

The **BUDGET AND 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 24, 2009 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, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Girolamo, staff and members of the community.

Ms. Lotito welcomed residents and staff and explained this meeting was for the purpose of discussing the Instructional portion of the budget and turned the meeting over to Mr. Hogan.

Mr. Hogan remarked that Administration goes over every line of the budget and the goal is to maintain all of our educational programs and extra curricular activities. There will be no reduction in Use of Facilities; there's a modest budget-to-budget increase and they are not happy with the lax levy just below eight percent. The MTA tax on payroll is still on the table in Albany and a lot rides on the budget that comes from Albany on April 1st - if they even meet that deadline. Mr. Hogan then turned the meeting over to Mr. Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham discussed the governor's proposal and how it impacts West Hempstead; the budget development timeline; the balance between revenues and expenditures; our budget-to-budget and tax levy increases are traditionally lower than the county average and showed our recent budget history; objectives of the 2009-10 budget and a three-year historical enrollment for grades K-12.

Under **BUDGET ITEMS** – Ms. Peluso was recognized and discussed instructional account codes series 2000s (administration and improvement), 2100s (regular school program), 2200s (special apportionment programs), 2300s (teaching other special schools), 2600s (instructional media) and 2800s (pupil services). Copies of the 2009 - 2010 Proposed Budget were given to all present at the meeting. The public was invited to ask questions at the end of the presentation.

In the series 2000, Ms. Peluso touched base on the position of Director of Data Services and Student Information being removed; Professional Development being supplemented by grants and the summer curriculum writing project not being funded at the same level as last year.

In the series 2100, Mr. Brita inquired about line A2110 132 Extra Pay for Extra Responsibility and asked why the line was increased. Ms. Peluso explained it is for chaperoning, coaches, etc. Ms. Lotito inquired about line A2110.490-08-2110 – ½ Day Cultural Arts and asked Administration to determine the value of this program; Ms. Rilling requested a brochure on the program and Mr. Kaye stated it is in the BOCES budget document recently mailed home. Questions by Mr. Ejnes and Mr. Mariano regarding \$0 in a line was due to allocation of funds being transferred to other codes. The series covered the regular school program.

Series 2200 – had a large budget increase in BOCES Special Education programs.

In code 2300 – topics discussed were adult education, summer school and senior services.

Series 2600 – included school libraries, technology, computer aided instruction, computer equipment and supplies, software, computer repair, Study Island (grades 2 – 8) and computer replacement.

Series 2800 – key points included student attendance, guidance, health services, psychology services, social work services, co-curricular activities, interscholastic activities, health services to other districts, maintenance of equipment and supplies for athletic teams and continued support of intramural programs.

Mr. Cunningham then covered the Revenue portion of the budget. He presented four tax levy scenarios – with the budget-to-budget increase remaining at 1.18%.

Scenario #1 – Present governor’s proposal = tax levy of 7.96%

Scenario #2 – With the Deficit Assessment Reduction returned = tax levy of 5.81%

Scenario #3 – With DRA eliminated and ½ Foundation Aid restored = 4.7%

Scenario #4 – With DRA eliminated and all Foundation Aid restored = 3.59%

Mr. Cunningham explained that the legislative budget is due on April 1st and that all sources of revenue will continue to be evaluated. He also discussed the proposed budget vs. contingent budget and the strategies Administration used to manage budget growth.

At this point in the meeting, the community posed their questions to the Board.

Mr. Hogan ended the meeting with comments on transportation and talking with County officials to collaborate to lower costs; a verbal commitment from a busing company to renew its contract with West Hempstead at the May CPI rate and the Deficit Reduction portion of the budget from the state still might come back putting the District in a better financial position.

Upon the motion of Ms. Lotito, seconded by Mr. Whelpley, and carried by seven, the meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk