

CORTLAND ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
Public Budget Hearing – May 6, 2014

A meeting of the Board of Education to present the proposed budget for 2014-15 to the public was held in the Auditorium of the Cortland Junior-Senior High School, 8 Valley View Drive, on Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

Present: Mr. Donald Colongeli, Ms. Melissa Davis-Howard, Ms. Janet Griffin, Ms. Judith Murphy, and Mr. John Natoli, Mr. Daniel Sidebottom, Ms. Alane Van Donsel

Also Present: Mr. Michael Hoose, Superintendent; Ms. Judi Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services; Ms. Kristie Bliss, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Mr. Brian Freeman, Director Business Services; Cortland Standard Representative; School and Community Representatives; and Ms. Margaret Baccaro, Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. Davis-Howard called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

a. Introductions of Board and Staff

Ms. Davis-Howard introduced members of the Board of Education and Administrative Cabinet, then turned the hearing over to Superintendent Hoose and Mr. Brian Freeman.

2. PRESENTATION:

a. Proposed 2014-15 School Budget

Mr. Hoose welcomed the audience and thanked the administrative team for their hard work and dedication throughout the budget process.

Mr. Colongeli arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Freeman provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the proposed 2014-15 Budget. He reviewed the three major components of the budget: Administrative, Program, and Capital. He shared that the major factors that influenced the budget were increases in benefit costs, an increase in debt service costs and increases in instructional program. He explained budget challenges, aid loss, and the cost increases that are mandated by NYS Education Law.

The proposed 2014-15 school budget is in the amount of \$47,504,329, an increase of \$2,174,703 over the 2013-14 budget or 4.8%. While the current Allowable Tax Levy Limit (Tax Cap) for Cortland Enlarged City School District is 6.58%, the Board of Education is proposing a tax levy increase of 2.9%. The budget will be funded through state aid (\$24.28 million), property taxes (\$16.63 million), Payments in Lieu of Taxes (\$150,000), miscellaneous sources (\$1.44 million), appropriated fund balance (\$500,000), and the District will be using \$4.5 million in reserves to make up the gap in revenues.

Mr. Freeman summarized by reminding the audience that the annual election and budget vote is Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There are two open seats on the Board of Education with incumbents, Janet Griffin and John Natoli, Jr., running unopposed. Tonight's presentation was filmed for viewing on local TV channel 17 and on the District's website.

The 2014-15 proposed budget and tonight's PowerPoint presentation are posted on the District's website. The budget booklet/notice will be mailed to the voting public on May 7.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Freeman opened the floor to members of the audience for questions and concerns about the proposed budget.

Q Mr. Bill Stark, 176 Groton Ave., Cortland, noted that he has observed that in the notes it is not revealed whether revenue or expenses exceeded the budget. He asked if there was a surplus in the 2012-13 budget, and if so was that surplus applied to the 2013-14 budget.

A Mr. Hoose responded that there was a small surplus that was put into a reserve fund for future use. He explained that when a district's spending plan is put before the public and approved, the spending plan cannot be exceeded. Any balance is reinvested, usually in the form of reserves.

Mr. Stark added that Section 1318 (LAW § 1318 : NY Code - Section 1318) states that surplus has to be applied to the next year’s budget as opposed to going into reserves.

Mr. Hoose responded, that he would have to research the particular wording of that law; however, it is very typical for a district with a surplus to put that money into reserves as there is no other way to fund reserves.

4. Under NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approval of Certified Resolution for Teacher and School Staff Appreciation Week May 5 – 9, 2014

WHEREAS, teachers and school staff mold future citizens through guidance and education; and
WHEREAS, teachers and school staff encounter students of widely differing backgrounds; and
WHEREAS, our country’s future depends upon providing quality education to all students; and
WHEREAS, teachers and school staff spend countless hours preparing lessons, evaluating progress, counseling and coaching students and performing community service; and
WHEREAS, our community recognizes and supports its teachers and school staff in educating the children of this community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education proclaims May 5-9, 2014, to be **TEACHER & SCHOOL STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK**; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cortland Enlarged City School District Board of Education strongly encourages all members of our community to join with it in personally expressing appreciation to our teachers & school staff for their dedication and devotion to their work.

Moved by Ms. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Sidebottom. Discussion: None
Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion Carried.

5. ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further questions, Ms. Davis-Howard asked for a motion to adjourn the hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Moved by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Natoli. Discussion: None
Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion Carried.

Margaret Baccaro, Clerk, Board of Education