

**SCHOHARIE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2012  
TIME & PLACE: 7:00 P.M. – JR./SR. HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY CLASSROOM  
KIND OF MEETING: SPECIAL MEETING  
ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT: BURTON, ISLES, JAQUEWAY, MONSEES, SCHULTZ, WILBER  
ELECTED MEMBER(S) ABSENT: BLEAU  
APPOINTED MEMBERS PRESENT: BRIAN SHERMAN, SUPERINTENDENT  
ROBERT BONAKER, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR  
ROSEMARY WILBER, DISTRICT CLERK  
ALSO PRESENT: 1 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE; 0 DISTRICT RESIDENTS;  
1 STAFF MEMBER

President Isles called the Special Board of Education Meeting of January 23, 2012 to order at 7:03 pm.

CALL TO ORDER

President Isles said the evening agenda had only one item – the discussion of the Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee Assessment Relief Act.

Late last year, the Legislature passed and the Governor enacted the Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee Assessment Relief Act. The new law allows taxing jurisdictions - counties, cities, towns, villages and school districts – to reduce assessments on properties catastrophically damaged by tropical storms Irene and Lee on their 2011 assessment rolls, based upon a property’s post-storm condition, even though the damage occurred after the 2011 taxable status date.

DISCUSSION  
HURRICANE IRENE  
AND TROPICAL  
STORM LEE  
ASSESSMENT  
RELIEF ACT

As enacted, the law, which did not provide reimbursement, set a deadline of Jan. 23, 2012 (45 days after the law’s adoption) for municipalities and school districts to decide whether or not to undertake such a reassessment, which would reduce the 2011 assessments for properties that lost 50% or more of their value due to the storm.

Superintendent Sherman reported that Assemblyman Lopez was currently at Governor Cuomo’s Office. Mr. Lopez had reported that the Governor was “mulling over” the Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee Assessment Relief Act. He said it was not anticipated that any action would be taken tonight.

Assemblyman Peter Lopez has made proposals to extend the deadline for voting on the new law, as well as seeking state assistance for local municipalities and schools who would like to participate in the option, but in doing so would sustain considerable financial difficulty.

Superintendent Sherman reported that a meeting was held at Schoharie Central School on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> with Congressman Paul Tonko to discuss flood response, to hear concerns from the community, to answer questions, and to provide assistance to local businesses running into roadblocks with recovery efforts. He said representatives from IRS, FEMA, the US Department of Agriculture, and Small Business also attended.

Superintendent Sherman said information will be added to the school website to help residents in sending messages to the Governor.

Board Members asked Mr. Bonaker what the impact to the District would be if the Board decided to opt in. He said it would cost the District \$580,000. When asked if the District had this much, he replied no. The \$580,00 could be borrowed, but the District taxpayers would have to pay for it.

After the discussion, Board Members said they were unable to take any action on the Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee Assessment Relief Act.

On February 29<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Mesner said teachers, support staff, parents, and students would be lobbying at the State Capital. Superintendent Sherman said it is good for students to participate as well. He said that Tuesdays are lobby days and he encourages parents to get more involved as well.

Superintendent Sherman said a Budget Forum will be held the end of February. He said it could focus on the feasibility/merger study and/or the budget process.

Motion was made by Mr. Burton, seconded by Mrs. Schultz to adjourn the Special Board of Education Meeting.

ADJOURN

Yes – 6

No – 0

Absent – 1 (Bleau)

Motion Carried

President Isles declared the special meeting of January 23, 2012 to be adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Wilber  
District Clerk