

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 April 12, 2011 at 7:39 p.m.

PRESENT: Ms. Lotito, who presided, and six other members of the Board: Mr. Brita, Ms. Di Miceli, Mr. Ejnes, Mr. Mariano, Ms. Rilling and Mr. Schindler. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Guercio, Mr. Sheahan, Ms. Castonguay, Ms. Girolamo and members of the staff and community.

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

Docket #0-219: The **MINUTES** of the Regular Business Meeting held on March 15, 2011, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, were presented, and upon motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

Docket #0-220: The **MINUTES** of the Special Business/Audit Committee Meeting held on March 22, 2011, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, were presented, and upon motion of Mr. Mariano, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

Docket #0-221: The **MINUTES** of the Special Business/Budget Meeting held on March 29, 2011, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, were presented, and upon motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

Docket #0-222: The **MINUTES** of the Special Business/Executive Session held on April 5, 2011, having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, were presented, and upon motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, that the reading of the Minutes of said meeting be dispensed with and that they be adopted as received.

Docket #0-223: The **TREASURER'S REPORT** for February 2011 having been received by each member several days prior to the date of this meeting, was presented, and upon motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, the Schedule of Claims & Warrants Nos. 9 – 45, appropriation status report and revenue status report were placed on the table for discussion and then filed.

Under **REPORT OF COMMITTEES** – SEPTA representative, Theresa Walz, announced their next meeting is on May 4th in which a behavioral consultant will be speaking on structure for Special Education children. There will be a joint meeting in the Middle School on April 13th presenting a budget presentation, along with discussion on the Educational Foundation and Community Scholarship Fund. May 27th is the Installation Dinner.

Ms. Lotito commented on the last SEPTA meeting in which Ms. Loewy and Ms. Abruzzo explained the new IEP rules going into effect on July 1, 2011. She announced that information is on the web site.

Josephine DiMarco, PTA representative, reiterated the April 13th joint meeting.

Student Council Representative Melissa Ford, reported on the National Honor Society's successful blood drive; Model Congress on April 15th; a car wash on April 30th by the Student Council and High School cheerleaders to raise funds for the Red Cross and their relief efforts in Japan and for Mama's House, a shelter for young mothers; and lastly, they are still working on purchasing a RAM costume and looking for better prices.

Under **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT** – Mr. Hogan read the following:

- Tonight we are presenting the proposed budget for adoption by the Board of Education.
- Over the course of the past few months, and in particular, the month of March, the Board and Administration have worked to balance the educational needs of the students of West Hempstead with the very real challenges of the economy.
- As part of that process, the Board held three public work sessions on March 1st, March 8th and March 29th. All told, this proposed budget was discussed in public for approximately 9 hours with significant input from residents, students and employees. In addition, the Board formed the Residents' Budget Advisory Committee this year, which made both short and long term recommendations for the Board to consider. At this time, some of those recommendations are being looked at in terms of transportation, with a transportation consultant reviewing all district routes for efficiency and savings, an educational foundation is being investigated by residents and the district is involved in recycling district wide, which is affording us with present savings in terms of garbage removal.
- The proposed budget information has been posted on the district website and has also received ample media coverage from local news outlets.
- I believe that all voices were heard and that we have made adjustments along the way by utilizing the Federal Jobs Fund as well as a restoration in state aid of approximately \$240,000.
- Positions that will be maintained by utilizing the Jobs Fund include the Directors of Guidance and Math, as well as one guidance counselor. Also, with the few dollars remaining in the fund, we will be able to hold onto a complete Math position.
- In recognition of the economic atmosphere, as well as always staffing according to enrollment, the district has eliminated 13.6 positions from the proposed budget. These positions are administrative, faculty and staff in nature. Once again, we are utilizing Jobs Funds to hold onto some positions which adds up to 3.2 positions. The net district loss in positions is then 10.4.
- As a result of the \$240,000 restoration in state aid, positions and programs that can be held onto include a Science position, as well as summer school for 2011. You may recall that a number of parents encouraged us to reconsider the summer school cut and similarly, our high school principal and director of guidance asked us to take another look.
- This budget maintains our academic, athletic, co-curricular and social offerings for all students. The budget also meets the needs of our Special Education students, both in and outside of the district and it maintains the emotional support of our students through counselors, school psychologists and social workers. On a different note, the proposed budget includes a line for the use of EXCEL funds, which will allow the district to take care of masonry repair to the HS/MS complex with no cost to the residents. Also, the budget includes monies to update our maintenance fleet through the use of leasing agreements rather than purchases, as well as providing needed repairs and updating in our buildings.
- That being said, the budget is fiscally responsible. At the BoE meeting on March 15th, the draft budget was calling for a budget to budget increase of 3.04% and a tax levy increase of 3.91%. The budget being proposed for adoption by the BoE tonight calls for a 2.85% budget to budget increase and a tax levy of 2.99%, which is 1.92% lower than the tax levy called for in the second budget vote of last year.

Mr. Hogan then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham, who gave a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding changes made to the budget. He explained the budget addresses the needs of students and a balanced fiscal position for residents. The District has received \$240,000 more from the state budget and additions/deletions were made accordingly. Summer school is added back into the budget with \$30,000 added to the expense side and \$50,000 added for the revenue side. A federal grant is being used for salaries that are not part of the budget. Mr. Cunningham also explained that EXCEL funds are being used to repair the brick on the façade of the Middle/High schools, at no cost to taxpayers. Educational programs, extra curricular activities and facility maintenance remain intact in the budget.

Mr. Hogan then continued with the following:

- Other matters of interest this month include:
 - a. The completion of the Strategic Planning process. Ongoing since October, the council, made up of over 40 people comprised of Board members, administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents and interested residents, will be recommending 3 year goals for the district in the areas of academic excellence, academic equity, educational technology, data assessment and community relations. I expect the final report will be presented to the Board at the May business meeting.
 - b. Our thanks to the PTSA for its support of the fashion show and, of course, our thanks to the students, faculty and administrators who participated.
 - c. Our thanks to the students and teachers who presented Beauty and the Beast to us during the past month
 - d. Please be reminded that spring recess begins at dismissal this Friday and runs through Tuesday, April 26th. Schools re-open on April 27th.
 - e. If you haven't already done so, please review the school calendar for the month of May. There are many assessments scheduled for May including: AP Exams at the High School, as well as ELA and Math assessments for grades 3 – 8 and Science for grades 4 and 8. Additionally, our ESL students will be taking the NYSELAT assessment...so it's a busy month.

Ms. Lotito then opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

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

Docket #0-224: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, Appointments, Resignations, etc. were made, accepted, granted and approved as follows:

Topic: Probationary Appointment(s)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Tenure Area</u> | <u>Certification</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Effective</u> | <u>End of Probation</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| Cervasio, Roxanna | Sp. Education HS | Students with Disabilities 7-12 | \$58,956 plus neg. increase 3MA | 5/2/11 | 5/2/14 |

Topic: Appointment of Monitor(s)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Period</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Culhane, Maureen | 1:1 monitor HS | \$14.11/hr. plus neg. increase | 4/13/11 - 6/24/11 |

Topic: Per Diem Substitute Appointments

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Position</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Kahn, Steven | \$90.00 per day | Teacher |
| Russell, Elizabeth | \$11.36 per hour | Monitor |

Topic: Leave(s) of Absence

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>From</u> | <u>To</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Carbone, Andrea | 1:1 monitor – HS | 5/9/11 | 6/24/11 |
| Devlin, Rosemarie | Clerk Typist – HS | 1/6/11 | t/b/d |

Topic: Resignation Request(s) for Purpose of Retirement

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Effective</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Knopp, Arthur | Custodian – HS | \$60,770 | 6/30/11 |

Mr. Hogan spoke on Mr. Knopp’s 31 years of employment with the District and thanked him for always being helpful. He reiterated all support staff are just as important as anyone else.

Topic: Substitute Appointment

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Certification</u> | <u>Salary</u> | <u>Effective</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|--|------------------|
| Arcese, Sandra | School Psychologist | \$53,596 (pro-rated plus neg. increase) 1 MA | 3/7/11-6/1/11 |

Docket #0-225: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, 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> |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Scully, Roseanne | HS Yearbook Advisor | \$4,171.00 plus neg. increase |

Docket #0-226: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, and seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by six, Ms. Di Miceli opposed, a resolution was adopted that the West Hempstead Union Free School District Budget for the 2011 - 2012 school year in the amount of \$54,397,183 be approved, and hereby adopted by this Board and authorized the placement of a proposition on the voting machines and the raising of such taxes as necessary to provide for said budget.

Docket #0-227: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by six, Ms. Di Miceli opposed, a resolution was adopted that the Board of Education approve the Property Tax Report Card for 2011 - 2012 based on the following information:

| | <u>Budgeted 2010 – 2011</u> | <u>Budgeted 2011 – 2012</u> | <u>Percent Change</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Spending | \$52,891,477 | \$54,397,183 | 2.85 |
| Total Estimated Tax Levy | \$38,687,525 | \$39,843,764 | 2.99 |
| Public School Enrollment | 2,224 | 2,169 | -2.47 |
| Consumer Price Index | | | 1.6 |
| | <u>Actual 2010 – 2011</u> | <u>Estimated 2011 – 2012</u> | |
| Adjusted Restricted Fund Balance | \$2,225,993 | \$1,669,601 | |
| Assigned Appropriated Fund Balance | \$ 500,000 | \$ 500,000 | |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance | \$1,835,900 | \$1,835,900 | |
| Adjusted Unrestricted Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget | 3.47% | 3.37% | |

Docket #0-228: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board approved the following Abolishment of Positions as of June 30, 2011:

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------------|
| One (1) | elementary teaching position | 1 Retirement |
| One (1) | secondary science teaching position | Ms. Kayaian, HS |
| One (1) | secondary English teaching position | Ms. D'Agostino, MS |
| One (1) | secondary math teaching positions | Ms. D'Andrea, HS |
| One (1) | secondary business teaching position | Ms. Paschetti |
| One (1) | elementary music teaching position | 1 Resignation |
| One (1) | Director of Social Studies/Foreign Language | Ms. Gonzalez |
| One (1) | Director of Related Arts | Ms. Healy |
| One (1) | School Nurse | Ms. Miller |

Docket #0-229: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven, the Board approved the Calendar of Board of Education Meetings for the 2011-12 school year, as amended.

Docket #0-230: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven, the 2010 – 2011 Fire Safety Report was accepted.

Docket #0-231: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board appointed election inspectors for the voting machines.

Docket #0-232: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Health and Welfare Services Agreements with Freeport, Hempstead, Hicksville, Jericho, Long Beach and Uniondale.

Docket #0-233: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven, the Board approved the Agreement between the West Hempstead School District and SCOPE Education Services for the After School Child Care Program for the 2011-2012 school year.

Ms. Lotito inquired if the liaison was a paid position, and Mr. Hogan replied that it is usually a building principal and Mr. Brita inquired about a morning program for the students and has administration looked into it yet. Mr. Hogan replied, “There has been no talk on that matter.”

Docket #0-234: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Mariano and carried by seven, the Board approved the Contract for OASAS youth Drug Abuse Services, as amended.

Docket #0-235: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Ms. Rilling, and carried by seven, 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 #0-236: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board approved the budgetary transfers.

Docket #0-237: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board approved a contract with Cullen & Danowski, LLP to provide External Auditing Services for the year ending June 30, 2011.

Docket #0-238: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board approved the bid for Musical Equipment, Audio and Supplies 2011 - 2012.

Docket #0-239: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board approved the bid for Physical Education Supplies, Equipment and Uniforms 2011 - 2012.

Docket #0-240: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board approved the bid for Subscriptions to Periodicals 2011 - 2012.

Docket #0-241: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board approved the bid for Printing of Diplomas and Diploma Covers 2011 - 2012.

Docket #0-242: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board approved the bid for Printing of District Calendars 2011 - 2012.

Docket #0-243: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board approved the bid for Printing of Agendas 2011 - 2012.

Docket #0-244: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board accepted the recommendations to add new vendors to the District vendor list.

Docket #0-245: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Inter-municipal Cooperative Transportation Agreement.

Docket #0-246: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Use of Facilities as follows:

| <u>Organization</u> | <u>Day/Time</u> | <u>Room/ Field</u> |
|------------------------|---|---------------------|
| CORNWELL AVENUE | | |
| YIWH | 07/04/11-08/29/11 Mon – 6:00-9:00 p.m. Women’s Softball | Field |
| Girl Scouts | 04/27/11 7:00-8:00 p.m. Registration for Girl Scouts | Cafeteria |
| HIGH SCHOOL | | |
| Class of 1962 Reunion | 06/24/12 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Reunion | Cafeteria & Kitchen |
| MIDDLE SCHOOL | | |
| WHEPTA | 05/20/11 7:00-10:00 p.m. Fundraiser | Cafeteria |

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

There was no old business to be addressed.

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

Docket #0-247: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted that the District incur the expense of Board Members or Administrators to attend NYSSBA’s Spring Law Conference on May 5, 2011.

Docket #0-248: Upon the motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Brita, and carried by seven, the Board approved the Rate of Pay Increase for Substitute Clerical Staff.

Under **BOARD PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Mr. Brita asked the attorneys if the Board can ask residents to vote yes on the budget, since they are Board members and put the budget together. What can the Board can do without crossing the line of advocacy? Council advised that the Board and the District cannot use District funds to do so. Individual members of the Board do not lose their individual citizenship. It is prohibitive to use District funds, i.e. mailings, boosters, postage, time, staff, student and flyers. Board members can provide information in a neutral format. Mr. Brita further asked about website usage for the budget. Mr. Sheahan replied, “It’s okay as long as it is informational.” Signs on lawns are okay as long as no public funds are being used. Ms. Lotito inquired about signs that have information on the vote such as the date/time and place of the vote, and if that would be legal. The answer was yes.

Ms. Lotito again opened the meeting for residents to address the Board.

At 9:07 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven, the Board adjourned the Public Session to Executive Session.

At 10:00 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Ejnes and carried by seven, the Board reconvened to Public Session.

Docket #0-249: Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the Board accepted the recommendations of the Fact Finder as per his report dated March 26, 2011.

At 10:05 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Brita and carried by seven, the Board adjourned the public session and went into Executive Session, which ended at 10:30 p.m.

Kathryn Girolamo

Ms. Di Miceli asked to be placed on the record stating: “I have mulled the budget over and over in my head for weeks now. I have asked many questions, requested additional information and stayed humble, as this is my first budget process sitting on this side versus being in the audience. We all know that these are challenging times for public education. We all know that expenses are increasing and revenue is decreasing. I strongly feel that we need to create a vision: A vision as to where we are going and what kind of school system we are trying to create now and for the future. I am aware that difficult conversations can be politically charged but, nevertheless, these conversations can, and need to be, had in a positive manner. If I vote yes to adopt this budget, in my mind it is only getting us through the next school year – and then what? On paper, this budget looks good but without knowing where we are going next year and the year after that has raised some cause of concern. If I am going to represent well, fulfill public trust and leadership, then without more at-length conversations, a pro-active approach, a need to restructure school spending, improved performance and greater efficiency all while meeting the needs of the students. As this time I am voting No for the recommended budget for the 2011-2012 school year.”

Ms. Lotito spoke on the hard work that Mr. Hogan and Administration have done on the budget; last year sports and clubs were cut, but not this year; we are providing an education that we’re proud of; and this administration has increased property values.

Mr. Brita added that the Board is not spending other people’s money – they are taxpayers also; they agonized over the budget; it was not easy to get done; he feels it’s a reasonable budget and the community will decide if it is or not and the Board stands behind it.

Mr. Schindler added the community struggles to get better; the budget is sound and fair to all concerned; yes, it reminds us we have a lot of work to do in the future; this is his first time also and the budget process needs to improve; many costs we don’t know what they will be; children deserve a great education and property values will do well if schools are good. He is also not in favor of summer school and wants better extra help after school.

Mr. Mariano stated our programs are for the “whole student” – cutting sports, music and art do not complete an education, they are imperative for college applications as they look at overall student activities; his children received an excellent education in our district; we are academically at the top; our teachers are second-to-none and times are hard and we have to do the best we can with what we have.