

1. OPENING ITEMS.

- 1.01 Call to Order: The President called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- 1.02 Recording of Attendance: Members Present: D. Reiser, A. Laput, L. Bohs, C. Bliefernich, B. Siegel. Others Present: R. Dufour, S. Krebs, V. Keegan, R. Luis, B. Robertson and approximately 20 citizens.
- 1.03 Budget Presentation –Ms. Ruth Luis
Ms. Luis presented the revenue side of the proposed budget as well as expected expenses for the 2016-2017 school year. The proposed budget of \$16,989,312.00 includes a 1.17% increase in spending and a .69% increase in Real Property Taxes, adhering to the Tax Cap/Tax Freeze. Board discussion centered on increased costs in insurance, participation in NYSSBA, cafeteria funding/sales.

2. REPORTS TO BOARD.

- 2.01 Elementary Principal Report (V. Keegan)
- Reported on EPIC focus groups and walk through, Music in Our Schools Concert, the PTA Mad Science assembly, and Breaking the Cycle presentation
 - Reported 3rd quarter reports cards going out, 50's Day in celebration of the upcoming PAC performances of "Grease", and the upcoming PTA assembly Jabali Afrika
- 2.02 Secondary Principal Report (S. Krebs)
- Reported that 7th and 8th grade students will go to Bethel Woods for the "Zydeco Experience", discussed ticket options for upcoming PAC "Grease" production, and upcoming SADD mock car crash presentation with much community involvement
 - G. Gass gave brief overview of success of winter sports in wrestling, boys and girls basketball and track. "Uncommon Athlete" presentation that he attended with two students was most worthwhile. Spring sports season is underway.
 - G. Major, Student Council representation, reported on field trip to Somers HS, volunteer activities, archiving of documents, next year's scheduled activities and support of SADD mock car crash.
- 2.03 District Treasurer Report (R. Luis)
- Reported that additional of part-time account clerk has increased productivity in the Business Office significantly
 - POS cafeteria system set to be implemented on April 19th and gave overview of Administrative Review done by SED of Food Service Department.
 - Informed board of contracts for needed transport of athletic teams and architectural firm for building condition survey, reviewing insurance coverages, and monitoring end of year expenses.
- 2.04 District Report (R. Dufour)
- Reported that District presenting a balanced budget – walk in motions for the board to approve resolutions for vote
 - Reported that District has almost completed the NYS mandated testing: tentative figures show that 37% of our students opted out of ELA and 42% out of math – approximately double of those figures from last year. County wide opt outs are similar to last year.

- 2.05 Board President Report (D. Reiser)
- Reported on attendance at SCBOCES Annual Meeting – involvement of our students is tech programs and culinary arts
 - Presented at the SCBOCES Prospective Board Member seminar
 - Questioned Board for available dates for the visioning workshop

3. PUBLIC COMMENT. (Limited to Consent Agenda Items only – 4.01 through 7.04

J. LOMBARDI: Presented information on the EFA Community Day and encouraged participation in the events

J. TROXEL: Commented that Mr. Siegel only one asking questions regarding the budget and suggested other members should be more active in asking questions. Commented on the increase in insurance costs for the upcoming future and suggested that Board investigate other avenues for coverage.

Several members of the Board commented that this was the last presentation of the budget and that many meetings had been held prior and many comments and suggestions on budgetary items had been made by various members of the Board of Education.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND WARRANTS.

**** Consent Agenda: Recommended Action – 4.01 – 7.04**

Made on motion by C. Bliefernich and seconded by A. Laput.

Prior to a vote, B. Siegel requested that motion 4.01 be amended to reflect a change in the wording for the minutes of March 17, 2016 – the reason for Executive Session be changed from “discuss the employment of a specific personnel member” to “discuss a complaint made against Brian Siegel, member of the Board of Education”.

The Board agreed to remove 4.01 from the consent agenda – asking for approval of the Consent Agenda of Items 4.02 through 7.04. This motion was made by B. Siegel and seconded by A. Laput.

Voting: D. Reiser - yes; A. Laput - yes; L. Bohs - yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel - yes.

Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

B. Siegel requested that 4.01 be amended per his request above, reflecting the change in wording for motion Made on motion by B. Siegel and seconded by A. Laput. A discussion followed regarding the confidentiality of an executive session. The vote was called for changing the wording of motion 4.01:

Voting: D. Reiser – no; A. Laput – no; L. Bohs – no; C. Bliefernich – no; B. Siegel – yes.

Voting: 4 no, 1 yes. Motion defeated.

A. Laput requested a vote on motion 4.01, wording as printed in the agenda. Made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by C. Bliefernich.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – no.

Votes: 4 yes, 1 no. Motion carried.

4.01 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2016 and the Special Meeting held on March 17, 2016.

4.02 Approval of the Central Treasurer’s Report ending March, 2016.

4.03 Approval of the District Treasurer’s Report for the month ending February, 2016.

- 4.04 Approval of the Payment of Bills appearing on Multi-Fund Warrant # 18 (Checks # 59275-59338) and Multi-Fund Warrant # 19 (Checks # 59339-59427).
- 4.05 Approval of the Claims Auditor Report for Multi-Fund Warrant # 18 (Checks # 59275-59338) and Multi-Fund Warrant # 19 (Checks # 59339-59427).

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

- 5.01 M. Comstock - Homestead School – bus transport
- 5.02 Senator J. Bonacic – Millennium Compressor Resolution
- 5.03 SCBOCES – Academic Achievement Dinner Invite
- 5.04 Supt. Dufour – Breaking the Cycle Invite
- 5.05 M. Mayr

6. APPOINTMENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS.

- 6.01 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to approve Rick Whitney as a volunteer unpaid softball coach for the 2015-2016 school year, effective March 14, 2016.
- 6.02 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Melissa Mayr, clerical aide, effective April 1, 2016.
- 6.03 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Jennifer Anderson, Typist, as a permanent employee, effective April 1, 2016.
- 6.04 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to appoint Catherine Byrne, Kenneth Byrne and Fritz Kayser, as Custodians/Inspectors for the Budget Vote scheduled for May 17, 2016, at a rate of \$12.50 per hour.

7. OTHER.

- 7.01 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the special education placements as submitted.
- 7.02 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, to provide transportation for the certified district students who wish to attend the Homestead School in Glen Spey and New Life Christian School in Matamoras, PA, for the 2016-2017 school year.
- 7.03 Approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, of the following revisions and additions of NYSSBA policies:

RESCIND FIRST READING

5430 Permitting Participating in Opioid Overdose Prevention Program

FIRST READING

8121.1 Opioid Overdose Prevention

8121.1R Opioid Overdose Prevention Regulation

SECOND READING

4321 Programs for Students with Disabilities Under the IDEA and NYS Education Law Article 89

- 7.04 Approval that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract with G. Davis Inc. for transportation services for athletic trips, in the event multiple contests are scheduled on the same day.

WALK IN MOTIONS:

- 7.05 Made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by C. Bliefernich to authorize the Superintendent to sign the contract with BCK-IBI Group, a New York General Partnership, for Architectural and Engineering Services.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

- 7.06 Made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by C. Bliefernich of the approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the following Resolution be placed on the May 17, 2016 Ballot:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Eldred Central School District is hereby authorized to expend \$16,989,213.00 during the 2016-2017 school year.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

- 7.07 Made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by C. Bliefernich of the approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the following Resolution be placed on the May 17, 2016 Ballot:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Eldred Central School District is hereby authorized to levy taxes annually in the amount of \$14,500.00 and to pay over such monies to the Board of Trustees of the Sunshine Hall Free Library.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

- 7.08 Made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by L. Bohs of the approval, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that the Board of Education of the Eldred Central School District approve the 2016-2017 Property Tax Report Card.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

8. OLD BUSINESS.

- 8.01 Board of Education Vacancy – term July, 2016 through June, 2021. Petitions can be obtained from the District Clerk and must be submitted to the office by April 18, 2016
- 8.02 Reminder of Meet the Candidate and Annual District Meeting on May 5, 2016 beginning at 7 p.m. at GRM and the subsequent Annual Budget May 17, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the high school
- 8.03 Statement read by B. Siegel, followed by the presentation of a motion written by the Board's attorney made by B. Siegel as follows:

Motion that the Board, having received a complaint by a community member regarding the conduct of a particular Board of Education member, and having previously discussed the same in executive session; and the particular Board of Education member who is the subject of the complaint having requested that the Board waive the confidentiality of the executive session on March 17, 2016, where the complaint was discussed, it is hereby RESOLVED that protection of the executive session of March 17, 2016 hereby be waived as to the identity of the particular Board of Education member.

Motion made by B. Siegel. President D. Reiser asked for a second for the motion. Hearing none, no vote was taken on the motion and formal discussion. B. Siegel then stated “let the record reflect that the Board of Education prefers to do its business behind closed doors”. All members refuted his comment and D. Reiser stated that this matter concerns the sanctity of executive session, nothing else. He then proceeded with the items on the agenda.

9. NEW BUSINESS.

9.01 Wellness Committee Report – Mr. Siegel & Mrs. Keegan

Ms. Keegan gave a brief overview of the progress of the Wellness Committee, thanking the teachers, staff, and community members for their input. Recess times have been a topic of conversation. Mr. Krebs stated that under the direction of Mrs. Pratchler, the committee at the high school has been discussing staff wellness, information dissemination for faculty and staff. The PE Department is discussing changes in the PE programs currently being offered to students, not just recess time.

9.02 Open Meetings Law – B. Siegel read an explanation of Article 7 of the Open Meetings Law as it pertains to the reasons for Executive Session according to New York Education Law. Stated there is no protection for Board members from scrutiny from the public in the Open Meetings Law and that the Board needs to be transparent in all matters. Discussion followed regarding disclosing the confidentiality of a previous Executive Session in discussing this matter.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT.

P. CLARK: Stated from his past experience on the Board of Education, he has seen many instances of bullying of Board of Education members. Told Board he had been contacted by the Board’s attorney in an investigation of allegations against a board member and he said he was not aware of any details on this matter. He questioned the delay in time for the attorney to contact him and the duration of time of the Executive Session in question.

B. SIEGEL: Stated he believed that Mr. Clark should get an answer to his question.

D. REISER: Stated to answer his question would be to breach the confidentiality of the executive session and he would not do that.

G. SPEER: Reminded the Board that they are all public servants – transparency is important. Any meeting he has ever been to the minutes are read to a “T”.

J. TROXEL: Spoke to his belief that the literature handed out at the Break the Cycle presentation at GRM was inappropriate for young children. He also questioned the activities of those children who had opted out of testing.

A lengthy discussion followed between the administration, board and attendees at the meeting regarding accommodations for special education student testing, supervision of the larger than anticipated number of students who opted out, activities permitted that would not disturb those testing, and what can be done to make it a better situation. Supt. Dufour stated this has been a learning process and the administration will look into it.

B. DEYERMOND: Followed up on her previous mention of the Board considering a 5-10 year visioning plan. Presented to the Board a handout of an example of a vision plan from a school in Illinois.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

11.01 Approval to enter into Executive Session at 9:04 p.m. **to discuss contract negotiations** was made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by L. Bohs.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

11.02 Approval to adjourn Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. was made on motion by C. Bliefernich and seconded by L. Bohs.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.

12. ADJOURNMENT.

12.01 Approval to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. was made on motion by A. Laput and seconded by C. Bliefernich.

Voting: D. Reiser – yes; A. Laput – yes; L. Bohs – yes; C. Bliefernich – yes; B. Siegel – yes.
Votes: 5 yes. Motion carried.