

PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Plattsburgh, New York

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Board of Education Regular Meeting
April 9, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – Virtual

to participate go to: <https://bit.ly/34nYpL9> or
phone 1-408-418-9388 (note: this is a toll call)

ROLL

Board of Education

Leisa Boise (President) – present
Amelia Goerlitz – present
Robert Hall, Jr. – present
Steve Krieg – present
Ronald Marino – present
Clayton Morris – present
Tracy Rotz – (Vice-president) – present
Roderick Sherman – present
Fred Wachtmeister – present

Others

Jay C. Lebrun (Superintendent of Schools) – present
Carrie Harvey-Zales – (Ass't. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction) – present
David Baroody (Ass't. Supt. for Business) – present
Fortune Ellison – (Director of Special Education) - excused
Dawn Stetz (District Clerk - Host) – present
Lucas Wisniewski (Alt. Host)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. Leisa Boise led the pledge of allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER/EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:59 a.m., it was moved by Mr. Krieg, seconded by Mr. Hall to call the meeting to order. **Motion Carried: 9-0**

Consent Agenda Items

Mrs. Boise: I will ask for a motion for that.
Board: So moved.
Mrs. Boise: Mickey and Bobby. Any discussion? All in favor?
Board: Aye.
Mrs. Boise: Any opposed? Abstaining? Ayes have it.

It was moved by Mrs. Goerlitz, seconded by Mr. Hall to recommend the Board approve the following consent agenda items.

Minutes

Recommend the Board of Education approve the minutes for the meeting held on March 12, 2020.

Adoption of the Agenda

Recommend the Board of Education adopt the agenda for the meeting being held today.

CSE, CPSE and 504 Plan Recommendations

Recommend the Board of Education approve the Committee on Preschool Special Education, Committee on Special Education and Committee on 504 Plan recommendations as presented in *Appendix I*.

Personnel

Appointments

Substitute/Temporary On Call (TOC) Appointments – Recommend the Board of Education approve the appointments and rates of pay as presented.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Certification</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Position (Subs)</u>	<u>Fingerprint Status</u>
Sandra Davidson	Certified-Retired TA	\$98/day	Teaching Assistant	N/A
Yvonne Carroll	N/A	\$11.80/hour	Food Service Helper	Cleared
Sherry Longe	N/A	\$14.30/hour	School Monitor	Cleared
Louise Seymour	N/A	\$11.80/hour	Food Service Helper	Cleared

Business

Reports for Board of Education Information

The following are presented for Board of Education information:

- 1) Middle School Extraclassroom Activity Reports (February 2020)
- 2) High School Extraclassroom Activity Fund Reports (February 2020)
- 3) Summary of Budget Transfers for the months ending January 2020 and February, 2020 under \$25,000
- 4) Summary of Monthly Wire Transfers (February 29, 2020)
- 5) Food Service Program Profit and Loss Statement (February 2020)
- 6) Budget Status Reports (February 29, 2020)
- 7) Revenue Status Report (February 29, 2020)

Treasurer’s Report

Recommend the Board of Education accept the February 29, 2020 Treasurer’s Reports as presented in *Appendix II*.

Motion Carried: 9-0

Superintendent Lebrun: I have nothing for you under item 9 nor item 10, which brings us to item 11, New Business. Item 11.1.A is the first of two parallel actions having to do with short-term borrowings. Before we proceed to those, I will say that we don't currently anticipate having to access these, but given the sheer unknown of our situation our Treasurer thought it best to at least have these board approved if they need to be triggered if and when cash flow becomes an issue. So, you will see two related. The first is again item 11.1.A – that is the Tax Anticipation Note or TAN

New Business

Business

Board: So moved.

Mrs. Boise: Mr. Marino and Fred. Any discussion on that?

Mr. Krieg: Yeah, I just had a question. How did we come up with the amounts on those?

Superintendent Lebrun: Arbitrarily and sufficiently high so is to cover what we hope to be the worst possible cash flow scenario. So, they were set frankly higher than they could hopefully ever be required. It's our hope that we never access any of them. Our District's history is such that we generally, not generally, don't need to access short-term borrowing. That is, the districts do that as standard operating procedures. Again, in the sheer unknown if tax revenues will come in as projected, the tax collection schedule may or may not be changed by the Governor or at the state level, whether additional reductions in state aid will be applied, etc. - those are just big round numbers Mr. Krieg.

Mr. Krieg: Okay thank you.

Mr. Marino: I tell you, that is a smart move on the District's part.

Superintendent Lebrun: Thank you. Think of it as a line of credit for emergency situations and we will do our very best not to have to access it. Should that become as we enter further crisis, it may be necessary.

Mrs. Boise: Anyone else? All in favor? Aye. Any opposed? Abstaining? Ayes have it.

It was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Wachtmeister to recommend the Board of Education approve the following Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO \$5,000,000 IN
TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE
CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, CLINTON COUNTY, NEW YORK IN
ANTICIPATION OF THE COLLECTION OF REAL ESTATE TAXES
LEVIED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021.**

BE IT RESOLVED by a Board of Education (the "Board of Education") of the City School District of the City of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York (the "School District") as follows:

Section 1. There are hereby authorized to be issued Tax Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the School District in anticipation of the collection of real estate taxes or assessments levied for the School District's 2020-2021 fiscal year (the "Taxes").

Section 2. The amount of such Taxes which is uncollected on the date of this resolution exceeds \$5,000,000. The Notes shall not be issued in an amount in excess of the amount of Taxes levied for the 2020-2021 fiscal year which is uncollected at the time of such borrowing less:

(a) the amount of the outstanding tax anticipation notes previously issued in anticipation of the collection of such Taxes, and

(b) the amount, if any, included in the School District's 2020-2021 annual budget or in the levy of Taxes for such fiscal year to offset, in whole or in part, an anticipated deficiency in the collection before the end of such fiscal year of the Taxes levied for such fiscal year.

Section 3. The maximum amount of Notes authorized to be issued is up to \$5,000,000.

Section 4. The Notes shall be of such amount, terms, form and content, and shall be sold in such manner as may be prescribed by the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the School District, consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the Local Finance Law.

Section 5. The period of maturity of the Notes shall not exceed one year. The Notes may be renewed from time to time, but each renewal shall be for a period not exceeding one year and in no event shall the Notes, or the renewals thereof, extend more than five years after the date of original issue of the Notes. The Notes shall not be renewed except in accordance with the limitations set forth in the Local Finance Law.

Section 6. The faith and credit of the School District shall be and are hereby pledged for the punctual payment of the principal of and interest due on the Notes as the same shall become due and payable.

Section 7. The President of the Board of Education, as Chief Fiscal Officer of the School District, is hereby authorized to enter into an undertaking for the benefit of the holders of the Notes as required by United States Securities and Exchange Commission Rule 15c2-12, as amended.

Section 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion Carried: 9-0

Superintendent Lebrun: Again, 11.1 B is a parallel action

Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN) Resolution

Board: So moved.

Mrs. Boise: Mr. Marino and Mr. Hall. Any discussion on that? All in favor?

Board: Aye.

Mrs. Boise: Any opposed? Abstaining? Ayes have it.

It was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Hall to recommend the Board of Education approve the following Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN) Resolution:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF UP TO \$10,000,000
IN REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, CLINTON COUNTY, NEW YORK IN
ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT OF STATE AID TO BE RECEIVED
DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED by a Board of Education of the City School District of the City of Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York (the "School District") as follows:

Section 1. There are hereby authorized to be issued Revenue Anticipation Notes (the "Notes") of the School District in anticipation of the receipt of State Aid to be received by the School District in and for its fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 (the "Revenues").

Section 2. The amount of such Revenues estimated in the School District's 2020-2021 annual budget which is uncollected on the date of this resolution exceeds \$10,000,000.

Section 3. The maximum amount of Notes authorized to be issued is up to \$10,000,000.

Section 4. The Notes shall be of such amount, terms, form and content, and shall be sold in such manner as may be prescribed by the President of the Board of Education, the chief fiscal officer of the School District, consistent with the provisions of this resolution and the Local Finance Law.

Section 5. Pursuant to the authority delegated in this resolution, the President of the Board of Education may issue Notes during the School District's 2020-2021 fiscal year in an amount not in excess of the difference between the amount of uncollected or unreceived Revenues and the amount of any outstanding revenue anticipation notes previously issued in anticipation of the collection or receipt of the Revenues.

Section 6. The period of maturity of the Notes shall not exceed one year. The Notes may be renewed from time to time, but each renewal shall be for a period not exceeding one year and in no event shall the Notes, or the renewals thereof, extend beyond the close of the second fiscal year succeeding the fiscal year in which the Notes are issued. The Notes shall not be renewed in an amount in excess of the difference between the amount of uncollected or unreceived Revenues and the amount of any other outstanding revenue anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the collection or receipt of such Revenues.

Section 7. The faith and credit of the School District shall be and are hereby pledged for the punctual payment of the principal of and interest due on the Notes as the same shall become due and payable.

Section 8. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion Carried: 9-0

Superintendent Lebrun: 11.1 is simply us keeping up with changing state election law details, as presented.

Board Policy # 5605 Second Reading– Voter Registration for Students

Mrs. Boise: Need a motion.

Board: So moved.

Mrs. Boise: Okay Mr. Marino and Mr. Sherman. Any discussion? All in favor?

Board: Aye.

Mrs. Boise: Opposed? Abstaining? The ayes have it.

It was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Sherman to recommend the Board of Education approve Board Policy #5605 – Voter Registration for Students. This new policy is required due to changes to the state Election Law Section 5-507, which requires school districts to adopt a policy regarding the pre-registration of students ages 16 and 17. Getting young people pre-registered is viewed as a way to improve voting participation.

Motion Carried: 9-0

Superintendent Lebrun: Item 11.2 a will be familiar because the second reading of a - I'm tempted to say textbook, but in fact it's more of an online platform than a textbook, but like a textbook it requires to read this is the second such reading.

Instructional

Instructional Textbooks – US History/Government - Second Review

Mrs. Boise: I need a motion. Mickey and Mr. Rotz. Any discussion? All in favor?

Board: Aye.

Mrs. Boise: Any Opposed? Abstaining? The ayes have it.

It was moved by Mrs. Goerlitz, seconded by Mr. Rotz to recommend the Board approve the on-line platform adoption as second read for US History and Participation in Government. **Motion Carried: 9-0**

Superintendent Lebrun: I have nothing for you under 11.3 nor 11.4.

Concluding Reports and Remarks
Superintendent's Reports/Remarks

Superintendent Lebrun: I have a handful of comments under 12.1 Superintendent Reports on remarks in no particular order. In fact, change the order. Let me I guess, affirm publicly that there is yet to be a Statewide date established for board elections and budget votes. All that we know, of yet, is that they have been delayed from the May date to at least June 1st. So, we are eager to let people know when voting will be taking place, but like all school districts Statewide we don't yet know that. Further, it is unclear whether budget votes will be taking place as it usually does anyhow. There has been some discussion, I believe at the state level, where in school districts which offer a budget which is either tax cap level or below or at contingency level or below may be excused from having to conduct a public vote. Again, this is all unknown to us right now. As of this moment, we don't yet know when board elections and budget votes will be taking place.

Let me move on to the Footbridge. In the cruelest of ironies, during the school closure, the Footbridge is essentially done or very close to being done. They have entered into the very final phases of putting up the side rail fencing - the 6-foot fencing. I'm sure there would be some, some culminating steps like engineering inspections and the like, but the Footbridge is very close to being completed. It's not very close to being open because some of those culminating steps presumably aren't going to be able to take place during this shut down. But do know that the work is largely complete. The Footbridge is returned, generally to its as-new condition and outside of those initial discovered conditions, i.e. the horizontal rusted members, the balance of construction, so far, has gone very smoothly - so good news there although we're not yet able to take advantage of it. Okay.

Finally, let me say a couple of words about the budget - just brief summary for the public who may be participating in this meeting. Next year's budget and perhaps years hence appear to be in very, very poor shape both on state-level finances and because of that school districts' finances across the state. More specifically next year's state aid has been frozen at this current year's state aid. So even the executive proposal which featured modest increases and which we hoped would have been improved upon in an ultimate state budget was reversed and it is a flat year-to-year funding. That includes any, I guess we'll call it phase one stimulus funding, at an equivalent amount, that being \$615,000 approximately, was removed from that state aid funding and then replaced with stimulus money. So, the stimulus money doesn't help beyond this current year funding. What we're looking at therefore is, unfortunately and I think unavoidably, a fairly significant staffing and programming reductions. The severity of this economic crisis seems to parallel that of the great recession several years ago with the main difference, from my perspective, being that the onset of this was much more rapid. So, the budget development process given this new and challenging information has begun. We don't know yet when it needs to be completed because of course as I led with, we don't have a budget vote day and our deadlines are all pegs to that day - they are a back off of that date according to the statute and the process will continue, but as clear forewarning we are facing a fairly dire budget situation as are all districts and I have no further comment.

Board Member Reports/Remarks

Mrs. Boise: We will move on to our board member comments at this point so I'm going to go according to the squares that I'm seeing. Mr. Morris you are first.

Board/Administrators: Muted. You are muted. Here we go. Still can't hear him. Lucas. His audio isn't working.

Mrs. Boise: How about if I come back to Clay.

Board: Is that a blessing in disguise? (Laugh.)

Mrs. Boise: Can you hear us Clay? We can't hear you. Muted again. Clay what if I come back to you. We will move on to Mr. Wachtmeister - you are in my next square.

Mr. Wachtmeister: Okay. Unlike traditionally, I have no comment to make. You need to get a lot more information before I do so. So, enjoy the wave.

Mrs. Boise: Thank you. Mr. Hall.

Mr. Hall: I'm going to jump back to the bridge Jay. Just a quick question on it. The funding that the state had promised us. Do we have that yet or has that not been paid to us yet and I wonder about that because of the problems with the budget that they are going to have?

Mr. Lebrun: Good question. Mr. Baroody you can clarify. I believe the first distribution from the dorm came last week. Now that's not full payment but I believe that their reimbursement for our expenditures have begun, is that correct?

Mr. Baroody: That's correct. I'm going to, if Mr. Neiderer can hear me, he has been in direct contact with Senator Little's office if he would like to interject. Mr. Neiderer?

Mr. Nedierer: Okay. Can you hear me now?

Board: Yes, we can.

Mr. Nedierer: Yes, they are still on line for payments. As we finish up the bridge work, they will send the paperwork down, then they will get with Kris LaDuke on with what paperwork needs to be done and everything is on schedule to continue forward.

Superintendent Lebrun: Mr. Hall it's a great question because I think we are all responsibly cautious and cynical about the state's finances. I will also say that our April 1st State Aid distribution, this year's state aid, which was a significant one, came on time and in full. I'm going to explain later to the board members about the states approach to budgeting where they're going to conduct some periodic look backs about their revenues. The first of those lookbacks hasn't occurred yet. So right now, the state funding that's been committed by them seems to be flowing...at the same time.

Mr. Hall: That's good news. I just didn't want to see us get blindsided by a \$450,000... expected to get it elsewhere. That's all I have to comment on other than I hope everybody is well, healthy and that are homeschooling is nothing... as good as it can.

Mrs. Boise: Mickey

Mrs. Goerlitz: First I want to say it's good to see everybody. And also, thank you to Jay and Carrie and Jack for keeping us up-to-date on everything. I really appreciate getting all your emails. And finally, just what I know of what's going on with the homeschooling - it's great. Like I just hear from my grandkids and particularly at the elementary level - they are really doing such good things. Everything that they possibly can to keep the kids engaged and happy. So congratulations.

Mrs. Boise: Thank you. Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Sherman: A couple of things. I will pick up where Mickey just left off. Yes, our staff is doing a great job. In the last few weeks, while walking around the neighborhood, I keep my distance, I have probably run into at least half a dozen maybe more of our staff that have been working. Everyone of them have told me about the tremendous amount of work that the administration has done - Jay, Carrie and Dave and that the support you have given them has been fantastic. I want to thank the three of you for what you do and I'm sure this also should be spread onto the building Principals for the work that they're doing. Those people could not do the work they are doing with our children without the strong support and the ideas and the things that you lay out for them so thank you so much for that. The thing that worries me is, Jay, when you were speaking about the budget, you said this year and next year and who knows how long being a problem in getting state aid. What I would like to do, as a board member, is I think we need to take a look at the utility tax before we start getting... It probably won't help us at all this year but certainly getting ready for the future. Maybe talk with our legal counsel about exactly what would a utility text look like? Tax cell phones? What would that tax look like and what would be the estimated income that we could take from that? My own electric bill for a year's period would be over \$60 a year is what I would put in as one homeowner. If we multiply that by the number of homes in the City and having looked at tax exempt properties, we are talking

a considerable amount of money that could save programs maybe not next year but certainly the year after if the situations what it is. I would hope that we would start to begin right now to take a serious look at the utility tax and how that could affect us and maybe move forward to adopt it. You know as somebody who comes up for re-election this year, that might not be a popular thing to say but I think that's my job to say that that's what we need to do. Thank you.

Mrs. Boise: Thank you. Mr. Marino

Mr. Marino: I on the other hand take issue with that. I'm not so sure that as taxes go up, property taxes go up, the financial uncertainty that we the school district are looking at as well - this also falls to the homeowners and the property owners. Okay if you looked at the real estate industry here it's not going so well. Sales are going down - that's going to impact our income as well. I don't think another tax is what the taxpayer or the homeowner needs, at this point in time. We tried that, what was it? Eight to ten years ago? And it came up with a resounding defeat. I was at the opposite end at that point in time. I was not a proponent of that and I'm not a proponent of it now. Seems to me every time we run up into a palazzi brick wall we go to the taxpayers and dip into their pocket. How about we just use common sense and innovation to solve our problems instead of dipping into the taxpayer's pocket. Having said that I am very proud of the work that the District has done during the shutdown. Thank you.

Mr. Baroody's child: Okay

Mrs. Boise: Thank you. Mr. Krieg

Mr. Krieg: Okay can you hear me? Okay. Three things. One: One of the webinars I was in said something about school construction projects may get some leeway as far as getting moved along during this - I guess, especially if they were critical to the school's function next year if hopefully we're back. So, I don't know, I haven't heard anything else on it maybe somebody else will. Second thing: I think you know some of us are lucky enough to not have not have been affected at least income-wise by this thing. We have to remember that a lot of people have all over the country, all over the world and this community. As far as I'm concerned, the last thing we need to do for them now is to institute another tax. I won't even consider that at this time. I don't even want to talk about it but I understand other people may want to. I think it's a bad idea. The last thing I have is if anybody hasn't heard, I heard on North Country Public radio this morning that Governor Cuomo has suspended raises even though they were contractually, already negotiated for the corrections officer. So, he has taken that approach to saving some money. We need - the economy needs money to get out there, but for people that already have an income and aren't going to lose that income, it doesn't make a lot of sense to give them more money at this point because they may just save that money. We need money to go to places where it's going to be spent and get out into the economy as soon as possible. That's all I have.

Superintendent Lebrun: Can I jump in hear Mrs. Boise, because... a timely and appropriate question about school construction. Here's the situation of school construction in New York State as I understand it. Originally, very early on I believe the Governor classified all construction as essential and was allowed to continue. Sometime thereafter, perhaps a week and a half to two weeks into the New York pause situation, there was a contrary ruling that in fact some construction or most construction was not essential. We received, at that time, indication from our architect engineering, firm Bernier and Carr that suggested that all construction should be placed on hold. Now I'm told that that's not entirely clear and there's differing legal opinions about the correct interpretation of the Governor's executive order, but here's our general understanding: the State Education Department has other priorities and is doing very little in terms of reviewing and approving projects and we've been told by Bernier and Carr not to expect bidding to happen this spring as planned, instruction to happen this summer as planned. Now perhaps that changes or perhaps there are some small exceptions. I believe we've just lost a year in our construction timeline and I wouldn't expect much to take place this summer. Good question.

Mrs. Boise: So, I am going to move on to my upper left corner here. Mr. Morris do you have audio now?

Mr. Hall: Can he phone in?

Mrs. Boise: He tried - I think.

Mrs. Stetz: Yeah Lucas you want to tell them?

Mr. Wisniewski: Well yeah, I mean I feel like something's going on with his microphone. He could switch to the phone or potentially just use the chat or message out to Dawn or you know, whoever he is comfortable with to have it kind of repeated. There's a chat built for this, maybe we could just do it that way as well if you want to just chat the message somebody and then have them speak it.

Mrs. Boise: In the mean time we'll move on to Mr. Rotz.

Mr. Rotz: I just want to thank everyone, especially the District. I think you guys have done a fantastic job. I am glad to see everyone is healthy. I hope you stay healthy and your family stays healthy. I would agree with Ron. I think we are headed for financial times that are going to be extremely difficult for a lot of people in the world, not just in our country and I don't think it's a good idea to add any taxes. I think we are going to somehow figure this out the best way that we can. Even though adding taxes would be helpful, I just don't think that's a good idea to the families out there that are suffering enough. The last thing: I think that's great that Governor Cuomo suspending the taxes of state workers. Maybe that way with that extra money, he can cover the huge raise he got himself. I will end it with that.

Mrs. Boise: Well said. Mr. Morris? Has anybody reached out to him to let him know that he can chat in?

Mrs. Stetz: Yes, Lucas did. Lucas was on the phone with him to let him know that he could chat in and also, I think he discussed trying to call in on the phone too. Lucas do you have anything else more to add to that?

Mr. Wisniewski: No. I am not a hundred percent sure what is going on with his microphone but either the phone connection or if he wants to chat or text someone and have it repeated is probably the best option this second.

Mrs. Boise: Dawn can you reach out to him?

Mrs. Stetz: Yes

Mrs. Boise: I just don't want to cut him off and have him think we are not...

Mrs. Stet: No problem. I am just going to hit mute right now.

Mrs. Boise: Okay. While she is doing that, I will just kind of put out there a nice thank you to all of our administrators and staff throughout the district as well as Jay, Dave, and Carrie. You guys have done an exceptional job not only keeping us updated with everything going on within our district but really being out there and sharing that communication through the entire district and to the public which has been exceptional. Everybody out there knows exactly what's going on with us and that is the way it should be. We really, truly appreciate all of your hard work in doing that because this is not an easy time. I want to specifically say thank you to our fellow board members as well. This is a trying time for everyone but this is also a new time for us. I don't think in all the years that I have been a part of the board that we have ever done a meeting this way. So, for everyone to be able to turn around and bring this to tuition is exceptional. So great job done by that. And a special thanks goes out to Lucas and Dawn. I think pulling this together has really been, I am sure, trying on their part, but also very challenging for everyone in general. So, thank you to you guys for doing an exceptional job in bringing this altogether to ensure that we continue on and do what we have to do as a board as well as a district – so thank you. I am going to have to agree with my fellow board members Mr. Rotz and Mr. Marino in regards to a utility tax. I don't think another tax at this point is beneficial for our tax payers. I think we are in for a long haul and we have been through trying times before and we are going to go through some significant trying times moving ahead into the future and one more tax I don't think is in anybody's best interest at this point. I would just say in my conclusion just be safe and healthy - we want to continue moving forward in our positive way we are doing, but I just want to say thank you to everyone for being a part of an exceptional team in this district. It really does make a difference. Mr. Morris are you back with us?

Mrs. Stetz: I did speak with him, he said he is good for right now for public comment or you know for board comment so he is working on his audio though.

Mrs. Boise: So, at this point since everybody's board comments have been performed...

Mr. Wachtmeister: Leisa

Mrs. Boise: Yes, I'm sorry.

Mr. Wachtmeister: It's Fred. I would like to just make a comment relative to the utility tax for clarification purposes. It was a discussion, there was a public hearing a number of years ago. The utility tax was not defeated per say but the overwhelming majority of people that attended the public hearing were opposed to it as one might understand. Nobody wanted to additionally tax those who might... the benefit - probably didn't see the need at that time to move forward. This is a different time. Last time the Board decided not to move ahead with utility tax. And if that means it was defeated, well then it was defeated. But the Board itself, 60% I think of the Board, no, a simple majority of the Board has the ability to impose a utility tax after a public hearing. I think we owe it to the educational program and the educational children of the District, which is our primary responsibility to, at the very least, explore that possibility through the collection of data, updating on what we now currently have once the cloud clears, perhaps by this summer, to reexamine the data as to how our District would be effected, who would have to pay into the utility tax, what would be taxed so that we could make a decision as a Board of Education once we have all the information, all of the data to move forward. If the Board wishes, they can call for a public hearing, or of course, even with the public hearing can decide not to that. But we need to recognize that we have several, difficult years ahead of us. However, our responsibility is still to provide that educational programming that is required for success in our society and I suspect we will at least, here in the short term, make some reductions which are going to be helpful, let me say it that way, for the children of the District. So, to explore collecting data about it and informing the public of that fact, does not, in itself, cause anybody any pain or problems or any money. So, I would urge the Board to consider that and I certainly would like that to be on the agenda sometime during the summer. Nothing that will affect this year's budget development - It is too late for that. We need to have that discussion so that we are doing so on the basis of information. Obviously, there are at least 3 board members of the Board that would not be in favor of that and I assume there might be more than that. But it is a discussion that will be a valuable one for the public. We will get through this. Maybe on the other side we will have done some things that make the distribution of taxes fairer, because the utility tax will pick up people contributing to revenue stream that currently, at the present, maybe don't or do so in a somewhat more reduced matter than a property tax would do. So, I think that is the clarification I wanted to express. Thank you.

Mr. Marino: If I may address that for a moment. I am not so sure in this day and age the general populist would be, how can I say this, how did you phrase it, will not feel enlightened about looking at a utility tax. You have people who \$60? Yeah Rod says \$60, but it's not just that utility, it's the cell phones and other things as well. Okay. Whenever you want to add more burden to an individual tax payer or person, its not going to be very welcome. So, I disagree with what you say. You may think from a different plane than some of these people, but I don't think they are going to put their arms around you and say oh thank you Fred for advising us of that.

Mr. Wachtmeister: I don't need a thank you and I don't need any hugs of that nature so those things don't influence me. The only thing that's going to drive what I do is going to be on its impact on the education of the children of the District. And again...

Mr. Marino: So, we are taking more money away from people when they can't eat. Go ahead.

Mrs. Boise: Alright guys we are going to move on here. We will bring this back at a later time to continue on with our discussions on that. I will ask one more time Mr. Morris is there anything that you have to chime in with? No? Okay. So, at this point we are on to our Public Comments. I know that we do have a person on the line somewhere. Does that person need to come forward and speak or would like to speak and if so, she needs to give her name and address to Mrs. Zales. Being none, I am going to ask for a motion to adjourn and move into Executive Session.

Superintendent Lebrun: For the purposes of discussing particular personnel Mrs. Boise.

Mrs. Boise: Okay is that Mickey? And Mr. Hall. All in favor?

Board: Aye.

Mrs. Boise: Opposed? Abstaining? The ayes have it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 9:34 a.m., it was moved by Mrs. Goerlitz, seconded by Mr. Hall to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters as provided for in Board 2330; the employment history of particular personnel.

Motion Carried: 9-0

RECONVENE: At 12:38 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Hall to convene to Regular Session.

Motion Carried: 9-0

ADJOURNMENT: At 12:38 p.m., it was moved by Mr. Marino, seconded by Mr. Hall to adjourn.

Motion Carried: 9-0

Respectfully,

Dawn Stetz
District Clerk