

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 6, 2012 at 7:33 p.m. Ms. Lotito arrived at 7:35 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Ejnes, who presided, and six other members of the Board: Ms. Di Miceli, Ms. Lotito, Mr. Mariano, 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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Under **ROUTINE MATTERS** action was taken as follows:

**Docket #1-254:** Upon the motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Schindler and carried by seven, Appointments, Resignations, etc. were made, accepted, granted and approved as follows:

**Topic:** **Appointment of Frost Valley Chaperones and Approval of Comp Days**

Bonasia, Joseph  
Eisen, Jeffrey  
Hafner, Barbara  
Linnehan, William  
Messana, Alison  
Minchik, Richard  
Parker, Suzanne  
Terwilliger, Karen

**Topic:** **Appointment of Frost Valley Nursing Volunteer**

Blais, Sandra

Mr. Ejnes opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

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Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by seven, the Board adjourned the Special Business Meeting and convened the Budget Workshop on non-instructional items at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Ejnes explained to the audience that the Board will cover non-instructional items of the budget. After each code section the Board will ask any questions they have and then residents will have their turn.

Mr. Ejnes then turned the meeting over to Mr. Hogan who explained that school districts are functioning in a new budget world due to the 2% tax cap, which changed the rules and the way the budget is built. He also mentioned that the budget being presented is in draft form and there is a 1.3% increase from last year's expense budget. There is no excessing of teachers and staff this year other than those which may be due to student enrollment and course selections, as well as no cuts to clubs, academics and sports.

Mr. Hogan thanked all who attended and participated in the three Budget Cafes that were held in November, January and February. The biggest savings came under the Transportation portion of the budget. Mr. Hogan then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham, who began a PowerPoint presentation on the budget.

Under **CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET ITEMS** – Staff and community members were given copies of the Proposed 2012 - 2013 Budget items. They were invited to ask questions on any items as the Board and Administration discussed the various items listed in these reports. It was explained that this evening's discussion would be on the Non-Instructional portion of the Proposed Budget.

Mr. Cunningham began with a PowerPoint presentation that would review the tax levy limit calculation, non-instructional budget proposal, projected revenue budget as of March 6<sup>th</sup> and the four-year financial forecast. He also covered the "tax cap" background and explained under the law that 2% does not equal 2%. The law sets a "levy limit" as determined by an 8-step process. One of the steps is multiplying an **adjusted prior year tax levy** by a "tax levy growth factor" defined as 2% or the rate of inflation; whichever is

less. Concepts of the tax levy limit include: 1) Tax cap limits the total levy set by local governments; **not assessed value or tax rate**. Thus taxes on individual parcels will continue to fluctuate by more than the change in the tax levy; 2) Local governments may not adopt a budget that requires a tax levy that exceeds the prior year's adjusted tax levy excluding any applicable exemptions by more than 2%, or the rate of inflation, whichever is less, unless voters approve an override of the tax levy limitation; 3) Budgets that exceed the limit must pass by a super majority (60%); and 4) Budgets that do not exceed the limit must pass by a simple majority.

Concepts of the tax levy limit: 1) If no budget is approved, the contingency budget may not include a levy higher than prior year's levy; 2) There have been no changes in contingency budget regulations; and 3) An override is good for that fiscal year only; a government cannot "opt out" of the tax cap permanently. Mr. Cunningham then covered the formula for calculating the tax levy limit, levy limit before exclusions and levy limit with exclusions. He stated account codes 1000 – General Support; 2815 – Health Services; 5500 – Transportation; 8000 – Community Services; 9000 – Undistributed Expenses would be discussed.

Under 1000s – General Support – These codes are dedicated to the Board of Education, Central Administration, auditing, legal, records management, general insurance, building operations, data processing expenses and BOCES administrative and capital expenses. The total increase for this portion is \$595,383 or 11.60% due to the possibility of conducting Board meetings using electronic data files; possible appeals through APPR provisions; building repairs code transfer; energy cost increases; the implementation of biometric time attendance management system; increased use of

BOCES Data Warehouse, assessment and test scanning services and the expectation of rising general insurance premiums.

2815s – Health Services - Includes all costs associated with private/public school nursing services, health exams/medical examiner and health-related hazardous waste disposal. While districts are working together to agree upon a billing equation for non-resident student health service charges, the cost of the services are expected to continue to increase.

5500s – Transportation – Administration focused on this area proposing a 20% decrease in funding for contract transportation with savings efficiencies. The Board will be reviewing results of Requests for Proposals for Transportation Routing and Efficiency Consultant at the next business meeting. The consultant will assist the District to use actual ridership data collected this school year to make decisions on 2012-13 equipment choices and routing determinations; redesign all current routes to increase economy and efficiency while providing a similar level of service and re-bid cooperative routes that do not show evidence of route sharing.

9000s – Undistributed Expenses – These expenses include mandated contributions to the New York State Retirement Systems, Social Security and Workers Compensation, other insurances, debt service, transfers to capital and funding for mandated summer instruction for severely disabled. The state's Civil Service pension system (ERS) is experiencing a large increase consistent with short-term history; the teachers' pension system (TRS) is experiencing slower growth rate when compared to short-term history; workers compensation insurance premiums expected to rise due to changes in legislation and unemployment claims experience decreasing.

Building inspection items - improvements at George Washington include replacing the floor in Room 14, blacktop, clock/bell system, permanent sound system for auditorium and auditorium blinds; the High School items include replacing lockers in the girls' locker room, replacing the outdoor scoreboard, a new marquee, display case, outdoor batting cage and partial roof replacement; Marion Delaney's repairing of the front entrance; Cornwell Avenue's replacing some blacktop and lastly, the District's need for a new van. Mr. Cunningham also gave a more in-depth vision into the High School's roof leak and why it is urgent this be taken care of.

Mr. Cunningham finished with the projected revenue budget as of March 6<sup>th</sup>, the four-year financial forecast, four-year financial forecast assumptions, surplus (deficit) and UFB as % of expenditures. He announced the next Budget Workshop is March 13<sup>th</sup>, a possible contingency meeting date of March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup> is Budget Adoption night, May 8<sup>th</sup> is the Budget Hearing meeting and the Budget Vote is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Budget line items were discussed and Mr. Cunningham answered budget line questions by the Board and also made note of suggestions by the Board. He will report back at the next Budget Workshop.

Residents were permitted to ask questions at the conclusion of each section covered and at the end of the meeting.

At 11:22 p.m. the Budget Workshop was adjourned.

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Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk