

The **SPECIAL 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 March 12, 2013 at 7:50 p.m.

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

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Mr. Mariano opened the Budget Workshop – Instructional Program.

Mr. Mariano then turned the meeting over to Mr. Hogan who stated:

*“Our purpose this evening is to discuss with the Board of Education and community, the instructional items in the 2013/14 draft budget. As everyone knows, the District found itself with a budget gap of over \$2 million dollars. Over the course of the past month, we have worked diligently to close that gap by identifying areas of possible savings in both our operational and instructional lines. We have also lobbied our representatives for a restoration of high tax aid and gap elimination aid that has been lost to the District. Additionally, the Board of Education asked us to review a number of budget lines, including our expense lines for electrical power etc.*

*Here is a summary of where we are as we begin this evening’s conversation:*

- 1. Moving from a 9 period to an 8 period day at the High School and Middle School. The possible excessing of 15 full and part-time teaching positions. A savings of approximately \$1.2M*
- 2. Reduction of transportation appropriations by \$500K*
- 3. Elimination of one clerical position*
- 4. Reduction in appropriation for some legal services*

5. *Tightening of budget lines based upon historical expenditures...including power lines under the Energy Performance Contract, a savings of approximately \$80K*
6. *We continue to pursue agreements with at least two parties for the leasing of Marian Delaney*
7. *We are pleased to report that it appears our lobbying effort with our state representatives, along with efforts throughout the state by numerous education advocacy groups, may prove successful in restoring some of the lost aid. At the moment, both the Senate and Assembly have “one house” budget resolutions that do so. The Senate is proposing a restoration of \$415M in school aid and the Assembly is proposing a restoration of \$334M. Now the negotiations between the two houses and the governor will take place. We are hearing that the state may have a budget proposal in place within a week or so. We will then know how much of the restored monies will come to West Hempstead.*
8. *At that point, we will re-assess where we are fiscally and in terms of the draft budget and, perhaps, be able to recommend the restoration of some possible forced reductions in positions and services.*

*We continue to look at every aspect of our operation, with the goal of providing a quality education for our students always foremost in our minds.*

*One housekeeping item: Please note that the date of the Budget Vote and Board election is inaccurately listed on the District calendar as May 14<sup>th</sup>. The correct date is May 21<sup>st</sup>...please share this information with all.*

*As we begin our presentation this evening, I want to thank the Board, our administrators, teachers and the entire West Hempstead community for your thoughtful input into the budget process thus far this year. While this is the second budget workshop being held by the Board, it is actually the 5<sup>th</sup> time we have been in public discussing the budget...going back to our first Budget Café in late November. We appreciate your understanding of the District’s challenges and your willingness to consider various options to balance the budget.*

*Mr. Cunningham will now review the changes in the draft budget since last week and then Mrs. Peluso will take us through the instructional items in the draft budget.*

Mr. Hogan then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham who explained there were changes to the budget since the last Budget Workshop on March 5<sup>th</sup> and there would be more changes as we are awaiting the adoption of the state budget. He reiterated Board of Education Goals mentioned at the last budget meeting and stressed how important the value of conversations and continued dialogue are to arrive at the final budget to be put before the voters. The agenda for the evening was to cover changes from the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, review the Instructional Budget, Projected Revenue Budget as of March 12<sup>th</sup> and the next steps. He informed the Board that there was a decrease of \$95,600 since the last budget meeting. Mr. Cunningham also covered enrollment trends. He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Peluso to give a presentation on the instructional portion of the budget.

Under **CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET ITEMS** – Staff and community members were given copies of the Proposed 2013 - 2014 Budget. They were invited to ask questions on any items as the Board and Administration discussed the various items listed in these reports.

Ms. Peluso then began her 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 the 2000s – Administration and Improvement - These codes are dedicated to curriculum development, supervision and general education administration (non-teaching) for grades K – 12. 2010 codes are dedicated to the implementation of Common Core Standards, 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills, APPR and technology integration. The Assistant Superintendent's office is responsible for monitoring student and employee performance, all curricular initiatives, professional development, student data, state and federal reporting, federal grants, personnel record keeping and hiring. She explained the shifts in ELA Common Core Standards – balancing informational and literary text; text complexity; test-based answers; writing from sources and academic vocabulary and the shifts in mathematics Common Core – focus; coherence; fluency; deep understanding and applications. The District also focuses on 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills that include creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking.

Under 2020s – Supervision of Regular Schools – Includes salary for the building administrators and office staff for five schools and material and supplies for the operation of the five school offices.

Under 2100s – Regular School Program – Includes all appropriations associated with daily general education instruction including instructional salaries, contracted instructional services, equipment, textbooks, materials and supplies. Chestnut Street's staff will remain unchanged with 6.53 FTE general education teachers; Cornwell Avenue and George Washington's staff will remain unchanged at 46.5 FTE general education teachers; Middle School has 32.0 FTE for regular classroom instruction, physical education, art, music, technology, home and careers, library, reading instruction and ESL and the High School has 48.2 FTE for regular classroom instruction, physical education, art, music, business education, home and careers, library, reading instruction and ESL.

Changes under this section of the budget are due to declining enrollment in the High School and the implementation of the 8-period day. The challenges are ensuring access to a full range of course selections, preserving AP course options and electives and making certain that struggling learners have access to support classes.

Under 2200s – Special Apportionment Programs, Special Education and Occupational Education – Teacher, teaching assistant and aide positions are being evaluated as CSE's take place. Staffing will be based on need. The budget currently includes appropriations for 40.1 FTE Special Education positions. These teachers serve our five public schools, HANC and St. Thomas. There is a new program initiative – Rising Stars Program – primary class (8-1-3), K-2 for children with autism spectrum disorder.

Under 2300s – Other Special Schools. This portion covered the Senior Citizens program codes.

Under 2600s – Instructional Media – Includes appropriations for school libraries, the Office of Director of Technology, computer aided instruction, computer equipment, supplies, software and computer repair. Also covered were appropriations for four librarians, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, library materials for five public schools, HANC and St. Thomas and financing computer purchases over three years.

Under 2800s – Pupil Services – Includes appropriations for student attendance, guidance, health services, psychology services, social work services, co-curricular activities and interscholastic activities. Pupil Services provide for social, emotional and physical health. These qualities have significant impact on student success and character development.

The Board asked questions after each section and residents were also permitted to ask questions at the conclusion of each section covered and at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Cunningham then gave a tax levy limit update, Projected Revenue Budget as of March 12<sup>th</sup>, and the next steps that include awaiting the passage of the NYS budget, continuing to refine the expenditure and revenue picture and discussing final expenditure and revenue recommendations at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The Board and Administration will continue to refine the proposed budget until it is formally adopted on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

At 10:16 p.m. upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Schindler and carried by six, the Budget Workshop was adjourned.

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Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk