

The **BUDGET 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 2, 2010 at 7:37 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Ms. Lotito, who presided, and six other members of the Board: Mr. Brita, Mr. Ejnes, Mr. Kaye, Mr. Mariano, Ms. Rilling and Mr. Whelpley. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Guercio, Ms. Girolamo, staff and members of the community.

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Ms. Lotito turned the meeting over to Mr. Hogan. Mr. Hogan explained this is the first of two meetings regarding the budget – non-instructional items and instructional items. The budget process is still in its beginning stages. There are still a number of unknowns – the state legislature and what will happen with state aid. He is concerned about the state budget being ready by April 1<sup>st</sup> and that the District may be “flying blind” in the budget’s bottom line. The District does not have a corner on the market of good ideas and welcomes comments from residents. 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 2010 - 2011 Budget and Building Inspection 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 covered the budget development timeline; a balance between revenues and expenditures and objectives of the budget. He then covered account codes 1000 – General Support; 2815 – Health Services; 5500 – Transportation; 8000 – Community Services; 9000 – Undistributed Expenses and then Building Inspections.

Mr. Cunningham also covered RWADA (Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance), which monitors enrollment in Nassau County Districts and total appropriations in all code categories.

Under Transportation, a Resident Initiated Referendum was discussed and what it would mean to taxpayers. The referendum is requesting an increase in transportation for students in grades K through 5 to go from .75 to .3 miles. The estimated cost for this is approximately \$608,000, with an equivalent tax levy increase. Mr. Cunningham explained that the appropriation is not included in the proposed budget and that if approved by the voters, the expense would be **added** to the budget. The number of new buses that would have to be added were discussed, along with visual maps of each school area and what blocks would be covered under this referendum. The cost to the homeowner with the average assessed taxable value of 955 is \$90 based on the tentative 2010-11 tax roll, and the estimated cost will change from year to year depending on contract transportation costs. If the budget fails and the referendum passes, the cost of the new transportation requirement would result in an equivalent cut in program and staffing.

Also covered was Proposed Budget vs. Contingent Budget. Before changes, the draft proposed budget carries a budget-to-budget increase of 5.31% over the 2009-10 voter approved budget. It is more than \$2,795,000 above a contingent budget; other revenue sources are decreasing and reserves and fund balance are being used.

Items listed in the Building Inspection Report, to be tentatively included in the Proposed Budget, are as follows:

**George Washington School**

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Replace carpeting in library | \$ 5,000      |
| Replace floor in Main Office | <u>20,000</u> |
|                              | \$25,000      |

**Cornwell Avenue School**

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Purchase and installation of gym mats | <u>\$20,000</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|

The Board requested that the line “Refurbish main office and faculty restroom, in the amount of \$10,000 be removed from the inspection for Cornwell Avenue.

**West Hempstead Middle School**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Replace floor in Room 15  | \$15,000      |
| Install mounted digital projector with housing for computer terminal setup in cafeteria | 2,000         |
| Purchase and install new clock system   | <u>15,000</u> |
|   | \$32,000      |

**West Hempstead High School**

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Remove lockers and replace with display case              | \$ 5,000     |
| Replace scoreboards in gymnasium                          | 10,000       |
| Purchase and install fence and windscreen for home dugout | <u>2,000</u> |
|   | \$17,000     |

**District**

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Purchase of District vehicle (SUV for plow)     | \$30,000      |
| Purchase 8’ stainless hopper sand-salt spreader | 6,000         |
| Purchase new gravely lawn tractor               | 15,500        |
| Reseal and line Administration parking lot      | <u>10,000</u> |
|   | \$61,500      |

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 meeting.

Mr. Brita inquired if we can lower the Board’s Professional Meetings line once again this year. Mr. Kaye commented on the 3.3% increase in the BOCES budget that has both savings and increases.

At this point of the meeting, residents were able to address the Board with any questions or comments they had.

At 10:15 p.m., upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Public Meeting was adjourned to Executive Session, which ended at 11:25 p.m.

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Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk