

New Paltz Central School District Board of Education  
March 21, 2018 Community Budget Forum – High School 7:00 PM  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Michael O'Donnell, Board President.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

QUORUM CHECK

Brian Cournoyer  
Alison Easton  
Michael O'Donnell  
Kathy Preston  
Sophia Skiles  
Teresa Thompson  
Matthew Williams

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Maria Rice, Superintendent of Schools  
Michelle Martoni, Deputy Superintendent  
Richard Linden, Assistant Superintendent for Business-arrived at 6:30 PM

**ROLL CALL**

ROLL CALL

The roll was called as reflected above.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made by Alison Easton and seconded by Matthew Williams that the Board of Education move into Executive Session at 5:32 PM for the purpose of discussing the school history of particular students in accordance with their FERPA rights, discussing matters made exempt by FERPA, discussing the employment history of a particular person or corporation, discussing matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation, and discussing collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

**DISTRICT CLERK PRO-TEMPORE**

DISTRICT CLERK PRO-TEMPORE

Board President, Michael O'Donnell, appointed Maria C. Rice as District Clerk Pro-Tempore for the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

Out of Executive Session - Motion made by Brian Cournoyer and seconded by Theresa Thompson that the Board return to Public Session at 7:04 PM. Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

**CALL TO ORDER**

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Michael O'Donnell, Board President.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

QUORUM CHECK

Brian Cournoyer  
Alison Easton  
Michael O'Donnell  
Kathy Preston  
Sophia Skiles  
Teresa Thompson  
Matthew Williams

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Maria Rice, Superintendent of Schools  
Michelle Martoni, Deputy Superintendent  
Richard Linden, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Connie Hayes, Director of Pupil Personnel Services & Special Education  
Greg Warren, Director of Health, Physical Education & Athletics  
Mike Robinson, Director of Food Services  
Tarkan Ceng, Lenape Elementary Principal  
Dusti Callo, District Clerk  
Members of the Public and Press

**ROLL CALL** The roll was called as reflected above.

ROLL CALL

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

PLEDGE

None.

**COMMUNITY BUDGET FORUM**  
 Wednesday, March 21, 2018 7:00 PM  
 High School Audion

**AGENDA**

7:00 p.m.                   **Welcome**  
 Michael O’Donnell, *Board of Education President*

7:15 p.m.                   **Budget Presentation**  
*Maria C. Rice, Superintendent of Schools*  
*Richard Linden, Assistant Superintendent for Business*

7:30 p.m.                   **Open Dialog**  
 Questions, comments and recommendations are encouraged.

Community members will be accommodated to voice their questions and comments in an efficient process. Questions and comments will be limited to three minutes to allow for everyone to be heard.

Members of the Board of Education and Administrative Staff will address questions, comments and recommendations, or provide clarifications as needed or may be appropriate.

*Arielle Chiger, New Paltz*-asked the board to consider class sizes as well as student needs when planning for elementary teaching positions in the budget.

*Tanya Santos, Gardiner*-parent representing the New Paltz Athletic Association. Asked that the board consider increasing funding for the Athletic Department in the budget and consider creating a wellness center in the future.

*Diana Armstadt, New Paltz*-asked the board for the approximate number of students in outside placements.

*Steve Takas, New Paltz*-President of the New Paltz Athletic Association, read a statement asking the board for additional financial support of the Athletic Department, to consider the creation of a future wellness center and expressed his opposition to later start times.

*Ginger King, New Paltz*-4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher a Lenape. Ms. King asked that careful consideration be made regarding creating elementary sections for next school year.

*Maggie Veve, New Paltz*-commented on the creation of the Racial Equity Committee, supports in increase in funding for mental health services and athletics.

Melanie Hoffman, New Paltz-shared comments in support of athletics and commented on school start times.

*Heather Harp, New Paltz*-shared comments on the idea for a wellness center, additional mental health support, consideration for an SRO and inquired about what steps the district is taking to increase school safety.

*Rachel Markowitz, New Paltz*-commented on school safety, the addition of a school psychologist and the SRO.

*Edgar Rodriguez, New Paltz*-commented on creating balance with any security plans, membership with NYSSBA, the social emotional needs for students and thanked the board for the creation of the Racial Equity Committee.

*Terrance Ward, New Paltz*-presented questions to the board regarding assistance provided by Astor Services.

*Robert Gertler, New Paltz*-shared comments about the consideration of an SRO, thanked the board for their work on the Racial Equity Initiative, and shared comments regarding interaction among board members on social media.

*Karen Edelman, Esopus*-thanked the board and administration for their work on the budget, the addition of a psychologist and costs and spending related to safety.

*Jackie Reed, Gardiner*-shared comments regarding costs associated with school safety, school climate and the Racial Equity Initiative.

Superintendent Maria Rice asked the board for any suggested changes to the proposed 2018-2019 budget. Board members Teresa Thompson, Matthew Williams, Alison Easton, Michael O’Donnell and Kathy Preston all agreed they are happy with the budget as presented. Board member Sophia Skiles shared her concern about the high needs in first grade.

This concluded the Community Budget Forum.

Following the discussion of options for buses presented at this meeting, a motion was made by Alison Easton and seconded by Brian Cournoyer to approve item 4.1 as presented.

**4.1 Request for Approval to Place Proposition on Ballot at the Annual Meeting on May 15, 2018 Approving Purchase of Vehicles**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following proposition be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting of the qualified voters of the New Paltz Central School District, to be conducted on May 15, 2018:

Shall the Board of Education of the New Paltz Central School District, Ulster County, New York, be authorized to purchase three 65-passenger or larger school buses at a cost of \$100,000 each, for a maximum estimated cost of \$300,000; and three 30-passenger vehicles at a cost of \$60,000 each, for a maximum estimated cost of \$180,000; for an aggregate maximum estimated cost of \$480,000; and that the sum of \$480,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments, as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law, and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of the District shall be issued.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this proposition in the Legal Notice of Annual Meeting, Election and Vote in the designated newspapers.

Motion to approve item 4.1 carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

**ADJOURN**

ADJOURN

Motion made by Alison Easton and seconded by Teresa Thompson that the Board adjourn at 9:41 PM.  
Motion carried 7 to 0 with 7 members voting.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Dusti Callo  
District Clerk