

**BOARD MEETING:** Regular  
**DATE:** Thursday, March 8, 2012  
**TIME:** 6:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Naples High School Auditorium

- I. Meeting Called to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Adopt Agenda of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2012
- V. 2012-2013 Budget Workshop
  - A. Introduction
    - 1. Updates
      - a. Visit with Assemblyman Hanna
      - b. Initiatives to increase revenue and decrease expenses
      - c. Communication
      - d. Work with Administrators
    - 2. Outline Process
  - B. 2012-2013 Budget
    - 1. Review Budget Summary
    - 2. Review Budget
  - C. Property Tax Cap Levy
    - 1. Final Calculation
    - 2. Considerations
  - D. Fund Balance/Reserves
    - 1. Long Range Plan
    - 2. Future Sustainability
  - E. Activity
    - 1. Tough Decisions
      - a. Review Tally
      - b. Discussion
      - c. Information needed
  - F. Closure
    - 1. Summarize Discussion
      - a. Next Steps
        - i. Presentations to stakeholder group
- VI. Executive Session:  
Employment history of a particular person or persons

## Regular Meeting

March 8, 2012

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Naples Central School held on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 6:35 p.m. in the Naples High School Auditorium.

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

Members Absent:

Also Present: Kimberle A. Ward, Ann O'Brien, Kristina Saucke, Matthew Frahm, Nancy Meserve, Sarah Shainfeld and Pamela Jo Claes.

Guests: Shirley Riffle, Barbara M., Lori Maynard, Jean Becker, Ron Burke, Linda Burke, Diann Payne, Rachel R., Judy DiRaddo, Kathy Mannella, Karen Robinson, Dan Robinson, Carol Thompson, Robert Birdsall, Tracy Neidert, Michael Coffey, Michele Barkley, Stephanie Sheedy, Tracy Faulkner, Renea Rennoldson, Corryn Rathbun, Brandi Bishop, Vicki Grove, Rocky Dean, Shelly Biggs, Stacey Shearing, Jeanne Black, Brent Gerstner, Frank Gleichauf, Liz Dormer, Tammy Matthews, John McCabe, Emily McFaul, Paul Giovine, Ryan Betrus, Michelle Smith, Gina Plante, Shirley Braun, and John Braun.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Board President Keith Swank.

Board President Keith Swank explained that this would be a Budget Workshop, noting the board would be working on the 2012-2013 proposed budget, adding there would not be a time for public comment however the board invited the public to write their comments on the cards at the sign-in table or on the post-it notes at the easels. Superintendent Ward then stated if the public has a question for Assemblyman Hanna to please leave their questions with the board would make sure Assemblyman Hanna gets those questions and the board would share those answers at our March 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Education meeting.

**Motion: Barbara Howard**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Gail Musnicki**

Resolved, that the Board of Education approves the agenda of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2012 as presented.

Voting Yes: 9

Motion Carried

Voting No: 0

Superintendent Ward explained that she and School Business Administrator Ann O'Brien had been presenting updates and different drafts of the tax cap limit and the proposed budget, working very closely with the budget committee, noting Ms. O'Brien would review the board packet and the 4<sup>th</sup> draft of the budget, adding budget committee members Barbara Howard, John Murphy and William Kelly would be facilitating some of the conversation regarding the proposed budget. Superintendent Ward stated that the meeting was an opportunity for the board to reflect on the proposals and to have open discussion regarding what the impact of those proposals would be, asking the board to focus on the bull's eye which is to keep health and safety at the forefront of all of their conversations and then to branch out to the core curriculum requirements for graduation, then non-core components and in the outer circle, extra-curricular

components. Mrs. Ward stated they had looked at fund balance and reserves in terms of a long-range plan, so that the District has sustainability over the years, adding that they continue to look at ways in which they can share services, looking at aidable services, programs and materials through BOCES, trying to minimize costs while maximizing resources.

School Business Administrator Ann O'Brien then reviewed information pertaining to:

- New tax levy limit calculations
- Long-term plan for use of Fund Balance
- Designated and Undesignated Fund Balances
- Debt Service

Budget Committee member Barbara Howard then highlighted items the Budget Committee had discussed, noting the Budget Committee had recommended moving forward at or below the 4.7% Tax Cap limit, which means an operating budget with a less than 2% increase with the capital budget consuming the rest of the increase. Mrs. Howard then reviewed the following:

- Amounts used from reserve funds for the 2011-2012 school year
- Committee recommendations for use of reserves for the 2012-2013 school year
- Projected expenses for Special Services and the recommendation to develop a 12:1:4 classroom
- Elimination of positions through retirement
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield's elimination of their Blue Million Plan as of January 2013
- Proposed reductions in extra programs such as Arts in Education, and Summer Music Lessons
- Governor Cuomo's proposal to transfer the cost of the UPK program to the schools
- Summer Reading Driver's Education Programs
- Eliminating the late bus run
- Sports programs – Eliminating the JV and having Varsity including grades 10, 11 & 12 and Modified including grades 7, 8, & 9.

Assemblyman Sean Hanna arrived to address the Board of Education at 7:55 p.m.

Superintendent Ward introduced Assemblyman Hanna, noting Mr. Hanna had a chance to speak with them earlier in the day, giving them the opportunity to share some of their thoughts regarding the Property Tax Cap; the District's struggles in terms of trying to close this budget gap; and the inequitable distribution of aid. Mrs. Ward stated she had asked Mr. Hanna to say a few things about his work as a member of the Assembly and with Governor Cuomo and then to open it up for questions from the Board of Education.

Assemblyman Hanna stated he was there primarily to listen to our comments and concerns and to bring them back to Albany, noting he has been an Assemblyman for a little over a year, adding one of the first things he had learned was that it is extraordinarily difficult to govern New York State as one entity, adding it is difficult to pass legislation that applies and works equally well in New York City and downstate as it does in upstate western New York, for example even in the counties of Monroe and Erie where you have larger urban communities, noting it is hard to apply that same legislation to rural communities. Mr. Hanna stated the New York State government is dominated by elected officials from New York City, therefore it is not surprising that most of the legislation that is passed is seemingly designed to address the needs and the interests of downstate, making it difficult on those of us who are not downstate, adding we see that in the school aid formula, noting we don't get enough upstate relative to down state and it is particularly difficult on the rural Districts such as Naples. Mr. Hanna stated that in addition to continuing to work to change the school aid distribution formula, it is imperative that the state

get its arms around unfunded mandates, adding he does not see a reason at any level for the state to impose unfunded mandates on local school districts and municipalities, noting if the New York State government decides that a service is so important that they mandate the service be provided then it has to be important enough for the state to provide the funding to pay for it, and if it is not important enough to provide the funding then he feels the local school districts or municipalities should be able to decide for themselves what services to provide and to tailor the services they provide according to the needs of the community. Mr. Hanna stated local officials are sometimes blamed for a tax burden for which they are not entirely responsible because of state required mandates, adding he is continuing to bring mandates to the assembly for reform, noting there are a number of others in the assembly who agree however numbers are the problem as there are more downstate elected officials than there are upstate.

Board Member Mona Sage-Cardinale stated she feels Lieutenant Governor Bob Duffy is taking away money from all of the small rural districts west of Albany, trying to get gubernatorial control of the schools by strangling little districts into bankruptcy and forcing them into consolidation. Mr. Hanna stated he would not take what is going on with rural school districts state wide and lay it at the feet of Lieutenant Governor Bob Duffy simply because Mr. Duffy thought that mayoral control was the best thing to do in the City Of Rochester as the relationship between an the City of Rochester and Rochester City Schools is a very unusual situation, noting the city of Rochester provides an enormous portion of funding for city schools but has no influence over how that money is spent by the district which is why Bob Duffy had requested mayoral control over the city schools.

Board Member William Kelly stated that school districts have received basically the same amount of state aid since the 2006 school year, adding in many cases we are receiving a lot less money than we were receiving then, noting when we look around our area within the next year we will see some school districts go bankrupt, commenting that he has heard the Governor say that no one has been laid off in the last couple of years, adding he disagrees with that statement, asking, will it take catastrophic failure of the school districts of New York State to get the state's attention to rectify this situation? Assemblyman Hanna stated one of the things we have to keep in mind is that a number of our districts have declining enrollment therefore need fewer employees to serve the District, adding the state needs to look at why the enrollment numbers are declining, which is due to high tax rates, and overregulation, making it too expensive to live and do business therefore our businesses are leaving New York State for other areas taking our young families with them, noting we have to address the problems that are causing our children to move and when we remedy those issues it will remedy a lot of the other issues along the way. Board Member William Kelly stated if the schools fail it will only increase the exodus of families. Mr. Hanna stated the first step the state could take is to ease the burden of mandates, which would ease the financial burden on school districts like Naples, adding it would not change the macro problems but give the schools the breathing room to adjust as they make other changes.

Board Member John Murphy stated that in the last four years our district is down ten teachers and two administrators, and several more at the end of this year, asking if the state has looked at different ways to fund schools, adding the state might look at changing District lines to be more efficient. Mr. Hanna commented that the state needs to focus on their spending problem rather than how to increase revenue. Superintendent Ward stated Ontario County is doing a regional High School study, noting currently there is no legislation to help school districts to function as regional high schools, asking is there has been any talk at the state level about providing

opportunities to work together regionally as it would provide increased opportunity for the students, adding because of the geographical location of Naples in Ontario County we are very far from other districts therefore would it be more practical to combine with closer districts outside of our county. Director of Pupil Personnel Nancy Meserve stated the University of Rochester's Education Warner School had done a study with the Genesee Valley Education Partnership BOCES and the term they have used is Functional Consolidation, adding schools only get funding if the school district is merged with another school, for example with Phelps-Clifton Springs or Manchester-Shortsville, adding a functional consolidation would allow the identity of the separate school districts to continue but functionally consolidate services from the business office, special education services, and a Superintendent to Advanced Placement courses however it was her understanding there is no mechanism through the state to support the efforts to functionally consolidate services. Mr. Hanna agreed that the idea should be reviewed. Board Member John Murphy stated for a small community such as Naples the school district is our primary identity. Superintendent Ward stated we hear the Governor very clearly, that we need to look outside the box in terms of equal opportunity for students under tough fiscal times, adding we are looking for other ways to keep those opportunities available for our students.

Board President Keith Swank stated he had two homework assignments for Mr. Hanna, noting he would like Mr. Hanna to lead a coalition of Upstate Assemblymen and Senators to bring the message that we have suffering small rural school districts and they need to do something about it and get together to help them out, commenting he realizes it takes time to make these changes, adding he would like Mr. Hanna to invite Governor Cuomo and Lieutenant Governor Bob Duffy to come to Naples and see what we are facing, noting our District can be the microcosm for the macro problem, allowing Mr. Cuomo and Mr. Duffy to see what our District is dealing with in terms of our capital project; our educational programs; the terrain our buses drive each day; the identity that the school offers to the community and its importance here, noting that maybe then they can get away from the perspective of the downstate life. Mr. Swank stated he feels we need to introduce them to our area, noting we are all suffering from the economic pressures.

Board Member Mona Sage-Cardinale stated another thing that continues to bother her is that those schools who are in need of improvement are receiving more and more money, however in a District such as Naples where we are striving to be a great school, with teachers and students working hard and receiving great test scores, we don't get any financial reward for doing well, instead we are being faced with the possibility of having to cut the summer reading program that promotes student success because we don't have enough money. Ms. Sage-Cardinale asked why the District should have to do poorly before we receive state funding to maintain the services that allow our students to be successful, stating she feels that is discrimination. Mr. Hanna stated that government addresses any problem by spending more money on it therefore he feels unless that perception is changed it will continue to fund the Districts in the same way.

Board Member Margo Ulmer stated she could not help but draw a comparison between Mr. Hanna and the board as the board has promised to represent our local people; we have all taken an oath to support the constitution of New York State; and we all get to vote. Mrs. Ulmer noted that the constitution of New York State guarantees a sound basic public education to all of the New York State students, adding it does not designate geographic regions or town lines, and the exercise the board was going through is an exercise in cutting almost everything we value in one way or another and it causes them to question whether we are upholding our constitutional duty in providing a sound basic public education for our students in Naples, noting the board is debating how to continue to do that, adding what it comes down to is the question of what can

we not cut. Mrs. Ulmer stated that since she had joined the school board she has always tried to work for a consensus with her colleagues and they work hard at it, however when something comes up that she cannot support because she feels it is wrong, she votes no, so she asked Mr. Hanna to vote no when things come before him in terms of legislation to enact or budgets to pass, sending a clear and loud message from all of us that we have a responsibility to provide a sound basic public education, noting public schools are important, adding that yes New York State has a history of making poor fiscal decisions but the District does not feel that that situation should be imposed on the children that we want to educate. Mr. Hanna stated when he was in the county legislature it was easier to evaluate the budget line by line, however the state budget is a series of 11-13 different bills and each bill is evaluated separately, adding last year he had voted yes on some parts of the budget and no on other parts of the budget, noting there are few people in the state assembly who vote no more often than he does, commenting he will vote no where needed. The Board of Education and Superintendent Ward thanked Assemblyman Hanna for coming to visit at Naples.

The Board of Education continued the budget workshop. Discussion continued pertaining to:

Sports Programs

Athletic Trainer

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program

Technology

Extra-Curricular Stipends

Class sizes – Reducing the number of sections per grade level

Staff Reductions

Pay Freezes or smaller percent pay increases

**Motion: Barbara Howard**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Gail Musnicki**

Resolved, that the Board of Education approves calling an executive session at 10:39 p.m. for the discussion of the employment history of a particular persons or persons.

Voting Yes: 9

Motion Carried

Voting No: 0

Time out of closed session: 11:13 p.m.

**Motion:**

**2<sup>nd</sup>:**

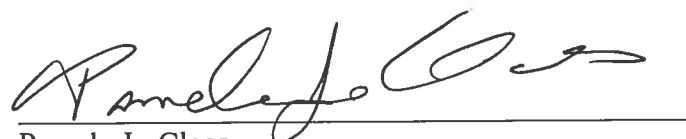
There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2012 is hereby adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Voting Yes: 9

Motion Carried

Voting No: 0

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012



Pamela Jo Claes  
District Clerk