

The **BUDGET HEARING** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the High School Video Conference Room on June 8, 2010 at 7:34 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. John Hogan, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Peluso and Ms. Girolamo.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Budget Hearing began with Ms. Lotito stating that the budget has been adopted and no changes can be made at this stage. The purpose of the meeting was to present to the public the changes that have been made to bring the budget lower and take any questions or comments they may have. She turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham who gave a Power Point presentation.

The presentation reiterated prior budget meetings, which included the following: The proposed budget has been reduced by more than \$1.65 million; Governor's state aid cut of almost \$1,000,000; awaiting the adoption of the New York State budget; increases in payments to the NYS Retirement Systems and NYS Health Insurance Plans; providing education for students to graduate with Regent's Diplomas; reductions in instructional material and supply line appropriations, administrative supply lines and postponing building repairs; cuts in programs and employees; grants funding some appropriations; transportation cuts; elimination of some sports teams and extracurricular clubs; three-part budget chart

showing administration, programs and capital; proposed revenue budget; proposed budget vs. contingent budget; potential contingent budget cuts; the cost of a contingent budget; five-year tax levy history; revenue sources are decreasing; reserves and fund balance being used, and lastly how the District has taken steps to keep tax levy growth in check.

Residents in attendance asked questions and gave input as to where the Board might consider making cuts.

Ms. Lotito stated that June 16<sup>th</sup>, the day after the budget vote, they start working on next year's budget. The Board is striving for a strong education where the cuts do not affect the students and the classroom. She asked residents for their input on ways to build revenue for the District. Ms. Peluso spoke on grants and why our District is denied many of them due to the fact we are not an underperforming school district. Residents were asked if they have any expertise in grant writing to volunteer and help apply for more grants.

At 8:54 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Brita, seconded by Mr. Ejnes, and carried by seven, the meeting ended and went into Executive Session, which adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

---

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk