

April 12, 2001

Wednesday evening's Board of Education Meeting began with Public Participation, where a number of staff addressed the Board regarding their support for the proposed school budget. Under Board Committee Reports Amy BennettLepel reported on the last SAVE Meeting and the last PROUD Meeting. Gretchen Craft reported on her attendance at the BOCES Annual Meeting and the Middle School Play she attended on Friday. Bucky Jordan reported on the last Park Committee Meeting and the upcoming planned activities. Deb Larson attended the Middle School Play on Saturday evening and reported on its success. Bill Herbert reported on the last Town Board Meeting and his recent tour of the Town Park.

The Board approved the Consent Agenda which included substitute teachers and classified staff. The Board also accepted the resignation of Linda Moll, Teacher Assistant in the Elementary School. The Board approved CSE Case Summaries as presented by Wanda Miller. The Board heard a report from Carol McMahon, Enrichment Teacher in the Middle School, regarding the Skills Competition hosted at the Voc. Ed. Center. Forty-four Middle School students participated in a number of skill challenges involving vocational/technical education. Nick Foos, an 8th grader, was also present to describe the competition he participated in. The Middle School won the overall competition and showed off their trophy.

Under Old Business the Board reviewed Policy 1130, which states the number of Board Members (5). The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having a larger number of members. The decision was to put this on hold and address the idea through a Board Goal for the next year. The Board wants to gather community input on this.

The major item of discussion centered around the proposed budget. The Board, Superintendent and Asst. Superintendent for Business had met for three hours prior to the evening meeting in a Budget Worksession. All areas of the budget were re-examined for possible areas of reduction. After much discussion, the Board adopted a budget of \$15,354,600 for the 2001-2002 school year. This represents a 4.8% budget increase and translates into a 7.09% tax rate increase based upon information available at this point. The money school districts will receive from State Aid is not determined until legislators pass a New York State budget, which was due April 1st. In addition to salary increases for staff, the two areas contributing to a larger than desired tax increase are soaring utility costs (natural gas) and rising health insurance benefits (up nearly 20% for next year). The Board has agreed to apply any additional revenue in the form of State Aid directly to reduce the projected rate. This will be done in August, when the new tax rate is set. The Budget hearing is set for May 2, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. in the Middle School Auditorium. The Budget Vote is scheduled for May 15, 2001, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. in the Middle School Multi-Purpose Room (in the back wing).

In final action, the Board approved the maternity leave request for Christi Byron effective May 2nd, followed by a child rearing leave from the opening of school in September through November 2, 2001. The Board reviewed upcoming meetings and held Public Participation.

The Board recessed to Executive Session at 8:52 p.m. and adjourned at 9:31 p.m. taking no further action.