

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 11, 2008 at 8:07 p.m.

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

Mr. Trocchia announced the business portion of the meeting will take place at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Hogan opened stating this meeting is to cover instructional items of the budget. He pointed out that an additional middle school technology teacher, additional Special Education services, a foreign language teacher at the elementary schools and maintenance of programs at the high school are included in the proposed budget.

Covered items were the Mission Statement; recent budget history; budget proposals; target appropriation analysis by category; objectives of the budget; budget timetable; projected enrollment and building inspections.

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 2008 - 2009 Proposed Budget were given to all present at the meeting. The public was invited to ask questions throughout the entire presentation.

In the series 2000, Mr. Brita requested that the equipment codes be re-evaluated. Ms. Lotito asked if \$5,000 was the cost for a new server and asked about code 2020.161, which is clerical overtime.

In the series 2100, Mr. Trocchia inquired about the elementary computer line change and Ms. Peluso explained the district is reorganizing staff due to retirement and we will be combining enrichment/gifted and technology into one position instead of two. This reorganization will provide more instructional time in the gifted program and will allow us to hire additional reading staff for early intervention in the first and second grades.

Series 2200 had a large increase and Mr. Brita asked for an explanation as to why it went up so much. Mr. Cunningham answered the K-12 BOCES Special Education line was increased by about \$350,000 and the Special Education services line increased more than \$500,000.

In code 2300 – Mr. Trocchia inquired if high school seniors would still serve as summer staff in the recreation program and if the program is community based only. Ms. Rilling asked if there was a cap on the number of students allowed to attend summer recreation. Mr. Mariano requested that the program be affordable to residents. Ms. Peluso stated that we are proposing that the program be run by SCOPE once again during the summer of 2008.

Series 2600 – Mr. Brita inquired if the district orders its computers through bids through New York State contracts. Mr. Cunningham responded explaining that computer hardware is purchased through the New York State Office of General Services.

Mr. Cunningham was recognized and began with changes made to the Building Inspections that were requested by the Board from the non-instructional meeting on March 4th. The Board directed administration to add monies for a new security server, security cameras and a scanning system for students at the high school. Discussion ensued regarding upgrades of the empty space at Chestnut Street and was concluded that this will be addressed at the next meeting.

Mr. Cunningham then covered the Revenue portion of the budget. The following is a tentative version of the proposed revenue budget.

State Aid*	\$8,089,286	
Tuition, Island Park	4,200,000	
Tuition, Summer School	10,000	
Federal Aid, Medicare	20,000	
Interest Income	250,000	
Building Rental – Marian Delaney	400,000	
Public Library – Bond Payment/Rental**	612,279	
Health Services, Other Districts	175,000	
Nassau County Drug Program	36,566	
Music Instrument Rentals	9,000	
Miscellaneous	175,600	
Transfer, General Fund	2,000,000	
Property Tax Levy	<u>36,671,999</u>	4.21%
School District Budget	\$52,649,730	3.71%

*From the January '08 Executive Budget Proposal.

**Equals the 2008 – 2009 library debt service payment.

Mr. Cunningham explained that the legislative budget is due on April 1st and that all sources of reserve will continue to be evaluated.

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

At 9:45 p.m. the Board broke into Executive Session to discuss Docket 7-225. The special business meeting was reconvened at 10:00 p.m.

Docket #7-225: Upon the motion of Mr. Brita, and seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the Board approved the five-year contract between Island Park Union Free School District and the West Hempstead Union Free School District, as amended.

Upon the motion of Mr. Trocchia, seconded by Mr. Mariano, and carried by seven, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Kathryn Girolamo, District Clerk