

# ANNUAL MEETING of the SCHOOL DISTRICT of REEDSBURG

Official notice of meeting given and posted.

August 18, 2008

Central Office Building Board Room

8:00 p.m.

## **Present:**

Board of Education: Steve Balda, Heather Scully, John Pearson, Gary Woolever, LuAnn Brey, Mike Hartje, Jim Wiczorek  
Administration: Tom Benson, Patrick Ruddy, David Perrodin, Sharon Suchla, Rob Taylor, Michele Butler, Matt Terry, Bryan Yager, Casey Campbell, Clint Beyer, Paul Bierman, Jenny Gehri, Missy Herek, Ann Schmitt  
Media: Jeff Seering, Reedsburg Independent; David Stoeger, The New Radio Group  
Others: Barbara Sand - see list for others in attendance (total attendance – approximately 45)

## — Budget Hearing —

Mr. Balda, president of the Board of Education, called the Budget Hearing to order at 8:01 p.m. Approximately 43 district residents and 2 non-resident were in attendance. Following welcoming remarks and introductions Mr. Balda reviewed the materials distributed and noted the rules of order for this hearing. Mr. Balda called on Mr. Ruddy, director of business services, to review the proposed budget.

Mr. Ruddy reviewed the Budget Summary, identifying expenditure increases of 4.26 percent to \$30,511,193 (all funds) and revenues of \$30,486,017 creating a budget deficit of \$25,176. The proposed tax levy for 2008-2009 is \$11,636,253, a 9.08 percent increase over 2007-2008. The 2008-2009 tax rate for the School District of Reedsburg is predicted to be \$8.19, a 0.30 cent increase from 2007-2008. This means that the taxpayer is predicted to pay, for school purposes, \$8.19 for each \$1,000 of equalized property valuation, which he or she possesses. The tax rate last year was \$7.89.

Mr. Ruddy stated that the preliminary budget is based on a number of factors (enrollment figures, finalization of property values, receipt of the final aid certification, etc.). Final numbers are due in October and the Board will review and finalize the 2008-2008 budget at that time. The original forecast was for a balanced budget this year; however, after making final audit entries it appears that there may be a significant deficit, which will be confirmed or corrected by early September.

There were no questions or comments regarding the proposed budget and the Hearing was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

## — Annual Meeting —

Mr. Balda called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:15 p.m. and called for nominations for a temporary chairman. Motion by Bill Klang, second by Dana Westedt to nominate Corinne Fish for temporary chairman. Motion by Steve Bauer, second by Rob Taylor to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Corinne Fish for temporary chairman. Motion carried unanimously.

Corinne Fish assumed the chair and called on District Administrator Thomas Benson for a district report.

Mr. Benson began by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming. In looking back, our community recently experienced a challenging set of circumstances brought on by Mother Nature. The devastation was incredible. While it caused last school year to end on a clumsy note, it also provided an opportunity for everyone. A public acknowledgement and thank you was given to local police, fire and rescue, local businesses, students and staff. Special thanks was given to Randy Johnson and the entire custodial and maintenance staff for their efforts in getting our school buildings ready for the new year.

You have heard from Mr. Ruddy regarding the financial condition of our district, which presents us with great concern. We have reduced our budget by more than \$400,000 in an effort to bring forward a balanced budget for the current school year. Those reductions were difficult and they will be felt throughout the district. To avoid making deeper and broader cuts, more revenue must be generated. We continue to seek out grant opportunities and we will continue to work hard to minimize and prioritize our spending. Whether or not we like the funding formula used by the state, it is the formula that is used and we must work within those limits. Our best opportunity to make that formula work for us is to pass a referendum. Our student enrollment continues to be strong although our incoming kindergarten class is lower than we had anticipated, we are hopeful of maintaining a solid number. Our enrollment has a significant impact on our ability to generate revenue. Once again our administrators have been busy recruiting new staff members and we look forward to their contributions. One administrative change took place this summer as Ron Rasmussen, high school associate principal, resigned to take a high school principal position with the Mauston School District. We wish him the very best in his new position. With his departure, Matt Terry has joined the high school as associate principal. We have a strong administrative team and you can expect great leadership from this group. Examples include, greater attention being paid to the analysis of test results, which will lead to improved teaching and learning; an increased effort to identify, promote and ensure appropriate benchmarks at each grade level and in each subject area; and they continue their commitment to helping each child develop strong literacy skills.

Leadership in the care and maintenance of our buildings and properties and in the area of transportation continues to be strong. The supervisors in each of these areas do a wonderful job of balancing quality with fiscal responsibility. Without the passage of a referendum, it is likely that we will realize a significant decline in the overall condition of our buildings and our bus fleet.

We've made some changes in the management of our food service program. We wish Sherry Ziech the very best as she pursues retirement and we welcome the leadership of the A'Viands group as they assume the management of our breakfast and lunch programs.

Our entire Central Office staff has been busy closing out one year and making the necessary adjustments and preparations for the new year. Great effort and sound decision-making continues to guide the district's instructional plans, pupil services, human resources and business management.

We will continue to utilize every dollar we receive through the Student Achievement Guaranteed Education (SAGE) program and we will make great use of this final year of the Reading First grant at Westside Elementary.

The 2006-2007 budget was the last year for funding from the referendum that was approved in 2003. We need another opportunity like that in the very near future. I am proud of the work done by our school board and administration in the preparation and presentation of the 2008-2009 budget. A strong and aggressive approach to programming and staffing has been appropriately tempered by conservative and responsible budgeting.

Like most schools throughout the state, we will continue to face considerable challenges. We are up to the task and expect 2008-2009 to be a terrific year for the district.

**Old Business - None**

**New Business** – Corinne Fish read each of the following resolutions that were presented for action and called for their adoption.

1. *Resolution – School Board Salaries:* **Be it resolved** by the electors of the School District of Reedsburg that school board members will be compensated at the rate of \$ 2,750 for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Motion by Jeff Seering, second by Rob Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

2. *Resolution - Tax for Operation and Debt Service:* **Be it resolved** by the electors of the School District of Reedsburg that a tax be levied on all taxable property of the district for:

the General Fund expenditures in the amount of	\$ 9,709,713
and for Debt Service in the amount of	\$ 1,833,330
and for the Community Service Fund in the amount of	\$ 93,210
Total Proposed Levy to be	\$11,636,253

Motion by Dana Westedt, second by Karen Steiner. Motion carried unanimously.

3. *Resolution - Establish Annual Meeting Date:* **Be it resolved** by the electors of the School District of Reedsburg that the Annual Meeting date will be Monday, August 17, 2009.

Motion by Jeff Seering, second by Tommy Lee Bychinski. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, motion by Pat Ruddy, second by Heather Scully to adjourn the Annual meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:28 p.m.