

The **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING/BUDGET WORKSHOP** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the High School Video Conference Room on March 24, 2015 at 7:43 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 and Ms. Girolamo.

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION** action took place as follows:

Docket #4-231: Upon the motion of Mr. Trocchia, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by six, the Board approved a Letter to the Governor and State Legislators referencing budget, APPR and Common Core issues.

Docket #4-232: Upon the motion of Mr. Trocchia, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by six, Appointments, Resignations, etc. were made, accepted, granted and approved as follows:

Topic: Resignation Request(s) for Purpose of Retirement

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Bonasia, Joseph	English Teacher High School	\$116,594	6/30/15

Docket #4-233: Upon the motion of Mr. Trocchia, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by six, a resolution was adopted that Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility be approved as follows:

Topic: Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Bishun, Peter	MS Lacrosse Coach	\$3,399 plus neg. increase

At 7:45 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by six, the Board adjourned the Special Business Meeting and opened the Budget Workshop.

Mr. Hogan began by updating the Board on the occurrences in Albany with negotiations still ongoing on the State’s budget. The District will be “flying somewhat blind” until we get some numbers from Albany. The Assembly budget proposal calls for a \$1.8 billion increase in school aid, including: \$1 billion for Foundation Aid and \$456 million in GEA restoration (restoring ½ of the GEA). The Senate budget proposal indicates a \$1.9 billion increase in school aid, with \$1 billion targeted to GEA restoration (full restoration).

Mr. Hogan turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham who began with summer school. Issues included: District spends over \$210,000 per year for the Middle/High School program; past years’ data reveals many of our classes are filled by students not part of our summer school “consortium” and does not culminate in a Regents exam; and the Middle School program has history of poor attendance and students continue to follow same academic pattern despite attending. The District spends \$20,000 on a program that is not effective. He gave recommendations on what classes should be kept and what classes should be eliminated and stated the preliminary estimated cost reduction is approximately \$100,000.

Home Instruction was then covered. Reasons for home instruction include medical reasons, awaiting special education placements and out-of-school suspension. The District pays over \$225,000 annually and tutoring is done in the student's home or in the West Hempstead Public Library. His recommendation is to provide instruction in groups by subject area whenever possible and the preliminary estimated cost reduction is approximately \$100,000.

The Special Education Program was covered next. The District spends over \$1,000,000 in paid tuition to other public schools for Life Skills students. Transportation to and from those schools is a cost, along with tuition and other related services. A recommendation was possibly starting a Life Skills program for students aged 17-21 in District. Conservative estimates may prove no cost savings in the first year and at least four students need to be in the program to break even. There are students that could fit the profile of the program we hope to build. Cost savings and revenue increase as students from other schools enter the program.

Mr. O'Keefe gave an overview of Use of Facilities. The District receives approximately \$7,000 per year in use fees. Charges are half the hourly salary rate for the custodial staff on duty and currently equates to a maximum of \$18/hr M-F/\$27 per hour Saturday and holidays and \$36 per hour on Sunday. We do not charge for field usage except when the building is open for the restrooms. Other districts have no standard formula for usage fees, but the rates appear to better cover expenses. He then covered utilizing short-term financing. By utilizing three-year low interest financing the impact to the 2015-16 budget would drop from \$400K to \$140K.

Mr. Hogan finished the workshop stating this was all preliminary information and is subject to change and an increase in State Aid will help ease the current strain.

Administration will continue to refine the budget and update the Board as information becomes available. The next workshop is tentatively scheduled for April 14th.

At 9:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk