

The **REGULAR MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the High School Video Conference Room on January 15, 2013 at 7:45 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Mariano, who presided, and four other members of the Board: Ms. Brohm, Ms. Di Miceli, Ms. Rilling and Mr. Trocchia. Ms. Lotito and Mr. Schindler were absent. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Sheahan, Ms. Spinelli, Ms. Girolamo and members of the staff and community.

\*\*\*\*\*

Under **ROUTINE MATTERS** action was taken as follows:

**Docket #2-187:** The **MINUTES** of the Regular Business Meeting held on December 18, 2012, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, were presented, and upon motion of Ms. Brohm, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by four, Ms. Rilling abstained, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

**Docket #2-188:** The **TREASURER'S REPORT** for the month ended November 30, 2012, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, was presented, and upon motion of Ms. Brohm, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by five, the Schedule of Claims & Warrants, Appropriation Status Report and Revenue Status Report were placed on the table for discussion and then filed.

Under **REPORT OF COMMITTEES** action took place as follows:

Ms. Di Miceli made mention of the Policy Subcommittee, which will meet on January 17th to discuss the polices to be reviewed at the February Policy Meeting.

SEPTA reported on iPad applications, Uncle Jerry's T-shirts and asked if residents have ideas on training or topics for future meetings to let them know.

Student Council representatives, Jamie Rodriguez and Amanda Dias, gave their report on school happenings that included an upcoming Sumo Wrestling event in which teachers, administrators and Board members were invited to be participants; Superstorm Sandy help; the Cheerleading Squad winning 1<sup>st</sup> place in last weekend's competition; midterms are being taken this week and the High School Library has extended hours for extra help.

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** - Mr. Hogan reported on the recent Student Roundtable, where students voiced their concerns and interests. Grades 5 – 12 were represented. Students discussed extra help, course offerings and were articulate and thoughtful. Mr. Hogan thanked them for their input and how much he enjoyed sitting and discussing items with them. He then presented Certificates of Achievement to three outstanding physical education students – Courtney Sills receiving All County Honors and named to the All State Soccer Team; SaraJo Weinstein and Terry Oh (absent from the meeting), who were honored by the Nassau Zone of New York State for physical education, social behavior, leadership and healthy lifestyles. Mr. Hogan then congratulated Ms. Di Miceli for her New York State School Board Association's *School Board U* Recognition Program earning Level One Board Achievement Award.

Mr. Hogan then turned the meeting over to Al Escobar, Director of Foreign Language, for a presentation on the District's World Languages Program. Mr. Escobar stated he took over this program a year and a half ago and he was very impressed with the program and the dedication of the teachers in the department. The focus is bringing the world into the classroom everyday because foreign language is important to the students of today. He covered the benefits of world language study and how it helps the community and the United States; the department has eight teachers in grades 6-12, with five native speakers among them; the countries that our

teachers have actually traveled to; Spanish and Italian are the languages offered in the courses, and he suggested adding Mandarin; assessments; checkpoint exams with many students at mastery levels; AP results; classes are taught with iPads, virtual field trips around the world; cultural field trips to the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet and Spanish Repertory Company; and exposing students to different cultures with class projects through music, food and dance.

Mr. Escobar finished with the goals of the department, which included increasing class trips to local cultural sites, continuing to integrate technology into curriculum, expanding virtual trips, adding a third language, reinstate the World Language Club, trips abroad and offering Italian at Lincoln Orens or Italian 1 in the High School. He thanked the staff of Foreign Language – Mauricio Gonzalez, Karen Kunz, Natasha Mejia-Krauz, Laura Ritrovato, Daisy Weinstein, Clare Germino, Linda Hirschberg, Caterina Spallino for their hard work and Mr. Rehman for his support. The Board thanked him for a great presentation.

Mr. Hogan then continued with his report, which included an update on security at the schools - Governor Cuomo's new and tough gun law for the state, monies for schools may be coming to help with security, the District possibly adding more cameras, all doors being locked with manned positions at the entrances/exits, and possibly getting a security audit through BOCES to help. Mr. Hogan then read the following statement regarding the upcoming budget preparation:

### **Budget Message**

Since the collapse of the markets in September 2008, school districts have faced numerous challenges when crafting their budgets. Districts are functioning with losses in state aid and, in many cases, significant losses on the revenue side of the budget. Districts have found it difficult to maintain the level of educational services that their communities had come to expect, while addressing the financial realities being faced by those very same communities. West Hempstead has been no exception.

Over the course of the past 4 budget cycles, I believe that West Hempstead has done an excellent job in balancing those two needs. In doing so, the district has down sized in the areas of administration, faculty, professional staff, co-curricular clubs and advisors, interscholastic sports and coaches, and, in the areas of clerical and maintenance positions. All in all, approximately 100 positions have been excessed. In the midst of this, we have maintained our academic program and have expanded it in some areas, such as reading. We continue to be proud of our athletic program. In my view, our Strategic Planning process and the two plans it created, is second to none and speaks to the commitment of the school district to be truly inclusive and

transparent. Our initiation of the Budget Café process last year, and continuing this year, is similarly inclusive and transparent.

We have fulfilled all our mandated requirements, such as Special Education services, the APPR plan and staff training, RTTT, and have met all our contractual obligations. I must note that the new APPR requirement has cost the District over \$100K to implement and the costs of training will be continual.

All of this is background to the budget reality the District is facing for the 13/14 school year. Your participation in the budget process is absolutely desired on the District's part and necessary to understand the serious choices that will need to be considered this year, as we strive to maintain the quality of education our boys and girls deserve.

As I speak to you this evening, the District is facing approximately a \$2.5 million dollar budget gap between expenses and revenue. This is very similar to the gap we faced when crafting the 10/11 budget ...an original budget that went out to the community carrying a 9.4% tax increase. That budget was rejected by the residents and passed in June, after cuts were made, at 4.91%. Due to the new "tax cap" legislation, our tax levy number for 13/14 is at this point 1.6%. In order to maintain all our programs and meet our financial obligations the actual projected tax number is closer to 6.8%. Clearly, that number is too high and not one that our community can absorb. We will need to provide possible solutions to the Board of Education for their consideration in order to lower that number or meet the cap, while keeping our educational mission forefront in our planning.

Here are the realities we are wrestling with:

1. TRS pension costs are going up \$1 million dollars
2. ERS pension costs are going up \$166,000 dollars
3. Health insurance costs are going up \$775,000 dollars
4. Contractual obligations from this year to next, will carry an approximate cost increase of \$625,000 dollars
5. BOCES is vacating Marian Delaney on June 30<sup>th</sup>, there is an anticipated revenue loss of \$300,000
6. We will be welcoming 22 Island Park 9<sup>th</sup> graders in September, we are graduating 58 Island Park 12<sup>th</sup> graders...a net loss of 36 Island Park students. This represents a loss of approximately \$500,000 in revenue
7. We do not know what the governor's budget will look like or whether state aid as promised last year will materialize...especially in the light of lower than anticipated revenue at the state level and costs associated with Hurricane Sandy.

As you can readily see, the picture is daunting and you need to know that everything is on the "budget table" for review and consideration. However, we have been here before and together as a community we have met the challenge and maintained a quality program for our students. I have no doubt that we will do it again, but to suggest that sacrifice will not be required by all, or that programs may not be touched, would be misleading on my part and, I will not mislead you...this is going to be difficult and perhaps painful.

It is extremely important that community members attend our next Budget Café on January 29<sup>th</sup>. As I have often said, we at this table know that we do not have "a corner on the market" of good ideas. We need everyone involved and thinking about solutions. Together we will get it done.

Thank you.

Mr. Mariano then opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Docket #2-189:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, Appointments, Resignations, etc. were made, accepted, granted and approved as follows:

**Topic: Civil Service Appointment**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Mevorah, Rochelle	Senior Stenographer Chestnut Street	\$46,570.00 Step 10 (pro-rated)	1/31/13

**Topic: Appointment of School Monitor**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Period</u>
Grasso-Orbeta Joanne	School Monitor HS	\$14.11/hr. + neg. increase Step 1	1/16/13 – 6/21/13

**Topic: Per Diem Substitute Appointments**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Germino, Clare	Teacher (.2)	\$90.00/day (pro-rated)

**Topic: Removal from Per Diem Substitute Lists**

<u>Name</u>
Colasurdo, Therese                      Sljukic, Claudia

**Docket #2-190:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, a resolution was adopted that Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility be approved as follows:

**Topic: Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility Resignation**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Castoro, Joseph	Cafeteria Supervisor

**Topic: Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Murray, Anthony	Math Common Core Integration K-6 Professional Development Instructor	\$100/hour (15 hour maximum)
Rehman, Daniel	Math Common Core Integration K-6 Professional Development Instructor	\$100.00/hour (15 hour maximum)
Santarelli, Margaret	Model Congress Advisor	\$995.00

**Docket #2-191:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the Tenure Appointment of Debra Strell, Director of Guidance.

**Docket #2-192:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the Amendment to Docket #2-129 adopted on November 20, 2012, and amended on December 18, 2012.

**Docket #2-193:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved six Compensation Days for Ellen Loewy, Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

**Docket #2-194:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement with the West Hempstead Office Staff Association pertaining to the February Recess.

**Docket #2-195:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement with the West Hempstead Education Association pertaining to the February Recess.

**Docket #2-196:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the Yearbook Ad cost.

Upon the motion of Ms. Di Miceli, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by five, the Board voted to reconsider this docket. Upon the motion of Ms. Brohm, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by five, the Board voted to amend the docket and picked a quote for the Yearbook Ad.

**Docket #2-197:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the Contracts for Special Education Services with Bellmore UFSD and Seaford UFSD.

**Docket #2-198:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board accepted the donation of \$995.00 from the West Hempstead High School Club Central Treasury for the Model Congress Advisor; \$349.10 from Target Stores Take Charge of Education Program and \$101.50 from General Mills Box Tops for Education for Chestnut Street School.

**Docket #2-199:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, that pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 853, Laws of 1976, as amended, the Committees on Special Education and Pre-School Education recommend to the Board of Education placement, change of placement, and transfers of students, identified by number only, in the school indicated.

The **REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT**, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, was presented, and action items therein were considered as follows:

**Docket #2-200:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board accepted the recommendations to add new vendors to the District vendor list.

**Docket #2-201:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the budgetary transfers.

**Docket #2-202:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the Use of Facilities as follows:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Room/ Field</u>
<b>HIGH SCHOOL</b>		
YIWH	01/20/13-06/30/13 Sun – 6:00-8:00 p.m. Youth Basketball	Gym

Under **OLD BUSINESS** action was taken as follows:

**Docket #2-135:** Upon the motion of Ms. Brohm, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by five, this docket was tabled to the February 12<sup>th</sup> Business Meeting.

**Docket #2-138:** Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board approved the Stipulation of Settlement with Prejudice and Without Precedent with WHEA regarding Teaching Assistants.

Under **NEW BUSINESS** action was taken as follows:

**Docket #2-203:** Upon the motion of Ms. Di Miceli, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by five, a resolution was adopted that the District incur the expense for the Superintendent to attend the New York State Council of School Superintendents' 2013 Winter Institute and Lobby Day on March 3-5, 2013.

**Dockets #2-204 through #2-223:** Upon the motion of Ms. Brohm, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by five, the Board motioned Polices 4354, 5120, 4100, 4114, 4115, 4120, 4121, 4132, 4145, 4164, 5131, 5132, 5133, 5143, 5144, 5145, 5146, 5156, 5170 and proposed policy provision of Special Education Services to Students Unilaterally Placed by Parent/Guardian in Non-public Schools to be discussed at the February 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

Under **BOARD PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – No action was taken.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Mariano again opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

At 8:42 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Ms. Brohm and carried by five, the Board adjourned to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and security issues.

At 9:41 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Brohm, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by five, Executive Session was adjourned.

---

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk