget of \$202,840,950 with a tax levy of 3.87%. There is a possibility that the contingent budget will change if the assumptions on bond payments are modified. Mr. Hogan reviewed additional budget reductions that were included in draft #4, noting that Tier II proposed reductions were not included draft #4. A review of the use of reserves was also presented. If additional funds are forthcoming, through union concessions or State-Aid restorations, the funds can be used to further reduce the tax levy, reduce dependence on reserves and fund balance. Regular updates regarding any additional funding will be posted on the District website.

Dr. Colucciello concluded the presentation with a review of academic offerings, advising the community that the District has faced many hard decisions during this very difficult year. The 2010-2011 budget calls for doing more with less financial resources while providing student achievement and the District will continue to offer rich academic programming to all levels of students.

- If the budget is adopted this evening and money comes in before May 18th, what changes can be made to the budget?

The budget adopted by the Board will be the figure presented on May 18th. If new money comes in prior to the vote, the first priority would be to reduce the tax levy and reduce dependence on the fund balance and reserves. The tax rate is not established until August.

- If the budget is voted down on May 18th, does the District go immediately to a contingent budget?

The Board has one more opportunity to present a revised budget to the voters before going to a contingent budget. Contingent budget constricts the District considerably in terms of options related to how funds can be spent.

- If the District receives \$6 million dollars can restorations be made?

Once the voters have approved a budget amount, the District is not permitted to spend more than the figure approved by the voters. Additional funds can be used to reduce the tax levy and dependence on the fund balance and reserves.

- If the District receives an additional \$1 million through union concessions and/or State-Aid the tax levy could be reduced to 2.84%?

That is correct.

- As the District faces approximately \$4 million in salary increases, the budget has been reduced by \$1 million from last year. That is significant.

- I want to be sure that the staff recommendation would be to reduce the tax levy should additional funds become available.

That will be the first priority.

- Thank you to Dr. Colucciello and the members of the cabinet. I am most appreciative for the guidance provided through this process and the diligent work in responding to the requests for additional information made by board members. I hope that the community understands the dire straights the District is in this year. We are in hopes of additional funding and that we can get to the original goal. You have my humble thanks.

- I also want to thank staff. People have been very supportive of the programs the District offers to students and the difficulty the District faces in developing this budget. The District was forced to make difficult decisions. Thank you to the Superintendent for your guidance. This budget is about efficiencies, rather than changing real programming.

The District needs to be conscious of the fact that Charter School fund will be reduced next year with the closing of New Covenant. I also agree that the reduction of the tax levy as the first priority if additional funding is made available. With transitions at the High School, I look to the possibility of restoring one guidance counselor position without increasing the tax rate.

- Thank you to fellow board members, the Superintendent and the entire leadership team, the cabinet and the administrators for freezing their pay this year. This is a terrific leadership step. This is a year for sacrifice for the District. President Eisenhower stated that people will sacrifice anything, they will put up with any hardship as long as they know that everybody is sharing the burden. That everyone is sacrificing. As soon as people think that the burdens are unfairly shared, then even the smallest sacrifice becomes a hardship, an emotional burden and a moral drain. I would encourage the District to continue to look at the supply line.

ACTION ITEM

Mr. Egan presented the following resolution for action.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Albany City School District adopt the proposed budget for 2010-2011 to be presented May 18, 2010, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amounts stated in such proposed budget in the total amount of \$202,840,950 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.

Mrs. Gaffuri made a motion for approval. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate made a motion to amend the motion to include in the resolution, after presented, "to the voters of the City of Albany to be voted on, on May 18, 2010". Mrs. Gaffuri accepted the amendment.

The Board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion as amended.

Motion passed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Morris made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Cutting