

**UNION #39 SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2006  
SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE – LUDLOW  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
4:00 P.M.  
AGENDA**

**Present:**

**Board:** Diana Chimbolo, Chair, David Slivka, Brent Karner, Allen Seiple, Ralph Pace

**Staff:** John Barth, Frank Perotti, Edie Lou Cole

**Public:** Allison Gillette

I. Call to Order:

Ms. Chimbolo called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

II. Business Item:

A. FY 06-07 Budget

Mr. Barth explained that supplies from the math and english budgets could be reduced by \$2,000.00 and \$2,200.00 respectively. The math supplies' budget was reduced due to a change in personnel and the new teacher should not need to be trained in the math curriculum. The english supplies' budget is reduced by cutting out a Smartboard. Mr. Barth stated that Sue Renard was going to move to the old tourism academy room but she does not feel that she should move because she would feel too isolated. Therefore, the school will not need to buy new computer tables and chairs for a reduction in supplies of \$2,422. The supplies' budgets will be reduced by a total of \$7,122.00.

Mr. Barth stated that Brett Francis is leaving. Green Mountain Union High School has offered to let students take AP Calculus there or it can taken through virtual high school. Mr. Barth suggested that Mike Ripley's position be reduced to .50 FTE science teacher and offer him a .50 vice principal position. Mr. Barth stated that a full time science teacher will still have to be hired. There was discussion that the board must advertise for a licensed vice principal before offering the position to a non-licensed person. Mr. Perotti stated that a teacher could apply for a provisional license, that is valid for two years, if they are working towards their administrative license. There was discussion that Mr. Ripley is enrolled in an administrative licensing program. Mr. Slivka stated that it was important to have licensed personnel available and a teacher should not be pulled out of class to deal with student issues. This would not be fair for the class they are teaching. Mr. Slivka stated that if the board feels that a vice principal is needed then the position should stay in the budget. Mr. Seiple stated that teachers should assume more basic discipline responsibilities in the classroom. Mr. Slivka stated that there is a problem with discipline practices if students are willing to act up and be sent to the front office because if there is strong discipline at the front office then students will not want to go there.

There was discussion that the salary for the combined position of vice principal and athletic director was \$55,000. Ms. Cole stated that she split out the salary 50/50 in the budget. An amount of \$27,500 was budgeted for the athletic director and virtual high school administrator. Mr. Slivka questioned if the person that qualifies for the athletic director position would also be qualified as a virtual high school administrator.

It was discussed that the virtual high school administration will be a duty that is assigned to an existing position. The costs associated with that program are for training.

Mr. Seiple asked if physical education classes could be combined and enlarged to free up some of that teacher's time to fulfill the role of athletic director. Mr. Barth noted that most of the time the athletic director's hours are after school. It was discussed that the existing stipend was not enough to compensate for the hours involved. Ms.

Chimbolo noted that the board already decided that the athletic director position required 20 hours per week. Mr. Slivka suggested that the athletic director position be changed to an hourly position.

There was discussion about how to structure the athletic director position and salary. Ms. Chimbolo suggested that the virtual high school administrator be offered a stipend. Mr. Barth will train a few personnel to be familiar with virtual high school.

The board accepted Mr. Barth's recommendations about reducing supplies' budgets.

There was additional discussion about the vice principal position. Mr. Slivka and Mr. Seiple stated that they received feedback from voters that proposed budgets were too high with a declining enrollment and also that a vice principal was not needed with declining enrollment. Mr. Pace stated that the proposed vice principal position should be eliminated from the budget.

There was discussion about changing the daily schedule and assigning teachers to the planning room. There was discussion that this change would lead to a lack of consistency in discipline due to a difference in discipline theories. Mr. Slivka stated that if students were assigned to a planning room and the room had rules then there should be no problem. Mr. Slivka and Mr. Pace were against the proposal to reduce the science teacher to .50 FTE and add a .50 FTE vice principal.

There was discussion about how the voters would receive the idea of a teacher absorbing the duties of a vice principal. There was discussion about Mr. Slivka's concerns about disrupting Mr. Ripley's classes in cases of discipline. Mr. Barth noted that a younger student could be sent to sit in the vice principal's class and usually would be ~~behave~~ until class was over when the teacher could be free to deal with the issue. Different scenarios and models were discussed about how to structure the .50 vice principal time. Mr. Slivka suggested that Kelly Ryan be approached to take on the duties of part-time vice principal with an additional stipend. Mr. Barth stated that he approached Kelly Ryan about assuming vice principal duties but Mr. Ryan stated that he felt that it would diminish his abilities as a guidance counselor. There was discussion that Mr. Ryan could back up Mr. Ripley when Mr. Barth was out of the building.

There was discussion that the responsibilities of the vice principal will include the monitoring before school, discipline issues and coordination of substitutes. The before school monitor stipend would be removed from the budget for an additional reduction of \$1,750.00. Mr. Slivka advocated for a .50 FTE vice principal only without combining the position with a teaching position. Mr. Perotti agreed with Mr. Slivka's position however this compromise was the next best idea because Mr. Perotti did not see getting the budget passed with a vice principal position only.

Mr. Barth stated that there was discussion about cutting Mr. Francis' position to .50 FTE as he was leaving but that would mean cutting the science program and there was concern about finding a qualified .50 FTE science teacher.

Mr. Pace stated that there was a perceptual problem about hiring a vice principal when there is declining enrollment. Mr. Pace stated that conceptually there was a need for a vice principal but the money was an issue. There was discussion about whether the budget was voted no because of the vice principal position or the total dollar amount of the budget. Mr. Slivka stated that his feedback from Mt. Holly was it was the total dollar amount of the budget. Ms. Chimbolo stated that feedback from Ludlow was that voters voted no because of the vice principal position.

It was the consensus of the board that the following changes to the budget would be made: the athletic director position would be offered as an hourly position at 20 hours per week; the virtual high school administration would be assigned to existing personnel; and the vice principal duties would be combined with a current teaching position. Ms. Chimbolo stated that the teachers' union had already agreed with a change in the athletic director pay. Mr. Slivka stated that he was not in favor of these changes to the budget.

The combined position of vice principal, athletic director and virtual high school administrator will be eliminated from the budget for a reduction of \$77,604.00. Ms. Cole noted that a part-time athletic director position would be entitled to pro-rated benefits. There was discussion that, according to the teacher's agreement, part-time FTE was

17.50 hours per week. The board discussed offering the athletic director position hourly at 15 hours per week. Mr. Slivka stated that if the position required 20 hours per week then the board should stick with 20 hours per week. It was the consensus of the board to keep the athletic director position at 20 hours per week for a cost of salaries and benefits of \$28,472.

The part-time vice principal stipend will be included in the budget for a total cost of \$29,821. Supplies will be reduced by \$7,122. The board will reduce a science teacher by .50 FTE through attrition for a savings of approximately \$29,000. The before school monitor stipend of \$1,750.00 will be eliminated from the budget. All budget changes reduced the proposed budget by \$51,312.00 for a proposed 2006-07 budget of \$3,456,534 and an increase of 6.01% over the 2005-06 school year budget.

Mr. Seiple **moved** to adopt the proposed 2006-07 budget of \$3,456,534.00. Mr. Pace seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The budget vote will be held June 13, 2006 with an information meeting to be held in June 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

III. Other Business:

Mr. Perotti reported that there were a dozen applicants for the principal position. Mr. Perotti asked some teachers and students to be part of the search committee. Mr. Perotti would like the committee to review the applicants and then select those that they would like to interview. Mr. Slivka suggested that the student council meet the final candidates.

The board rescheduled the board retreat to June 23, 2006 at Clear Lake Furniture at 6:00 p.m.

IV: Adjournment:

Mr. Slivka **moved** to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Pace seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

V: Next Meeting: June 21, 2006, Regular Meeting  
June 23, 2006, Board Retreat