

Beekmantown Central School District

Board of Education Meeting

Place: **MS/HS Library**

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

Time: **6:15 p.m.**

Agenda

1. Call to Order

at: **6:17 p.m.**

by: **Richard LaVigne**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call

☐ Karen Armstrong

☒ Frank Hay

☒ Richard LaVigne

☒ Jane Donahue

☒ Leonard King

☒ George Palmer

☒ Kathleen Grinberg-Funes*

☒ Stan Kourofsky◇

☒ Steve Trombley

☒ Timothy Palmer, Ex-Officio, Student Board Member

* Kathleen Grinberg-Funes arrived at 6:20 p.m.

◇ Stan Kourofsky arrived at 6:32 p.m.

Also Present

Mark Sposato

Ron Clamser

Joe Lavorando

Dan Hobbs

Sue Coonrod

Roxann Barnes

Gary Lambert

Sandra Gardner

Ed Cook

Micheline DeBella

Diane Fox

Don Strong

Jennifer Hicks

Jen Parliament

Visitors

Lucy Giroux

Patty Gallagher

John Miller

Susan King

Shannon King

Sharon Nephew

Jeri Bennett

Gail Giroux

Robert King

Jeff Provost

Doreen Provost

Keith LaPier

Simone Lutz

Earl Burnell

Margo Burnell

Brenda Newell

Terry Savage

Patty LaFlau

Steve LaFlau

Nancy McCormick

Sharon Carlin

Terry Hicks

Mabel King

Guy Falcon

2. Public Comment

None at this time.

3. Reports/Presentations

6:18 p.m.

Topic: Reading Series Adoption

Presenters: Diane Fox & Sandra Gardner

The purpose of this presentation was to explain the Pearson Scott Foresman Series "Reading Street" proposal and obtain the Board's approval to establish a consistent reading series curriculum in the Elementary Schools.

At 6:35 p.m. Mr. LaVigne turned the meeting over to the Board President, Stan Kourofsky.

Mr. Kourofsky asked Timothy Palmer, Ex-Officio Student Board Member, to give his report to the Board. Timothy Palmer gave a progress report for the Courtyard Escape Project and an update on fundraising. He informed the Board that 155 senior class members are expected to graduate with 3 drop-outs. 148 of those entered in the 9th grade and 7 joined the District.

4. Spotlight on Education

None at this time.

5. Minutes

Resolved that the Board of Education does hereby approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Education held on:

March 13, 2007 (Regular Meeting)

Motion: RL

Seconded: KGF

Yes: 8

No: 0

Abstain: 0

(Accept Reject Table)

6. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

7. New Business

A. CSE Recommendations

Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to approve the CSE recommendations dated 4/03/07.

Motion: KGF

Seconded: LK

Yes: 8

No: 0

Abstain: 0

(Accept Reject Table)

B. Personnel

1. Resignations

- Resolved, that the Superintendent of School recommends to the Board of Education to accept the following resignation on the date indicated:

Name

Durocher, Donna

Position

Typist

Effective Date

4/13/07

Kelly, Michael J.	Physics Teacher	6/30/07
Reich, John	Special Education Teacher	8/31/07

Motion: FH Seconded: RL Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Discussion: *Ms. Grinberg-Funes asked if there will be exit interviews. Dr. Sposato responded yes.*

- b. Resolved, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Mark A. Sposato, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools for the Beekmantown Central School District effective June 30, 2007.

Motion: LK Seconded: RL Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

2. Termination

Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to accept the following termination on the date indicated:

Name	Position	Date
Newell, Brenda	Custodial Worker	4/03/07

Motion: ST Seconded: GP Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Executive Session (to discuss a particular persons' employment)

In: 6:40 p.m. Motion: FH Seconded: RL Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Out: 6:50 p.m. Motion: GP Seconded: RL Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

3. Appointments

Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the following *substitute* appointment beginning on the date indicated:

Name	Substitute	Effective Date
Greiner, Newton	Instructional	04/16/07

Motion: RL Seconded: ST Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

- 4. Unpaid Leave *None at this time.*
- 5. Intent to Retire *None at this time.*
- 6. Child Rearing Leave *None at this time.*
- 7. Tenure *None at this time.*
- 8. Elimination of Position *None at this time.*

C. Policy *None at this time.*

D. Miscellaneous

Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to approve the Pearson Scott Foresman Series **Reading Street** (copyright 2008) for Grades K-5 effective July 1, 2007 at a total cost of \$206,047.

Motion: ST Seconded: RL

Roll Call Vote:

<input type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Donahue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley

Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Discussion: *Dr. Palmer commented based on the presentation given by the Elementary Principals he is confident on voting for their recommendation because of all the research that was put into it. Ms. Grinberg-Funes requested a progress report to the Board next year to measure the impact of the program. Dr. Sposato pointed out that during the first year of implementation little progress will be measured in scores but procedures and process can be measured. He continued it will take about 3-5 years to see the real impact in student scores.*

8. Financial 6:55 p.m.

A. Resolved, that the Board of Education accepts the following reports:

Appropriation Status Report – (February)
Treasurer's Revenue Report – (February)
Cafeteria Revenue & Expense Report - (February)
Treasurer's Monthly Report – (February)
Trial Balance – (February)
Warrant Report – (February)
Extra-Curricular Activities Account – (February)

Motion: LK Seconded: ST Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

- B.** Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to approve the payment for health services to the Peru Central School District for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount not to exceed \$29,484.12 for services to 51 students @ \$578.12 per pupil.

Motion: RL Seconded: FH

Roll Call Vote:

☐ Karen Armstrong

☒ Jane Donahue

☒ Kathleen Grinberg-Funes

☒ Frank Hay

☒ Leonard King

☒ Stan Kourofsky

☒ Richard LaVigne

☒ George Palmer

☒ Steve Trombley

Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Discussion: Ms. Donahue wants to make sure the price is in comparison with what other schools charge. Dr. Sposato replied that this charge is formula based.

- C.** Recommend to the voters of the District at the Annual District Meeting on May 15, 2007 the following propositions:

Dr. Sposato explained the updated documents given to the Board include additional State Aide revenue of approximately \$93,144 and a recommendation from the Real Property Office to keep the assumptions for projected assessments already included in the budget. In addition, the Board was given the following options that were requested at the previous Board meeting:

Option 1: adding 1 reserve FTE each for Instructional and Non-Instructional.

Option 2: option 1 plus 1 additional Instructional FTE for each elementary school.

Both options were presented for each of the scenarios using the \$750,000; \$850,000 and \$950,000 from the Fund Balance to balance the budget as well as using \$200,000 from the Capital Debt Reserve.

At this time, Ms. Parliament, speaking on behalf of the Business Office, reaffirmed the recommendation to only use \$550,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from the Capital Debt Reserve for a total of \$750,000 to balance the budget.

Discussion: Each Board member was given the opportunity to make comments and support one of the options on the table. The results were as follows:

Frank Hay: Supports Option 2 with \$750,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve. He strongly believes the Board should follow the recommendation of the Business Office and is concerned about the tax rate catching up down the road, especially with the proposed \$9 million in Capital repairs over the next 5 years.

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes: Supports Option 2 with \$750,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve. She would follow the recommendation of the Business Office because the District has been close to being in fiscal distress and doesn't feel like the District should be "giving it away".

Dr. Sposato clarified the Business Office is not recommending the \$750/\$200 option, but that is the lowest option the Board wanted.

Jane Donahue: Supports Option 2 with \$750,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve. She remembers a time when the tax rate didn't increase and then increased substantially the following year.

Mr. Clamser presented the Board with some hypothetical projections on what would happen to the future tax rate if the Board would use too much from the Fund Balance to lower the tax rate in this proposed budget. The projection assumes that by using \$1 million of the Fund balance each year for 2 years and using \$1 million of the Capital Debt Reserve, with modest projections of 4% increase each year in State Aid and a modest 4% increase in expenditures, in 3 years time the tax rate would be \$21.28 per \$1,000 an increase of \$3.42 over 3 years. While these projections are extreme scenarios, it is a clear illustration of the impact on future tax rates by using too much of the Fund Balance to balance the budget. It is for this reason the Business Office offers a conservative approach to use from the Fund Balance reserves.

Ms. Grinberg-Funes called for point-of-order. She requested that Board members be allowed a second round for reactions to other Board member comments. Mr. Kourofsky agreed.

Richard LaVigne: Supports Option 1 with \$850,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve. He understand what the business people are saying, but stated the District has been in the habit of over taxing the public and wants to give some of it back.

Stan Kourofsky: Supports Option 1 with \$850,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve. He does not want to add additional FTE's other than what was included in Option 1. He commented that increases were already added to departments in the middle school and high school. His preference would be to not even add the Option 1 FTE's in reserve.

Steve Trombley: Supports Option 1 with \$850,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve. Mr. Trombley asked the Elementary Principals if the new reading program could run with out the 2 additional FTE's. Ms. Gardner replied the program could absolutely run with out the additional FTE's because the additional FTE's are for intervention.

George Palmer: Supports Option 2 with \$850,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve with the understanding that the two FTE positions are for one year only. Dr. Palmer is ambivalent about adding additional FTE's. He doesn't think that throwing more money at a project makes it any more successful. He feels the Board needs to go back and look at what the mission is and the charter to educate children should be the first priority. He would like to make sure that if additional FTE's are selected they will be posted right to avoid grievances. Dr. Palmer took exception to the comment made earlier by Mr. LaVigne that the District has overtaxed people. He doesn't want people leaving with that opinion. He feels the District has not had frills in the budget for many years. Dr. Palmer is in favor of withholding some of the Fund Balance to use for the 5 year capital plan. Regarding the projected \$400,000 remaining funds for this year, he doesn't want to "count our chickens before they hatch" but would consider it when deciding how much to use from the Fund Balance. He suggested that there may be items in the budget that could be cut instead to fund the new positions, for instance musical instruments or new tractor. The reason why he is going with a higher amount than is recommended is so the taxpayers do not feel the expense for the 2 additional positions.

Mr. Kourofsky commented it might be better to bond the 5 year capital plan in order to get State Aid on it. Ms. Parliament corrected Mr. Kourofsky and said the project can still be submitted to State Aid if paid out of the Reserve. She continued that if the Reserve is used together with Excel Aid, there may be no cost to the taxpayer at all.

Leonard King: Supports Option 1 with \$850,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve.

Second Round of Discussion

Frank Hay: Mr. Hay doesn't understand the direction of the Board. The scores have been flat for years and early intervention is critical. For the sake of 15-20 cents going to the taxpayers, the Board is ignoring the recommendation of the Administration. Additionally, this Board has made other decisions in the past 6 months that cost the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, that if decided differently would have been much better off. He just doesn't understand where this Board is coming from and he sticks with his original choice.

Kathleen Grinberg-Funes: Ms. Grinberg-Funes questioned Mr. Kourofsky on the items that he stated were increased in the middle school and high school budgets. She stated she does not have interaction with a cross-section of the public during the course of her daily activity like other Board members may. She assumes that people think she is responsible to look at information and make a judgment. She added that she is not here for a popularity contest. Her budget choice remains unchanged.

Jane Donahue: Ms. Donahue spoke about her experience working with children and the need to have additional help in the classroom. She stated that education has to become a priority to people because all of the conferences and books say we are loosing ground with our kids. She continued there is always an expense involved with education but an expense well worth it. She has experienced in previous years when equipment purchases were put off only to have an increase in price in the future. She doesn't want a tax increase as much as anyone else. Her budget choice remains unchanged.

Stan Kourofsky: Mr. Kourofsky doesn't feel that adding additional FTE's to the budget is fiscally responsible. He feels that a good job has been done on the budget and each category was given some increases. He doesn't want to add any additional tax burden because tax payers already can't afford the increases.

Steve Trombley: Mr. Trombley would've liked to see an option for the Elementary positions and not the

reserves. He realizes the Board never asked for that option. He asked the Superintendent if there is any room in the Grants for the reserve FTE's.

Dr. Sposato replied that the budget options were put together based on certain assumptions. \$80,000 was already cut from the budget before bringing it to the Board. Now that firm numbers are in from State Aid and more solid projections from assessments, Dr. Sposato and the Administrators are asking for additional FTE's. He reminded the Board that the current budget is below contingency, which lead into a discussion about the contingency budget. Dr. Sposato pointed out to the Board there is a worksheet titled Budget Notice in Section One of the budget documents which lays out the contingency budget amount and required cuts.

Richard LaVigne: Mr. LaVigne clarified that when he said overtaxed, he was referring to have more money at the end of the year than was needed to operate. Mr. LaVigne stated that there needs to be a balance. He continued that it is nice to have programs for kids, but not by taxing people out of their homes. His choice remains unchanged.

George Palmer: Dr. Palmer stated that he would support the option that Mr. Trombley presented, but since it is not in the discussion he would remain with his original choice.

Leonard King: Mr. King is remaining with his original choice because he feels that it is already enough of a tax increase.

At this point the Board tried to come to a consensus. Mr. Trombley requested the budget not be voted on tonight and that a new option be brought to include only the 2 Instructional positions without the reserves. The Board did not agree to this. After additional discussions, the Board agreed to bring forward for a vote Option 2 with \$850,000 from the Fund Balance and \$200,000 from Capital Debt Reserve for a total budget amount of \$35,296,500.

Propositions I – Adoption of the 2007-2008 Budget

Resolved, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed 2007-2008 school budget in the amount of \$35,296,500.

Roll Call Vote:

<input type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong	<input type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay (No)	<input type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne (No)
<input type="checkbox"/> Jane Donahue (No)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer
<input type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes (No)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky (Abstain)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley

Yes: 3 No: 4 Abstain: 1 (Accept Reject Table)

Dr. Sposato asked the Board Attorney if Mr. Kourofsky can abstain from the vote. Mr. Lavorando replied that Mr. Kourofsky may abstain with reason. Mr. Kourofsky gave his reason for abstention as being confused because other Board members voted no when the Board just had a lengthy discussion.

At the conclusion of the Budget vote, which resulted in rejection, Dr. Sposato asked Mr. Lavorando what the next step would be for the Board. Mr. Lavorando replied that the Board needs to work out their differences in time to present a budget to the public. Dr. Sposato stated that the Board is running out of time.

Proposition II – Bus Purchase

To purchase four 65-passenger school buses replacing existing ten-year-old buses and to purchase one mini-van. The total cost not to exceed \$360,282 (including trading in four buses), shall be raised by tax on the taxable property of the School District to be collected in annual installments and to issue obligations therefore, in accordance with Education Law and Local Finance Law. As part of the district's ongoing replacement plan, this purchase enables the district obtain a potential State reimbursement rate of approximately 74.8%.

Motion: LK Seconded: ST

Roll Call Vote:

<input type="checkbox"/> Karen Armstrong	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Hay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Richard LaVigne
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Donahue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leonard King	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George Palmer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathleen Grinberg-Funes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stan Kourofsky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Trombley

Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

At this point the District Clerk asked for a point of information because he did not have a record for the minutes of who made the motion and who seconded the motion for the vote on Proposition I - Adoption of the 2007-2008 Budget. It was discovered that the motion was never made or seconded. Mr. Kourofsky re-stated the proposition and asked for a motion from the floor.

Recommend to the Voters of the District at the Annual District Meeting on May 15, 2007 the proposed 2007-2008 Budget to include one (1) Instructional and one (1) Non-Instructional FTE in reserve and two (2) Elementary Instructional positions (1 at Cumberland Head and 1 at Beekmantown Elementary) for a total budget amount of \$35,296,500.

Motion: RL Seconded: KGF

Discussion: A new discussion took place and each Board member was again able to discuss their viewpoint. Ms. Donahue conceded to the \$850,000 option as long as the 2 Instructional positions remained. Ms. Grinberg-Funes agreed. They both did not want to use that much from the Fund Balance but agreed to it. Mr. King stated that he originally changed his choice so that there could be a consensus. Mr. Hay reiterated that he did not think using the \$850,000 was fiscally responsible and that it was against the recommendation of the Business Office, but would vote for it to get the additional teacher positions. Mr. Kourofsky called for a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

☐ Karen Armstrong
☒ Jane Donahue
☒ Kathleen Grinberg-Funes

☒ Frank Hay
☒ Leonard King
☒ Stan Kourofsky

☒ Richard LaVigne
☒ George Palmer
☒ Steve Trombley

Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

9. **Capital Project**

Resolved, that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education to approve payment for Project #143-6470 (design and engineering fees for the Middle School/High School Auditorium & Cumberland Head Entry way) from the *District Capital Project Initiative* funds as indicated:

Application No.	Name	Amount
50069411	Thomas Group of Companies, Inc.	\$2,367.91

Motion: FH Seconded: RL Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

10. **Additional Items to Discuss** 8:26 p.m.

- Establish meeting time for Board meeting on April 26, 2007 to vote on CVES Board Members and Budget

Discussion: Mr. King and Ms. Grinberg-Funes will not be available on 4/26/07. The Board decided to have the meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the District Office conference room.

- Adoption of Instructional Status Report and Revised Textbooks and Software (April 24, 2007)

Discussion: This will be a presentation at the 4/24/07 Board Meeting. Mr. King and Ms. Grinberg-Funes asked to be excused as they will not be available.

- Process for Superintendent Search

Discussion: Mr. Kourofsky has been in touch with Craig King at CVES, who has offered some names as a possible Interim Superintendent. Mr. Kourofsky made an initial contact with Mike Derrigo, who is the only local person available. Mr. Derrigo is interested in meeting with the Board at some time. Mr. Kourofsky also reported that it could cost \$6,000 to \$8,000 to use BOCES for the Superintendent search. Ms. Donahue clarified this cost is for printing and advertising. BOCES search service is at no charge. BOCES costs are also aidable. Dr. Palmer would like to see a cost benefit in comparison with using NYSSBA. Dr. Sposato recommended sending out an RFP.

Mr. Kourofsky also put to rest rumors that had been circulating that two candidates are already being looked at by the Board. Dr. Palmer was relieved to hear this as he has heard "on the street" that one person already had 5 votes from the Board. Ms. Grinberg-Funes stated she had also heard rumors.

Mr. Hay made a statement that it is his personal opinion that the resignation of Dr. Sposato is a great loss to the District. He continued that Dr. Sposato has done a lot of really good things and saved the District thousands of dollars. Mr. Hay truly believes the District will be hard pressed to get someone with his qualifications.

Mr. Kourofsky asked the Board if they wanted to move forward with the RFP on the search. The Board decided to move ahead with the RFP. Regarding the Interim Supt., Ms. Grinberg-Funes requested that before the Board decides on Mr. Derrigo that he come meet the Board in a casual setting to have a dialogue about the Boards priorities and his perception of the District. Dr. Palmer thought the Board was being premature and suggested an RFP on the Interim as well. The Board agreed.

Ms. Donahue asked when the Board will discuss the document from State Ed. that was in their packet. Mr. Kourofsky replied that he has not had time to review it with the School Attorney. Ms. Donahue thinks the whole Board should sit down with the Attorney and review everything. Mr. Kourofsky will place it on the May 8th Board Meeting Agenda. It was decided the May 8th meeting would start at 6:00 p.m.

11. Public Comment 8:46 p.m.

Judy Paquette – Teacher in the Beekmantown Elementary School commented regarding the 2 full time elementary positions. She wanted to clarify that the BTA in conjunctions with NYSUT is on a tenure tract for the first year and then normal rights for employment.

Earl Burnell – Last year the Concerned Taxpayers of Clinton County was established. Their focus is to change the way education is paid for other than property taxes. He feels property tax reform is needed in the state. He stated that even a 2% increase is too big for people on fixed incomes. He commented the Board should keep teachers in with the kids and keep tax rate to a minimum. He commended Dr. Sposato and the staff on an excellent job with the budget.

Guy Falcon – Mr. Falcon was impressed to see the Board hash it out. He feels they did a good job. He stated taxes are a big problem, but keep education first. He likes a variety of programs like the Technology Center.

12. Executive Session (to discuss Pending Litigation)

In: 8:52 p.m. Motion: ST Seconded: RL Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

Out: 10:00 p.m. Motion: FH Seconded: LK Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)

13. Adjournment 10:00 p.m.

Motion: FH Seconded: RL Yes: 8 No: 0 Abstain: 0 (Accept Reject Table)