



WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

7:00 p.m.

High School Library

The Public Budget Hearing was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Board Vice-President, Mrs. Stephanie Champney.

I. Annual Meeting Chairperson

It is appropriate to select a chairperson for this Annual Election and Budget Vote. This Chairperson conducted the meeting, and will open and close the polls on Tuesday, May 15, 2012.

Mrs. Hibbard recommended Cynthia Burchell be appointed Annual Meeting Chairperson.

Moved by Mary Ellerson

Seconded by Kathleen Driscoll

4 Aye 0 Nay 1 Abstained (Anthony Burchell) Approved

Mrs. Champney turned the meeting over to the Chairperson.

II. Budget Review

The Chairperson introduced Board Members, Mr. Thomas Strain, Interim School Business Executive and Mrs. Mary Hibbard, Superintendent, who reviewed the Proposed Budget for the 2012-2013 school year. Mrs. Hibbard discussed the district's mission, beliefs, and four focus areas, which are the foundation for the 2012-13 district budget. The proposed 2012-2013 budget of \$31,041,874 representing a \$140,667 tax levy increase of 1.97% was reviewed. The Program, Capital, and Administrative components of the budget were reviewed

Mrs. Kathy Jones asked if a French teaching position at the Tioughnioga Riverside Academy is being eliminated.

Mrs. Hibbard replied, yes.

Mrs. Jones asked if this meant the children would not be exposed to French until high school and if Mrs. Hibbard thought they could absorb the language as easily in high school.

Mrs. Hibbard stated that currently there are some students who switch to French in the high school after taking Spanish in eighth grade. French I – IV will continue to be offered in the high school.

Mrs. Hibbard reviewed the 2012-2013 revenue projection. The projected tax impact on a true value home of \$125,000 was estimated at \$36.25 based on an average of the eleven municipalities with taxable property within the district. It was highlighted that this is an estimate and subject to changes in equalization rates, STAR exemptions and assessments. Mr. Thomas Strain explained the equalization rate. Information was provided comparing the 2011 assessed value of property per town. Mrs. Hibbard explained how the tax rate is calculated per town resulting in the individual tax bills. Mrs. Hibbard discussed the \$30,951,874 contingent budget that would result in a 1.07% spending increase and a 0% levy increase. Mrs. Hibbard reviewed the future, which includes the work of the financial

planning committee, continued efforts to explore efficiencies and pursue additional revenues, promotion of creative solutions and a maintained focus on Whitney Point's Mission, Beliefs and Priority Strategies. Mrs. Hibbard closed by reading the budget proposition and reminding all that the vote is Tuesday, May 15, 2012 in the High School Cafeteria from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Jim Petrie asked if the district would be filling the Director of Curriculum and Instruction position with Ms. Follette's appointment as superintendent, and why the district would fill a position that our neighboring districts do not have.

Mrs. Hibbard stated this is a key position in the Whitney Point Central School District consisting of Director of Curriculum and Instruction, grant writing and a liaison to many community organizations. The district will be looking for a replacement.

Mrs. Sara Roe asked why the district is bringing back the .5 administration position, but reducing teachers.

Mrs. Hibbard stated by losing that .5 administrative position last year, the district lost continuity in the follow through on disciplinary issues and the testing program. The increasing mandates for teacher observations and rigorous evaluation process, and the Dignity For All Students Act starting with the 2012-2013 school year will require additional administrative time.

Mrs. Jen Petrie noted that over the past two years the district has reduced 13 teaching positions and no administrative positions.

Mrs. Hibbard stated the district has previously reduced administrative positions. The Intermediate and Middle School consolidation into the Tioughnioga Riverside Academy resulted in the reduction of a building principal. The school business position used to be an assistant superintendent position, but is now a civil service position.

Mr. Thomas Strain explained with the added responsibility of Governor Cuomo's unfunded mandates the accountability for teachers and administrators has increased considerably. There is more at risk. He stated that accurate teacher evaluations are vital to the teachers and the district. The District has to meet the very stringent requirements established by the state and federal government that could lead to any number of consequences from the state or federal government if not fulfilled.

Mrs. Petrie asked if the district had ever compared the level of administrative staffing in Whitney Point with other districts with a similar enrollment?

Mrs. Hibbard stated we certainly can do that.

Mr. Tasber stated it is also important to consider the socioeconomic climate of other districts when making comparisons.

Mrs. Kathy Jones stated she was disappointed the district did not consider adding a truancy officer. She stated Mr. Tytler should not have to get on a bus to track down students. She indicated that the situation may worsen as demands on students increase. She stated if the kids don't want to go to school, they need to be tracked down and it is the responsibility of the parents to get them to attend.

Mr. Phillip Ford stated the same parents seem to attend school functions and open houses.

Mrs. Hibbard discussed the variety of events and outreach programs offered by the district. She stated some families don't have the means to attend school events, but that doesn't mean they are not interested or involved with their children's' education.

Mr. Ed Driscoll asked where the .5 administrative position will be added.

Mrs. Hibbard stated the position will be returned to the Tioughnioga Riverside Academy. This year the role of assistant principal has been split between two administrators. Ms. Hayes has served a half-time Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics and half-time assistant principal. Ms. Chestnut has only worked half-time this year.

III. Introduction of Candidates

The Chairperson explained voting for candidates for the Board of Education, and introduced candidates for the Board of Education seats.

Three (3) Year Term: John Samson

Mr. Samson stated he grew up in Whitney Point and works for an industrial supply company. He stated he is a concerned community member interested in maintaining a good education for the children. He became interested in becoming a board member a few years ago when there was a significant tax increase.

Three (3) Year Term: Gene Jordan

Mr. Jordan stated he has children in the district and has been in the community for ten years. He stated he worked for the district in the past as a math teacher, and has a unique perspective on the district. He currently works for Broome Tioga BOCES as a regional trainer for math and sees significant changes coming for education and an increasing burden for school districts.

Three (3) Year Term: Andrew Palmer

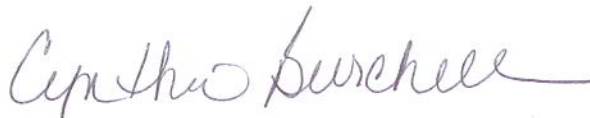
Mr. Palmer was out of the country and unable to attend the meeting.

Three (3) Year Term: Anthony Burchell

Mr. Burchell stated he grew up in Whitney Point School District and is a tax payer with four children in the district. He became a Board Member three years ago for because he was concerned about the taxes and he would like to see all children get the best education possible.

IV. Suspension of the Hearing

The Board suspended the meeting until 1:00 p.m. on May 15, 2012, at which time the polls will be opened.



Cynthia Burchell
District Clerk