

LANCASTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Lancaster, New York

Board of Education
District Office
177 Central Avenue

Tuesday, February 3, 2009
6:30 pm

2009-2010 Budget Work Session

MINUTES

Members Present: Kenneth Graber, President
 David Ehrle, Vice President
 Joseph Casimino, Trustee
 Marie MacKay, Trustee
 Mary Kless, Trustee
 Richard Foley, Trustee
 Joseph Maciejewski, Trustee

Administration Present: Edward J. Myszka, Superintendent of Schools
 Michael Vallely, PhD, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum,
 Instruction & Pupil Services
 John Armstrong, Director of Special Education
 Richard D’Arcy, Director of Finance & Support Services
 Dennis Weist, Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds
 Robert Mowry, Supervisor of Transportation

Others Present: District residents, staff members, and media representatives

A discussion took place regarding the selection of the principal at the William Street School. It was agreed that the interview committee would recommend the top three candidates to the superintendent. Then the superintendent will provide the board with resumes from the top three candidates along with his recommendation for the position.

Mr. D’Arcy introduced Mr. Steve Smith, an administrative intern and teacher at Central Avenue. Mr. Myszka noted that the LCTA and LASP contracts are under negotiation.

1. Operations and Maintenance

D. Weist / R. D’Arcy

Mr. Dennis Weist, superintendent of buildings and grounds, reviewed the operations and maintenance department’s proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year. A discussion took place regarding state contracts and sharing supply purchases and services with other districts and the town. Mr. Weist spoke about the repair shop at the middle school where all vacuum cleaners are repaired in-house at a significant cost savings. Mr. Weist discussed the sweepers and he said he would like one in every building because it is difficult to move them around. Mrs. Kless asked if the sweepings could be coordinated with the town. Mr. Weist discussed many shared services with the town. Dr. Casimino asked about gymnasium floor refinishing and Mr. Myszka

said Mr. Weist instituted a floor maintenance program in the district. A discussion took place about the swimming pools at the high school and William Street School. Building usage, drain replacements, chlorine, and insurance were among the items discussed. Mrs. MacKay asked questions about the back stops and Mr. Weist explained. Mr. Weist discussed emergency training, asbestos abatement, and annual certification training for the district's employees. Mr. Weist also discussed trees the district plants every year and that some are donated to the district. Mr. Weist spoke about staff requests and carpets in the classrooms. He also spoke about the replacement of window shades. Mr. Weist said the district performs all air conditioning and refrigeration repairs in-house at approximately one quarter of the cost. He said we have four employees certified to do this. Mr. Weist explained his department will host a maintenance/cleaner workshop at William Street for the second year. The district will benefit by getting the William Street School gym floor refinished at no cost.

2. Transportation

R. Mowry / R. D'Arcy

A. Budget

Mr. Robert Mowry, supervisor of transportation, reviewed the transportation department's proposed budget for the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Mowry is asking for a slight increase in equipment to improve record storage by purchasing fire proof cabinets. Mr. Mowry noted the contractual expenses are slightly decreased over last year because some of the driver testing is being done in-house. Members of the board requested information regarding what is aidable versus what is not so they can compare costs of doing things in-house versus contracting out with aid. Mr. Mowry explained the process of emission control and the expensive parts necessary to do this. Mr. Mowry explained how repair parts are purchased. Mr. Mowry discussed driver training and testing. Mr. Graber asked about the purchase of gasoline and Mr. Mowry explained the process of purchasing through BOCES. Mr. Mowry spoke about the current cost of diesel fuel, which is \$1.57/gallon versus \$4.29 which was the highest this year. Mr. Mowry explained how fuel costs are shared with the town and village and talked about the tanks the fuel is stored in. Mr. Mowry discussed the need for tires and how the tires wear on the district's vehicles. Mr. Mowry also talked about the equipment he is requesting including battery chargers, jack stands, and torque wrenches. He explained how the district's tools are inventoried and how employees' tools are kept separate. Mr. Mowry discussed the increase in contractual expenses. He is asking for an oil separator, improved garage lighting, an exhaust gas evacuator, and some building upgrades to the driver room and shower. A discussion took place about contracted transportation services. Mr. Mowry noted he is looking at a 4 percent increase and talked about special education transportation.

B. Bus Proposition

A list of district transportation equipment was distributed to the board for review along with a list of proposed bus purchases. Mr. Mowry talked about the 10-year replacement plan, the bid process, different types and sizes of buses, and how many students ride our buses. Mr. Myszka said he will ask the taxpayers to use reserve money to purchase new buses, if not, the money stays in the reserve fund.

C. Transportation Policy - Methodology of change request
Cost avoidance under current policy

A discussion took place as to whether the district should change the transportation policy. It was decided the board would have to review additional information before any changes could occur. Mr. Myszka explained how some changes in transportation policy require voter approval and even then would not be enacted for one year.

3. Debt Service R. D’Arcy

Mr. D’Arcy discussed the debt service section of the proposed 2009-2010 budget.

4. Employee Benefits R. D’Arcy

Mr. D’Arcy discussed the employee benefits section of the proposed 2009-2010 budget. Mr. D’Arcy said there is a meeting scheduled with Independent Health to review their rates for the upcoming year. Mr. D’Arcy also said the committee is looking for some alternative options regarding medical insurance.

5. Mid Year Budget Review E. Myszka / R. D’Arcy

Mr. D’Arcy explained the mid-year review spreadsheet and the reference portion that explains some of the larger variances. Mr. Myszka said the 2008-2009 budget was already reduced by \$400,000 to lessen the tax impact next year. Mr. Myszka talked about the substitute calling service and unemployment insurance costs. Mrs. MacKay asked questions about the building use committee and if it is possible to consolidate building usage in the evening. Mr. D’Arcy explained how the district’s computers are automatically turned off at 9 pm and that the thermostats are turned back in the evening. Mr. Graber reminded the board members that it is important for the board to review the senior exemption schedule.

At 9:15 pm the board moved into executive session to discuss litigation.

The budget work session was adjourned at 9:59 pm.