

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
Ellicottville Central School**

**Budget Hearing
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**Sht. No. 1660
May 12, 2009**

OFFICIAL MINUTES

Members Present: Linda McAndrew, Mary Ellen Campbell, Stephen Ward, Roger Spell, Lynn Eddy, James Wiley

Members Absent: Steve Crowley

Staff Present: Mark Ward, Sharon Morton, Melissa Sawicki

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Nancy Rogan, Kim Woodarek, Mary Spell, Dennis Hintz, Connie Poulin, Robert Miller, June Chapman, Sandy Reed, Larry Mack, Cindy Goodin

Call to order of meeting

President McAndrew called the budget hearing of May 12, 2009 of the Ellicottville Central School School District to order at 7:32 p.m. The pledge to the flag of the United States was recited.

Roll Call

Steve Crowley - absent

Changes, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

None

President McAndrew thanked everyone for coming to the 2009/2010 Budget Hearing. She stated that she was going to turn the meeting over to Superintendent Ward to outline the proposed 2009/2010 budget and propositions.

Superintendent Ward gave a powerpoint presentation outlining the 2009/2010 proposed budget to be put before district voters on May 19, 2009.

Superintendent Ward reviewed the budget flyer and explained the components of the proposed budget.

Superintendent Ward opened the floor to questions from the audience.

Larry Mack inquired about how much money the district has in its reserve account. Superintendent Ward stated around \$3M. Larry Mack stated that he thought this money should be given back to the taxpayers. He asked that the district be up front and explain to taxpayers where the money is going and what it is being used for. Mr. Mack asked Superintendent Ward how much money has been put in the budget for employee raises. Superintendent Ward stated that money has been put in but nothing has been negotiated yet. Mr. Mack asked Superintendent Ward if perhaps next year's budget could include what is expended in each account. He also asked if proposition #2 the Capital Reserve Fund (establishment) was necessary. Superintendent Ward explained what the Capital Reserve Fund would be and explained to Mr. Mack that district voters would actually have control over the money. Mr. Mack stated that the board should have explained better to taxpayers that the Library Fund is an ongoing thing once voters approve it. Mrs. Nancy Rogan stated that the library money is nothing new and that residents have been voting on it for years. Superintendent Ward explained that once voters approve a certain amount, the Library receives this money yearly until they ask for a different amount at which time it would be placed on the ballot again. Superintendent Ward stated that he has been using the newsletter to educate residents. He stated that perhaps he could put an article in the June newsletter explaining the library donation. Mrs. Sandra Reed stated that the new Ellicottville Library is a beautiful facility and residents are getting a whole lot more for their money with the new facility. Mrs. Nancy Rogan stated that she has always felt that this board has been very responsible and conservative. She thanked board members for doing that. Mr. Mack told Mrs. Rogan that perhaps she should read the NYS Comptrollers Audit.

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President McAndrew thanked Superintendent Ward and Sharon Morton for all of their hard work in putting the 2009/2010 budget together.

Candidates Running for the Board

President McAndrew stated that Steve Crowley could not be at the meeting tonight and asked her to read a letter he had written. Mr. Crowley stated in his letter that he regretted not being at the budget hearing. He stated that he has not missed one in many, many years. Mr. Crowley thanked (via letter read by President McAndrew) the voters and asked for continued support on election day.

James Wiley stated that he has been on the board since 1985 and was happy to have Superintendent Ward back in the district and is excited about all of the new programs that are being implemented. He added that ECS has wonderful administrators, teachers and staff and that people are happy to have their children educated here. Mr. Wiley stated that he has worked with five superintendents and many board members. He stated that the current board has great leadership and he is proud to be a part of it. He stated that he would like to continue being on the board and asked for voter support.

Catherine (Katie) Ambuski - not present

Dennis Hintz - Mr. Hintz stated that he was kinda disappointed in the turnout at the budget hearing. He stated that when Mrs. McAndrew beat him last time it stung for a short time but it made him a better person. He stated that he has listened to the people who work below the board. He stated that he had not planned on running for the board until people called and approached him to do so. He stated that he runs against no one, he runs for the position. Mr. Hintz stated that he had two things to ask of the board: 1) He stated that the support staff has issues with their dignity and self respect and they feel like it has been peeled away. He asked them to try and resolve this. 2) He stated that he would like to see a resolution for the bus drivers. He stated that the board hired them to drive bus and asked that the board let them do that.

President McAndrew thanked everyone for coming to the Budget Hearing.

Executive Session:

Motion by Campbell, second by Spell, upon the recommendation of Mark J. Ward, Superintendent of Schools to enter into executive session at 8:35 pm to discuss personnel matters.

**Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried**

Moved by S. Ward, second by Eddy, to come out of executive session at 10:16 pm and return to the regular meeting.

**Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried**

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Adjournment of Meeting

Moved by Campbell, second by Spell, to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 pm.

**Yes - 6
No - 0
Carried**

District Clerk

Deputy District Clerk