

## Minutes of Wells Central School Board of Education Meeting Mar 16, 2016

**The meeting was called to order by President Kenneth Hoffman at 6:00 pm.** Board Members present: Cathie Rust, Racheal Foster, and William Stuart. Dorman Reese let the Superintendent know in advance of the meeting that he would arrive late. Also present: Superintendent Thomas Sincavage, District Clerk Kathleen Towers, Junior Class Advisor Barbara King along with two students and Debbie Taylor along with two students and three parents, and Dee Parker.

**Barbara King, Erika Foster and Madeleine Brown of the Class of 2017 presented their plan for the Junior Prom.** They proposed that the Prom be held at the Wells Community Hall on May 21. The theme will be rustic country. Price will be \$25/single and \$45/couple. The plan is to have the prom go until 10:00 pm at community hall and then have an after prom party at school from 10:00 until 1:00 am. Mrs. King asked if the district could bus students from community hall to the school at 10:00. The Board approved the prom and the bussing.

**Debbie Taylor updated the Board on the Ski Program** that the students participated in with Oak Mt. Ski Center, letting the Board know that approximately 29 students participated for the 6 Sundays of skiing. Oak Mt. kept track of who skied and who took lessons. There is approx. \$2400. left in the account from the money collected for the program. Mrs. Taylor proposed that the money be transferred from the town to an extracurricular account at Wells Central School for a WCS Ski Club and she volunteered to be a volunteer advisor. The Board thanked her for this, saying that they must, by contract, offer an extracurricular advisor position to a teacher first. Mrs. Taylor thanked the Board for transporting the students to Oak. When asked by a Board member if the Town would be donating to the program next year, she said she would not want to rule out that possibility. The Board was in favor of having the program associated with school. Since it had formerly been an extracurricular program, no action was necessary.

Following the presentations, all guests left with the exception of Dee Parker.

**The Board of Education approved the minutes of the February 24, 2016 Business Meeting.** The motion was made by Bill Stuart, seconded by Racheal Foster and carried 4-0.

The Board reviewed the **March 1, 2016 Enrollment Report** provided by Jessica Damphier. As of March 1, there were 148 students.

The Board was given the **HFM BOCES Correspondence regarding the Annual Meeting.** Three Board Members and Mr. Sincavage will attend the meeting and dinner to be held on April 6, 2016.

**The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the Treasurer's Report for the time period February 1-29, 2016 and the Warrant dated February, 2016** in the amounts of: General Fund - \$122,822.56, Trust and Agency - \$206,157.29 Federal Fund – \$2,196.00, School Lunch Fund \$6,490.43 and Capital Fund – \$00. Cathie Rust moved the resolution, Bill Stuart seconded it and it carried 4-0. The Board also reviewed the Appropriation Status Report and the Revenue Status Report.

**The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the classifications, recommendations, and/or programs for the following students:** 200174, 000222159, 982420135, 982420142 (two reports for this student –two different meetings). The motion was made by Cathie Rust, seconded by Bill Stuart and carried 4-0.

**The Athletic Director's Report** by Jeremy Siddon was given to the Board in their packet. There will be no baseball teams at the modified and varsity level this year due to low numbers of students.

**Mr. Sincavage presented to the Board on the following subjects:**

Community Use of Facilities – School Attorney recommends that we follow our school policy. Also recommended that the activity be a set day and time, be sponsored by a group like the Booster Club, with Certificate of Insurance and possibly have a staff member be the responsible adult.

NYS Fire Safety Inspection Audit- The NYS Comptroller's office has been doing random audits of school districts' fire inspection reports, including a physical inspection of the building. We were chosen for this audit and it was conducted last month. They found two minor items that Mr. Welch was able to correct on the spot. We have not yet received their final report.

Communications "Insurance" through BOCES Discussion- We are one of the 7 school districts that does not subscribe to the full communications piece offered by BOCES. Dr. Michel would like to offer "communications insurance" to these 7 districts at a total cost of \$21,000 (charging a proportionate amount to each participating district; if all 7 districts participated, it would be \$3,000, but more if less districts participated). In the event of a catastrophic event, such as the death of a student, they would send a communications team or spokesperson here. The Board does not feel that this service would be necessary. Presently, WCS contracts with HFM BOCES Communications for production of the budget notice and newsletter as well as the calendar. They do a fine job with this, but the Board does not want to increase that service.

Shared Fuel Services: In 2014, the school district was approached regarding their possible participation in shared fuel tank project. At the time, the school district (and the Town of Wells) expressed interest in the project. We were given the impression that our diesel tank was at the end of its possible life and that the District's share of the cost of removal of our tank would be approx. \$2,000, and there would be a significant savings in fuel costs. Last month a meeting held at the Town of Wells Office to discuss the project. The meeting was attended by Town Officials, County Highway Superintendent Tracey Eldredge, Don Rhodes of the Engineering firm and Mr. Sincavage. At this meeting, Mr. Sincavage learned that the approx. cost of the tank removal did not include the cost of filling the hole. Additionally, it did not seem as though there would be a significant savings, if any, in fuel costs and in researching the life of our tank, we were given very different information from the original proposal. Due to these factors, the following resolution was moved by Cathie Rust, seconded by Bill Stuart and carried 4-0:

The Wells Central School Board of Education relinquishes its support of the proposed fuel tank project in the town of Wells, Hamilton County and chooses to continue using and maintaining its own fueling station on school property, due to unforeseen costs to Wells Central School associated with the proposed project and the uncertainty of an actual need for the fueling station (see original resolution - WCS BOE minutes of June 18, 2014).

2016/2017 Budget: Board Members were given copies of Mr. Sincavage's budget proposal in two different formats. One format compared the budget for the upcoming 2016/2017 school year with the preceding 3 years. The other format was for the 2016/2017 Budget with items of change noted by Mr. Sincavage. Items of change included: 1.) approx. \$19,000 in savings in the areas of telephone, electricity and fuel oil, 2.) \$6,000 increase in data processing services through NERIC, 3.) \$46,000 increase in teacher salaries (does not include various professional salaries), 4.) Increase of \$49,159 for BOCES OT/PT services necessary for special needs students, 5.) decrease of \$1,654 in Transportation, 6.) Decrease (in rate) of \$23,000 in State Retirement obligation for non-teaching personnel, 7.) Decrease of \$40,000 (in rate) in Teachers' Retirement obligation 8.) Increase of \$10,000 for social security (proportionate to payroll costs), 9.) Increase of \$200,000 for Health Insurance, 10.) Decrease of \$3,300 in building project payments, 11.) Decrease of \$35,000 in the amount transferred to food services to offset cafeteria expense. The budget is still a work in progress and presently the budget shortfall is \$74,153. Mr. Sincavage is confident that he will be able to close that gap.

**The Wells Central School Board of Education approved for a second Reading the following Board of Education Policies:** 6.200 Inspection and Copying of Records, 6.210 FERPA, 6.500 Community Use of Facilities, 6.510 Animals in School Building and Grounds, 6.550 Authorized Use of School Owned Materials, 6.560 Distribution of Informational and Promotional Materials, 6.740 Relations with Churches, 6.800 Gifts from the Public, 7.460 Incidental Teaching, 7.600 Curriculum, and 7.606 Curriculum Review, Modification and Development. The motion was made by Cathie Rust, seconded by Bill Stuart and carried 4-0.

**The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the Transportation Maintenance contract with the Town of Wells** for the time period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$61,440.00. The motion was made by Cathie Rust, seconded by Racheal Foster and carried 3-0, with Bill Stuart abstaining.

**The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the contract with HFM BOCES for the 2016/2017 school year in the amount of \$405,920.60 and the Capital Region BOCES Contract in the amount of \$48,679.21.** The motion was made by Bill Stuart, seconded by Cathie Rust and carried 4-0.

**The WCS BOE recessed to Executive Session at 7:15 pm to discuss specific personnel items and items of negotiations** on a motion made by Cathie Rust, seconded by Bill Stuart and carried by all members present.

Dorman Reese arrived at approximately 7:18.

The WCS BOE returned to open session at 7:20pm. The motion was made by Cathie Rust, seconded by Dorman Reese and carried by all.

**The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the updated contract for Superintendent Thomas D. Sincavage which extends the contract by one year.** The contract commences July 1, 2016 and ends June 30, 2019. All other items covered by the contract remained the same. The motion was made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Cathie Rust, and carried by all.

**The Wells Central School Board of Education approved the Evaluation of the Superintendent** which was conducted in Executive Session on February 24, 2016. The motion was made by Cathie Rust, seconded by Dorman Reese and carried 5-0.

**The meeting is adjourned at 7:25 pm** on a motion made by Dorman Reese, seconded by Cathie Rust and carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Towers, District Clerk