

for 2000-01 have been budgeted, however, actual amounts will depend on a number of factors that are unknown at this time.

MOVED by Carbone that the Board of Education submit the following proposition at the Annual District Election of May 16, 2000:

Proposition #1

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Scotia-Glenville Central School District be authorized to expend the sums set forth in the total amount of \$32,182,535 during the school year 2000-2001 and to levy the necessary tax therefor.

Mr. Marcelle reviewed the items that have been considered for additions and reductions to the budget. Some modifications were made, bringing the total amount of additions to \$285,300. After some further reductions to the proposed budget (amount budgeted for textbooks, breakage due to a teacher retirement and removing two .5 Teaching Assistant positions), an additional \$197,000 was removed from the budget. He advised that this brings the total budget amount to \$32,182,535, which represents a 4.68 percent tax increase at this time. He advised that this is based on conservative revenue numbers, and he believes that this percentage is the "worst case scenario".

Mr. Marcelle made recommendations for two other items that have been considered as additions to the budget – Fixed Asset Inventory and Transitional Kindergarten. Mr. Marcelle recommended that \$6,000 be allocated to conduct approximately one-half of the total inventory. He advised that next year the same amount could be budgeted to complete the inventory. In regards to the Transitional Kindergarten, Mr. Marcelle believes that this program could start for \$45,000. He explained that this should cover for staffing of the position, room modifications, supplies and transportation. Mr. Marcelle advised that summer curriculum time will be needed to plan for the program. Mr. Marcelle advised that funding for these two additional items can come from breakage from new and replacement staffing and other minor reductions. He stated that he believes that these two items can be absorbed in the budget without increasing the budget.

Mr. Marcelle asked Board members if there were any questions. Mrs. Smith questioned if the entire amount should be budgeted for the fixed asset inventory. Mr. Marcelle advised that he believes \$6,000 (half of the estimated amount) can be absorbed. Joe Ann Barton added that the actual amount needed to complete the inventory is unknown for sure, and the district will try to be creative with this amount and accomplish as much as possible.

Mr. Magruder questioned the equity with implementing Transitional Kindergarten at one school (Glen-Worden) and not the other elementary schools. He stated that he does not feel he can support this. He added that he believes there was an equity issue with the Full-Day/Alternate Day Program at Glen-Worden. Mr. Magruder also commented that this program is a big item to add to the budget. He suggested going back to the former program (half day, every day). Mr. Benny questioned where this additional money was found. He commented that he can't make a rational decision on this kindergarten program, regardless of the benefits. Mrs.

Bradley inquired if there was any other [staffing] breakages that they are not aware of. Mr. Marcelle responded to their comments and stated that the Board charged him to find a way to add the Transitional Kindergarten. He stated that the breakage comes from new staffing leaves and retirements. Mr. Carpenter commended Mr. Marcelle for trying to find a way to add this program. He pointed out that it is the district's plan to add this program at all of the elementary schools. Mr. Carpenter also noted that 50 percent of the parents surveyed are not in favor of the Full Day/Alternate Day Kindergarten. Mr. Magruder commented that this proposal just came up last week. He stated that he would not have a problem putting this program into our long range plans for next year. Mr. Magruder stated that he does not feel there is adequate time to think about this.

Dr. Barton pointed out that she feels that the transitional plan is great and prepares students for all day. She commented that this probably should have been looked at in January. She advised that all day kindergarten is included in the three-year plan, however, there is concern as to how this could be managed [all at once]. She stated that she feels that this is an opportunity for the district to begin to implement this program at all of the elementary schools. She advised that there wasn't any found money, however, the administration tried to look at the budget and be more creative and was able to absorb this into the budget. She also pointed out that communication from Glen-Worden parents has been to find a way to have more stability for the kids. Dr. Barton also feels that there are many educational and personal needs that will have to be addressed next year and she questioned if we will be able to implement this at all four elementary schools at once. She asked the Board to take everything into consideration and encouraged them to look at this opportunity and rely on the administration to make this work.

Board members discussed the issue further. Mrs. Carbone commented that this should have been looked at sooner, however, she does feel that this is a chance to begin something that we plan to do. Mrs. Smith commented that as a Board, it is important to be open and listen to the community and be able to change our focus. She feels that this [Transitional Kindergarten] would be in the best interest of kids. Mr. Benny stated that this program is where we want to go, and he supports the phasing in of the program at Glen-Worden. Mrs. Bradley commented that she would not like to see the district take a step backwards and go back to the half-day program. She said that this is our long range goal and phasing in the program has been discussed. She feels that staff development for this program should be provided to all kindergarten teachers, as all of the schools will be going in this direction. Mr. Ahnert, who originally came up with the suggestion to implement the transitional program, stated that he still supports this program. He feels it is important to try out the program at one school and evaluate it before it is implemented at the other schools.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was decided upon to implement the Transitional Kindergarten Program at Glen-Worden next year. The Transitional Kindergarten Program will be absorbed into the budget. (Additional information is contained as Appendix B to these minutes.)