



City School District of Albany
May 6, 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

BUDGET HEARING

Mr. Hogan gave a comprehensive review of the 2010-2011 school budget that will be presented to voters on May 18, 2010 for approval. Mr. Hogan advised the budget calls for a total spending figure of \$202,840,950 that represents a budget to budget reduction of \$1million, with a tax levy of 3.87%. The superintendent, cabinet members, principals, assistant principals, directors, assistant directors and supervisors have agreed to a voluntary wage freeze. A contingent budget would require \$469,000 of additional cuts and reduce the tax increase by .46%. The use of fund balance and reserves and planned staff reductions are necessary to keep the tax levy as low as possible. A total of 99 positions will be eliminated from this budget. A review of program changes and savings in other areas were presented. Despite a budget-to-budget reduction of \$1 million, programs and services to students have been maintained with a full complement of student support services, a comprehensive high school complemented by a variety of offerings and pathways to graduation and alternative education opportunities.

Mr. Hogan concluded the presentation with information related to the options the district would have if the budget is voted down and the implications of a contingency budget. Finally, information was provided regarding the vote in terms of polling locations, the proposition that would be on the ballot and budget presentations that are scheduled to take place prior to May 18th.

BOARD MEETING

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 the following resolutions under Routine Consent:

Resolution to Approve Public Hearing for Henry Johnson

Charter School Charter Extension – May 20, 2010 6:00 p.m.

Resolution to Approve Inspectors

Approval of the following Memorandums of Agreements

APSTAA – School Nurse Teachers

APSTAA – CanaRx Services, Inc.

APSUE – CanaRx Services, Inc.

APSAA – CanaRx Services, Inc.

Mr. Egan made a motion to amend the agenda. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Ms. Mackey made a motion to approve the resolutions as presented. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Colucciello advised the final phase of the budget presentation is to bring forth budget information to the community. A schedule of the representations was presented for the public. Those interested in having a presentations brought to their group please see the Clerk of the Board following the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Nancy Viggiani, President of APSUE addressed the board regarding APSUE members and the fact that they have been working without a contract for two years. Ms. Viggiani gave a brief review of the support staff throughout the district and their contribution to the District.
2. Sara Foster addressed the board regarding the decision to reduce the school day by one period and the effect this will have on student achievement. Some students may not have time in four years to complete all their course requirements.
3. George Nicholas addressed the board regarding the Home School Coordinator at Hackett Middle School. This employee is an integral part of the school. This would be a terrible mistake.
4. Tyler French addressed the board regarding the elimination of the Home School Coordinator at Hackett Middle School. The intangible value of this employee is unequalled.
5. David Farison addressed the board regarding the proposed change in the school schedule at Albany High School. This will present a hardship for students as they complete their course requirements for graduation, with little opportunity for elective courses.

6. Mary Fitzsimmons addressed the board regarding the decision that students are no longer permitted to eat their lunch outside in the courtyard.

7. Robin Williams addressed the board regarding his application for the football coaching position at Albany High. Mr. Williams noted his experience made him the best person for the job.

8. Yvette Alfonso addressed the board regarding the lack of transparency in the Pre-K lottery and the lack of information regarding Pre-K enrollment. Ms. Alfonso suggested that in the future, the District offer evening hours for registration.

FACILITIES PROJECT REPORT

Approval of Change Orders

Change orders for the following were presented for approval:

Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology

Giffen Memorial Elementary School

Arbor Hill Elementary School

Ms. Mackey made a motion for approval. Mrs. Brandon seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Contract Award

A resolution to approve a contract with Rand Window Fashions, LLC for window shades at Arbor Hill Elementary School was presented for approval. Ms. Mackey made a motion for approval. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

Site work at Arbor Hill Elementary School

Mr. McMordie of Armlin, Damon & McMordie spoke about the sidewalks and grounds around the building that have been damaged by tree roots lifting the sidewalks. Mr. McMordie indicated the issues with photos. Members of the Facility Subcommittee conducted a site visit to the location. Safety issues have been identified. The plan is to remove sidewalks that are not necessary around the building reducing the need for maintenance and replacing sidewalks that are damaged. Additionally, the play area will be renovated to include basketball courts. Lighting will also be replaced. Viable trees will be saved and possibly relocated. Final costs are estimated to be \$300,000 to \$400,000 based on the current design. Mr. McMordie advised that there are program wide savings available from the facilities projects that have been completed. With Board approval the project will go out for bid, the contract award will be brought forward at the June 3, 2010 meeting. The Board of Education is being asked to approve to proceed with the proposed site work plan, utilizing program-wide cost savings available to fund the proposed scope of work.

Following discussion Ms. Doesschate made a motion to authorize the project manager to proceed with these renovations. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

ROUTINE CONSENT

Routine Consent Items were presented as follow: Proceedings of Meetings (March 30, 2010, March 31, 2010, April 13, 2010 and April 15, 2010; Appointments (Appointments, Civil Service, Regular Substitutes, Other Appointments Revised, Miscellaneous); Leaves of Absence; Retirements/Resignations; Attendance at Conferences; Health Services Contract; (Averill Park Central School District, Bethlehem Central School District, Schenectady City School District); Field Trips; Treasurer's Report; Budget Transfers under \$10,000; Budget Transfers over \$10,000; Revenue Status Report – 03/31/10; Appropriation Status Report – 03/31/10; Real Property Tax Adjustments; Central Treasurer's Report for Extra Classroom Activity Fund; Authorization to Enter Into Contracts; Resolutions (Approve Public Hearing for Henry Johnson Charter Extension; Appoint Inspectors, Approval of Memorandums of Agreements APSTAA – School Nurse Teachers; APSTAA, APSUE and ASPAA Cana Rx Services, Inc. and Appointment of Realtor for PLMA); Committee on Special Education, Subcommittee on Special Education and Committee on Pre-School Special Education. Ms. Mackey mad a motion to approve Routine Consent. Mrs. Gaffuri seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate asked that the three CanaRx Agreements with the bargaining units and the proceedings of March 31, 2010 be set aside.

The board voted unanimously (7-0) to approve the motion absent those items set aside.

Motion passed.

Mr. Egan introduced Mr. Jonathan McClement as Varsity Head Football Coach this evening.

Ms. Mackey made a motion to approve the CanaRx Memoranda of agreements. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate advised she would be abstaining on the CanaRx agreements for a potential conflict.

The board voted (6-0-1) to approve the motion. Ms. Doesschate abstained.

Motion passed.

Ms. Mackey made a motion to approve the proceedings of March 31, 2010, Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Ms. Doesschate recommended that the proceeding be revised to reflect that prior to the motion made by Ms. Leet, Ms. Doesschate made a motion to remove one school nurse teacher from the listing of Tier I cuts and that the motion did not receive a second. Changes will be made to the proceedings.

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

Motion passed.

ACTION

Ms. Jackson-Chalmers presented Policy #1500 Use of Facilities for approval. Ms. Leet made a motion for approval. Ms. Mackey seconded the motion.

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

Motion passed.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Egan presented the following policies for discussion:

#2000 Board Operational Goals	#2120 School Board Elections
#2100 School Board Legal Status	#2120.1 School Board Candidates
#2110.1 School Board Access to Information and Reports	#2130 Board Member Resignation
#2111.1 Board Member School Visits	#2210 Board Organizational Meeting

Ms. Jackson-Chalmers advised that the Policy Committee is currently reviewing the 2000 series of policies. Ms. Jackson-Chalmers asked if the board would prefer to review these policies one at a time. Ms. Doesschate suggested that similar to how the facilities report is presented, the policies could be reviewed in the same way. These policies will be brought forward for action at the next meeting.

- When will the Code of Conduct be brought to the board for review?

This policy will be reviewed by the stakeholders and presented to the board for review at the June 17, 2010 meeting, with approval scheduled for July 1.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Mackey advised she attended the NYSSBA Law Conference on April 20th. There were three topics, Negotiating Superintendent Contracts, Cost Savings through BOCES, and School Consolidation. NYSSBA has created a new publication relative to Superintendent Contract, when it available it will be forwarded to the District.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Mr. Egan advised the Albany Fund for Education met earlier this week. The gala this year is scheduled for October 22, 2010. This is a major fund raiser for the District. Mr. Egan also noted the group is seeing donations of items that will be auctioned off as part of the fund raising. The location is still to be determined.

Capital District Physician's Health Plan has donated \$6,000, \$2,000 to Albany Fund for Education, \$2,000 for the Hall of Fame and \$2,000 for the Golf Tournament on October 2nd at Capital Hills. This was a joint effort including a number of staff and community members. The Hall of Fame is the following weekend.

Ms. Mackey advised Debora Chard has submitted a proposal for Hackett Middle School after-school programs. Ms. Mackey suggested this be brought to the board for discussion about the middle school and how some of these programs could be expanded in the elementary schools. There were seven members in favor of this item on a round table agenda. Dr. Colucciello suggested inviting into the meeting, Myers Middle School and North Albany Academy.

Ms. Mackey asked that since the board has decided not to go forward with the consultants for the annual review of the Strategic Plan and there is no longer an Education Subcommittee, perhaps the board would consider the possibility of reinstating an Education Subcommittee as a way to bring forward things do not fall into policy or facilities or audit, questions about curriculum, etc. The first that could be considered is the work on is the annual review of the Strategic Plan, particular around the middle school and high school. There were seven members in support of this.

Ms. Mackey asked for a unique count of students attending more than one after school program through the use of student ID numbers periodically in order to determine how many students are being served by after school programs, taking into account those students who attend more than one activity to get a sense of exactly how many kids are being served. There were seven board members in support of this item.

Ms. Leet advised the focus churches have started their annual gathering supplies for schools for their annual drive. Requests have gone to the schools to identify the needed items.

Mrs. Brandon noted on Wednesday, June 16th, the Wilborn Temple Youth Department in collaboration with the District will host a celebration and dinner to showcase students. This will be a major celebration of our students in the community. A special request was made to the PTA to spread the word to the community. More information will be forthcoming. Please save the date. **(This has since been placed on hold.)**

Mrs. Gaffuri asked if the board could hear a presentation on the homeless population in terms of how these students are doing academically and the supports offered to this population. There were seven members interested in this item.

Ms. Doesschate asked for direction relative to an agenda item on the Attendance Zone work group. Dr. Colucciello noted this will be presented as an agenda item following testing. Ms. Leet advised she is interested in this committee and also how people are chosen to serve on committees.

Dr. Colucciello suggested that the board might want to consider a board workshop to look at board committees, etc. for next year. This might be a summer workshop. Ms. Mackey requested a discussion relative to reinstating the Education Committee that could look at the annual review of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Egan suggested the formation of a Legislative Action Committee to work on a legislative agenda for next year and act as lobbyists, working in conjunction with other organizations such as NYSSBA. There were seven members interested in this item.

Mr. Egan asked that board members clear calendars for a workshop on negotiations. Dates will be forwarded to board members.

The Albany Art Room is presenting a donation to the district of a week's profit.

Ms. Mackey acknowledged the fantastic job of the Albany High School Drama Club and staff with the production of "Into the Woods" last weekend.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Mackey made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Doesschate seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.