## **Galway Central School District**

# **Board of Education Work Session**

#### **MINUTES**

## Thursday, March 13, 2014

6:30pm – High School Library

**Board Members Present:** Dennis Schaperjahn, Vice President, Melodye Eldeen, Laura Sakala, Anita Crawford, Joan Slagle.

**Board Members Absent:** Thomas Rumsey, Jay Anderson.

Meeting was called to order by Dennis Schaperjahn, Vice President, at 5:30pm.

Motion to move into executive session at 5:31pm was made by Joan Slagle, seconded by Melodye Eldeen, to discuss potential retirement issues and the Business Administrator hiring process.

Aye -5 No -0 Motion Carried

Motion to move into regular session was made by Laura Sakala, seconded by Anita Crawford, at 6:19pm.

Aye -5 No -0 Motion Carried

**Others in Attendance:** Shannon Shine, Superintendent, Scot Carpenter, Network and Technology Coordinator, Mike Sherman, Transportation & Facilities Director, community members.

Mike Sherman, Transportation and Facilities Director, presented to the Board the justifications of his budget requests for the 2014-15 school year. He explained the need for the \$37K for a new tractor/backhoe. It is larger and has greater horsepower, which will limit the need to borrow the Town's equipment for snowplowing and salting the parking lots. It will also be useful with upcoming and ongoing projects. The tractor attachment for the Kabota is currently used for snow removal from the sidewalks. A hoe attachment will be useful to maintain the grounds and fields. The Yard Vacuum that we currently have is old and unreliable. The zero-turn radius mower requested is to replace a 25 year old machine, of which replacement parts are obsolete. Exterior doors need new hardware for safety and security reasons. Replacing them will help with energy savings. Our staff is able to install them which will be a great savings.

#### **Energy Performance Contract Proposal**

Daniel Riggle and Weston Ernst from Schneider Electric, presented an energy performance proposal. The energy service company will help to implement a guarantee energy savings for the District. They look at 2-3 years of utility data and maintenance costs, do a building walk through, combined with key challenges from the District, to make a determination. We spend approximately \$450K annually on energy consumption; with the suggestions offered, we could potentially save approximately \$180K per year. Capital improvement key areas are

temperature controls, replace from pneumatic to electronic to help stabilize temperature, improvements in the boiler room by replicating with more efficient burners, information technology, using PC computer power management. Replace doors, gaps, insulation, lighting, security upgrades, solar power, etc. Some of the financing will come via reimbursable aid. Available is 1 to 2 million from NYS for 15 years, 3<sup>rd</sup> party funding for the project, New York State Educational Department will reimburse over \$50K per year for debt service. The projects have to pay for themselves in 18 years or less. The benefits are a financial value for educational value. Schneider Electric also encompasses "Conserve My Planet" which is an educational, energy-saving program for K-12 schools. This fun program motivates students, teachers and staff to take an active role in encouraging smart, efficient energy use in school and at home. By learning and teaching others about sustainable energy practices, participants will see that they can individually make a difference, in terms of both energy bills and the well-being of the environment. The District doing the most they can to save money is a good taxpayer stewardship.

### **Grade Weighting Discussion**

Mr. Shine's believes grade weighting is a good idea since it is the current practice at most high schools across our area, as well as the U.S. Students taking tough courses get the credit they deserve rather than those who do not take the challenging course. Our students cannot compete with others for college entry. We should give incentive for our students to achieve high. His recommendation is to look at other districts to gather data to "weight" in line with other area districts. The students who were polled were in favor of the weighting system.

#### **Budget Development**

Please see attached presentation.

#### Motion made by Laura Sakala, seconded by Melodye Eldeen, to table the following resolution:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Galway Central School District approve the purchase of two Lobby Guard Visitor Management Systems for a total cost of \$13,159 and authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign a contract with the vendor on behalf of the District.

Aye -5 No -0 Motion Carried

Motion made by Joan Slagle, seconded by Anita Crawford, to authorize the Board President to sign a Health & Welfare Services Contract with the Ballston Spa Central School District in the amount of \$5,667.31 for 11 students who reside in the Galway Central School District and attend non-public schools in the Ballston Spa Central School District.

Aye -5 No -0 Motion Carried

Motion made by Laura Sakala, seconded by Melodye Eldeen, to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign a Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the District between the Galway Central School District, the Galway Teachers Association and Alice Shearer, Teacher regarding a retirement incentive.

Aye – 5 No – 0 Motion Carried

Motion made by Melodye Eldeen, seconded by Anita Crawford, to appoint Christine DeCristofaro to the Board of Registration and to the position of Chief Inspector/Co-Chairperson for all school elections in the 2013-14 school year effective March 14, 2014 at a rate of \$8.00 per hour. (This vacancy is due to the resignation of Barbara Sleight. Ruth Gerardi is also a Chief Inspector/Co-Chairperson and on the Board of Registration and was appointed at the July Organizational meeting.)

Aye -5 No -0 Motion Carried

## Motion made by Anita Crawford, seconded by Joan Slagle, to table the following resolution:

Resolved that the Board of Education of the Galway Central School District authorize the Superintendent of Schools to sign a Municipal Cooperative Renewal Agreement with New York Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (NYCLASS). This is an annual renewal.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda**

Motion made by Melodye Eldeen, seconded by Laura Sakala, to approve the following consent agenda:

Aye – 5 No – 0 Motion Carried

#### **PERSONNEL**

Pending approval of a Memorandum of Agreement earlier in the meeting, accept the resignation of Alice Shearer from her Elementary Teacher position effective June 30, 2014 for retirement purposes with thanks and appreciation for her many years of service to the District.

Appoint Gina Bikowicz to the After School ELA/Math and Homework Lab for the 2013-14 school year at a rate of \$42/hour. She is also a substitute teacher in the district.

Appoint David Oliver as a Substitute Custodian/Cleaner at a rate of \$11.11 per hour effective March 10, 2014. He is also a substitute bus driver in the district.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT(S)

Motion made by Laura Sakala, seconded by Melodye Eldeen, to authorize a budget transfer from Budget Code A9060.800 to A1620.490 in the amount of \$107,000 for the purpose of purchasing a VOIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone system through BOCES replacing the telephone system currently in use by the district.

End of Consent Agenda

## **Board Member Comments**

Mrs. Sakala spoke regarding lack of uniforms for the High School Band after receiving a complaint from a community member. They do an amazing job, but when they march in parades, they wear khakis (purchased by the parents) and t-shirts. Perhaps we can look at avenues to purchase uniforms? She has also received complaints about the results of having to cut a music instructor position several years ago which resulted in the loss of 4<sup>th</sup> grade instrument lessons. Are we, as a district, giving equal and appropriate consideration to our music students?

Motion was made by Dennis Schaperjahn, seconded by Laura Sakala, to adjourn at 8:50pm.

Aye – 5 No - 0 Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara A. Agresta

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District Clerk