

**Westport Central School District**

**Budget and Special Board of Education Meeting**

**Place: Cafeteria**

**Monday, March 22, 2010**

**Time: 6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

**at: 6:02 PM**

**by: President LaRock**

**A. Roll Call**

√ Alice LaRock

√ Tom Kohler – exited 6:56 PM

√ Dwayne Steven

√ Jim Carroll

√ Sue Russell

**B. Introduction of Attendees**

Also Present: John W. Gallagher, Ed.D., Superintendent

Jana Atwell, District Clerk

Cindy Moody, District Treasurer

Michele Friedman, Principal

Visitors: Marlene Westover

Barbara White

Justin Floyd

Ken White

Judith Napper

John Napper

Kellie King

John Ferree

Mallory Sudduth

Megan Sudduth

Nicole Sudduth

Lynn Bubbins

Kathy Bedore

Nancy Boyle

Gwen Sherman

Tim Sherman

Kathleen Demetros

Darcy Hudson

Cheryl Phillips

Mary Mandy

Juris Miemis

Karen Kearns

Ted Taylor

Brad Rascoe

George Maffey

Barbara Breyette

Vicki Wolinsky

Paul Mudie

Shirley Bullard

Jim Bullard

Devin Martin

Shirley Donaldson

Susan Satloff

Jack Thompson

Rick Hoffman

Ben Sudduth

Amy Welch

Joanne Mazzotte

Cathv Brankman

George King  
Kathryn Cramer  
Elizabeth Lee  
Matthew Jason  
Erica Loher  
Colin Wells  
Tracy Turek  
Nancy Page  
Michael Tyler  
Daniel McCormick  
Jason Fiegl  
Janice Kyle  
Adam Facteau  
Kelsey Carroll  
Theresa Lindsay

### C. Pledge of Allegiance

#### **2. Recognition of Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball Teams**

The following members of the 2009-2010 boys and girls varsity basketball team members were presented with certificates of merit and recognized for their outstanding season: Nathan Gay, Alan Ware, Jesse Stevens, Johnny Stahl, Bo McKinley, Kevin Russell, David Quaglietta, Gabe Schrauf, Justin Floyd, Alex Frum, Kalika Hopkins, Martha McKinley, Aisleigh Frum, Allison Sherman, Valentina Rodriguez, Christina Sherman, Kelsey Carroll, Molly Rascoe, Willa McKinley, Nancy Armitage, Morgan Robare Michelle Markwica, Emily French, Mallory Sudduth, Karlee McGee and Munkhtuya Narandalai. The boys' team were both Division 2 and MVAC Champions. The girls' team were Division 2, MVAC and Section 7 Champions. Both teams were also recognized as scholar athlete teams (90 or above cumulative team average). Congratulations!

#### **3. Memorandum of Agreement with the WEA (Retirement Incentive)**

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the approval of the following agreement (see attached Appendix A) between the Westport Central School District and Westport Education Association:

Whereas, there is a desire to incentivize eligible unit members to retire so as to provide valuable information to the District with regards to future budget creation.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Association and District agree to a retirement incentive to unit members who are at least 55 years of age by July 2, 2010 and have accumulated at least 17 years of service in the Westport Central School District and present a Board actionable, irrevocable letter of resignation by April 8, 2010 will receive, as a deposit to their 403(b) account, a non-elective employer contribution in the amount of \$10,000 (eligible teaching assistants will receive 63% of \$10,000), contributed at the time of the last June payroll, 2010.

Motion: Dwayne Stevens      Seconded: Jim Carroll      Yes: 5    No: 0    Abstain: 0      **Accept**  
Roll Call Vote: LaRock – yes, Kohler – yes, Stevens – yes, Carroll – yes, Russell – yes

#### **4. 2010-2011 Budget Presentation & Public Question and Answer Session**

President LaRock opened this session with the following statement: The Board has a responsibility to ensure that the budget is consistent with the Board and District goals, as well as the District policies. The Board gives direction to the superintendent in preparing the budget so that the proposed budget meets the intent of the Board, as well as that it falls within budgetary limitations, making sure the budget is built around the District's priorities. President LaRock then presented guidelines for the question and

answer session requesting each speaker identify themselves, limit their time to five (5) minutes or less, allow others an opportunity to speak before requesting to speak again, address all questions to the Board President only (she may designate someone else to answer), and to allow the meeting to progress without interruption once the open session is closed. President LaRock also explained that it is important to note that the budget presented this evening is not the final product. The District does not know the final State aid picture and probably will not know for some time.

Dr. Gallagher explained that a line by line analysis of the budget has occurred during the three (3) previous budget meetings. At this time, we are still unsure of State aid, property assessment valuation changes, and any other revenue sources. A rollover budget representing a difference of approximately \$263,000 (5.18%) in expenditures was presented at the first budget workshop.

A powerpoint presentation was provided highlighting the following information. Since the first workshop an approximate \$55,000 reduction in administrative and maintenance cost, and \$25,000 in program related expenses has occurred. Since the March 11, 2010 meeting, a further reduction of \$6,000 has been projected in the administrative area, \$15,000 in contracted services with Albany BOCES and \$5,000 in co-curricular and sports budgets. To reduce the tax levy reserves will be used to offset state ERS cost, apply some undesignated reserves and use some federal funds for mandated staffing. Dr. Gallagher explained however that some of these strategies are short term, our union negotiations are ongoing and that BOCES services will continue to be reviewed. An explanation of BOCES services was provided. These services are not just programs for our students; they included costs charged to us for capital improvements at the BOCES centers, administrative costs, shared business office, computer and internet, negotiation, teacher certification and staff development, library media services, and cooperative bidding. Student related costs include career and technical education, special education, hospital based education and primary mental health services. Projections indicate an approximate difference of \$83,157 in our revenues (\$133,000 cut in State aid and using \$50,000 from reserves to pay for ERS). We project an increase of approximately \$195,752 in expenditures due in part to an increase in BOCES services (\$88,058), health insurance (\$65,003), Medicare reimbursement (\$37,000), TRS & ERS retirement (\$21,170) and salaries (\$9,192). Expenditures projecting reductions include electricity, fuel oil and materials/supplies. The proposed 2010-2011 budget indicates a projected increase of approximately \$278,909 (3.86%) and an increase in the tax levy of 9.67%. The budget continues to be a work in progress through April 8, 2010 (scheduled adoption date).

The floor was opened for a public question and answer session.

George Maffey advised he is a representative of the Future of Westport Tax Committee and that he along with Nancy Page were responsible for preparing the recent tax document that was distributed.

Kathryn Cramer offered a statement regarding the cost per year per graduate based upon the NYS School Report Card Fiscal Accountability Supplement for WCS compared to NYS spending per pupil. In comparison she stated the figures for producing high school graduates, WCS is 23-24% more efficient per dollar of education spending than the NYS average. Ms. Cramer presented the Board with a copy of her statement to be included in the minutes. (See attached.)

Rick Hoffman stated he believes the administration and Board have been trying hard to reduce expenses but, he continues to believe there is a need for further reduction specifically in the areas of head count, programs and health insurance contributions. He hopes these three categories are being discussed in negotiations. The information from the recently distributed (FOW Tax Committee) tax document indicates \$400,000 needs to be reduced in the budget to achieve a level tax levy. He questioned the members of the Board and Superintendent as to whether they were going to try cuts in these three categories to reach this tax levy.

Eighth grader, Megan Sudduth read from her letter, "...teachers here at Westport are part of what makes the school work. Westport Central School works like a machine. If one part of the machine is taken away, the rest of the machine won't work." She personally thanked everyone for their investment in her so that she can have a brighter future. Ms. Sudduth presented the Board with a copy of her letter to be included in the minutes. (See attached.)

Elizabeth Lee asked specifically what cuts were made in co-curriculars and sports. Dr. Gallagher explained cuts were made in the areas of materials and supplies, uniforms, and reserves to supplant costs within the sports recognition club. She suggested that review be conducted of students residing within a mile of the school be required to walk not ride a bus as there are health benefits as well as cost savings associated with this possibility. Ms. Lee also requested the Board convene a meeting to discuss non-profit adjuncts which allows the taxpayers to donate to the school and claim as a tax write-off. Ms. Lee concluded her time stating she has been in the school for 12 years and has witnessed no evidence of waste however she would encourage the District to reach out to alumni for purposes of volunteering.

Devin Martin questioned whether an energy audit could be completed to reduce energy costs. Mr. Carroll advised that the Technology Committee has found software to cycle computers off when they are not in use; purchase of this software could result in a potential estimated savings of \$5,000 per year. However, the District will continue to research grants and has already joined an electric cooperative resulting in a cost savings.

George Maffey stated that he has a deep concern that the District will go to a contingency budget. He questioned whether or not the contingent budget had been calculated to date and how much will this budget be. Dr. Gallagher explained that the contingency budget will be presented at the April 8, 2010 Board of Education meeting. The District is not able to present at this time as correct information is not currently available.

Nancy Page advised that she had also worked on the tax document sheet discussed previously. Ms. Page questioned what the (negotiation) proposal is for the teacher's health care contributions and pay increases. She suggested the Union and Board post proposals for observation of negotiation as this is being done in the Burlington City Schools.

George King advised the population of people over 65 residing within the school district is increasing and the Social Security raise for the past few years has been 0%. Therefore, when taxes continue to increase, it forces people out of their homes.

Chris Maron stated he views education as an investment in our future which depends upon the education of our children. He would like to see no cuts in programs or teacher salaries. Mr. Maron suggested we look at ways to save energy perhaps using smaller buses or having students living within a mile of the school walk. He questioned if and to what extent does the Board have the ability to anticipate local jobs. Dr. Gallagher explained that programs do exist locally to assist students to obtain local jobs (for instance, CV-TEC programs within allied health to obtain jobs at the local hospital and nursing home).

Rick Hoffman stated he felt tonight's discussion had turned into anti and pro for the school/budget. He questioned whether or not the Board and Union would be willing to post their proposals. He suggested the Board give the Superintendent a budget goal as he believes setting a goal gets results. Mr. Hoffman advocated that the Board consider the three categories presented previously (head count, program and health insurance).

Jim Carroll requested Mr. Hoffman clarify what is meant by "head count". Mr. Hoffman responded that head count represents staff count.

Kathryn Cramer explained that she is the co-owner of two (2) properties in Westport. The other co-owners (her parents) are 68 – 75 years in age. Ms. Cramer stated she believes the education at WCS is part of the selling point in this town.

Kelsey Carroll, a Senior at WCS, thanked the Board for their efforts stating that the school means a lot to herself and her peers.

Ben Sudduth stated that he believes it has been the self sacrifice of parents to maintain the school and keep it going, and continue the quality of education that is provided at WCS.

Elizabeth Lee explained that she believes that the many ways the building is used is a value to the taxpayers as a school contribution and pay back to the community.

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Personnel**

#### **1. Extracurricular Appointments – Stevens & Tyler**

a) Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the extracurricular appointment of Dwayne Stevens to the position of volunteer coach for the Varsity Baseball Team for the 2009-2010 school year.

Motion: Sue Russell    Seconded: Jim Carroll    Yes: 3    No: 0    Abstain: 1 – Stevens    **Accept**

b) Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the extracurricular appointment of Michael Tyler to the position of Modified Baseball Coach for the 2009-2010 school year at a stipend per the current WEA contract.

Motion: Jim Carroll    Seconded: Sue Russell    Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain: 0    **Accept**

### **B. Miscellaneous**

#### **1. Facility Use Request by Community Organization- Lady Miners**

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the approval of the *Facility Use Request* as submitted by Hokey McKinley on behalf of the Lady Miners for the purpose of hosting basketball practice in the gym on the following dates: April 3, 10, 17 from 9 AM to 12 PM, April 24 from 9 AM to 10 AM, May 1 from 9 AM to 12 PM, May 5 from 5 PM to 8 PM, and May 8 and May 30 from 9 AM to 12 PM.

Motion: Sue Russell    Seconded: Jim Carroll    Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain: 0    **Accept**

## **6. Additional Items to Discuss**

### **CSE Recommendation**

Resolved that the Superintendent of Schools recommends to the Board of Education the approval of the CSE recommendation for the following student number 008-09-10. (Recommendation attached.)

Motion: Jim Carroll                      Seconded: Dwayne Stevens                      Yes: 4    No: 0    Abstain: 0                      **Accept**

### **Special BOE Meeting Required**

A special meeting will be held on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 8:00 AM for the purpose of voting on five open positions on the CVES Board.

**7. Public Comment** (15 minutes)

Tim Sherman pointed out how low our budget is compared to the surrounding districts (based upon a handout that was made available at previous Board meetings indicating school districts, budget amounts, enrollments, total assessed values, assessed value per \$1,000 and total faculty/other professional staff). He stated his belief is that this is due to the hard work and dedication of the Board. He questioned how many out-of-district students we currently have and the amount of State aid brought in by these students? Dr. Gallagher advised that we currently have 48 out-of-district students and they have brought in approximately \$750,000 at no additional cost to the District. Mr. Sherman encouraged the Board not to jeopardize the draw for students to be at WCS.

**8. Adjournment**

Time: 7:42 PM

Motion: Dwayne Stevens

Seconded: Sue Russell

**Next Meeting:** Budget 5:30 PM & Regular Meeting April 8, 2010 6:30 PM in the Library

Date approved by the BOE: April 8, 2010

Jana Atwell, District Clerk

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
WESTPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AND  
WESTPORT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

Agreement made the 22nd day of March, 2010 by and between the Westport Central School District, hereinafter referred to as the "District" and the Westport Education Association, Local 3117, NYSUT, AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO, hereinafter referred to as the "Association" as follows:

Whereas, there is a desire to incentivize eligible unit members to retire so as to provide valuable information to the District with regards to future budget creation.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Association and District agree to a retirement incentive as outlined below.

First

- Unit members who are at least 55 years of age by July 2, 2010 and have accumulated at least 17 years of service in the Westport Central School District, and
- Present a Board actionable, irrevocable letter of resignation by April 8, 2010 will receive, as a deposit to their 403(b) account, a non-elective employer contribution in the amount of \$10,000 (eligible teaching assistants will receive 63% of \$10,000), contributed at the time of the last June payroll, 2010.

Second

- Association members mentioned above, that may be eligible to retire without penalty, pending the passage of NYS bill S6712 or a similar bill, may submit a letter of intent to retire that may be rescinded by the member if the legislation does not become law.

Third

- The effective date of said retirements will be no later than July 2, 2010.
- This incentive will expire at 4 p.m. on April 8, 2010 and will not be subject to the Triborough Rules of the Taylor Law. It is specifically acknowledged by the Association that the District's offer of a retirement incentive is a one-time offer which shall only be available under the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement.
- Nothing herein shall modify the current retirement incentive now in the contract between the parties (Article 23).

Fourth

- 403(b) Non-Elective employer contributions shall be contributed in accordance with Article 23, section 2.E. of the current collective bargaining agreement between the parties.

**For the District**

John Kelly

Superintendent of Schools

3/22/10

Date

Alisa J. Laback

Board of Education President

3/22/10

Date

**For the Association**

John D. Thompson

3/16/10

Date

Paul J. Mudie

3/16/10

Date

## **Measuring the Efficiency of Westport Central School in Cost Per Year Per Graduate**

The New York State School Report Card Fiscal Accountability Supplement for Westport Central School District compares New York State spending per pupil to that of the Westport Central School, but calculates it per pupil rather than per graduate.

In order to compare the value the community gets from this spending, the graduation rate should be figured in by multiplying the raw cost per pupil by the reciprocal of the graduation rate.

When graduation rates are taken into account, the annual current cost of education per expected graduate for New York State as a whole is \$13,676 for general education compared to Westport's \$11,033 cost. And the New York State per pupil cost for producing Special Education high school graduates is \$47,075 as compared to Westport's cost of \$38,344.

When we compare the figures for producing high school graduates, Westport Central School is 23 - 24% more efficient per dollar of education spending than the New York State average.

Hi, My name is Megan Sudduth. I am an 8<sup>th</sup> grader here at Westport Central School. I'm writing this letter because the teachers here at Westport are part of what makes the school work. Westport central school works like a machine. If one part of the machine is taken away, the rest of the machine won't work. This is because all of the middle and high school teachers double up on the courses they teach. Westport is a well oiled machine because teachers teach more than what they are required to teach. They teach electives so students can expand their opportunities and meet requirements to graduate and to excel in later life. For example, my sister takes Global History. Her Global teacher recommended that she take World Religions to help her with her Global History regents. This is a prime example of what electives can do. Also other electives like photography, communications (using video cameras), art, band and other electives are here for students who want to pursue an education in those fields of work or higher studies.

Westport works just fine the way it is. There is no need to cut the budget. If we keep doing what we have been doing, the students at Westport Central School will keep getting stronger. On a final note, I would like you to think before you vote on the budget. I would like you to not think of the budget as a burdensome bill, but as my education, the student bodies education, and the children's education of the community that you live in. I would like to personally thank you for your investment in me so I can have a brighter future. Thank You.