

**Board of Education
OWEN D. YOUNG CENTRAL SCHOOL
April 5, 2010**

Special Meeting - School Auditorium

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debra Bronner, Cathy Mayton-Collins, Matthew Jacoby and Mark Peters

OTHERS PRESENT: Virginia Keegan, Superintendent, Jodie Rodriguez, Business Manager, Linda Bambara, District Clerk and 14 guests

President Bronner called the board meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

In a motion by Vice President Jacoby, second by Trustee Peters the meeting agenda was amended to add an Executive Session after Public Participation regarding personnel discussions and discussions beyond the assistant principal position and the addition of discussion of board vacancy under President's Reports. The meeting agenda was approved with the above-referenced additions.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Andreev asked whether the board would be discussing the budget at tonight's meeting and President Bronner informed the community that budget discussions would be taking place.

In a motion by Vice President Jacoby, second by Trustee Peters the board entered into Executive Session at 7:09 p.m. for the purpose of personnel discussions and discussions beyond the assistant principal position.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

In a motion by Trustee Peters, second by Vice President Jacoby the board exited the Executive Session at 7:33 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

A. 2010-11 Budget Review - Superintendent Keegan advised that she and Mrs. Jodie Rodriguez are still working on the budget and a review of the same is described below:

Possible unofficial cuts:

1. Half-time music teacher - cut \$18,000
2. Overtime-Operations reduce by \$2,000
3. Fuel - reduce by \$15,000
4. Contractual Expense - reduce by \$2,000

5. Interscholastic Athletics - reduce by \$3,000
6. HCCC program

Superintendent Keegan advised that if the HCCC program were to be cut, then the school would want to keep the two full-time teaching positions in order to teach the on-line and College Now classes.

Vice President Jacoby said that the school won't be receiving as much state aid next year and looking at somewhere around a \$90,000.00 decrease of the same which would institute a 20% increase in taxes for the 2011-2012 fiscal school year.

Superintendent Keegan said she will be speaking to Mark Vivaqua of BOCES to see if there are funds/monies available to conduct a merger study.

Trustee Mayton-Collins said that maybe the district could institute a \$10,000.00 early teacher retirement incentive and that we need to look at regionalization of services with other districts. Vice President Jacoby said the school is running out of time and money. A discussion ensued concerning on-line courses and President Bronner commented that a bell schedule was not required for Angel as a college prep course that students may utilize this class during their free time (ie: study halls).

Vice President Jacoby said the school district needs to find some common ground and be prepared in case the state steps in and automatically makes decisions for the district and stated that a merger study needs to be conducted so we are ready in case the state does in fact step in. Vice President Jacoby said we need to make researching every avenue, including but not limited to, a merger and/or regionalization a priority after the budget is in place. Vice President Jacoby feels that the state is already unofficially beginning a merger by not giving out the money owed and feels that the district needs to commence some long term planning.

Trustee Mayton-Collins asked that the term "merger" not be used. She said that we need to look at our neighboring schools relative to any and all studies to be conducted.

President Bronner believes that no state aid will be given to any districts under a 2,500 student enrollment and believes that this will happen within five years.

A discussion regarding salaries thereafter commenced.

PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

- A. Discussion relative to the board vacancy seat of Trustee Kowall.

Trustee Peters asked that the board appoint someone from the community who is well-rounded for the one year appointment.

Vice President Jacoby commented that the board needs someone with experience and that the position should be advertised in the hopes that we obtain someone who was previous board member with meeting process and understanding of the issues at hand and perhaps someone in the community with budget experience.

President Bronner directed Superintendent Keegan to contact the school's legal counsel regarding the election post for the completion of Trustee Kowall's term.

Trustee Mayton-Collins is an advocate to have the seat on the ballot for vote in the May election. Trustee Mayton-Collins also asked that Superintendent Keegan put her findings and information in an email after her discussions with legal counsel.

DISCUSSION TIME

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mrs. DeAnne Junkhind said the school experienced a budget crisis like the present one in the 80's and advised that we bused students to Richfield Springs for math classes and thereafter the teacher, Mr. McMillan, ended up coming to ODY to teach music with the math teaching experience.

Ms. Sharon Galusah asked if one full time math teacher would be able to teach the College Now courses and if so, what would the salary be.

Mr. Al Miller asked the board for the following information:

- cost per student
- what is the debt service
- what is the total tax base
- what is the 5 year project rate
- what is the break even point

Mr. Miller said the school cannot go forward without out these answers and he said we need to be fair to the taxpayers. He also asked whether the board was given quarterly profit and loss statements and was advised that the same were received quarterly.

Mr. James Kelly said if the community members do not have jobs, they cannot pay their taxes.

Ms. Melissa Manikas asked if the open seat for Trustee Kowall could be put to a public vote. Additonally, Ms. Manikas asked if there was state aid to assist teachers who teach CSE programs and President Bronner advised that she would look into in-house aid further.

Ms. Sharon Galusha asked if the assistant principal position could be filled with a special education teacher and Vice President Jacoby informed that Keara Battisti, the Assistant Principal, did have special education experience.

Superintendent Keegan advised that there are currently 239 student enrolled in ODY and that our students do fairly well in state testing. She further advised that the approximately cost per student is \$17,000 - \$20,000 per year. This figure varies due to special education status etc. Superintendent Keegan also advises that our state aid rate is at a higher rate due to the fact that our area is classified as a "poverty rate school".

Ms. Ginny Wolfe said that a merger study needs to be conducted and that the board cannot ask the public to pay any additional taxes.

Ms. Jackie Snyder inquired as to any contract decreases and was also informed by President Bronner that there were none at the present time. Mrs. Snyder asked if health insurance was covered in the contract and President Bronner advised that it in fact was.

BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Peters advised that the board needed to make serious decisions by tomorrow.

Trustee Mayton-Collins advised that any comments about transportation relative to HCCC isn't an issue inasmuch as buses run to Herkimer daily. Trustee Mayton-Collins further advised that the district's savings account is just under \$1,000,000. and that we need to look at resources and stated that Mrs. Junkhind's comments concerning Mr. McMillan are correct, he is a great resource. Trustee Mayton-Collins also commented that ODY holds their own in Central New York relative to test ranking.

President Bronner said that we need to look at how services can be provided out of the classroom.

In a motion by Vice President Jacoby, second by Trustee Mayton-Collins, the meeting of April 5, 2010 adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bambara, District Clerk