

Budget Study Session followed by Board of Education Meeting, Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Generated by Rhonda Schaefer, District Clerk

Members present

Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West, Dave Ghidiu

Members absent

Joe Alati

Budget Study Session began at 5:55 PM

1. Budget Study Session

Discussion, Information: B. Budget Process Overview

2. High School Program and Budget Overview

Discussion, Information: A. High School Program and Budget Overview

Principal Roth introduced himself and staff members in attendance to co-present with him.

Newly hired teacher, Will Simkins, HS Computer Science and Math teacher, introduced himself and spoke about his positive experience thus far in joining HF-L.

Mr. Roth highlighted the recent accolades at the high school as outlined in the powerpoint presentation in the BoardDocs packet. Graduation rates are 97% at HF-L in comparison to 85% in the region and 83% in the state.

Mr. Roth pointed out three primary indicators of excellence, as highlighted in the powerpoint.

Teachers joined in the presentation to share the HS SIT (School Improvement Team) Goals. Chris DeFranco, Ryan Teeter, Liz Rollins, Bob Callens co-presented with Principal Roth.

Mrs. DeFranco spoke in detail about the root cause analysis of absenteeism. Supporting documentation was used to help illustrate attendance issues and described how the team established a Chronic Absence Intervention Protocol. This tool and processes are being used to assist students with understanding expectations, and staff to be consistent with response to absences. The attached graphs support that these efforts are beginning to pay off, showing a marked decrease in late arrivals and absenteeism.

Ryan Teeter, HS Guidance Counselor, shared insight in the committee's counseling goals. The rapid rise in mental health concerns prompted actionable steps to collect data, support teachers, and support students and families as highlighted in the powerpoint presentation. Mental Health Team meetings we are now addressing the students that require Tier 3 interventions due to absenteeism. The 7 C's of resilience have also been added into everyday interactions to support students, staff and families. Together, these efforts are having a positive impact on some of the issues most prevalent in student/home life. Chronic absenteeism without a valid excuse are followed, documented and supports implemented to seek the most positive outcomes. It was requested to add outcome percentages next year so that declining enrollment will not potentially skew the results.

Liz Rollins, Business Education Teacher spoke about a program of Career Education which provides opportunities to assist students with exploring potential career paths. Some of these opportunities include:

- Job Shadowing
- Internships
- Co-Ops
- Explorer Post opportunities
- Job Site tours
- Field Trips
- Leadership Seminars
- College Workshops
- Job Shadowing and Internship Placements (some students were present and spoke about their individual experiences).

Business partners for these placements are highlighted in the presentation materials in the BoardDocs packet for this budget study session, including some specific student experiences.

High School Science Teacher, Bob Callens presented, highlighting some of the systems and processes to help build STEM leaders of tomorrow. Mr. Callens provided some demonstrations with his students, of measuring velocity and position of objects.

In conclusion, Principal Roth highlighted some resources that are considered needs:

Incremental resources are needed to implement and accomplish the High School's 2020-2021 goals

✓ Site Summary of of HS Budget Priorities for 2020-2021

✓ School Profile 2019-20

And, Requests:

Staff Development

✓ Professional Learning Community

✓ Co-Teaching

✓ Curriculum Writing

Continue Technology Replacement Cycle

✓ Laptop/tablets computers with stylus for incoming freshmen

Special Education Staff Reallocation

✓ Special Education Teacher to support 19-additional students with special needs entering the high school in the 2020-2021 school year.

✓ Four Paraprofessionals

Q - Are there new challenges brought to the high school without the Dean of Students? A - Administrative staff are taking on these additional duties, however it was agreed that this approach sometimes diminishes the opportunity to be more pro-active than previously able.

Q - Where in the budget does staff development fall? A - This will be in the Districtwide budget presentation at the next budget study session.

Q - Computer Science is .333 - how does this play out? A - This is divided by 6-sets.

C - With AP what is the plan next year A - Computer Science appears to be an area of interest, areas will be explored. With 148-courses in the course catalog, enrollment is determined by students who sign up for the courses. The goal is approx. 16-students per course. Mr. Roth explained that 96-97% of students requests are met. Those remaining students then meet with their guidance counselors to establish the best course of action.

Q - What percent participated in the career day? A - Contact Liz Rollins for this answer.

C - Thanks were expressed by a board member for the education and foundation her students received which is now paying off in constructive ways in college.

Mr. Roth highlighted the change in approach for students to start off post-high school by considering all options available to them. It used to be believed that attending a 4-year prestigious college was the only way to go. However, now more than ever, it is important to keep in mind the other choices available, such as a local community college, SUNY colleges, and/or labor force options who often times will assist with post-high school education.

Q - Do you have any statistics on how many students attend each of these options? A - Yes, after graduate surveys in the Navient system track students as they move on post-high school. The data is very specific and insightful. There was an inquiry about whether or not students may opt out of the survey, thus making the data unreliable. Mr. Teeter will find out.

3. Interscholastic Athletic Program and Budget Overview

Discussion, Information: A. Interscholastic Athletic Program and Budget Overview Presentation

Athletic Director, Brian Donohue, presented along with members of the hockey program.

Mr. Donohue shared the department's beliefs and areas of commitment. He played a video-clip of multiple representations of cougar pride among HF-L athletes. He went on to highlight some opportunities that students also have outside the district, when students participate in sports that HFL does not offer, such as Claire Youlos did by joining a neighboring district's golf team and went on to be named Player of the Year.

Student, Kiernan Beckett spoke about his student project of preparing First Aid Bags, equipped with items needed to address injuries while out competing, until further medical assistance can be sought, if needed.

Mr. Donohue briefly highlighted Mrs. Davis for all of her contributions and countless hours that she devotes to student athletes. Student Engagement Data was reviewed and Mr. Donohue expressed his gratitude and appreciation of the PEP Talks that have been established (Program Evaluation Progress).

Mr. Donohue highlighted and expressed deep appreciation for some of his points of pride, including:

- Connecting with Alumni
- Commitment to Cultural Competence
- Investment in Facilities

Mr. Donohue highlighted the Hockey program and its inception back in 2007-08 when the District merged into a hockey program with Brighton CSD to establish a combined program. While there was an initial 4-year funding plan, with the diminishing state funding, the program now operates with the direct support of players/families, and the Sports Boosters organization. Two participants in the program spoke about their experience in the program and the value it has added to their high school careers and the new friendships, confidence building and atmosphere of support.

The Gliding Sports co-ed program for students was also highlighted. Some hockey associates also spoke about the statistics and Mr. Donohue proposed the reallocation of some funds to support this program, which has also been shared with Brighton CSD. A powerpoint slide defining these proposed reallocations is provided as part of the BoardDocs packet.

Mr. Donohue spoke about the efficiencies within his department. He additionally highlighted and expressed gratitude to HF-L's Sports Booster Organization, who contribute not only dollars, but multiple volunteer hours.

Finally, Goals for the 2020-2021 school year were highlighted as well as the resource requests.

Q - How is the bill determined? Will the Hockey propositions be sustainable over time? Where does the coaching fall? A - Divided by the number of players on the team, with some emphasis on meeting a minimum requirement of players.

C - Parents spoke from the audience about being among the only parents in Monroe County who pay. In other Districts, the parents don't pay.

Q - What other merged sports are offered to students? A - Teams of One do not bare responsibility for partnerships of this kind. Gymnastics, volleyball, indoor track, gymnastics, rowing, sailing. A - In a merged program, you represent that team, not your home district.

Q - Cost of reallocating - will this be recurring? A - Mr. Donohue suggested that the costs for supplies would likely increase, but minimally. The Boosters Club might also be of assistance.

C - A board member commented that the uniform replacement got behind in years past, and had to be supported by the Sports Boosters Club. A- In an added effort toward efficiency, jersey's have been purchased that are now reversible. Names cannot be placed on the back of jerseys and be paid for by the District. Booster or others would be paying the extra, this is not a tax-payer funded item.

Q - Individual participation numbers? A - This will be provided at a later time.

C - Slideshow did not highlight in Nordic, however, a student was honored today.

Q - \$14,000 increase? A - This is contractual, not an additional hire.

Q - Anticipated decreases? A - one supervisor perhaps. Going from 4 to 3, possible.

Q - Getting more students involved in sports, are there ideas about giving varsity letters to enhance participation? A - Unified sports is one example; long-term program recommendations are not being presented at this time.

Q - Does Robotics earn a varsity letter? A - Yes.

Appreciation was expressed for this evening's presentations.

4. Board of Education and Program Budget Advisory Council Feedback to:
Discussion, Information: A. High School Program

Dr. Williams captured the Board of Education feedback to take forward to the departments who presented. Need clarification about the staffing changes with increased special education needs next year. Conversations were also had regarding para-professionals.

Superintendent Mancuso clarified that the initial Schoology goal of 100% use was determined to be unrealistic as psychologists, social workers, counselors, etc. do not use it.

5. Business Meeting Called to Order

Action, Procedural: A. Call to Order 9:20PM

Procedural: B. Account for Absences

6. Approval of Agenda

Action: A. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

7. 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 Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

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

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action (Consent): C. Personnel Appointments

Motion to approve all items of the Consensus Agenda

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations

8. Public Comment

Information: A. Public May Address the Board of Education

9. Board President's Remarks

10. Superintendent's Report

Discussion, Information: A. Announcements

Discussion, Information: B. Update on Proposed Action Items

11. Board of Education New Business - Action Items

Action: A. Monthly Treasurer's Report

Audit Sub-Committee Chairperson, Gary Stottler reported that there were no unusual findings.

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

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: B. School Improvement Team Biennial Review and Recertification (R. Williams)

ASsistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Renee Williams explained that updating of this document was required to meet state mandates.

Motion to approve the School Improvement Team Biennial Review and Recertification, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: C. Paul J. Wilmot Tax Certiorari Proceeding

The determination was not retroactive. They will agree to the reassessment, but school district will not reimburse the family.

This is the model by being very involved in the process with our legal representation.

Motion to approve the Paul J. Wilmot Tax Certiorari Proceeding, as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Gary Stottler.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: D. Authorization to Establish Celebratory Committee for HF-L's 50-Year Anniversary

Superintendent Mancuso announced that he would like the board to approve the formation of a committee to organize specific celebratory efforts in honor of HF-L's 50-Year Anniversary. Alumni efforts in smaller ways, would also be a focus of this committee. Goal for all alumni to participate in our events whether being inducted into the Hall of Fame, or not.

A recommendation was made to call this the "Black and Golden" Anniversary celebration to tie in HF-L's school colors.

Motion to approve the establishment of a Celebratory Committee for HF-L's 50-Year Anniversary, as presented.

Motion by Amy West, second by Stephanie Templeton.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: E. Nomination of Candidate to the BOCES Board of Education

Motion to approve the Nomination of a Candidate to the BOCES Board of Education, as presented.

Motion by Gary Stottler, second by David Francis.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

Action: F. Board of Education Seat Vacancy

Board members discussed the options and agreed to eliminate Option 2 : Call a special election to fill the vacancy

Board members took a roll call regarding the two remaining options.

Option 1: Appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next regular School District election. 6-in favor; 1 opposed

Option 3: decide not to fill the vacancy at this time. 1-in favor; 6-opposed

The District will issue a Press Release this Friday, soliciting statements of interest from qualified residents, to be received no later than Friday, March 6, 2020.

The Board of Education will plan to interview candidates on Tuesday, March 10 prior to the Manor budget presentation.

Motion to approve appointing someone to fill the vacancy until the next regular School District election, as presented.

Motion by David Francis, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

Yea: Carol Bellavia, David Francis, Caralyn Ross, Gary Stottler, Stephanie Templeton, Amy West

Opposed: D. Ghidui

12. Board President's Update

13. Board of Education Discussion - Review Only Items

Discussion, Information: A. First Review 2020-2021 School Calendar

There was discussion and debate about the proposed calendar presented for consideration. The NYS Fair was extended this year, so there should be less opposition with an earlier than usual start date, however, the decision will not be pleasing to all.

Superintendent Mancuso explained the requirements for number of student and teacher days by contract, as well as other factors leading to this proposal. If not adopted, the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving would become a school day, as well as the Wednesday prior to Christmas. The teacher's union was in support of the proposed calendar. A vote will be taken at the next meeting.

Discussion, Information: B. Safety Consultant Agreement

Discussion, Information: C. Updates on Board Committee Meetings

Information Exchange - Dr. Williams attended. Focus was on reading with books versus with devices all the time. Finding that some of the staff had not had background in reading instruction was realized, and needed to be addressed. The presenting district suggested that no devices would be given until Grade 2.

14. Questions from the Audience Regarding Agenda Items

Discussion, Information: A. Questions from the Audience

15. Adjournment

Action: A. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting 10:09PM

Motion by Stephanie Templeton, second by Amy West.

Final Resolution: Motion Approved

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

16. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics

Information: A. Next Board of Education Meeting Topics