

A Special Budget Meeting of the Board of Education of the Heuvelton Central School District was held in the Multi-Media Room on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. The Meeting was called to order by President Michael Davis at 7:02 p.m.

Members present: Michael Davis, President, Andrew Martin, Vice President, Keith Carmany, Dennis Durant, Barbara Knauf, Michelle McGaw and Thomas Nichols

Members absent: None

Also present: Susan Todd, Superintendent, Shannon Jordan, PreK-6 Principal, Jesse Coburn, 7-12 Principal, Michael Robinson, Assistant Business Manager and Tessa Herron, District Clerk

Guests: None

- 15-138 Motion #1  
Adopt Revised Agenda To adopt the proposed agenda.  
Moved: Carmany Seconded: Knauf  
Seven present, seven ayes. Carried
- 15-139 Items for Discussion  
Budget Mrs. Todd presented a summary of differences between 4/5/16 vs 4/12/16 budget. Mr. Robinson spoke about the fund balance reserves spreadsheet that he maintains. Mr. Nichols asked how much from the tax certiorari reserve comes out. Mr. Robinson said none.
- Mr. Nichols expressed that he thinks this is not a year for the district to challenge voters and their anger whether they will support the budget at 60%. He stated that his concern is with the energy that he's receiving from phone calls. He stated that maybe the district doesn't raise taxes as much as we wanted to but we raise them some. Mr. Nichols stated that he would be making a motion to support taking \$80,000 from fund balance that would still allow the district to have the fund balance stay in a comfortable zone.
- Mr. Davis stated that the only reason the district is as financially sound is because that money remains in there. If the district is not increasing the tax levy at a steady increase then the district would end up in a worst place.
- Mrs. Todd stated that if the district decides to go above the 60% and it doesn't work you can go back again as a Board and make other decisions. Mrs. Todd stated that she understands that these are tough decisions but if the Board decides not to increase the tax levy by more than 0.46%, next year and years to come are going to be more difficult. The Board may have to make even tougher decisions about cuts next year.
- Mr. Davis asked if the property tax rebate would be going up next year. Mrs. Todd provided the Board with a handout for the upcoming years regarding the property tax rebate. Mr. Martin stated that he feels the Board needs to be as transparent as possible and inform the public about the consequences if they do go with the 2.9% tax levy.
- Mr. Nichols expressed that he felt that faculty/staff haven't been made aware of a lot of the cuts being brought to the Board. Mr. Nichols stated that he does not support these kinds of changes. Mrs. Todd responded that cuts to positions were talked about at the March meeting and April 6<sup>th</sup> Budget meeting. Mrs. Todd informed the Board that she has spoken with the HTA President and she has notified faculty/staff through her monthly news & notes that is emailed about the challenges of this budget.
- 15-140 Motion # 2  
16-17 Budget To approve using \$80,000 from the fund balance to increase the appropriated fund balance to keep the tax levy at 0.46%.  
Motioned: Nichols Seconded:  
No second, motion denied
- 15-141 Information  
Budget Discussion Mr. Durant asked if the 2.6% increase last year put the district over the tax cap? Mr. Robinson stated that no the district was right at the tax cap. Mr. Durant stated that if the district doesn't impose the tax increase this year and then next year the district is in a situation where we have to start regaining ourselves and in 18/19 we may have to go over the tax limit. Then taxpayers are really going to lose and take a hit with the property tax rebate. Mr. Durant would like to see a compromise. Something in the middle.
- Mr. Davis expressed that he hasn't heard the negativity in the public. Mr. Davis stated that he would much rather have taxpayers give up \$3.56 a week now than much more later. Mr. Carmany agreed. Mr. Robinson informed the Board that the green sheet these figures are just estimates and that there is still 3 months left in the year. Mr. Martin stated that he understands putting money aside but expressed that he feels that we could still take \$80,000.
- Mr. Durant stated that he keeps coming back to the fact of if the Board wants to do long range planning then the Board would be doing a disservice by not maintaining an appropriate tax increase especially to do with the property tax rebate. Mr. Durant stated in my opinion the district needs to maintain appropriate tax increases in order to make this thing work.
- Mr. Nichols left the meeting at 8:09 p.m. and reentered at 8:11 p.m.

Mrs. Todd stated that she would include the property tax rebate credit table in the budget newsletter.

15-142 Motion # 3  
16-17 Budget

To approve the 2016-2017 Heuvelton Central School District Proposed budget of \$13,254,137 with a tax levy increase of 2.3%.

Motioned: Davis      Seconded: Durant

Five ayes, two nays. Carried

Mrs. Todd shared information about the strategic planning process. Mrs. Todd shared that it might be wise to wait because she is retiring next year and since the district will be hiring a new superintendent that Superintendent should be involved with strategic planning.

Mr. Carmany left the meeting at 8:13 p.m. and reentered at 8:16 p.m.

Mr. Martin shared that he still felt a need for a brainstorming session. Mr. Martin stated that there are a lot of different things the Board should be looking at. He is still concerned about Math.

Mrs. Todd shared that that the LET team has spent the whole year looking at data and identifying areas where we have weaknesses. The teachers that are part of this group are going to present on the May Staff Day to the teachers.

Mr. Durant shared that this is basically what the Board is talking about and it would be nice to have a block of time where the members can discuss things. Mrs. Todd just reminded the Board that these meetings have to be in open session and that there cannot be talk about personnel issues.

Mrs. McGaw stated that she feels this is a very ambitious group of Board members and she doesn't want to see the Board just put a stamp of approval on things.

Mrs. Todd stated that she will ask Mr. Burns to come to a meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> or May 18<sup>th</sup> to start the discussion on a Superintendent search. The Board members agreed to wait until meeting with Mr. Burns before beginning strategic planning.

15-143 Motion #4  
Adjournment

To approve adjourning the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Motioned: Knauf      Seconded: McGaw

Seven present, seven ayes. Carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Tessa E. Herron  
District Clerk