Mohon budget passes

Sabatini and Cafarelli elected to sit on school board

Residents in the Mohonasen school district approved the $47.3 million budget on Tuesday, May 18, and school board candidates Mark Sabatini and Dominic Cafarelli will take the open seats on the board of education.

The budget reflects more than $2.5 million in cuts made throughout the district with the loss of funding at the state level totaling $1.9 million. Cuts included 176 full-time employment positions, including 72 full-time positions at the elementary school level, three at the high school and middle school level, 0.5 in special education, 0.5 at ESL, 4.2 in support staff and 2.1 at the administrator and supervisor level, according to information from the district. The tax levy in the budget includes a 2.47 percent, or $36,477 increase over the 2009-10 school year, totaling in $21.9 million.

A proposition to purchase seven 21-22-passenger buses at a cost of $390,000 passed with 1,358 votes in favor and 653 against. A proposition to purchase 35 acres of land with $1,425 million from the district’s capital reserve fund passed with 1,118 votes in favor and 1,077 against.

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– Scotia-Glenville Superintendent Susan Swartz

The budget includes at the administrator and supervisor level, according to information from the district. In response to a loss of $2.3 million in state aid, the board worked to create a budget that included $2 million in spending reductions on the use of $2.2 million in fund balance to offset the loss in state aid.

Budget reductions included a 25 percent reduction to all supply and equipment budget lines, reduction of general education summer school, reductions of elementary school field trips and the reduction of 10.7 full-time employment positions.

The bus proposition will replace three buses bought in 1998. The budget passed 1,404-to-1,010, while the bus purchase was approved by a vote of 1,487-to-917.

“I read in the newspaper about the candidates, and I wanted to use my experience this year from that to get some change,” said Tim Snapp of Glenville.

Scotia-Glenville Superintendent Susan Swartz said she is grateful to the community for coming out in support of the budget.

“I’m happy knowing that we can continue to provide quality programs and services for our children,” said Swartz. “Given that we are not entirely out of the recession [and] people are being pulled in a number of ways – for them to come out and support the district speaks to our community and the people in the school district.”

Candidates Colleen Benedetto and Andrew Crapo were elected to the second board of education seats with three-year terms while Leslie Smith was elected to the board of education seat with a one-year term. “I’m delighted to have been elected to the school board,” said Crapo. “I have a lot to learn and look forward to trying to make a difference with the challenges ahead.”

The board of education will meet again on Monday, May 24, at 7 p.m. at the district office to reorganize for the coming school year.