

BOARD MEETING: Special
DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 2011
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Naples Elementary Cafeteria

- I. Meeting Called to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Adopt Agenda of the Special Meeting of March 23, 2011
- V. Appoint Clerk Pro Tem
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. 2011-2012 Budget Workshop
 - A. Introduction
 1. Updates
 - a. Visit with Assemblyman Hanna
 - b. Capital Project Vote
 - i. Next steps
 - c. Initiatives to increase revenue and decrease expenses
 - d. Communication
 - e. Work with Administrators
 2. Compare and Contrast
 - a. 2010-2011 vs. 2011-2012
 - i. Additions/Deletions
 3. Outline Process
 - B. 2011-2012 Budget
 1. Review Budget Summary
 2. Review Budget
 3. Planning for the future
 - a. Long-range budget planning
 - C. Activity
 1. Reductions
 - a. Green - Eliminate
 - b. Red - Keep
 - c. Yellow - Needs Discussion
 - D. Closure
 1. Summarize Discussion
 - a. Next Steps
 - i. Presentations to stakeholder group
- VIII. Executive Session
 - A. Collective negotiations with the teacher's union.

Special Meeting

March 23, 2011

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Naples Central School held on Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Naples Elementary Cafeteria.

Members Present:	Michael Boggs	Gail Musnicki
	Joseph Callaghan	Mona Sage-Cardinale
	Barbara Howard	Keith Swank
	William Kelly	Margo Ulmer
	John Murphy	

Members Absent: Eric Cotton

Also Present: Kimberle A. Ward and Ann O'Brien

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Board President Keith Swank.

Motion: Mona Sage-Cardinale
2nd: Gail Musnicki

Resolved, that the Board of Education approves the agenda of the Special Meeting of March 23, 2011 as presented.

Voting Yes:	9	Motion Carried
Voting No:	0	

Motion: Margo Ulmer
2nd: Barbara Howard

Resolved, that the Board of Education approves School Business Administrator, Ann O'Brien as Clerk Pro Tem for the Board of Education meeting of March 23, 2011.

Voting Yes:	9	Motion Carried
Voting No:	0	

Guest Judy DiRaddo stated she was surprised the board was holding their budget workshop as all evening activities had been canceled at school, commenting that the weather made it hard for the public to attend. Ms. DiRaddo also stated she would like the board to discard or minimize the use of the dot system they have used in the past so that there would be more board discussion regarding the budget.

Guest Dan Robinson commented on the proposal to reduce Ron Burke’s position of High School Health Teacher to a 0.7 FTE position, stating that as Mr. Burke has worked at Naples Central School for almost 35 years, he felt it was unconscionable to do that to someone who has given so much to this school, and asked that the board take out the proposal to reduce Mr. Burke’s position.

Guest Pauline Preston stated she was very disappointed that the board had proposed cuts in positions for the 2011-12 school year as she had heard that there would be no cuts. Mrs. Preston also commented on the advertisement she saw for the capital project vote which carried the message of voting yes to save jobs, adding that she felt the message was deceptive.

Board President Keith Swank clarified that there were not any advertisements from either the School District or the Board of Education that spoke of saving jobs, adding that when Mrs. Preston had asked about the advertisement at the last Board of Education meeting, Board Member Joseph Callaghan had explained that it was an advertisement published by the Vote Yes for Success organization, which is an independent group.

Board Member William Kelly stated that anything and everything in the school district is looked at as potential cuts, adding that no decisions have been made at this point.

Guest Judy DiRaddo stated that she had heard that there were people in the District who had been told that they would not have a position next year.

Board President Keith Swank stated that often times, when there is a potential for job reductions in a District, that it has been considered to be a courtesy of the administration to let individuals know when there is a potential for a job reduction and that courtesy is done so that the individual does not hear that their position is being considered for a cut from someone else who may not have all of the information, adding that his understanding was that these were courtesy information sessions, letting employees know that these positions were being looked at as possible reductions. Mr. Swank stated that as Mr. Kelly had said, the board has not made any cuts as of this time and that the board would be discussing the budget situation; if they need to make any cuts and if so where, and that they had not wanted to discuss cutting potential positions in public session without the individuals having at least some foreknowledge.

Ms. DiRaddo repeated her statement regarding individuals being cut.

Board President Keith Swank and Board Member Mona Sage-Cardinale both reaffirmed that individuals had been given a heads up regarding the possibility of being laid off as a courtesy so that they would not hear it secondhand elsewhere.

Guest Stacy Shearing clarified as a member of Vote Yes for Success community group that their advertisement implying that voting yes would save jobs was due to the fact that if the capital project were voted down then funds that could have been used towards the proposed budget would have had to be allocated to essential building repairs instead of employee salaries, thus increasing the number of possible layoffs in the District.

Superintendent Ward stated that the decision to have conversations with individuals today was based on the fact that this budget workshop would be taking place, adding that she had worked with the CSEA president along with both principals in having those conversations and those conversations centered around the recommendations that would be made to the Board of Education for decision that evening, adding that the school will have to close a budget gap of approximately \$515,000, noting that the budget gap had been narrowed from about \$1,200,000, and the board would be deciding what it would have to cut, what they would like to have more information on and what they would prefer to leave in the budget, adding this information will help in forming the final draft of the budget for presentation to the budget committee. Mrs. Ward said that they were hoping for no layoffs, taking into consideration what Governor Cuomo had mentioned pertaining to looking at trimming the fat, wage freezes and looking at school district fund balance and reserves, adding that if each negotiating unit had taken a wage freeze then there would have been no lay-offs, however that has not happened, therefore the District must move forward in preparing the budget. Mrs. Ward stated that a negative vote on the capital

project would have had a very negative effect on the proposed budget as there are several things that need to be addressed at the school such as boiler work, asbestos abatement, etc., which would have had to be addressed in the operational budget, which would have meant a larger budget gap and would have led to additional staff cuts, adding that the large portion of the school budget is salaries and benefits of employees working in the District. Mrs. Ward stated that the night's task was to review the proposed budget and review where they were with the budget gap and what that means in regards to the budget recommendations that were made.

Board President Keith Swank stated that the situation the board is looking at is not good however had the capital project not been approved it would have been a much worse situation.

Guest Diann Payne stated that she had been given the impression that she would not have a job in September, adding that she did not get the impression that there was much of a possibility of not losing her job, and it was totally devastating to her, and she was very concerned about it as were the other aides who were called in. Mrs. Ward apologized if she had given the wrong impression and stated she had had a conversation with CSEA President Shawn Mason regarding helping employees deal with the possibility of losing their job. Board President Keith Swank reiterated the intent to let employees know ahead of time what would be discussed at tonight's meeting, adding that the board is still in the process of working on the budget.

Guest Michelle Smith reminded the board to please think of the children when they make their decisions.

Board Member Margo Ulmer stated that she had been very hopeful that a wage freeze might happen at Naples Central School as Owego City School District has done, adding she has been reading the paper daily to see how much closer the governor is to passing the budget and what it is that the Senate and the Assembly might do to try to close some of the elimination gap funding that we are not going to receive, adding that with a wage freeze there probably would not have been any layoffs, however without a wage freeze the money has to come from somewhere, and the board has to look at all possible options to close the funding gap, adding that all of the options are awful. Mrs. Ulmer stated there has been no intent to deceive or misinform, that the board had initially hoped that part of the gap could have been dealt with partially through negotiations, however that has not happened so the board has to deal with the reality of the situation.

Guest Ron Burke stated that programs influence the lives of children, adding that what he teaches, and the needs that are served in the high areas of sensitivity at times when children are in the most vulnerable places in their lives and dealing with very vulnerable of subjects is very important, adding what we do makes a difference in the lives of kids, and if we lose those battles then every investment made by every other educator is done. Mr. Burke also noted the sister of one of the Board Members had saved the life of an infant using what had been taught in his class, Mr. Burke stated that for the integrity of the programs to be maintained you have to have the proper environment and that needs money, adding it is all about the children.

Superintendent Ward stated the visit with Assemblyman Hanna went very well on Friday, adding that he took a lot of time to speak with them and to get a real sense of the needs of the district, adding he also spent some time speaking with Dan Robinson and Chris Arsenault from the Naples Teachers' Association and it was a very positive visit. Mrs. Ward stated the Facility Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 28th at 2:30 p.m. and the committee

would be discussing the choice a construction management firm; the bidding process for Phase 1a; a timeline for what will happen during Phase II, adding they would be presenting updates to the board throughout that process. Board Member Mona Sage-Cardinale asked if during the bidding process the school could require a percentage of local firms be employed. Mrs. Ward stated they would investigate the possibility. Board President Keith Swank stated the board had previously narrowed the possible Construction Managers down to two candidates, however they had decided to wait until they knew the results of the capital project vote as if they had appointed the Construction Manager prior to the vote it would have cost the District for pre-referendum services which they did not need at that time.

School Business Administrator Ann O'Brien and Superintendent Ward then presented information for the draft of the 2011-2012 Proposed Budget. Board discussion followed pertaining to the information presented and proposed changes to staffing.

Motion: Barbara Howard
2nd: Mona Sage-Cardinale

Resolved, that the Board of Education approves calling an executive session at 9:49 p.m. for the purpose of collective negotiations with the teacher's union.

Voting Yes: 9
Voting No: 0
Motion Carried

Time out of closed session: 10:38 p.m.

Motion: Barbara Howard
2nd: John Murphy

There being no further business, the Special Meeting of March 23, 2011 is hereby adjourned at 10:39 p.m.

Voting Yes: 9
Voting No: 0
Motion Carried

Dated this 29th day of April, 2009,

Pamela Jo Claes, School District Clerk
As recorded by School Business Administrator Ann O'Brien, Clerk Pro Tem