

A regular meeting of the Members of the Board of Education of the Goshen Central School District, Orange County, New York, was held in the **Auditorium of Goshen High School** (due to flooding of the Board Room at the Main Street School) on **Monday, September 19, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.**

Present	Mr. James Kimiecik, President Mr. Adam Boese, Vice President Mrs. Martha Bogart Mr. Tom Frederick Mrs. Judy Green Mr. Robert Kish Mrs. Loretta Richner
Superintendent of Schools	Mr. Daniel T. Connor
Assistant Superintendent for Business	Mr. Robert Miller
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum	Mrs. Jane Unhjem
Principals:	Mr. Jason Carter, and Ms. Amy Peluso
Interim Principal	Mr. James Polunci
Assistant Principals:	Mrs. Patricia Lercara and Mr. John Piscitella
Director of Buildings & Grounds	Mr. James Riley
Interim Assistant Principal/Athletic Director	Mr. Thomas Heinzelman
Director of PPS	Ms. Deirdre Hallinan
CSE Chairperson	Mrs. Marlene Gaynor
Director of Transportation	
Network Administrator	Mr. James Sterett
Student Senate Representative	Thomas Payne
Members of the Faculty, Press and Citizens of the District	

The regular meeting was called to order by President, Mr. James Kimiecik at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Kimiecik led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent meditation.

The board received the following correspondence: Thank you from Roberta Greene, Washingtonville's Superintendent to Jim Riley and staff for assisting them during the recent storms; correspondence from Warwick Valley Quilters' Guild; Opening Day Enrollment; MHSSC Awards for Excellence (this year's recipient is Fabien Riviere); and various newspaper articles.

Mr. Kimiecik opened Privilege of the Floor.

High School teacher publicly thanked Jim Polunci, Tom Heinzelman and Patty Lercara for hard work and professionalism during the first two weeks of school. She also asked if school is to be canceled, if calls could be made prior to 5:30 a.m. for the safety of staff and students.

Mr. Kimiecik welcomed Thomas Payne, Student Representative to the board for the 2011/2012 school year.

Mrs. Bogart mentioned NYSSBA announced the State is working on a 2 year budget process.

Mrs. Bogart acknowledged Dorothy Slattery, Area 9 Representative, in the audience this evening. Mr. Kimiecik also welcomed Mrs. Slattery.

Mr. Connor introduced Mr. Steve Golas, tonight's speaker from Questar III State Aid Planning. Mr. Golas thanked the board and audience for the opportunity to address the community on the State's Tax Cap. The Tax Cap is a complex 8 step formula districts are required to use to arrive at the allowable tax levy limit. Mr. Golas stressed the importance of early communication to provide information and educate the public.

The following is the formula for determining tax cap limit for school districts.

Prior year tax levy (multiplied by)  
Tax base growth factor, if any (plus +)  
Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) receivable during prior year  
(minus -) Taxes levied for exemptions during prior year (not ERS & TRS)  
(equals =) *Adjusted Prior Year Tax Levy* (times x)  
Allowable levy growth factor (lesser of 2% or CPI) (minus -)  
Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTS) receivable in the coming year (plus +)  
Available carryover, if any (equals =)  
"Tax Levy Limit"

Mr. Golas stressed the importance of communicating and educating the community regarding the new cap. In some instances the tax levy increase for a district could appear higher than perceived tax cap, but still be under the maximum allowable tax levy limit. An example was presented where the tax cap could be higher but have stayed within the maximum allowable tax levy limit.

The Property Tax Cap begins with the 2012/2013 budget season and will stay in effect until at least 2016/2017. The Property Tax Cap is tied to rent control statutes of New York City and will remain in effect as long as this statute is in place.

Mr. Golas highlighted exemptions; however, noted tax certioraris are excluded. Mr. Golas stated the Governor ordered tax certioraris be excluded and recommended districts like Goshen contact their local state representatives.

School districts are still required to have the public vote on their budgets and follow same guidelines, with an addition of the Property Tax Report Card this year including district tax levy limit and proposed tax levy before exemptions. The Budget Notice will also be required to include the above information.

Districts have 2 options: propose a budget requiring a tax levy before exemptions at or below the Tax Levy Limit prescribed by law, which would require a simple majority vote of 50% plus 1 voter; or Option 2: present a proposed budget requiring a tax levy before exemptions above the Tax Levy Limit, which would require a super majority of 60% of voters. This would also require a statement on the ballot indicating the required tax levy before exemptions exceeds the Tax Levy Limit.

If the proposed budget is not approved by the required margin:

- The district may resubmit the original budget or submit a revised budget to the voters on the third Tuesday in June OR
- Adopt a contingency budget that levies a tax no greater than that of the prior year (0% increase in tax levy).

If the resubmitted/revised budget proposal is not approved by the required margin:

- The Board of Education must adopt a budget that levies a tax no greater than that of the prior year (0% increase tax levy) and the budget would be subject to contingent budget requirements.
- Districts will not be allowed to increase the tax levy to the extent necessary to fund items of expenditure excluded from the tax cap
- No growth factor
- No capital, court order/judgments or pension exemptions (taken from powerpoint)

The following new information must be reported on or before March 1<sup>st</sup>

- Information used to calculate tax levy limit:
- Prior year tax levy
- Tax base growth factor (ORPS)
- Prior year PILOTS
- Prior year exemptions (not pension exemptions)
- Current PILOT payments
- Available carryover
- Submit to Comptroller, Tax and Finance, SED
- Format to be determined

DISTRICTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO HAVE PROPOSED BUDGETS AVAILABLE BY MARCH 1<sup>st</sup> (taken from powerpoint)

Mr. Golas presented the following Communication Challenges:

- Misinformation and public expectations
- Law doesn't cap tax increase; it sets a new threshold for voter approval based upon a determined tax levy increase
- 2% is what the public hears
- Confusion WILL abound
- Tax levy limit is reported; tax levy increase per the cap depends upon levy limit calculation plus allowable exemptions
- Districts set tax levy; voters focus on tax bill
- Fallout from decisions of municipalities (city, county) will impact schools
- Exemptions and levy limit – calculation complex
- Real consequences of a defeated budget and zero tax levy increase on school programs (taken from powerpoint)

Refer to cap as voter approval threshold instead of referencing 2% tax cap

In summary:

- NYS has a property tax cap, not a “2% cap”
- The property tax cap limits the school district levy NOT the individual tax bill of resident taxpayers
- The actual allowable tax levy increase will vary by district

- The formula allows for certain expenses to be exempt from the cap therefore allowing the total tax levy increase to be greater than the “perceived cap”
- BOEs can present a budget that “overrides” the cap but will need 60% voter approval
- Voters are approving the budget (spending plan) not the tax levy
- The education community has many unanswered questions
- Education leaders need to inform their communities of how the cap works! It is not a 2% cap on the levy or on individual tax bills (taken from powerpoint)

Mr. Golas mentioned this is subject to legislative ruling and could be changed. Mr. Golas also mentioned there is not mandate relief with this cap as was originally stated.

Districts can go over and still be in the required guidelines.

The board thanked Mr. Golas for his presentation.

Mr. Riley updated the board on the status of work being completed on the Main Street Board Room. All demolition and work has been completed by in house labor. The goal is to have room ready for installation of the new floor by the end of the week. Insurance company has assessed the damage and possibly the District could receive FEMA money to offset the cost. Mr. Boese asked how other District buildings fared during the 2 storms. Mr. Riley reported minor damage occurred. The board thanked Mr. Riley.

Mr. Connor stated this Saturday, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Goshen Soccer Alumni Day, a public appreciation and recognition of three former soccer coaches; Harold Innocent, Joseph Romano and Clif Wilson will be held followed by the soccer game. The first home football game is also scheduled for Saturday. Mr. Connor handed out an invitation to the soccer recognition to board members.

Mr. Miller reported with the recent newspaper articles on the instability of Bank of America, which is a current bank institute of the District, no longer paying interest without notifying the District, recommended the board authorize an RFP for banking services. The board agreed.

Mrs. Unhjem reported she attended SUNY New Paltz Award of Excellence Program, where Fabien Rivere is being honored as an early career candidate. A dinner will also be held recognizing county-wide staff members in October as recipients of the Award of Excellence Program.

Mrs. Unhjem provided information on the NCLB from the last board meeting. Elementary and Secondary Education Act passed in 1965 is based on Title 1 formula based on poverty statistics and used to provide remedial services to students. NCLB legislation instituted for grades 3-8 Math and ELA testing. The current law needs to be reauthorized as President Obama shifts focus to Race To The Top initiatives. RTTT money received by Goshen over 4 years totaled \$50,000 with 3/4s going to consortium with O/U BOCES. The expense far outweighs revenue.

On a motion by Adam Boese and seconded by Loretta Richner upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda as presented. AYES 7 NAYS 0 Motion carried.

Accept resignation of Lisa Nardone .6 AIS teacher effective September 26, 2011.

Accept resignation of Rosell Howell food service helper effective September 19, 2011.  
Approve appointment of Rosell Howell substitute food service helper at a salary of \$7.75/hr., as needed, effective September 19, 2011.

Approve medical leave of absence of Richard Heater custodial worker is requesting a medical leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act effective September 12, 2011 through September 30, 2011.

Approve appointment of Jennifer Blake guidance counselor at a salary of \$52,563 (pro-rated) MA-1 effective September 21, 2011 with a tenure date of September 21, 2014. Ms. Blake has Provisional School Counselor certification. Ms. Blake is replacing Chris Haller.

Approve appointment of Lisa Lamberty recess aide at a salary of \$11.74/hr. for 2.25 hours per day effective September 13, 2011. Mrs. Lamberty is a substitute for the District and will be replacing JoAnn Licciardi.

Approve decrease in hours of Joanne Gelb bus monitor decrease in hours from 6 hours per day to 5 hours per day effective September 1, 2011.

Approve appointment of Jonathan Redeker K-12 Technology Coordinator at a stipend of \$2,635 for the 2011/2012 school year.

Approve appointment of Robert Quinn guidance counselor at a salary of \$524.10/diem effective for one day of work on July 5, 2011. Mr. Quinn will assist with student placements.

#### EVENING HIGH SCHOOL

Approve appointment of Roger Kalin as Evening High School Lead Teacher at a salary of \$49.91/hr., for 3.5 hours per evening, 2 evenings per week, effective 2011/2012 school year. Mr. Kalin is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Patricia Grandolfo as Evening High School English 12 teacher at a salary of \$40.58/hr. for 3.5 hours per evening, for 1 evening per week, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Ms. Grandolfo is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Eleanor Knieriemen as Evening High School Participation in Government teacher at a salary of \$33.99/hr. for 3.5 hours per week for 1 evening per week, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Ms. Knieriemen is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Marlin Maduras as Freshman College English 1 & 2 (OCCC Course) at \$39.40/ hr. for 3.5 hours per evening for 2 evenings per week for Semester 1 and 1 evening per week for Semester 2, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mr. Maduras is returning to this position.

Approve appointment of Evelyn Schneider as Freshman College English 2 (OCCC Course) at \$33.99/ hr. for 3.5 hours per evening for 1 evening per week for Semester 2, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Dr. Schneider is returning to this position.

Approve appointment of Elizabeth Xanthis as Evening High School English 11 teacher at a salary of \$41.80/hr. for 3.5 hours per evening, 1 evening per week, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mrs. Xanthis is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Heidi Lawrence as Evening High School GED Math teacher at a salary of \$40.58/hr., for 3.5 hours evening, for 1 evening per week, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Ms. Lawrence is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Paul Tenny GED Social Studies teacher at a salary of \$45.67/hr. for 3.5 hours per evening, for 1 evening per week, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mr. Tenny is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Sharon Woelfel as GED Science teacher at a salary of \$36.06/hr., for 3.5 hours per evening, 1 evening per week, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Ms. Woelfel is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Jessica Weir as Evening High School GED tutor/ testing teacher at a salary of \$45.67/hr. (3.5 hours per evening), as needed, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Ms. Weir is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Kristin Green as Evening High School GED English teacher at a salary of \$36.06/hr. for 3.5 hours per evening, 1 evening per week, effective the 2011/2012 school year.

Approve appointment of Paul Bennis as Evening High School Economics teacher at a salary of \$36.06/hr. for 3.5 hours per evening, 1 evening per week for the Semester 2 effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mr. Bennis is returning to Evening High School

Approve appointment of Patti Douglas as Evening High School library aide at a salary of \$11.74/hr. for 2.5 hours per evening, 2 evenings per week, effective the 2011/2012 school year.

Approve appointment of Gail Frey as Evening High School security at a salary of \$55.56/per evening (3 hours per evening), as needed, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Ms. Frey is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Martin Knapp as Evening High School security at a salary of \$55.56/per evening, (3 hours per evening), as needed, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mr. Knapp is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Gail Rodriguez as Evening High School security at a salary of \$55.56/per evening, (3 hours per evening), as needed, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mrs. Rodriguez is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Sheila Venable as Evening High School security at a salary of \$55.56/per evening, (3 hours per evening), as needed, effective the 2011/2012 school year. This is a yearly appointment.

Approve appointment of Daniel VanCura Evening High School tutor at a salary of \$32.35/hr., as needed, for the 2011/2012 school year. Mr. VanCura is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Robert Karchawer as Evening High School administrative substitute at a salary of \$48.90/hr., (3.5 hours per evening), as needed, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mr. Karchawer is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Michael Kelly as Evening High School administrative substitute at a salary of \$48.90/hr., (3.5 hours per evening), as needed, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mr. Kelly is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Joseph Palancia Evening High School substitute teacher at a salary of \$28.00/hr. per evening, as needed effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mr. Palancia is returning to Evening High School.

Approve appointment of Millicent Ferrara as Evening High School substitute security at a salary of \$55.56/per evening, (3 hours per evening), as needed, effective the 2011/2012 school year. Mrs. Ferrara is returning to Evening High School.

Disposal of Obsolete Equipment (see official minutes)

CSE/CPSE

Section 504	12/08/10; 113683/GHS/LMLA
Subcommittee on Special Education	07/28/11;114991/GHS/LD 07/28/11;112076/GHS/OHI 08/03/11;111139/Student parentally placed/LD 08/15/11;113309/CJH/OHI
Committee on Special Education	08/17/11;111491/GHS/Ineligible
Committee on Preschool Special Ed	08/22;11;117839/Preschool Itinerant Services Only
Committee on Special Education	08/14/11;116348/BOCES/A
Committee on Preschool Special Ed	09/02/11;117869/Preschool Itinerant Services Only
Subcommittee on Special Education	09/12/11;117560/BOCES/SLI

On a motion by Tom Frederick and seconded by Adam Boese upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education rejects all bids received and opened on September 14, 2011 for the District's purchase of two new 66-passenger school buses due to their non-conformance with the bid specifications.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board of Education authorizes rebidding.

AYES 7 NAYS 0 Motion carried.

On a motion by Loretta Richner and seconded by Robert Kish upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approves the High School Class Trip to Orlando, Florida from May 27-30, 2012.

AYES 7 NAYS 0 Motion carried.

Mr. Kimiecik opened the second Privilege of the Floor.

A community member, hosting an Exchange Student attending John S. Burke, mentioned school districts need to work harder and motivate students. With worldwide competition, school districts need to think of new ways to do things for students and consider what is the price of excellence and achievement?

The board will wait until review of NYSSBA Bylaws, Amendments and Resolutions are reviewed by the Orange County School Boards.

The October OCSBA meeting will address the new tax cap regulations. Districts must begin the process of establishing the tax cap and the impact on the district sooner than later. OCSBA is stressing districts begin the communication process and not wait until January.

Board of Education Minutes      September 19, 2011

Tom Frederick recently attended the 12 hour mandated new board member Fiscal Responsibility Training. A great experience and Goshen is better off than most districts.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. on a motion by James Kimiecik and seconded by Adam Boese.    AYES 7    NAYS 0    Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia B. Brown  
District Clerk