

The **SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the Middle School Cafeteria on May 25, 2010 at 7:40 p.m.

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, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Peluso and Ms. Girolamo.

The Special Meeting began with Mr. Hogan stating they have cut \$1.65 million from the last proposed budget. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham, who gave a Power Point presentation on the new proposed budget.

The presentation included three-year historical enrollment; changes to the proposed budget since May 18th; education geared toward graduation with Regent's diplomas and increasing that percentage; 10% decrease in most instructional material and supply line appropriations and reductions in building inspection lines resulting in a \$317,722 decrease; cuts in staffing and programs; cuts in transportation; elimination of some teams and intramural sports; 20% reduction in extracurricular clubs; the proposed expenditure budget would increase 0.54% over 2009-10 with the property tax levy increasing 4.91%.

Mr. Cunningham then continued with a proposed budget vs. a contingent budget. Information on this included by law, a contingent budget allows a budget-to-budget increase of 0% less retired debt service; presently, the draft proposed budget carries an increase of

0.54% over the 2009-10 vote approved budget; the new proposed budget is only \$685,000 above a contingent budget and a contingent budget would force the district to operate on less funding than was approved by voters in May 2008. Potential contingent budget cuts are 8-period day; larger classroom sizes; reduction in library services; half-day kindergarten; no field trips; no interscholastic sports or clubs; buildings closed to the community on weekends; no performance music program; shared nurses; basic art education program; further elimination of administrative, guidance, custodial and psychologist positions. He explained that under contingency taxes still go up, and will go up more than under the proposed budget; facets of district operations will be negatively impacted and recovery would add further fiscal stress. He then covered the 5-year tax levy history; tax facts; revenue sources decreasing and reserves and fund balance being used.

Next came questions from the Board covering grants, state aid coming back, MTA payroll tax, special education reimbursements, summer school tuition being raised, busing, rebuilding the budget for future years, how cuts this year will affect next year's budget, FLES program and elementary science and what to do with purchased materials. Mr. Mariano commented how much it hurts to see things the Board worked hard for being cut and hoping we can restore those things in the future.

Residents in attendance gave their respective opinions. Suggestions were made on how to clarify misinformation and urging residents to get the word out any way they can. Mr. Hogan stated they will use Connect Ed and a brochure will be mailed out. Mr. Brita commented on the Exit Poll results taken on May 15th and that most residents stated they found out information through family, friends and neighbors, so to get the correct word out.

Mr. Whelpley left the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Mr. Hogan closed this portion of the meeting commenting that school budget voting is a vote you can control – that what you vote on stays in West Hempstead and does not leave the district. He also stated he will invite local business owners to join the Strategic Planning Committee.

Docket #9-298: Upon the motion of Ms. Rilling, and seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by six, a resolution was adopted that the West Hempstead Union Free School District Budget for the 2010 - 2011 school year in the amount of \$52,891,477 be re-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 #9-299: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by six, a resolution was adopted that the Board of Education approve the Property Tax Report Card for 2010 - 2011 based on the following information:

	<u>Budgeted 2009- 2010</u>	<u>Budgeted 2010 – 2011</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Total Spending	\$52,607,660	\$52,891,477	0.54
Total Estimated Tax Levy	\$36,875,773	\$38,687,525	4.91
Public School Enrollment	2,188	2,200	0.27
Consumer Price Index			-0.4
		<u>Actual 2009 – 2010</u>	<u>Estimated 2010 – 2011</u>
Reserved Fund Balance		\$3,014,102	2,336,787
Appropriated Fund Balance		\$1,000,000	500,000
Unreserved, Unappropriated Fund Balance		\$1,505,374	1,005,300
Unreserved, Unappropriated Fund Balance as a Percent of the Total Budget		2.86%	1.84%

At 9:27 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Ejnes, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by six, the meeting ended and went into Executive Session, that was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk