

CORTLAND ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board of Education
Public Budget Hearing – May 10, 2016 – 7:00 PM
Kaufman Center

A meeting of the Board of Education to present the proposed budget for 2016-17 to the public was held at the Kaufman Center, 1 Valley View Drive, on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

Present: Ms. Melissa Davis-Howard, Ms. Janet Griffin, Ms. Christine Gregory, Ms. Judith Murphy, Mr. John Natoli, Mr. Daniel Sidebottom and Ms. Alane VanDonsel

Also Present: Mr. Michael Hoose, Superintendent; Ms. Judi Riley, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil and Personnel Services; Ms. Kristie Bliss, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Kimberly Vile, Director Business Services; Dr. John Sheehan, Director of Special Education, Cortland Standard Representative; School and Community Representatives; and Ms. Alicia Zupancic, 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 by Board President Melissa Davis-Howard

School Board President, Ms. Melissa Davis-Howard, introduced members of the Board of Education and Administrative Cabinet, then turned the hearing over to Superintendent Mr. Michael Hoose and Ms. Kimberly Vile.

2. PRESENTATION:

a. Proposed 2016-17 School Budget

Mr. Hoose welcomed the audience and thanked the administrative team for their hard work and dedication throughout the budget process. He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Kimberly Vile, Director of Business Services.

Ms. Vile provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the proposed 2016-17 Budget. She reviewed the process of budget development, the factors that influence the budget and state aid patterns. She then provided an overview of the three major components of the budget: Administrative, Program, and Capital comparing 2016-17 with 2015-16 figures. She displayed a chart showing how we spend our money: Instruction 54%, Benefits 27%, Operations 6%, Debt Service 8%, Transportation 2%, and District Support 3%.

The proposed 2016-17 school budget is in the amount of \$49,576,887. This is a % budget increase and a 0% tax levy increase from the 2016-16 budget. Budget increases are offset by budget decreases. The budget will be funded through state aid (\$26,995,652), property taxes (\$17,006,932), miscellaneous sources (\$2,259,038) and the District will be using \$3,976,711 in reserves to make up the gap in revenues.

Ms. Vile reviewed the following cost containment measures: retirement rate decrease, energy costs, aligning expenses and retirements.

Ms. Vile summarized by reminding the audience that the annual election and budget vote is Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will be four propositions on the ballot: Proposition 1 – approval of proposed budget, Proposition 2 – approval of the purchase

of 4 large buses, 1 large bus with a wheelchair lift, and 4 small vehicles for student transport, Proposition 3 – Establish a current capital reserve, Proposition 4 - Cortland Free Library tax increase. She noted that the School District serves only as a vehicle to collect the Library tax levy; the Cortland Free Library sets its own budget. The District has one incumbent, Judith Murphy and one new candidate, Peter Rogoff, each running unopposed for the School Board.

The 2016-17 proposed budget and tonight's PowerPoint presentation are posted on the District's website. The budget booklet/notice has been mailed to the voting public.

3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q Ms. Martha Dumas, 478 Nye Road, Cortland, addressed the Board and asked if there is a minimum number of registered voters required to vote.

A Ms. Vile and Mr. Hoose responded that there is not. For the budget to pass, 50% of the votes need to be in favor of the budget.

Q Has the District pursued solar power?

A Mr. Hoose said yes, we are working with the city and the county trying to partner because we have a limited amount of land. The NYSERDA grants are funded and when used up, they're gone. So, it's a timing thing. The District has worked with our architectural group and a private company to give us proposals and we couldn't make it work right now. It is still on our radar.

4. ADJOURNMENT

As there were no further questions, Ms. Davis-Howard asked for a motion to adjourn the hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Natoli, seconded by Ms. Gregory. Discussion: None

Final Vote: Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion Carried.