

West Hempstead Space Committee
Minutes
August 14, 2012

1. Mr. Ejnes called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM
2. Mr. Hogan introduced Ms. Joan Townley of WSBOCES, who was present to report upon the demographic study performed by WSBOCES for the WHUFSD
3. Ms. Townley's Report included the following points:
 - Enrollment in WH has declined somewhat, but not as drastically as other districts
 - The numbers examined include all enrolled students and therefore includes Island Park students as well
 - The decrease in enrollment at the high school can be attributed to the loss of Island Park students
 - The enrollment trends WSBOCES examined went back to 1994
 - WH's peak year of enrollment was 2002 at 2,405 – then there has been decline...What are the whys?
 - Births on LI are dropping
 - Housing sales have plummeted
 - New construction is down
 - School District Births in 2002 was 236, in 2010 the number was 168
 - WH has a high non-public enrollment of 38.9%, but that is a consistent/stable number for WH

Other Topics Covered included:

- Our graduation number has been larger than our K entry number
- However, WH does not have negative migration patterns from grade to grade
- The next 10 years should still see enrollment decreases, but not as great as the past 10 years
- Some committee questions included: consideration of senior citizens selling their homes, the need for Eagle Avenue, etc.
- The capacity of the schools at 80 to 85% is good
- Options were discussed in terms of student movement...such as could CN students go to CA – the answer was no. There is no real section saving by combining grade levels at the buildings. The sense seemed to be that while Eagle might not be needed, the structure of the district as it presently stands may make the most sense educationally
- There does not seem to be a sense of significant drops in enrollment over the next few years...the district enrollment is projected to be stable
- The demographic report will be placed on the website
- The next meeting of the committee will take place on August 28th. The committee will meet at 7:30 PM in the CN lobby for a brief presentation from Mr. Cunningham and will then travel by car to Eagle Avenue for a tour. Discussion to follow

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM