

The **BUDGET WORKSHOP – INSTRUCTIONAL ITEMS** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the High School Video Conference Room on March 10, 2015 at 7:39 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Ms. Brohm, who presided, and five other members of the Board:

Ms. Lotito, Mr. Mariano, Ms. Rilling, Mr. Schindler and Mr. Trocchia. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. O’Keefe, Mr. Fleck, Mr. Vecchione, Ms. Girolamo and members of the staff and community.

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Ms. Brohm opened the meeting and turned it over to Mr. Hogan who informed the audience that the Instructional portion of the Budget would be discussed, which is the core and educational mission of the District. Each year we are trying to close the gap in revenues and expenditures and we cannot keep dipping into the reserves. The Governor is not being kind to public schools and is “holding hostage” the budget from Albany. The Assembly and the State Senate may restore the GAP elimination with Senate proposing total restoration and the Assembly proposing half restoration. This could mean as much as \$500K to \$1M to West Hempstead. We will hopefully know in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Hogan then turned the meeting over to Mr. O’Keefe who reviewed points from the Non-Instructional Meeting and changes that were made since then. He covered the 2014-15 budget recap; challenges to budgeting; preparing for 2015-16 and the “2%” Tax Cap. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham.

Under **CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET ITEMS** – Staff and community members were given copies of the Proposed 2015 - 2016 Budget. They were invited to ask questions on any items as the Board and Administration discussed the various items listed in these reports.

Mr. Cunningham began his PowerPoint presentation on the Instructional portion of the budget that covers Instructional Account Codes - 2000s – Administration and Improvement; 2100s – Regular School Program; 2200s – Special Apportionment Programs; 2300s – Teaching Other Special Schools; 2600s – Instructional Media and 2800s – Pupil Services.

Under codes 2010 – 2250 – Highlights included no anticipated net staffing changes for 2015-16; still evaluating the configuration of a Bilingual ELL Program at Chestnut; budget-to-budget increase in 2250/Pupil Personnel is significant; Administration is studying the budget for Pupil Personnel expenditures and accuracy. Under codes 2280, 2330, 2610 and 2611 – BOCES Occupational Education budget is built on a three-year rolling average and we are looking to limit future growth into 2016-17 while exploring ways to offer CTE and CDOs experiences; and codes 2330 now include appropriation for a summer school security guard at Cornwell Avenue.

Under codes 2630 – 2815 – We are exploring financing options for 2015-16 computer equipment purchases and are moving towards a “Google” environment because it is easier to maintain and secure.

Under codes 2820 - 2855 – Includes exploring components needed to provide CTE experiences; the Middle/High schools are continuing to update and expand their

social/emotional education component; and we continue to support our current offerings of clubs, intramurals and extra-curricular sports.

Mr. O’Keefe finished with “Bridging the Gap.” To date the current expenditure and revenue projections have a gap of \$2,291,242. We are still waiting for State Aid projections and will continue to work with all stakeholders in the coming weeks to refine budgetary projections.

At 9:42 p.m. upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Trocchia and carried by six, the Budget Workshop was adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Schindler and carried by six, Executive Session ended at 11:08 p.m.

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Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk