

Special Meeting of the
BOARD of EDUCATION of the SCHOOL DISTRICT of REEDSBURG
Official notice of meeting given and posted.

October 22, 2009

Central Office Building

7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 1 — Call to Order: Mr. Balda, Board president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 — Roll Call: The following Board members were present: Steve Balda, Heather Scully, Gary Woolever, Mike Hartje, Jim Wieczorek, John Pearson and LuAnn Brey. Absent: None. Also present: Tom Benson, District Administrator, Patrick Ruddy, Assistant District Administrator; Jeff Bindl, Director of Pupil Services; Linda Bruun, Director of Instruction; Rob Taylor, High School Principal; Ken Leiviska, Reedsburg Times Press; Tom Demmin, WRDB and Barbara Sand, secretary.

Agenda Item 3 — Report on Public Notice: Notice of the meeting was given to the Reedsburg Independent, the Reedsburg Times Press, WRDB radio and was posted at the Central Office building, Reedsburg City Hall and the Reedsburg Public Library.

Agenda Item 4 — Approval, 2009-2010 Final Budget Revisions: Mr. Ruddy presented information on the final 2009-2010 budget revisions. Our third Friday in September enrollment count increased by ten (10) students and the three (3) year rolling average (2007, 2008, 2009) remained steady (the increase will not help until next year). The district received approximately \$900,000 less in school aid this year, which is a 6.3% decrease. This decrease is a major factor in the increase in property taxes for 2009-2010. This budget also includes federal funding through the ARRA stimulus dollars but there are many strings attached to that money. The majority of general school aid is provided through the equalization aid formula, which distributes aid based on the relative fiscal capacity of each school district as measured by the district's per pupil value of taxable property. The school levy tax credit is distributed based on each municipality's share of statewide levies for school purposes during the preceding three years and allocated proportionately to reduce individual owners' property tax bills.

The finance committee is presenting a balanced budget tonight that is a 3.66% increase over the previous years budget.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Wieczorek, second by Mr. Hartje, to approve the 2009-2010 General 10 Fund budget of \$26,706,025; Special Education Fund 27 budget of \$4,959,812; Debt Service Fund 39 budget of \$1,615,000; Debt Service Fund 38 budget of \$290,000; Food Service budget of \$1,200,023 and the Community Service Fund budget of \$115,100 as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 5 — Approval, 2009-2010 Tax Levy: Mr. Ruddy also provided an update on the school tax levy using the state required Revenue limit, Equalized Aid, and the district's property values. The budget carries a property tax levy of \$12.90 million, up significantly (13.21%) from last year. The mill rate for the 2009-2010 school tax levy will be \$8.98 per thousand dollars of equalized property value, which is an increase of \$0.94 or 11.72% over last year. Just a reminder that the main driving force in this increase is the unexpected loss in state aid. With over #1 million in cuts for the 2009-2010 budget, no other options are available to reduce the tax levy.

Following discussion, motion by Mr. Pearson, second by Mr. Woolever to certify a 2009-2010 tax levy in the amount of \$12,895,856, which will cause a mill rate of \$8.98 per \$1,000 of equalized property value as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 6 — 2010-2011 Budget Cuts:

- Class Sizes
- SAGE

Budget cuts to date total \$1,070,000. With the failure of the referendum in April 2009 additional cuts need to be made. Items on the cut list for 2010-2011 include the potential closing of one or two single-track elementary school building(s), further reductions to summer "extended contracts", a reduction of a .5 FTE in elementary music, reductions in support staff positions (both secretarial and teaching assistants) and a reduction of .7 FTE in high school/middle school art. Those items were previously identified as areas that would be reduced if the referendum did not pass.

Class sizes will increase at all levels for the 2010-2011 school year. Those increases may also adversely affect the district's participation in the Student Achievement Guaranteed Education (SAGE) program. To maintain participation in SAGE class sizes in grades K-3 must be at 15 or less, which will be very difficult to maintain given our financial situation.

Agenda Item 7 — 2010-2011 Elementary School Closure(s): The largest cost savings in closing a school is staff reductions. If we close an elementary school, staff will be reduced accordingly (this will include teachers, teaching assistants, secretarial, custodial and food service personnel). Based on seniority and "bumping" rights, those staff reductions will most likely be at other schools.

Agenda Item 8 — 2010-2011 Staff Reductions: If we lose SAGE funding, the district will need to reduce the teaching staff by approximately 12, which will save the district NO money (the funding for these positions is provided by the state, not the district). The loss of those teaching positions would be in addition to other reductions needed to balance future budgets. Discussion will continue about the possible restructuring of our elementary buildings in order to keep SAGE in some of our elementary buildings.

Agenda Item 9 — Revenue Limit Referendum: Following discussion the majority of the Board is not in favor of pursuing a referendum at this time. The administrative staff was directed to review the criteria previously identified for closing an elementary school and update as necessary. In addition, a list of potential future cuts needs to be created.

Agenda Item 10 — Executive Session: Motion by Ms. Brey, second by Mr. Woolever to adjourn the open session at 8:14 p.m. and move into executive session under sections 19.85(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes,

- (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Motion carried by a roll call vote 7-0.

Agenda Item 11 — Reconvene in Open Session: Motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Mr. Pearson to adjourn the executive session at 9:18 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Agenda Item 12 — Adjourn: There being no further business, motion by Mr. Hartje, second by Ms. Brey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Mr. Balda declared the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Gary Woolever, Clerk
Barbara Sand, Recorder