

Board of Education
OWEN D. YOUNG CENTRAL SCHOOL
March 31, 2010

Special Meeting - School Auditorium

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Virginia Keegan, Superintendent, Keara Battisti, Assistant
Principal, Jodie Rodriguez, Business Manager, Linda Bambara,
District Clerk and 5 guests

At 7:00 p.m. Trustee Kowall handed in his letter of resignation to Linda Bambara, the Board Clerk, thereby resigning immediately from the ODY School Board and thereafter left the board table.

Vice President Jacoby called the board meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

In a motion by Trustee Mayton-Collins, second by Trustee Peters the meeting agenda was amended to add under Action Items - Amend the Legal Notice to include Trustee Kowall's board seat as part of the upcoming May election. The meeting agenda was approved with the above-referenced addition.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

President Debra Bronner arrived at the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

A. 2010-11 Budget Review - Superintendent Keegan opened the budget discussion to Business Manager, Jodie Rodriguez, who provided the board with a budget estimate for the 2010-2011 school year. This handout included a general summary of each and every expense, a budget appropriations summary, estimated budget revenues and cost to continue analysis. Also handed out by Jodie Rodriguez were seven budget options. After a lengthy discussion amongst the board members relative to the options, the members of the board gave their opinion as to where they would like the budget to come in at this year and the opinions are as such: President Bronner would like a zero increase in the school taxes, Trustee Mayton-Collins would like to see a one percent increase at the most, but would also like to try and maintain a zero increase, and Trustee Jacoby would be willing to see up to a two percent increase if it would mean saving jobs and

programs for the school district. President Bronner also advised that she would not like to see the fund balance touched in the event of an economic catastrophe in the future and the dire need for the same. She informed the board that the NYS Governor may withhold state aid up until June and even then, it is not a guarantee that the same will be received. Jodie Rodriguez also pointed out that there will be a 6 ½ % increase in health insurance to the school in the new budget which is unavoidable.

The board discussed the items described below as possible cuts in the budget:

1. Board of Education - Item A1010.4 - Contractual Expense of \$8,500.00 to \$6,500.00 (savings: \$2,000.00);
2. Operations - Item A1620.16 - Overtime-Operations of \$8,000.00 to \$6,000.00 (savings: \$2,000.00);
3. Maintenance - Item A1621.4 - Contractual (Maint/Grounds) of \$20,000.00 to \$18,000.00 (savings: \$2,000.00);
4. Operations - Item A1620.4 - Fuel Oil Service of \$79,000.00 to \$64,000.00 (savings: \$15,000.00); and
5. Cont. Expense - Item A2855.4 - Interscholastic Athletics of \$27,150.00 to \$24,150.00 (savings: \$3,000.00).

Further discussions ensued relative to possible personnel positions and the following was the board's consensus:

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| 1. Discontinue half-time music teacher (\$18,000.00) | Ayes: 3 | Nays: 1 |
| 2. Eliminate grant writer salary (\$13,500.00) | Ayes: 2 | Nays: 2 |
| 3. Reduce one science position to 60% (\$16,921.87) | Ayes: 2 | Nays: 2 |
| 4. Eliminate HCCC program (\$20,000.00) | Ayes: 3 | Nays: 1 |
| 5. Eliminate one social studies position (\$45,577.00) | Ayes: 1 | Nays: 3 |
| 6. Make a full time math teacher to a half-time position | Ayes: 4 | Nays: 0 |
| 7. Eliminate the Assistant Principal position (\$85,415.00) | Ayes: 2 | Nays: 2 |

ACTION ITEMS

In a motion by Trustee Mayton-Collins, second by President Bronner, the board would amend the Annual Legal Notice to include Trustee Thomas Kowall's board seat on the ballot for the upcoming May election.

Ayes: 2 Nays: 2

In a motion by Vice President Jacoby, second by Trustee Peters, the board would post the Annual Legal Notice as provided to the board at tonight's meeting.

Ayes: 2 Nays: 2

DISCUSSION TIME

President Bronner gave notice to the board that Herkimer BOCES has a board seat available in the 2010 May election. Additionally, President Bonner advised the board of the BOCES budget meeting to be held tomorrow evening, April 1, 2010.

Vice President Jacoby would like an exit poll to be put in place at the upcoming May election relative to a possible school merger.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Sharon Galusha inquired as to the Learning Center lease status. Also, Ms. Galusha inquired as to whether the person(s) fulfilling the assistant principal's duties would have to have a CSE certification with a Special Educational background. Further Ms. Galusha disagrees with the decision to cut the half-time music position. Additionally, Ms. Galusha would like the status of the technical position and was advised by Superintendent Keegan that ODY is buying into the BOCES services relative thereto. Lastly, Ms. Galusha advised that it would be a bad decision not allowing the community to vote on Trustee Kowall's board seat.

Ms. Jackie Snyder thanked the board for their healthy discussions this evening. Ms. Snyder asked that the board look into the BOCES program relative to student enrollment and costs and then thereafter the students quitting their studies. She further voiced her opinion that the board needs to look at all programs across the board and how the tuition is paid for not, only for the HCCC program. Ms. Snyder also mentioned the SUNY P-16 program availability and that the school needs to be creative with on-line classes such as Angel. She commented that these type of classes are crucial and that innovative thinking will move the school forward.

Mr. Thomas Kowall apologized for his timing relative to his resignation and feels that the community needs a voice in filling his position. Also, Mr. Kowall advised that the district has to look to the future for the school's success.

Mr. Donald Monk asked for clarification relative to the fund balance. Aso, Mr. Monk advised that the board cannot cut the budget so close that there is no cushion to fall back on. Mr. Monk also voiced his opinion that cutting teaching positions is not a good idea and would in no way benefit the children at ODY.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Trustee Mayton-Collins thanked Trustee Kowall for his services to the board and hoped that Trustee Kowall's wishes are respected inasmuch as his seat should be fulfilled by public vote.

Trustee Jacoby thanked the board and community for their feedback and advised that none of tonight's decisions are easy. Trustee Jacoby informed the board that the money just isn't there and won't just automatically appear and that other options may have to be considered.

President Bronner advised that the board must look at the state's requirements relative to a merger, etc. That a merger with Cherry-Valley and Richfield Springs may be too small of a merge.

In a motion by Vice President Jacoby, second by Trustee Mayton-Collins, the meeting of March

31, 2010 adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Bambara, District Clerk