

BOARD MEETING: Special
DATE: Wednesday, March 31, 2010
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Naples High School Cafeteria

I. Meeting Called to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

IV. Adopt Agenda of the Special Meeting of March 31, 2010

V. Public Comment

VI. 2010-2011 Budget Workshop

I. Introduction

A. Updates

1. Visits with Assemblymen
2. Initiatives to increase revenue and decrease expenses
3. Communication
4. Work with Administrators

B. Compare and Contrast

1. 2008-2009 vs. 2009-2010

C. Review Agenda

D. Outline Process

II. 2010-2011 Budget

A. Review Budget Summary

B. Review Budget

C. Planning for the future

1. Long-range budget planning

III. Closure

A. Summarize Discussion

1. Next Steps

- a. Presentations to stakeholder group

VII Executive Session

Special Meeting**March 31, 2010**

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Naples Central School held on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 at 6:33 p.m. at the Naples High School Cafeteria.

Members Present:	Michael Boggs	William Kelly
	Joseph Callaghan	Gail Musnicki
	Judy DiRaddo	Mona Sage Cardinale - Arrived at 6:53
	Aron Fleischman - Arrived at 6:54	Keith Swank
	Barbara Howard	Margo Ulmer

Members Absent:

Also Present: Kimberle A. Ward, Ann O'Brien, Lynn Strang, Kristina Saucke, Alan Moore, Norlyn Legler and Pamela Jo Claes.

Guests: Dahl Schultz, Kathleen Riesenberger, Florence Presler, Sandra Elwell, Roger Riesenberger, Gretchen Pulver, Katie Infantino, Aubrey Till, Barb Hawks, Judy Meredith, Shelly Biggs, Lesah McMullen, Neil A., Dan Matthews, Diann Payne, Colleen Betrus, Janis Pridmore, Shawn Mason, Karen Robinson, Dan Robinson, Victoria Rector, Ron Burke, Linda Rector, Jean Becker, Brent Phillips, Lauren Sherwood, Darlene Patterson, Kathleen Meteyer, Olivia Willis, Benjamin Pulver and Adrian Black.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Board President Keith Swank.

Motion: Barbara Howard

2nd: Michael Boggs

Approval is given to adopt the agenda of the Special Meeting of March 31, 2010.

Voting Yes: 8 Motion Carried

Voting No: 0

Board President Keith Swank announced the good news that Hazlet Wineries will be purchasing Widmer Wines, and partnering with RIT to develop the Widmer property.

Superintendent Ward stated the school has been dialoging with Constellation Brands since we heard the announcement in early September and have shared our concerns about being landlocked along with our concerns for the Town, Village and School District and the impact it has on the culture of Naples and who we are. Mrs. Ward stated the property will be purchased and developed by Hazlet Wineries and will be developed over the next year or so in hopes of getting their retail operations renovated and opened up by next spring which is good news for Naples. Superintendent Ward also thanked Frank Duserick, Naples Town Supervisor, who has been in the forefront, fighting for the interests of the District, adding Don Braun, Christina Kansco, Donna Scott, and Glenn Curtiss have all been advocates for the District's interests.

Public Comment:

Lesah McMullen - Mrs. McMullen stated she would like to thank Elementary Principal Alan Moore for the excellent job that is done in the Elementary building, adding she is very impressed at the education her two sons are receiving at the Elementary. Mrs. McMullen stated she is concerned about class sizes

with the proposed loss of 4 teaching positions at the Elementary, adding that since she has worked as a teacher here in Naples she has been called by several districts, interviewed by the Democrat & Chronicle, and the school has had several Districts come to Naples to see why we are so successful, adding she feels Naples Central School District is above other school districts. Mrs. McMullen stated that each time the question is asked what makes Naples so special, the consensus is that it is due to the low class sizes, adding she realizes the district has a lot of issues to consider with the budget, however she felt the district should look at items other than academics, adding as a tax payer in the district she was willing to pay more taxes in order to maintain the current level of instruction.

Shawn Mason, CSEA President - Mr. Mason stated the duties of the Board of Education include determine priorities, provide direction for the district, assign responsibility, establish commitment, demonstrate public accountability, offer legal notice when required and assure legal compliance, adding the basic duty of the board is to set policy and procedure for the district, stating the school board can act as a body but individual members of the board cannot act alone. Mr. Mason stated the board is not meant to micromanage the day to day operations of the school and reiterated that the board's job is to set policy and procedure, adding the Superintendent is responsible to ensure that the school is being run effectively, stating that one board member cannot demand anything from staff members or teachers, adding that the Board President must ensure that the board acts as a body of one. Mr. Mason stated he hoped the Board of Education can resolve this problem and act as a body of one.

Pauline Preston - Agreed with Lesah McMullen, stating the school is in the business of academics, not sports, music, arts, field trips, etc, adding we are here to teach the students. Mrs. Preston suggested that the school could do more to conserve funds in everyday activities such as turning off the tennis lights earlier at night, printing two-sided documents instead of one-sided, etc., adding proposed position cuts such as the Library Clerk, AIS teacher, & teacher aides, will profoundly effect the ability of the school to provide a quality education for our students and suggested that the board review the budget for alternatives to cutting personnel.

Karen Robinson - Karen thanked the board for allowing public comment at the budget workshop, stating the budget is tighter than she has ever seen in her 28 years of teaching, adding she did not envy the board's job in putting together the proposed budget for next year. Mrs. Robinson commented on the proposal to cut JV athletics from the 2010-11 budget, cautioning the board that eliminating JV sports may work for other schools as they have recreational programs for these athletes to participate in, however Naples is not accessible to other options. Mrs. Robinson stated that Naples athletics is about allowing everyone the opportunity to play, adding while other schools cut students from the team, Naples has added additional teams to accommodate the number of students, stressing that she feels this is not a cut that is in the best interest of all of the students.

Colleen Betrus - Mrs. Betrus addressed the board regarding the proposed cut of the High School Library Clerk, stating she had recently sent a packet of information to the board including several letters of support for the Library Clerk position, adding that she feels that a strong Library program supports our teachers, helps our students with information literacy skills and developing their skills with new, emerging technologies. Mrs. Betrus stated that she feels a strong library program includes reading incentive programs and Mrs. Pulver, the High School Library Clerk, has been a key part of developing some of our reading incentive programs such as the Battle of the Books, adding that without a library clerk those types of activities may not be able to continue as well as working with classroom teachers to develop strong research and technology related

projects which are very time consuming. However, without the strong support of the Library Clerk we will not be able to continue the projects to our current extent. Mrs. Betrus stated that several studies have been completed which show that one full-time Library Media Specialist and one full-time Library Clerk per building is key to a successful, strong library program, adding that she feels that the Library Clerk position is essential to keep our Library program strong.

Sandra Elwell - Mrs. Elwell stated that teachers should be the last to be considered for layoff as they are the individuals who most directly impact the students, adding that without small classroom sizes and additional help for special needs students, those students who need the additional time and help will be lost, asking the Board of Education to reconsider making staff cuts.

Olivia Willis - Miss Willis stated that although she is not currently a taxpayer she is aware that Naples has one of the lowest tax rates in the area and she feels the school should have the voters decide if they would approve raising the taxes. Miss Willis stated that she feels she has been successful at Naples Central School because of the small class sizes, adding that she feels the school should keep its present staff and reduce the amount of money they are spending on technology items such as smart boards.

Brent Phillips - Mr. Phillips stated he works in manufacturing and they have been dealing with budget cuts for the past fifteen years, adding he wanted to offer some things that they had learned throughout that time. Mr. Phillips stated that the first step they took was to cut personnel, which offered the quickest decrease in budget, however they came to realize that in order to be competitive they needed to maintain their personnel. Mr. Phillips noted at that point they decided to take a pay cut and were able to save 10-15 jobs, suggesting that the school employs forego their contractual raise and in that way save positions from being cut, adding this would only be a short-term solution however it may help the school get through the next few years.

Adrian Black - Mr. Black stated that "We are Naples" and he feels the board should choose to raise taxes rather than lay off teachers and staff which he feels would greatly impact the quality of education the students at Naples Central are receiving, adding the board should make sure the students are first in their decisions.

Dan Matthews - Mr. Matthews stated that he has a lot of friends here at Naples Central on the staff and on the Board of Education, adding that he agrees with Mr. Phillips that the school should consider foregoing the contractual increase in pay, adding that in the public sector there are no guarantees of an increase in pay each year. Mr. Matthews noted that he knows several families who have had to take jobs out of state, adding that with the high unemployment rate the school cannot always be looking to expand costs. Mr. Matthews stated the residents of Naples are always willing to help each other out, however it is unsustainable to say we will always get bigger, adding he does think the employees are not worth the money they are paid but that the economy is cyclical and the school needs to look at alternative solutions to cutting personnel.

Kathy Riesenberger - Mrs. Riesenberger stated she has a daughter in 7th grade here at Naples Central School and she is a member of the Naples Town Board, adding her parents Bob & Nancy Linehan came to Naples in 1959 when her father began his teaching career and eventually became principal. Mrs. Riesenberger stated the school had been very supportive of her daughter who had been diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis at age two, adding she is very grateful for what the school has done for her daughter and asked that the board not cut positions at Naples, stating she felt it would effect the quality of education that has been the foundation of this District.

Ben Pulver - Ben Pulver stated the primary goal of the school is to educate students, therefore making cuts to the educational program should be the very last resort, adding that cutting teachers minimizes the quantity and quality of the education offered to students. Mr. Pulver stated the these cuts also put more pressure on the remaining teachers, adding that the board needs to look for better alternatives to solve the budget problems, adding for years Naples has had one of the best educational programs in NYS and the country however we are now being surpassed by other states, so it is important to keep our education up to standards. Mr. Pulver added that the proposed cuts have caused a drop in school morale, noting the students are not happy with the cuts and are not feeling the spirit of "We are Naples" anymore and encouraged the board to find alternative solutions.

Aubrey Till - Miss Till stated there had been a number of good points made however she wanted to focus on the teachers, adding she had read an article in the paper quoting the Superintendent as saying the cuts that were proposed were those that the district felt would have the least effect on the students, noting that the loss of the teachers will have a profound effect as the teachers they have they rely on for more than just education but also support and guidance. Miss Till added that cutting teachers in the Elementary would be a huge mistake as it will increase class sizes, noting that when she and her sister came here from a larger district they received more individual attention and was able to do better in school and she feels that without that extra time she would not be as successful in school as she has been. Miss Till stated that the high school teachers help them in so many ways, adding that Math teacher Mrs. Biggs has been especially supportive to her and many other students and she feels it would be wrong to cut the teaching positions as it will be very detrimental to the students.

Mary Kate, a senior, stated she had moved to Naples in 9th grade from Churchville-Chili and her grades improved dramatically, attributing the improvement to the small class sizes and supportive teachers. Miss Kate stated that Mrs. Pulver, is an amazing Library Clerk, noting that she makes you want to be in the library. Miss Kate also noted that when she took 10th grade math, Mrs. Biggs was a constant support, working with her after schools and whenever she could, adding that without that extra help and dedication she would not be as successful and the school should look for alternatives to the staff cuts.

Victoria Rector - Miss Rector stated she was a part of the collaboration of letters that were submitted on behalf of Mrs. Gretchen Pulver, stating she is a student who fully understands the importance of her job, noting that Mrs. Betrus would not be able to work to the best of her ability without the help of a Library Clerk. Miss Rector stated the library has so many resources and it so helpful to be able to do homework there, adding that Mrs. Pulver has personally helped her and many others with their projects and homework and is one of the staff members who regularly goes above and beyond to help the students, adding without her help she would not be as successful. Miss Rector stated she feels the library is a huge strength for the school and it would be a great loss if it has to be closed during study halls or after school due to cuts in staffing, adding for students who do not participate in after school sports, the additional library programs such as the Battle of the Books are important for those students. Miss Rector encouraged the board to reconsider cutting Mrs. Pulver's position.

Superintendent Updates:

Superintendent Ward stated that at the start of the budget process the we had dialogue with the staff, administrators and board members regarding how we would make it through these tough times, sharing throughout the process that the Superintendents are having conversations regarding what the schools are up against with the Governor's proposal, adding that they have been advocating at the state level, lobbying at Albany during lobby day, talking to local Assemblymen, and advocating for dollars that are important for education. Mrs. Ward stated that the budget decisions have not been taken lightly, noting they had started by talking with the staff, then working very closely with the administrative team, chairpersons and other staff members,

coming to the board of education to get some idea of what recommendations to make and then going back to the administrators and talking to them about ways in which they believed they could make the cuts work and have the least amount of impact on students. Mrs. Ward stated these recommendations to the board were not made lightly, adding they have been working with the union presidents (Dan Robinson, NTA President, and Shawn Mason, CSEA President), and have worked through the decision making process along with the tough work of notifying individuals affected by lay-offs.

Mrs. Ward stated that CSEA is currently under negotiations and the Naples Teachers' Association contract will expire next year, so we will be going into a negotiation process with them in January or February of 2011, adding that conversations and dialogues have been centered around tough times and will continue to be topics of conversation as we work through the negotiation process over the next two years. Mrs. Ward stated our recommendations are made based on the fact that next year is projected to be the same if not worse, therefore we have to do some long range planning for the years to come.

Superintendent Ward stated the senate had passed the 55/25 legislation, and it will be up for vote on April 7th. Mrs. Ward stated they continue to look for ways to seek aid for many of the services, programs and materials that we are purchasing, adding that School Business Administrator Ann O'Brien has worked very closely with the administrators and Department heads regarding those things that we can put through BOCES to receive aid back. In terms of decreasing expenses, Mrs. Ward explained that from January 15th on, we froze some expenditures for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year, adding that she believes it has made a difference in terms of the fund balance and our ability to use some of that fund balance to take down our deficit amount. Mrs. Ward stated that she and Ms. O'Brien have met with staff to keep them up to date with cuts and reductions in the budget and they will continue to keep the lines of communication open, adding those individuals whose positions have been recommended for a cut have been notified and assistance has been offered to help with the process of looking for new jobs..

Mrs. Ward stated that tonight the board will be looking at the budget draft , looking at sustainability regarding maintaining a strong academic program, finding a balance between an increase in taxes and cuts.

School Business Administrator Ann O'Brien made a power point presentation regarding the proposed budget. Ms. O'Brien noted that the State was currently withholding about \$768,000 in state aid and we will not receive the payment until June.

School Business Administrator reviewed the Proposed Budget. Board discussion followed pertaining to information presented, different budget options available based on different uses of appropriated fund balance, reserves, and tax levy. Discussion followed pertaining to proposed staff cuts, as well as potential changes to programs, transportation, sports activities, etc. in the district.

Motion: Mona Sage-Cardinale

2nd: Margo Ulmer

The Board shall adjourn from Regular to Executive Session at 10:44 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular person(s).

Voting Yes: 8 Motion Carried

Voting No: 0

Special Meeting**March 31, 2010**

Out of Executive Session at 10:52 p.m.

Motion: Barbara Howard

2nd: Mona Sage-Cardinale

There being no further business, the Special Meeting of March 31, 2010 is hereby adjourned at 10:53 p.m.

Voting Yes: Motion Carried

Voting No: Motion Denied

Dated this 31st day of March, 2010.

Pamela Jo Claes, School District Clerk