

**NORTH SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NORTH SALEM, NEW YORK 10560
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BUDGET WORK SESSION
March 18, 2009**

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the North Salem Central School District was called to order at 6:32 PM in the Board Conference Room by Board Vice President Judith Schurmacher.

At 6:32 PM, a motion was made by Judith Schurmacher and seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried (7-0), to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing specific matters of personnel. Judith Schurmacher was appointed Clerk Pro-Tem for this Executive Session.

At 7:29 PM, on a motion made by Judith Schurmacher, seconded by Stephen Bobolia and carried (7-0), the Board adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened to the Public Session.

Board Members Present at this Meeting:

Ms. Katherine Daniels, President
Ms. Judith Schurmacher, Vice-President
Mr. Paul Giamundo, Trustee
Mr. Paul Smadbeck, Trustee
Mr. Jonathan Freeman, Trustee
Mr. Stephen Bobolia, Trustee
Mr. Andrew Brown, Trustee

Also Present:

Dr. Kenneth Freeston, Superintendent
Dr. Michael Hibbard, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Human Resources
Ms. MaryJo Hauser, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services
Ms. Rebecca Narvaez, District Clerk
Members of North Salem Staff
Members of the Public

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by Ms. Katherine Daniels and followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment

None

Budget Presentations

Dr. Freeston recapped the overview of the budget process from last week, the four main goal areas of the district's budget are:

1. Strengthen our current capacity to achieve goals
2. Center on goals to improve student performance
3. Develop and support leadership for student performance
4. Deliberate collaboratively, thoughtfully, and purposefully

Dr. Freeston stated that there are new realities for school budgeting and that North Salem's 09-10 budget needs to impact the decisions that will be made for the next three years. The District needs to continue to build voter confidence as expressed by voter approval and the passing of the budget, as well as staying competitive with

other high performing school districts. Dr. Freeston stated that successful schools will fund improvements by re-engineering current capacity not increasing it, given the current economic climate.

Dr. Freeston presented the 2009-2010 budget, \$38,182,390 essentially a 0% increase budget (08-09) to budget (09-10).

Special Education & Pupil Personnel Services-Ms. MaryJo Hauser

MaryJo Hauser presented the 2009-2010 budget for Pupil Personnel Services starting with Special Education.

Ms. Hauser presented a chart showing the decline in CSE classified students over the past few years. The district is currently at 11.1 % of students classified falling below the state target of “less than 12%”, which the district has met for the second year in row.

Ms. Hauser stated that currently 50 % of the special education students spend 80 % of their time in general education classes as mandated in the least restrictive environment guidelines provided by the state. Ms. Hauser remarked on the implementation of co-teaching and how this has led to the significant strides that North Salem has taken.

Ms. Hauser also presented information showing the improvements seen by the district, through RTI (Response to Intervention) and the number of students with learning disabilities which has seen a consistent steady decline over the years. The focus and incorporation of RTI (Response to Intervention) has enabled the district to learn from the research and deliver the correct strategies earlier.

Ms. MaryJo Hauser presented the 2009-2010 budget for Pupil Personnel Services compared to the current year. Discussion followed regarding line by line items including grant money and technology.

One important addition to the 2009-2010 PPS budget is the addition of substitute nurses to the budget (\$2400). This will meet the increasing necessity of providing building and student coverage in at-risk situations and the increase in the student population of severe allergies and other medical issues.

Paul Giamundo commended Ms. Hauser for her work with regard to the constant reviewing and updating of student needs, services required and governmental rules and mandates and her ability to give the right amount of services to the students involved. Secondly, Mr. Giamundo commended Ms. Hauser for her ability to strive to keep the work being done “in-house” in the district in for cost efficiency.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

On a motion made by Judy Schurmacher, seconded by Paul Giamundo and carried 7-0 the Board of Education adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Narvaez