

Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, September 24, 2019

Generated by Rhonda Schaefer, District Clerk

Members present

Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM

1. Meeting Called to Order

Action, Procedural: A. Call to Order

Procedural: B. Account for Absences

2. Approval of Agenda

Action: A. Approve Tonight's Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by Gary Stottler.

Motion Approved

Yea: Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

3. Approval of Consensus Agenda Items

Action (Consent): A. MOTION for Approval of Consensus Agenda Items

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Larry Young, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent), Minutes: B. Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Larry Young, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent): C. Personnel Appointments

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Larry Young, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

Action (Consent): D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Larry Young, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidiu

4. Public Comment

Information, Procedural: A. Public May Address the Board of Education

No comments this evening.

5. Board President's Remarks

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Remarks

6. Superintendent's Report

Discussion, Information: A. Announcements - 2019 New York State School Funding Transparency Update

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, Dr. Bruce Capron explained the rationale of the State of New York to report per building via the NYS Funding Transparency reporting system. He shared slides in a powerpoint presentation duly kept as a part of the BoardDocs packet. District's have now all submitted their data to the state according to the guidelines. They will likely share the results of the study and analysis of this data at a later time.

C - Board members shared their thoughts on the data. A - Dr. Capron clarified that the data results should help the state to establish some norms.

Dr. Capron confirmed that everything is included in the figures, including sports.

Equity, quality, parity, all dictate how to interpret the data. It is intended to provide a snapshot of what our data says about our population.

The Superintendent expressed that this data is not required to be made public, but he wanted to share it prior to releasing it to the state.

The Superintendent also reported that the students' response to the transgender restrooms has been a wide category response. C - Physically, it's just a restroom with two stalls.

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

Discussion, Information: C. Presentation

7. Group Workshop

Workshop: A. Revenue & Expenses: The Impact of Tax Base, Property Taxes, Assessment, and Enrollment
Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, Dr. Bruce Capron presented an interactive workshop regarding Revenue & Expenses: The Impact of Tax Base, Property Taxes, Assessment, and Enrollment. Dr. Capron provided a link to an excel worksheet that was embedded into the BoardDocs packet.

Fair and equitable funding of schools was initially established by the state, then when they could no longer fund this way, they established the GAP, so now Districts receive a flat rate percentage increase. Foundation aid no longer depends on enrollment.

Dr. Capron explained the formula for 1:1 aid per student, received. This information is duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet. Q - Textbook aid can now include subscriptions for electronic versions as well.

Dr. Capron explained that it is important to spend the aid provided. If you don't use it, you lose it. Superintendent Mancuso explained that the 1:1 ratio is spent on every student, regardless of where students are attending (parochial, private, etc.)

Dr. Capron explained that expense based aid on Transportation, BOCES, Special Education Aid can fluctuate and currently is not capped. Several factors are involved when considering cost-saving efforts. Some can be cost neutral or cost negative if aid is no longer gained.

Monroe County is the only county that distributes a portion of sales tax revenue to schools. It took five years for the county to pay us back when they attempted to end this several years ago, with no legal authority. It was actually a good demonstration of how MCSBA has supported District's in the Monroe County area over time.

C - The Sales Tax is a tricky piece as you need to wait and see following the spending season. A - Monroe County shopping does pay us back.

Q - The City School District situation - how will this impact us? A - This is our problem too. The bucket of taxpayer dollars is one large bucket, and if one is in peril of serious debt issues, such as the city school district is, other districts may need to make up for any shortfalls.

Superintendent Mancuso explained that capital debt issues in other districts can also cause a serious impact on other districts.

Dr. Capron explained the tax levy, which is the total property taxes collected by the schools each year. He also explained the tax levy limit.

Tax Cap Estimate - Dr. Capron shared the formula, which is duly kept a part of the BoardDocs packet. The property tax growth factor is estimated and released by the state each year. Based on exclusions and other factors, these numbers can be negative in this formula.

Essentially, voters are voting on the change in the local levy.

Tax Base Growth Factor is calculated by the state. Building new structures, businesses, or adding on is considered a non-market driven price change. Recession would drive the CPI down and be of great concern.

Members, along with LT members, used the excel spreadsheet to manipulate various scenarios to show the impact on changes.

Dr. Capron explained how reassessments in each of the counties done on a regular basis, is important.

The assessment doesn't change the levy was one of the conclusions. Even in a town-wide reassessment. It's also important to understand that, should a large decrease occur in someone else's assessment, its the neighbors who will be paying for it.

Dr. Capron also explained that STAR has no impact on the school district. However, it is in a taxpayer's best interest to be on the new STAR exemption system. This idea was initiated prior to the 2% cap.

PILOT's were also explained, and clarified that COMIDA is the deciding agency, while the district is still at the table and can attempt to influence the outcomes. If you create 6-jobs, this qualifies a business. Lima was the fastest growing of the three town governments in our district. The Town Leaders made a conscious decision to slow growth as there are much higher maintenance costs in supporting growth, versus allowing the farmland owners to care for and take care of their land.

It was also clarified that a significant amount of new businesses are required to change the tax base.

President Bellavia encouraged members to jot down their questions and send them to Carol and Dave Francis to assist in developing the next workshop topic.

8. Board of Education - Action Items

Action: A. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Audit Committee Chairperson, Gary Stottler reported that the Audit Committee met earlier in the evening. They found that the combined July & August Treasurer's reports were routine, and compared to last year. Nothing that stands out differently. No concerns.

Motion to approve the Monthly Treasurer's Report, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Larry Young.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: B. Report of Basic Financial Statements and Corrective Action Plan, Year Ending June 30, 2019

Audit Committee Chairperson, Gary Stottler reported that this is the standard year-end report by Thomas Zuber, CPA, of Mengel, Metzger, Barr, & Co., A Division of Raymond F. Wager CPA, P.C. Division. From a fiscal point of view, aid and capital project in general, the district remains in a strong financial position. Use and funding of reserves have been both insightful and prudent.

Motion to approve the Audit Report, Year Ending June 30, 2019, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: C. Second Review/Approval of 2019-20 Budget Calendar for 2020-21 School Budget

Motion to approve the 2019-20 Budget Calendar for 2020-21 School Budget, as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: D. Approval of Electric Bid

Motion to approve the Electric Bid, as presented.

Motion by Larry Young, second by Joe Alati.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: E. Special Education Consultant Services, Nancy Andres, MS.Ed, SDA - Autism/Inclusion Support

Motion to approve the contract for Special Education Consultant Services, Nancy Andres, MS.Ed, SDA - Autism/Inclusion Support, as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: F. Disposal of Equipment - Two-way Radios

Motion to approve of the Disposal of Equipment - Two-way Radios, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by Caralyn Ross.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Motion to add to the BoardDocs agenda (the item was already on the hard copy agenda), Action Item G. Fundraising Activity Request

Motion by David Francis, second by Joe Alati

Final Resolution: Motion Approved to add item G. Fundraising Activity Request to the BoardDocs packet

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Action: G. Fundraising Activity Request

Motion to approve the Fundraising Activity Request, as presented.

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Larry Young.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

Abstain: Stephanie Templeton

Zachary Clarry, reported that the 8th Grade Washington DC Trip will benefit students on many levels. This was presented to the principal and meetings occurred over the summer and with the travel agent. If approved, fundraising would begin in the Spring of 2020 for a trip in 2021. Three full days and two nights. Teachers are willing to participate. Organizers are seeking the best time of year to attend. There was discussion and debate about the best time of year to attend, based on multiple factors. Chaperone to student ratio is comparable across the county.

Mr. Williams added that this adds value as most 8th Grades do participate in this event. If the cost is around \$600. per student, it might be possible over the course of two-years to fundraise this potential event. Previously the organizers of the trip developed a lack of interest in coordinating the Boston trip. The enthusiasm around the extension of learning is notable. They will see how the next year or two goes, to decide if it will continue. Attempting to get the per-pupil costs down.

This is a twofold process to approve the fundraising event and to advise the board that 8th graders will be traveling next school year.

Abstention vote is due to the time needed to process the request.

What happens to the money if the efforts are not successful? And what occurs if trip number one does not occur? A - Checks and money will be returned and/or placed in the class fund and an alternate trip or other purchase is decided upon. Specifics will need to be provided with details regarding any refunding. General accounting practices must be for a group versus a student.

Mr. Williams indicated that there is no scholarship fund established yet, however, revenue sources have been realized to help support and make up any difference that any student is struggling with. As much fundraising as possible certainly helps.

9. Board President's Update

Discussion, Information: A. Board President's Update

10. Board of Education - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information: A. First Review of 2019-20 Program Budget Assumptions, Goals and Guidelines

Dr. Capron explained that changes were minimal, there may be some additional assumptions based on the workshop this evening. A second review with redlined changes will be presented at the next meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Discussion, Information: B. Updates on Committee Meetings

Board member Ghidui reported that he attended the latest MCSBA Information Exchange meeting with Dr. Williams on the topic of Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Lindsay Ali reported that a survey was done every other year previously, but because we will be doing so for two separate counties the District can now do the survey every year.

Larry Young was asked to attend the next meeting Sports Boosters meeting in Gary's absence.

Stephanie Templeton and Amy West attended an autograph session with the LEAP class in honor of their celebrity status on Channel 8 at the Manor School on Monday, September 16. Great fun!

The Kiwanis Group meeting that board members recently attended was reported to be a service-learning piece, however, the focus was also about growing their membership.

Executive Committee meeting - Gene and Carol - heard the State of the Union address. US Census bureau. Also clarified that college-bound students are counted in the area they reside for college. Census will be online in the future. Relying on school districts to reach out to area nursery schools to get this data. More information will follow.

11. Questions from the Audience

Discussion, Information: A. Questions from the Audience

Mr. Mancuso is scheduled to meet with the class officers to discuss student representative details as they relate to service in representing students on the Board of Education.

12. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:22pm

Motion to Adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Joe Alati, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Joe Alati, Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Larry Young, Dave Ghidui

13. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics

Information: A. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics