

SEYMOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING
Central Office

January 10, 2008
7:00 P.M.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bruce Baker, Chairman
Rhonda Geffert
Frederick Stanek
James Ward
Jeanne Loda
Jason Buchsbaum
James Garofolo 7:08
Judith Flood
Rose Marie Yitts

OTHERS PRESENT:

MaryAnne Mascolo, Superintendent
Christine Syriac, Associate Superintendent
Richard Belden, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITY:

Bruce Baker, Chairman, called the special meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:06 p.m. stating the reason for the meeting was to review and possibly take action on the 2008-2009 Board of Education budget.

Ms. Mascolo gave Board Members an overview of how the budget proposal was put together. The proposal aligns the strategic plan and the district goal with other things needed to improve the district.

Ms. Mascolo turned the meeting over to Mr. Belden. Mr. Belden gave a summary of the foundation budget. The foundation budget maintains the existing programs and the level of services provided in 2007-08 and reflects the contractual increases for 2008-2009.

Mr. Baker asked if said this budget reflects the elimination of French at the High School level and moving this teacher to the Middle School to teach world language. Ms Mascolo said the students at the Middle School would have a full year of Spanish in 7th and 8th grade that would be the equivalent of Spanish 1 at the high school level. When these students enter the High School they will be able to have Spanish 2 in the 9th grade.

Ms. Mascolo talked about her proposed budget initiatives for 2008-2009. Ms. Mascolo said there would be a new Library/Media Specialist at the elementary level. Ms. Mascolo would also like to add an all day kindergarten class at both Bungay School and Chatfield School to mirror the program at LoPresti School. This would require hiring one additional Kindergarten teacher. Ms. Mascolo also told Board Members about piloting a virtual high school program at the high school to expand the course offerings. Ms. Mascolo said there might be a need for an Elementary Teacher at Bungay School to address class size issues.

Much discussion took place regarding the elimination of French at the High School as well as the pilot virtual high school program.

08-3473 MOTION: (Mrs. Flood, sec., Mr. Stanek) not to eliminate French from the curriculum at the High School.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Yitts, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Loda

OPPOSED: Mr. Ward

Mr. Baker asked what the number would they be sending to downtown. Mr. Belden said it would be an amount near the foundation budget with a couple of key initiatives.

Mr. Garofolo asked if someone with experience with the virtual high school program could come and talk to Board Members about the program. Mr. Belden said they could have someone come in to discuss the program with Board Members.

The meeting recessed from 9:15 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Mr. Baker said the foundation budget - \$29,883,276
Initiatives - \$ 161,000

Foundation budget – Library/Media Specialist
Initiatives – Kindergarten Teacher
Virtual High School Pilot Program
Elementary Teacher at Bungay School to address class size issues
½ time Spanish Teacher

08-3474 MOTION: (Mrs. Loda, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to send the numbers of the foundation budget of \$29,883,276 and the initiatives of \$161,000 totaling \$30,044,276.00 to the Board of Finance.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Ward, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Yitts

OPPOSED: Mr. Garofolo

The next item discussed was possible action on a teacher early retirement incentive package. Mr. Belden explained the early retirement incentive package, what the staff would receive the package and how it would affect the budget.

08-3475 MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec., Mrs. Geffert) to offer the early retirement incentive plan to certified teaching staff.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Baker, Mrs. Geffert, Mrs. Flood, Mrs. Yitts, Mr. Ward, Mr. Buchsbaum, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Loda

DISQUALIFIED: Mr. Stanek

08-3476 MOTION: (Mrs. Geffert, sec., Mr. Ward) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Buchsbaum, Mrs. Geffert, Mr. Ward, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Loda, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Garofolo, Mrs. Yitts, Mrs. Flood

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by
Sharon Ewaskie, Clerk