

Call to Order at 6:05 PM

Pledge of Allegiance was done by Mr. Sutton, Board President.

Emergency Exit Review was done by Mr. Sutton, Board President.

Board Members Present were Mr. R. Ferrannini, Mrs. L. Gormley, Mr. J. Helft, Mr. D. Skott, Mrs. B. Stacy and Mr. D. Sutton. Also present was Ms. P. Cottrell, District Clerk, Mr. K. Facin, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. P. Hatfield, School Business Admin, Mrs. K. Philpott, Director of Spec Ed, Mr. P. Dailey, K-6 Principal and Mrs. S. Vadney, 7-12 Principal. Board Member Absent was Mr. D. Wilwol.

Budget Presentation:

1. **Enrollment and Class Size Review:**

- Mr. Dailey reviewed the elementary class size as it fluctuates as people move in and out of the district. Reading practices where reading teachers move into the classroom to instruct students in grades K-2 (push-in) and where students leave their classroom and go to their reading teacher (pull-out) was also reviewed.
- Mrs. Philpott reviewed the special education practices which limit the number of students allowed in each classroom. She explained the practice of co-teaching (regular education and special education teachers in same classroom all day) and how it helps all students; special education and regular education students.
- Mr. Facin stated that special education students are readily accepted by regular education students in all of our classrooms.
- Mrs. Vadney reviewed the high school class size. In the high school, the goal is to have 20 students or fewer in each class. Changing the lunch schedule allows less interruption in the hallways. Some teachers are teaching six periods verses 5 periods and this allows for smaller class sizes. We had 49% in grades 5-12 that received honor roll distinction.

2. **BOCES Services:**

- A review of the services that will be provided through the BOCES services. The most expensive service that is purchased is providing outside placement for special education students. We make allowances in the budget for students transferring in that may need high cost outside placement services.

3. **Athletics:**

- The number of student participants in each sport and sport season was reviewed. In both the fall and winter sports, we had 9 out of 10 New York State Scholar Athlete teams.
- Mr. Sutton asked about other schools dropping modified sports and Mr. Facin answered that he does not feel that this will happen.
- Mr. Helft asked about having sports funded through outside clubs and not through the budget, as sports costs a lot of money. Mr. Facin stated that funding sports through clubs as verses in the budget, you would not have any drug and alcohol policy, academic policy, uncertified coaches, etc. It just would not be wise or safe for our students both academically and physically.

4. **Technology:**

- The district maximizes its' technology money as allotted through state aid.
- Mr. Facin stated that technology does not replace instruction, it enhances it.

Budget Discussion:

- Retirement Incentive, seven were received, 3 teachers and 4 support staff
- Mr. Facin asked the board, how low would you like to see the tax levy to and majority of the Board agreed that 3% or lower would be acceptable.
- Mr. Facin reminded the board that the administration froze their salaries and reduced their grant administration stipends. Continuing with the current administration structure will maintain order and discipline which will enable the focus to remain on academic results.
- Mrs. Gormley agrees, prior to this administration team, we did not have the right team.
- Proposed tax levy increase at the February 17th meeting was 8.7%, now it is down to 4.5%, board would like it to be lower, 3% or less.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Mr. Ferrannini seconded by Mrs. Gormley to Adjourn the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Vote: 6 ayes 0 noes; motion carried.