

Budget Workshop and Special Meeting of the Board of Education (Monday, March 13, 2023)
Delaware Academy Central School District at Delhi
High School Library Media Center
2 Sheldon Drive, Delhi, NY 13753
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present: Tammy Neumann, Seth Haight, Sean Leddy, Kimberly Shephard, James Tucker, Jr., Lauren Raba and Tyler Branigan

Kimberly Shephard arrived at 5:03 p.m.

James Tucker, Jr. arrived at 5:00 p.m.

Members Absent: Lucy Kelly

Others Present: Kelly M. Zimmerman, Superintendent, Lisa A. Kulaski, District Clerk, Carey Shultz, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Personnel, Crystal Trask, High School Principal, Zachary Meseck, Public Information Specialist for DCMO BOCES, Eric Robert from Schoolhouse Construction Services, LLC, Jared Yando from Schoolhouse Construction Services, LLC, Doreen McGrath and Will Outsen

Opening of Meeting

Call to Order

President, Tammy Neumann called the Budget Workshop and Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 4:03 p.m.

Enter an Executive Session

On a motion made by Sean Leddy, seconded by Lauren Raba, the Board of Education entered Executive Session to discuss matters regarding the employment history of a particular person, with no action to be taken, at 4:04 p.m.

Leave Executive Session

On a motion made by Seth Haight, seconded by Sean Leddy, the Board of Education left Executive Session at 5:00 p.m.

Opening of Meeting

Call to Order

President, Tammy Neumann called the Open Session of the Budget Workshop and Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 5:07 p.m.

Presentations

A. Budget Workshop Presentation

Mr. Carey Shultz, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Personnel, gave a presentation on the 2023-2024 budget. He updated some of the numbers from his previous presentation. He reviewed the following items:

- The 2023-2024 Initial Budget Summary;
- 2023-2024 Initial State Aid Runs and the comparison to the 2022-2023 numbers;
- Changes from the 2022-2023 Budget include:
 - Contractual Salary Increases;
 - Reduction in BOCES software contract;
 - Contracted Services Increases;
 - Reductions in Central Services and Pupil Transportation due to a decrease in energy costs;
 - Benefit Costs; and
 - Decrease in Long Term Debt.
- Outstanding variables include:
 - Evaluation of Personnel Changes and Program Structures;
 - Awaiting the Final State Aid Runs (in April 2023);
 - Finalize Building and Departmental Budgets; and

- Ensuring that all budgetary changes align with the District Mission, District Goals, and Instructional and Program priorities.

The Board thanked the Mr. Shultz for his presentation.

Ms. Crystal Trask, High School Principal, continued with the presentation. She offered a year to year comparison on staffing versus enrollment from the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years and projections for 2023-2024. Ms. Trask continued by discussing the current and anticipated instructional staffing needs, including the addition of a fulltime Foreign Language Instructional position and part time LPN. She discussed in further detail the Foreign Language Teacher proposal and went on to discuss a NYS Seal of Biliteracy. The STEM/Technical Science Teacher proposal was then discussed along with the results of a student interest survey completed this year. Ms. Trask finished her presentation discussing the NYS Seal of Civic Readiness and the Administrative Shifts for the upcoming school year.

The Board thanked Ms. Trask for her presentation.

Old Business

Superintendent, Kelly Zimmerman and Mr. Carey Shultz, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Personnel gave a presentation and conducted a work session for the 2023 Capital Project.

Mrs. Zimmerman began by discussing the goals of the project:

- Tax Neutral, no additional taxes for this project.
- They are responsive to community input and feedback from the community feedback survey on the school website.
- Align the project with District goals.
- A potential goal to make us a destination district for our community and region.
- Prioritize instructional needs, safety and security and facilities maintenance.
- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of programs and facilities.

Mrs. Zimmerman continued by discussing the financial planning aspect which includes NYS building aid, debt reserve, establishment of a new capital reserve and keeping an eye on incidentals. She spoke about the potential scope of the capital project and indicated that the scope did not change a whole lot.

She stated that in order to stay on the rigorous time frame they were going to need she encouraged to board to at least come up with some consensus on the approximate size of the project.

Mr. Shultz continued the presentation discussing the construction, contingency and incidental costs with the project.

President, Tammy Neumann, asked if a capital reserve would need to be established at the budget vote.

The answer is yes, it would be voted on as a proposition on the ballot.

Trustee, Lauren Raba, asked if the greenhouse was removed from the proposal. Mrs. Zimmerman said that it was a significant cost due to the existing buried fuel tanks so it was removed.

There was discussion about updating the athletic fields in the project to bring most of our athletes and sports back to our campus for practices and sports. The board discussed artificial turf benefits.

The Board discussed the drainage issues on the lower soccer field and the softball fields. Constant repair to the American Legion owned fields is taken out of tax payer money. The school does not own those fields and they need to be repaired annually.

Student Board Member, Tyler Branigan, stated from a student athlete perspective that refurbishing of the athletic fields on campus is a positive thing. There can be late practices with lights as well as evening games. The school would get much more use of the facilities with these improvements versus continuing to use the Legion fields, which are not in very good shape. These improvements would give students more opportunity at times when the Legion fields are not usable.

President, Tammy Neumann, stated that she thinks this speaks well to the school's vision and mission of producing and providing for a well-rounded student and someone who is prepared to go off into the world.

The Board thanked Mrs. Zimmerman and Mr. Shultz for their presentation.

Public Comments

President, Tammy Neumann opened the floor to public comments.

Ms. Janine Rosener, a faculty member at Delaware Academy, spoke and stated she was very happy to hear Mrs. Zimmerman's discussion about the restructuring of the Administration. She thinks the middle school restructuring will allow us to address our student's needs as well as addressing the needs of the middle school. That structure will allow us to hit both of those areas more efficiently than what is currently being done.

Close Meeting:

A Budget Workshop will be held on Monday March 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the High School Media Library Center at 5:00 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education will be held on Monday, March 27, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the High School Library Media Center.

Adjourn Meeting:

On a motion made by Sean Leddy, seconded by Kimberly Shephard, the Board of Education adjourned the Regular Meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa A. Kulaski
District Clerk

BOE Approved: 3/27/2023