

The **POLICY MEETING/WORK SESSION** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the Chestnut Street Board Room on February 5, 2008 at 8:12 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Trocchia, who presided, and five other members of the Board: Mr. Brita, Mr. Kaye, Ms. Lotito, Mr. Mariano and Ms. Rilling. Mr. Whelpley was absent. Also present were Mr. Hogan, Ms. Peluso, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Girolamo, staff members and members of the community.

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

The following policies were discussed and decisions were made as indicated:

Docket #7-98: **Existing Policy 2150 – Staff Recruiting and Hiring For Certificated Positions** - It was unanimously agreed that this Policy be placed on the February 12th Business Meeting with advice from counsel.

Docket #7-101: **Existing Policy 5159 – Reporting Child Abuse and Maltreatment**
It was unanimously agreed that this Policy be placed on the February 12th Business Meeting with advice from counsel.

Docket #7-201: **Existing Policy 8230 – Reimbursement for Expenses** - It was unanimously agreed that this Policy be placed on the February 12th Business Meeting for adoption with advice from counsel.

Docket #7-202: **Proposed Policy – Internal Claims Auditor** - It was unanimously agreed that this Policy be placed on the February 12th Business Meeting for adoption by the Board.

Docket #7-203: **Proposed Policy – Closed/Open Campus** - It was unanimously agreed that this Policy be placed on the February 12th Business Meeting for adoption by the Board.

The Work Session portion of the meeting included:

Mr. Trocchia opened the floor to discuss the fund balance of the District. Mr. Hogan remarked that the external auditor suggests the District return excess monies to the taxpayer. The District is allowed to keep three percent of the fund balance this year, and four percent next year.

Mr. Trocchia inquired as to whether monies in the fund balance can be used for emergencies, such as repairing the steps and handicapped ramp at the Eagle Avenue School. Mr. Cunningham replied that that type of repair must be budgeted and the fund balance can be used with voter approval.

Ms. Rilling brought up building inspections that are done in January, and would like Eagle Avenue School to be included each year, as are the other schools. It has been done occasionally in the past.

Mr. Brita mentioned the four percent monies for next year and asked for clarification on the conversation. The discussion was about excess fund balance above four percent. He asked if expenditures were ever higher than revenue. Mr. Cunningham believes that happened in the 2000 – 2001 school year.

Mr. Kaye requested that we review the five-year capital plan again and reserve some fund balance dollars for it. Possibilities for use of extra monies could include the re-conditioning of the track and field, the Middle School parking lot, elevators at George Washington School and software/hardware for technology including Smart Boards and Prometheans. A capital reserve requires voter approval.

Mr. Trocchia suggested doing a referendum that covers many areas for students including sports and education, rather than a bond issue. It would be easier to pass a budget.

At 9:02 p.m., upon motion of Mr. Trocchia, seconded by Ms. Rilling and carried by six, the Policy Meeting was adjourned.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk