

Edwards-Knox Central School  
Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
May 23, 2011

The Regular meeting of the Edwards-Knox Central School Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-President Teresa Hogle on May 23, 2011 at the Edwards-Knox Central School cafeteria.

Members of the Board of Education present were: Rick Brewer, Lynn Coller, Amanda Fuller, Malissa Hale, Teresa Hogle, Tom O'Brien, Andrea Webb, and Tom Wood. Also present were: Sue Kelly, Rodger Williams, Michelle Varian, Ron Burke, and approximately 20 community members.

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrea Webb, seconded by Rick Brewer to appoint Ron Acting Clerk Burke as acting clerk for the May 23, 2011 regular meeting.

Brewer - Yes	Coller - Yes	Fuller - Yes	Hogle - Yes
Hale - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Maynard - absent	Webb - Yes
Wood - Yes			Motion Carried

The Audit Committee examined the warrants reviewed and recommended for payment by the Claims Auditor.

Stacie Kroniser asked questions regarding a bomb threat on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Varian explained how the threat was addressed. Sue Kelly explained how the district collaborated with the NYS Troopers. The situation was explained that there was an initial error on the date of the threat of May 11 versus May 17.

Mrs. Kroniser handed out a comparison of the E-K budget with Heuvelton as she was responding to a comment that E-K is more similar to Heuvelton, rather than Lisbon. She indicated she had also gathered budget information from other schools. Lynn Coller asked how the two districts (Heuvelton and E-K) compared in land size. Tom O'Brien responded that this is the largest land size district in St. Lawrence County.

A community member responded that there are currently two busses that are twelve years old and one ten year old bus. Mrs. Kroniser clarified that under the proposal with the two new busses, the oldest would then be six years old. The community member asked if the aid on busses would still be 90%. Rodger Williams responded yes. A question was asked if that 90% was guaranteed after this year and Mr. Williams said that was not certain.

Mrs. Kroniser questioned if the \$3,500 stipend was still part of Rodger Williams' salary. Ms. Kelly answered no, not for 2010-11. Mrs. Kroniser indicated that Rodger's salary did not appear to drop the \$3,500.

Shirley Denesha asked a question regarding if lifeguards need to pay for their certification. Ms. Kelly responded the district pays for the first year, but not for the update. The district does pay for the first year for staff. Becky Salego indicated that staff does pay for their certification at a rate of \$10.00.

Budget Discussion: Ms. Kelly explained how the contingency budget cuts, administrative component, of \$89,561 was constructed. She explained that one item considered was postage. She explained that with the merger, both Edwards and Russell were maintained as utilized post offices. There would be a two-week study done by Hermon's post office if we decided to switch to a rural route address to save money on mileage charges from an employee retrieving the mail each day.

Mrs. Andrea Webb questioned which dues would be cut. The Superintendent's Association would be cut, but the NYSSBA would not be cut.

Mr. Lynn Coller asked about the time line of report cards being mailed. Ms. Kelly explained the shift this year was due to students not delivering report cards to parents. Also, parents can access student grades through Web2School. Amanda Fuller suggested that dates be published in the district newsletter of report card distribution.

Andrea Webb asked whether this contingency budget keeps us under the cap set by the state and Mr. Williams answered yes. Mr. Williams indicated that starred cuts amount of \$74,561, bringing the district into compliance on the administrative component.

Lynn Coller asked about the cost of a re-vote. The approximate cost could reach a couple thousand dollars.

A community member asked if under a contingency, if outside events are allowed. Mr. Coller indicated that yes, if there is no cost to the district. Ms. Kelly also indicated that the community

summer recreation program would not be allowed. Mrs. Malissa Hale asked how that would affect Kathy Whitmarsh's summer food program in the cafeteria. Ms. Kelly noted that the extended day program students could eat and outside groups that come here could also eat. Mr. Williams also explained that providing summer food would further cafeteria losses.

Mr. Christopher Averill asked what would be saved by having Hermon deliver the mail. It was noted that cost is still undetermined. He inquired about the cost savings of the administration not taking salary increases. He indicated that he felt more could be done in that area. He asked what would be included in the contingency plan. Ms. Kelly responded that the pool would be open all year at a cost of \$20,000. Mr. Averill then asked about the cost of driver's education. He then suggested that all employees be asked to take a pay freeze since the administrative group has agreed to do so. If all did agree, the total savings would be approximately \$172,000.

Mrs. Webb explained that the cuts are necessary for long-term financial planning.

A conversation ensued regarding how the issue of pay freezes took place between the district and union officials. Jack White explained his side for the Service Employees and Ms. Kelly explained what she thought occurred with the Teachers' Association. Mrs. Becky Salego noted that not all the teachers were clear that Ms. Kelly had met with the executive committee of the Teachers' Association.

Rodger Williams did explain that if salary concessions were provided, then allocations could still be made to lost positions. At the request of the community members, Mr. Williams provided the number of cuts.

Ms. Kelly went on to explain a second option of restoring positions at a cost of \$242,495. Increasing the amount of fund balance used could be added for a total of \$800,000 and the tax increase would be 16.96%. If the Board chose to use \$850,000 from the fund balance, the tax increase would be 14.07%.

There was a request by community members to make the budget presentation available in a different format. Ms. Kelly indicated that time constraints governing annual meeting votes and annual meeting re-votes will not allow for a different format to be available to comply with the NYS June 21<sup>st</sup> re-vote date. Lynn Coller indicated that it is his feeling that the district residents have spoken loudly with the first vote and to present a budget re-vote with a 14% increase is not wise. A community member asked if the driver's education car is state aidable. Mr. Williams answered no, there is not additional aid for the car.

Stacia Kroniser asked about cutting a principal. Ms. Kelly responded that she does not see that as feasible. Mrs. Teresa Hogle indicated that as a taxpayer, she does not see how one principal is possible as she cited examples of what is done on a daily basis.

A conversation then ensued regarding what other districts do to manage their swimming pools. Ms. Kelly indicated that other districts do not have pool facility managers. Additional conversation ensued regarding the decision on cuts of the pool manager, compared to principal cuts. Further conversation regarding the technology curriculum being implemented into other curriculums. A community member asked for the specific dollar savings of the BOCES technology teacher, including reimbursement.

Shirley Denesha commented that we are the only school teaching swimming to students at grade 1. Also, other districts' Physical Education teachers are lifeguards.

Ms. Kelly began conversation on CBO costs. During year 1 the cost would be \$63,013 for a 60% position and \$105,021 for a 100% commitment. Year 2 at a 60% involvement with the CBO would be \$37,096 and a 100% involvement for year 2 would be \$73,515. However, if we go to 100% with the CBO, our account clerk would no longer be our employee. There would be little change this person/position would be picked up by the BOCES. The Board members briefly discussed the past problems with the CBO not answering questions and losing us building aid.

Ms. Kelly noted that there is a current Civil Service list for business managers, but we are not allowed to know who is on the list. It was explained that lateral transfers would be prioritized. Ms. Kelly also explained the Civil Service canvass process and time line.

Ms. Kelly entered a discussion regarding the CSE secretary and the possibility of filling the half-time position internally with the elementary and high school secretaries. Mr. Tom Wood requested her recommendation and she indicated that she recommends a half-time civil service position.

Mr. Chris Averill brought up the issue of the athletic realignment showing us traveling to Chateaugay, Tupper Lake, and Madrid-Waddington. Mrs. Lori Brewer, Athletic Director, explained how this debate is working out.

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Andrea Webb, seconded by Rick Brewer to adopt a continuing budget in the amount of \$11,639,874 for the 2011-12 school year.

Budget 2011-12	Brewer - Yes Hale - Yes Wood - Yes	Coller - Yes O'Brien - Yes	Fuller - Yes Maynard - absent	Hogle - Yes Webb - Yes Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Amanda Fuller, seconded by Andrea Webb to fill the CSE Secretarial position with a 19.5 hour Civil Service candidate.

CSE Sec.	Brewer - Yes Hale - Yes Wood - Yes	Coller - Yes O'Brien - Yes	Fuller - Yes Maynard - absent	Hogle - Yes Webb - Yes Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrea Webb, seconded by Rick Brewer to contract with SLL BOCES for 60% Combined Business Office, at a start date to be determined.

SLL BOCES	Brewer - Yes Hale - Yes Wood - Yes	Coller - Yes O'Brien - Yes	Fuller - Yes Maynard - absent	Hogle - Yes Webb - Yes Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrea Webb, seconded by Tom Wood to approve the minutes of May 10, 2011 special meeting.

Minutes 05/10/11 Spec. Mtg.	Brewer - Yes Hale - Yes Wood - Yes	Coller - Yes O'Brien - Yes	Fuller - Yes Maynard - absent	Hogle - Yes Webb - Yes Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrea Webb, seconded by Lynn Coller to accept the result of the May 17, 2011 Annual Meeting canvass, as presented by the election inspectors.

Accept Canvass Results	Brewer - Yes Hale - Yes Wood - Yes	Coller - Yes O'Brien - Yes	Fuller - Yes Maynard - absent	Hogle - Yes Webb - Yes Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Amanda Fuller, seconded by Lynn Coller to approve the minutes of May 10 & 17, 2011 budget hearing.

Minutes 05/10 & 17/11 Budget Hearing	Brewer - Yes Hale - Yes Wood - Yes	Coller - Yes O'Brien - Yes	Fuller - Yes Maynard - absent	Hogle - Yes Webb - Yes Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrea Webb, seconded by Amanda Fuller to approve the minutes of May 10, 2011 regular meeting.

Minutes 05/10/11 Reg. Mtg.	Brewer - Yes Hale - Yes Wood - Yes	Coller - Yes O'Brien - Yes	Fuller - Yes Maynard - absent	Hogle - Yes Webb - Yes Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Malissa Hale, seconded by Lynn Coller to accept the following warrant on file in the business office, as reviewed and recommended for payment by the Claims Auditor:

05/19/11 - General Fund - \$186,644.98  
05/19/11 - School Lunch Fund - \$8,660.62

	Brewer - Yes Hale - Yes Wood - Yes	Coller - Yes O'Brien - Yes	Fuller - Yes Maynard - absent	Hogle - Yes Webb - Yes Motion Carried
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RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Tom Wood, seconded by Malissa Hale to approve the treasurer's report dated April 30, 2011 and on file in the business office.

Report

General Fund - Checking - \$3,000,168.85  
 General Fund - Class - \$434,935.20  
 School Lunch Fund - Checking - \$41,011.60  
 School Lunch Fund - Class - \$30.36  
 Federal Fund - Checking - \$448,662.75  
 Trust & Agency - Checking - \$586,584.01  
 Capital Fund - Checking - \$75,351.05  
 Capital Fund - Class - \$56,800.26  
 Debt Service Fund - \$292,340.93  
 Payroll Checking - \$6,241.79  
 Employee Benefit Reserve - \$586,737.14  
 Tax Certiorari Reserve - \$33,667.71  
 Insurance Reserve Fund - Class - \$37,352.51  
 Unemployment Ins. Reserve. - Class - \$296,968.99  
 Expendable Trust Fund - Class - \$115,977.67  
 Nonexpendable Trust Fund - Class - \$147,767.99

Brewer - Yes	Coller - Yes	Fuller - Yes	Hogle - Yes
Hale - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Maynard - absent	Webb - Yes
Wood - Yes			Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION:** A motion was made by Amanda Fuller, seconded by Lynn Coller, Whereas, the Amend 403(b) Retire. Edwards-Knox ("District") maintains the Edwards-Knox 403(b) Retirement Plan ("Plan"); and WHEREAS, the Plan was duly adopted on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009 by the District's Board of Education ("Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to restate and amend the Plan as regards section 2.7 Nonelective Employer Contributions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that section 2.7 of the Plan is hereby restated and amended to read as follows:

2.7 Nonelective Employer Contributions

The Employer shall contribute to the Plan an amount equal to a percentage of the value of the Participant's Accumulated Leave based on accrued but unused sick leave on an annual basis. The value of the Participant's Accumulated Leave based on unused sick leave shall be determined by multiplying the rate of pay determined in accordance with the Employer's collective bargaining agreement or memorandum of agreement or equivalent for the Participant by the amount of the Participant's Accumulated Leave based on accrued but unused sick leave. For the value of any Accumulated Leave based on accrued but unused sick leave to be contributed to the Plan, such Accumulated Leave must not have been eligible to be paid to the Employee at the Employee's election prior to such contribution, other than taken as actual sick leave. The Employer shall be solely responsible for determining that a contribution is Non-Elective. Neither The OMNI Group, Inc., nor any recordkeeper, nor any Participating Service Provider, shall have any right or duty to inquire into the amount or appropriateness of any Non-Elective Employer Contribution made by the Employer, the method used in determining the amount of any such contribution, or to collect the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Plan, as restated and amended is hereby approved and adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the District has caused this Resolution and Amendment to be adopted this 23rd day of May, 2011.

Discussion: Mr. O'Brien asked for an explanation of the retirement plan. Mr. Williams explained the pay for unused sick days is placed in a 403B account currently. OMNI provides 403B for employees. The resolution will allow the contract with OMNI to involve 403B for employer contributions, saving the district and employees FICA costs. Employees are able to access their money.

Brewer - Yes	Coller - Yes	Fuller - Yes	Hogle - Yes
Hale - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Maynard - absent	Webb - Yes
Wood - Yes			Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrea Webb, seconded by Malissa Hale to accept the Claims Auditor Report report of the Claims Auditor, dated May 19, 2011, as presented and on file in the business office.

Brewer - Yes	Coller - Yes	Fuller - Yes	Hogle - Yes
Hale - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Maynard - absent	Webb - Yes
Wood - Yes			Motion Carried

RESOLUTION: A motion was made by Andrea Webb, seconded by Lynn Coller to enter into executive session for discussion of pending litigation at 8:53 p.m.

Brewer - Yes	Coller - Yes	Fuller - Yes	Hogle - Yes
Hale - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Maynard - absent	Webb - Yes
Wood - Yes			Motion Carried

The Board reentered regular session at 10:02 p.m.

Ms. Kelly noted that policy manuals need to be given to Erie I BOCES by June 30. She asked for other BOE members to join the group. Lynn Coller and Andrea Webb stated they will join Malissa and Ron to complete this task.

Ms. Kelly indicated that a H-D BOE member has asked for a letter detailing a H-D BOE member indicating a desire to share a superintendent of schools and business manager.

Mrs. Varian reported on the success of the prom. She also reported on the Art Show and elementary students acting out the parts of the artists. She also reported on the success of the spring musical. Mr. O'Brien inquired why songs were not being sung in English. Mrs. Varian also reported on the assessment progress as complete for Science and on high school efforts at transitioning. She noted that Mr. Remington has a distance learning class enrolled in the Stock Market Game and his class won the competition. Brandon Bristol was the top individual winner. Lastly, Student Council is sponsoring a food drive.

Mr. Burke reported on the bike helmet give away, DARE graduation and celebration of the Reading Program next week.

Ms. Kelly noted that June 2<sup>nd</sup> is the day the extended day student group will be attending 4H Camp Overlook. She also noted the Consolidation Study presentation on May 25 in the auditorium for our district and surrounding districts on May 27, 2011

ADJOURN: A motion was made by Tom Wood, seconded by Lynn Coller to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 p.m.

Brewer - Yes	Coller - Yes	Fuller - Yes	Hogle - Yes
Hale - Yes	O'Brien - Yes	Maynard - absent	Webb - Yes
Wood - Yes			Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay C. Amo  
Board Clerk