

LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING

SATURDAY 9:07 A.M.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2012

MINUTES OF THE LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL
MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 22, 2012.

The Licking Heights Board of Education met in Special Session for the purpose of conducting official school business on September 22, 2012 at 9:07 a.m. at Licking Heights Central, 6565 Summit Rd. S.W., Pataskala, with Mr. Richard Wand, President, presiding.

Mr. Wand asked the Treasurer to call the roll. Those members present were: Mr. Brian Bagley, Mr. Mark Loth, Mrs. Nicole Roth, Mr. Satterwhite and Mr. Richard Wand. .

The proceedings of this meeting have been recorded.

Mr. Wand read the Notice of the Meeting.

The Licking Heights Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting on Saturday September 22, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of seeking community input on the proposed budget reductions in the event of levy failure in November. The meeting will be held at Licking Heights Central Middle School in the cafeteria, located at 6565 Summit Road SW, Pataskala, OH 43062.

Background Information from Board President Mr. Wand:

“Why are we here?”

We are required by state law to run the district in the black. We are required by state law to finish the fiscal year with a positive balance. That means regardless of what happens during the year, we have to do whatever is necessary to maintain that positive balance at the end of the year.

“Why has this one snuck up on us so fast?”

Primary reason that this snuck up on us so fast is because the last forecast that came out we had \$1.1 million revenue stream from the Reynoldsburg City Schools we had posted that on forecast because the State Supreme Court denied their appeal we thought we were close to receiving that money. Reynoldsburg decided to appeal again. The law suit has gone on now for 6 years. We took money out of the forecast, which puts us in a significant debt situation for this fiscal year and next fiscal year.

“The depth of the cuts”

The cuts are deep and severe and are where they have to be to get us to the black. We can't tell exact cuts (ie., which teacher it will be). All that information has to go through the Union, the RIF procedure and everything else. These are the types of cuts that have to occur to maintain a positive balance. They can only be described as “Catastrophic.”

We made one million and a half in cuts two years ago. We have saved \$65,000 in Administrative salaries this year alone. Most of those cuts were made with a minimal impact on the classroom, with a minimal impact on the teaching situation in district. Were they pleasant cuts? No. Did they inconvenience a lot of people? Yes. But did they affect the classroom learning of your child on a day to day basis? Maybe a little bit, but not very much.
THESE CUTS will have a drastic impact on classroom learning.

The President asked if there were any prepared remarks by the public. The comments were:

1. Kimberly Walker Gales – Busing – Board answered her questions. She chose not to speak.
2. Tracy Kane – Bus Transportation/Football Sports
 - Concerned about HS students not being able to get to school and truancy
 - Asked about waiver for Pay To Participate fees based on income level
3. Mitch Houck – Voting For/Against levy
 - Can't afford to vote for this levy
 - Considers including RCSD money in forecast before, then taking it out – lying
 - Thinks it's wrong to be back to the voters in 18 months
 - People need to earn money to play sports – Sports is not a guarantee
4. Pam Waits – Elementary Cuts
 - Cut four software programs previously - Wants them brought back
 - Concerned about class size being at 30 already
 - Asked about Administrative salaries – Mr. Olverson, Curriculum & Instruction Director and Dr. Hubbard, Central Principal
 - Accelerated Reader (AR) supplements Fountas & Pinnell and allows a child to progress in between their assessments, and without AR we will see the progression and OAA scores decline
5. Cindy Friel – Maintain Higher Academic Level
 - 20 years ago district was poor with poor ratings
 - Cuts in HS are something that can be dealt with; but, don't cut elementary with high class sizes
 - Concerned cuts will kill district rating
6. Tom Dunkle – Cost of Levy per \$100,000; Sports cost
 - Asked about cost of millage - \$272 per year for \$100,000 home or \$22 per month
 - Asked if Pay to Participate fees would be the same for every sport
7. Tina Robey – Parent Involvement/Cuts necessary?
 - Asked why as residents do we have to pay more
 - Wants parents to get involved
 - Has asked about volunteering in the school
 - Wants community involvement – This starts with parents and elementary leaders
8. Chris Sommerkamp – Sports
 - Student motivation – Students keep attendance & grades up because of sports
9. Larry Rhoades – Levy – Question answered

10. James Loudenslaser – Cuts
 - More to life than OGT scores
 - Had to drive to away games when son was in school
 - Questioned where the money would go
11. Melissa Gibson – Education should be priority – period.
 - Understands living paycheck to paycheck
 - Don't fully understand budgets
 - Proud of schools
 - Need to band together now
 - "If Elementary cripples, the rest falls apart"
12. Vicki Seeright – Levy chairs
 - Wants volunteers – Welcome your help

Superintendent Comments:

1. Lots of good news about this school district. Last three years, we have had excellent-effective-excellent ratings. Last year hasn't been officially released; but, tentatively shows as excellent again. (Will be the first time the district will have back to back excellent ratings)
2. Does not like the cuts; however, there is no other way to balance the budget.
3. LH is on the receiving end of the shared growth area with Reynoldsburg. We are trying to minimize the legal costs. Reynoldsburg has filed appeals. We have won at every level.
4. There are lots of questions about the reductions. One question is why we need Mandarin Chinese? One reason, 25% world's population is Chinese. We had 75% of our students last year that went to college. For scholarship and acceptance into college, recruiters look at little things. Those types of things does make a difference for a student.
5. Trying to make reductions through "addition by subtraction"
6. There are two things that everyone can count on:
 - Improving – More kids going to college (75% of our kids)
 - We're all going to pull on the same side of the rope to get this done

Board Comments:

Mr. Matt Satterwhite –

- We want more than just the standardized testing scores. We want excellent ratings for our schools – This will be a given.
- The Board challenges everything with regards to spending. We are underfunded. We spend less than everyone else. (See ODE's report)
- We need your help.

Mr. Brian Bagley –

- LH has an incredible group of educators. He is proud to have kids in this school district.
- Lately, he has taken pay cuts and does not like additional taxes; however, he does want us to go to the next level and knows that can happen.

Mrs. Nicole Roth –

- Appreciates everyone here today. We do hear you. We want smaller classrooms as you do.
- We need levy to pass so we can go forward
- Spread the word.
- Find out what you can do – Be informed with the teachers.

Mr. Mark Loth –

- Cuts have been talked about since last levy, this is not something that just came up. We have talked about cuts every single meeting – trying to have as little impact on students as possible.
- The levy will cost a little over \$20 per month – Yes, that is a lot of money, but with cuts and adjustments, you will end up paying more.
- We want you to be very informed. Please approach us – Don't be shy.

Mr. Richard Wand –

- Has three kids in school district – Doesn't know how he will deal with everything (i.e. picking up his kids) Understands the concerns.
- On Tuesday, September 25, 2012, the cuts will be voted on by the Board. These cuts will take place. We want everyone to know that these are definitely the cuts, not threats. We want everyone to know this is what will take place if the levy fails.
- This is being done quickly due to the Board of Elections mailing absentee ballot information to all registered voters. Absentee voting begins October 2nd, so we want the voters to be informed.

ADJOURNMENT

Resolution #09-12-182

Mr. Wand moves and Mr. Loth seconds that the Board of Education meeting is hereby adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

AYES: Wand, Loth, Bagley, Roth, Satterwhite
The President declared the motion carried.

BOARD APPROVED: OCTOBER 24, 2012

