I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee of the Belle Vernon Area School District Board of Education was called to order by Board President Dale K. Patterson at 4:10 p.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2009 in the District Administration Office Board Room.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Patterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. RECORDING OF ATTENDANCE

Assistant Board Secretary Daniel J. Sepesky recorded the following in attendance.

DIRECTORS—(Present): Bialon, Godzak, Jackson, Kraft, McKEvitt, Patterson, Puglia, Sepesky, Stringhill (9)

(Absent): None (0)

STAFF: Stephen V. Russell, Substitute Superintendent
Eileen M. Navish, Business Manager
Frances P. Kopanic, Board Executive Secretary

MEDIA: None

IV. DISCUSSION

Business Manager Eileen M. Navish made a presentation and distributed data relative to the choices before the Board for the 2009-2010 budget as it relates to whether or not a real estate tax increase would be necessary; i.e., the Board can pass a Resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of public schools for the 2009-2010 fiscal year above the Index
of 5.6%; or, should the Board choose to raise taxes beyond the Index, a preliminary budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year must be approved by February 18, 2009.

Some of the many items discussed during the meeting include: percentage of real estate taxes collected; 9th grade students attending the Career and Technology Center, special education costs, purchase of buses, School District retirement rate, health care costs, salary increase costs, grants, etc.

The consensus was that more detailed comparison and analysis of information be compiled for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 to determine the impact of various items, both revenues and expenditures, on the budget – such as: real estate taxes collectible, actual amount collected; amount of Act 511 taxes collectible and the amount actually collected; amount paid to the Intermediate Unit for special education services and use of facilities and an itemized account of what this includes; pros and cons of 9th grade students attending the Career and Technology Center; a rotation schedule for purchase of school buses; grants available, etc.

Another meeting will be scheduled once more stable figures are available.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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James M. McKeivitt
Board Secretary

JMM:fpk