

**Board of Education
LANCASTER CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Lancaster, New York**

MINUTES

January 5, 2009

Special Session

J. Norman Hayes Administration Building, 177 Central Avenue, Lancaster

Kenneth Graber, President
David Ehrle, Vice President
Joseph Casimino EdD, Trustee
Richard Foley, Trustee

Mary Kless, Trustee
Joseph Maciejewski, Trustee
Marie MacKay, Trustee

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
Marie Perini, EdD, Director of Secondary Education
Michele Ziegler, Director of Instructional Technology & Accountability

District residents, staff members, students, and media representatives.

The special meeting of the board of education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Graber. The pledge to the flag was recited and Mr. Graber asked for a moment of silence for individual reflection and for the sailors, soldiers, and policemen for keeping us safe. Mr. Graber also asked for the wisdom to make the right decisions this upcoming year. Mr. Graber explained this special meeting was called to discuss the fiscal crisis and to discuss negotiations in executive session.

Mr. Myszka began by explaining the process of educational funding and what this year's deficit reduction of \$1.8 million means to the district. Mr. Myszka asked for public input on the reductions they would support and said his goal is to maintain the district's programs. Mr. Myszka said although the Governor's budget is not final, the district has always used his figures in the past. Mr. Myszka thanked everyone for attending this special meeting and asked for public input.

Mr. Graber noted it is gratifying to see the number of people at this special meeting and referred to Mr. Maciejewski's letter printed in the *Bee* newspapers advertising this special meeting and asking for public input on how to deal with the financial crisis. At this time Mr. Graber asked for public input.

MEETING DATE

KIND

PLACE

MEMBERS PRESENT

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

OTHERS PRESENT

- 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER**
- 2.0 **PLEDGE TO FLAG**
- 3.0 **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

4.0 **SUPERINTENDENT'S
ADMINISTRATIVE
REPORT**

5.0 **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Lee Chowanec, 93 Northwood Drive, said spending is out of control. Mr. Chowanec talked about increased salaries, health benefits, and administrative staff size. Mr. Chowanec said he is not asking for cuts, but compromise. He mentioned several areas of concern including free events for staff members, sick days, Contract for Excellence, class size, transportation, school resource officers, purchasing procedures, and music and athletic programs.

Mr. Maciejewski discussed funding of school districts in ways other than with property taxes.

Mr. Albert Martin, 21 Cayuga Avenue, asked that the district begin by critically examining every part of the education program and continue only those things that are necessary or essential to education. Mr. Martin would like the board to scrutinize education programs, staffing, contracts, extracurricular activities, transportation, recreation, continuing education, athletics, maintenance, renovations, and expansions.

Mr. Bill Janiga, 56 Pheasant Run Lane, a former board member, asked the board to consider several ways the district can cut costs including supply money, books, equipment, and copying costs. Mr. Janiga suggested students purchase more supplies of their own, and asked that the home school associations, boosters, student groups and clubs be asked to fund some of the items cut from the budget. Mr. Janiga also asked that meetings take place with the teachers and administration to ask for input on what they would cut to save money.

Ms. Karen Shafer, 31 Brandel Avenue, asked that principals and administrators take a pay cut and asked the board to scrutinize overtime costs.

Ms. Kimberly Buziak, 324 Highland Road, a high school student, spoke of crowding on school buses. Ms. Buziak noted she is an Academy of Finance student and they do fund raise but wouldn't be successful without funding from the district. Ms. Buziak notes she is against program cuts.

Ms. Susan Wrotny, 48 Lake Forest Parkway, discussed her concerns about the district's health benefits.

Ms. Faith Lund, 136 Colony Street, a high school student, discussed her concerns about cutting athletics and feels it would hinder scholarship opportunities for the students.

Ms. Shirley Phillips, 80 Christen Court, discussed the Wicks law and asked if it would save the district money.

Ms. Danielle Kwasniak, 134 S. Irwinwood, asked that homework assignments be put on the Website or the internet.

Mr. Dave Zalenski, 17 Lake Forest Parkway, inquired about department meetings to discuss preliminary budget numbers and the importance of helping the public understand the budget development process.

Mr. Graber explained the budget process, work sessions, and the budget calendar.

Ms. Cindy Crowe, 78 Old Lake Avenue, discussed the importance of school resource officers and asked the board not to remove them.

Ms. Marilyn Marsh, Harris Hill Road, discussed the parking situation at the high school.

Ms. Phillips, a retired county worker, discussed deferred compensation and retirement money.

Mrs. Amy Miklas, 15 Sussex Lane, said her daughter attends the integrated program at Hillview Elementary School and is very happy and successful there. Mrs. Miklas noted she is a teacher in another district and discussed how much paper is wasted.

Ms. Wrotny asked about acronyms such as NCLB and mandated services. Mr. Myszka and Mr. Graber explained that a large part of the budget is required through mandates and some of them are unfunded.

Mrs. Erika Saunders, 13 Sussex Lane, asked the board to look for available grants to reduce some of the district's costs. Mr. Graber, Mr. D'Arcy, and Mr. Armstrong explained some of the grants the district has applied for and received.

Mrs. MacKay thanked the public for attending the work session and noted the importance of communication during the budget period. Mrs. MacKay explained how the board members scrutinize each item in the budget and put a lot of thought into it. Mrs. MacKay noted the importance of working together as a community during these tough economic times.

Mrs. Kless said she appreciated everyone for attending the board meeting and talked about the importance of working together.

Mr. Graber thanked everyone for their input and for attending the meeting.

At 8:27 p.m. MOVED by Maciejewski SECONDED by MacKay to move into executive session to discuss negotiations and a personnel issue.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 Ayes 0 Nays

MOTION APPROVED.

6.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:57 p.m. MOVED by Maciejewski SECONDED by MacKay to reconvene the regular session.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 Ayes 0 Nays

MOTION APPROVED.

7.0 REGULAR SESSION

At 9:58 p.m. MOVED by Ehrle SECONDED by Kless to adjourn the regular session.

VOTE ON THE MOTION: 7 Ayes 0 Nays
MOTION APPROVED.

Sandra A. Janik, District Clerk