

The **SPECIAL BUSINESS/BUDGET WORKSHOP** of the Board of Education West Hempstead Union Free School District was called to order in the High School Video Conference Room on March 3, 2020 at 7:38 p.m.

PRESENT: Ms. Brohm, who presided, and six other members of the Board: Ms. Greaves, Mr. Hoffman, Mr. Katrakazis, Mr. Magaraci, Ms. Shinsato and Mr. Trocchia. Also present were Mr. Rehman, Ms. Reilly, Mr. Press, Mr. Fleck, Mr. Dworsak, Ms. Bryant and members of the staff and community.

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

Docket #9-240: Upon the motion of Ms. Greaves, seconded by Mr. Magaraci and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted accepting the resignation of David Green, a cleaner assigned to the George Washington School.

Docket #9-240: Upon the motion of Ms. Greaves, seconded by Mr. Magaraci and carried by seven the SEQRA Resolution for the Bond Project C Projects was approved. The projects include: Chestnut Street – the removal of ACM materials, the reconstruction of an existing vacant space into classrooms, room finishes, flooring, walls and ceilings and reconstruction of existing electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems; Cornwell Avenue School - reconstruction of the existing parking areas and interior door hardware; George Washington School - reconstruction of the existing parking areas, interior door hardware and masonry restoration; High School/Middle School – the removal of ACM, an Adaptive Gym addition (2,400 sq. ft.) at the rear of the Middle School wing, the reconstruction of the existing High School Library, Music Suite, FACS Room, Toilet Rooms (4) and the parking areas, as well as room finishes,

flooring, walls and ceilings, in addition to the reconstruction of existing electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems.

Upon the motion of Ms. Greaves, seconded by Mr. Magaraci and carried by seven, the Special Business Meeting was adjourned and the Budget Workshop was convened.

Ms. Brohm turned the meeting over to Mr. Rehman. Mr. Rehman thanked everyone for the opportunity to share the 2020-2021 proposed budget. He then proceeded with a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the proposed budget. He spoke about the Governor rolling our expense aid (textbooks, technology, busing and BOCES) into the Foundation Aid formula. This is a concern moving forward because busing and BOCES aid is not currently capped but could be in the future. The budget includes the addition of a school psychologist and full-time treasurer. It also includes the addition of a new math program.

Mr. Rehman then turned the meeting over to Mr. Press, who began a PowerPoint presentation on the budget.

Mr. Press first spoke about the goal of the budget process being able to turn our students into 21st century learners with 21 century learning spaces.

Mr. Press reviewed the budget timeline. He announced that the total proposed budget of \$65,625,600 was a \$2,049,823 increase from last year. It represents a 3.22% spending increase and a 2.96% tax levy increase.

The challenges to budgeting are the 2% tax levy limit legislation and the Foundation Aid not fully funded. He stated that West Hempstead would receive approximately \$9 million in additional State Aid if the formula were fully implemented. Additionally, there are numerous mandates and expenses over which the District has no control. These include: auditing and

financial compliance, charter school funding, health insurance premium increases, mandated testing and scoring, pension and retirement contributions, Response to Intervention and Special Education mandates.

Mr. Press said it was necessary to increase our transportation budget by \$850,000 for the 2020/2021 school year. This is a result of bus companies going out of business and our present provider advising us that they will not be renewing our contract.

Mr. Press reviewed employer retirement contributions and the 2020-2021 tax levy cap. He spoke about the Bond project borrowing. To date, we have borrowed \$24.7 million of the voter authorized \$35.6 million to fund Bond projects. We will need to borrow additional funds to complete Project C projects. As a result, Bond related debt service will increase by approximately \$285,000 in 2020-2021.

Mr. Press reviewed all the improvements to our facilities and discussed future district wide projects.

Mr. Press discussed the possibility of establishing a Capital Reserve. This would be a Proposition put before the voters on May 19th. It would be no additional cost to the community and the District would not be able to spend money without voter consent.

Mr. Press stressed that these are preliminary numbers, and are likely subject to change based upon finalized state aid projections. He will keep the Board of Education and the community updated as further information becomes available.

Under **CONSIDERATION OF BUDGET ITEMS** – Staff and community members were given copies of the Proposed 2020-2021 Budget items. They were invited to ask questions on any items as the Board and Administration discussed the various items listed in these reports.

The next Budget Workshop is March 10th and additional workshops will be scheduled as needed.

Residents were permitted to ask questions.

At 8:13 p.m. the Budget Workshop was adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Theresa Bryant, District Clerk