

Budget Work Session/Business Meeting Minutes – March 26, 2009

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Tina Mackay, President PRESENT
Guy Cohen, Vice President
Trustee Valerie Fitzgerald

Trustee Mary Maus was not present (notified)
Trustee Frank Reale was not present (notified)

ADMINISTRATORS: Dr. Marc Space, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Barbara Fuchs, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Personnel
Paul Lee, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and
Technology

OTHERS: Student Representative to the Board of
Education Elizabeth Regan, Reporters from
North County News and Putnam County News
and Recorder, and community members

Ms. Mackay convened the Work Session/Business Meeting at 7:08 p.m. and asked everyone to join her in the Pledge of Allegiance. CONVENE MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Mr. Paul Lee presented a summary of the current financial budget based on the presentations of the principals and administrative leaders and the cuts proposed by Dr. Space at the earlier March meetings. Based on the proposed staff cuts (not replacing the 2 FTE retirement teachers, the 1 FTE for the C.S.E.A., the reductions in clerical and classroom aides, and the non-replacement of the science teacher resignation) the budget to budget increase is 1.84%. This translates, given the current estimated state aid reductions and the inclusion of \$1,000,000.00 in fund balance, to a 2.6% increase in the tax levy. If a more optimistic state aid estimate is used based on the federal incentives, the estimated tax levy increase would be 1.15%.

Dr. Space and Dr. Fuchs summarized the academic achievement of the students. Our students show continuing and consistent achievement in a safe environment while the District is fiscally responsible. In addition, for the 2009-10 school year, Dr. Fuchs noted that 17 AP High School classes are planned, up from the current 10 classes. The association with Syracuse will end and there will be an increased association with Dutchess Community College. The Twilight Program will continue to support students, with changes in structure. Club advisors will be accountable with respect to reporting club size and participation.

Mr. Lee noted that, given the current fiscal environment, he estimates that the fund balance would be decimated by 2012. The current plan is for the \$1 million for 2009-10, \$750,000.00 for 2010-11 and \$500,000.00 for 2011-12. Dr. Fuchs noted that AP class sizes would have a minimum enrollment. At this time enrollments are not finalized and when information is available the Board will be informed. With respect to the Tax Collector Assistant, Mr. Lee noted that the Assistant was introduced based on the state audit, which stated that an independent checker was needed. The Town of Putnam Valley could collect taxes but the Town of Carmel and the Town of Cortlandt would also have to collect their citizens' Putnam Valley school taxes. This will be a topic for the next joint meeting with the town. Professional Development will be reduced by \$30,000.00.

Ms. Mackay reviewed the impact of the current three-year strategy on the fund balance. Her goal is to stabilize the tax levy during these trying times. Thus by the proposed fund balance strategy, each year there would be a decrease in revenues (from the fund balance contributions) which would have to be made up with additional decreases in expenditures. She noted that the current contingency budget is 4% but she estimates in 2010-11 the value will be closer to 1%.

Ms. Mackay asked for public contribution on the budget.

It was clarified the Middle School science reduction would be filled by a transfer from the High School and not a sharing of a position. The AD position would be a full time position and not have teaching responsibilities. Dr. Space noted there would be a cap on modified sports enrollment. Currently at the High School there will be 6 math, 6 English, 7 social studies and 7 science teachers. It was suggested that if there was the "good state aid" scenario, then reduce the fund balance contribution to \$750,000.00, which would bring the tax levy change to 2%. Mr. Lee noted that \$350,000.00 equals a 1% change in the tax levy.

There were no further comments/discussion. Discussions will continue at the April 2 meeting. The Board then moved into a special business meeting.

APPROVE On motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Cohen, it was resolved, on
HS MIXED recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, to approve the
CHORUS TRIP Putnam Valley High School Mixed Choir trip to Quebec City and Montreal, Canada
TO QUEBEC CITY from April 2-6, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.
& MONTREAL
CANADA
4/2-6/09
09/310

Mr. Cohen commented that he had problems with this trip in the past. It should be ensured that all students can attend and that the \$1,200.00 cost is not a restriction. If this cannot be guaranteed, then the District should not sponsor the trip. Cost should never be a restriction for an activity that is integral to the program.

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION PERIOD

Mr. Cohen noted the April 16 Board meeting would begin at 6:00 pm. at the Elementary School with the Board taking a tour of the completed construction. The meeting would be held at the Elementary School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Student Representative to the Board Elizabeth Regan noted this weekend the Middle School would present Bye Bye Birdie on Friday and Saturday evenings; a fundraiser for Caitlyn Bagnato would be held at the Colonial Terrace on April 17 with a silent auction and wine and cheese tasting; and Community Read-Aloud Day at the Elementary School on May 5 with interested community members contacting Principal Jamie Edelman.

Ms. Mackay announced the Board would move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation and upon the Board's return no further business would be discussed.

At 8:36 p.m., on motion of Mr. Cohen, seconded by Ms. Fitzgerald, the Board, along with Dr. Space and Dr. Fuchs, moved into Executive Session to discuss medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION
09/311

At 8:56 p.m., on motion of Ms. Fitzgerald, seconded by Mr. Cohen, the Board returned from Executive Session and at 8:57 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN
MEETING
09/312

Submitted by
Guy Cohen
Vice President
Board of Education

Submitted by
Linda Pregiato
District Clerk