

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 10, 2020 at 7:41 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 #9-242: Upon the motion of Mr. Magaraci, seconded by Mr. Katrakazis and carried by seven, a resolution was adopted approving a Request for Proposal (RFP) for School Transportation Consultant Services to School Source Technologies, LLC for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Docket #9-243: Upon the motion of Mr. Magaraci, seconded by Mr. Katrakazis and carried by seven a resolution was adopted approving the nomination of Deborah Ann Coates, Douglas J. Pascarella and Eric B. Schultz to run for the Nassau BOCES Board for a three year term effective July 1, 2020.

Before the Budget Workshop began, students from the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council gave a presentation to the Board regarding their suggestions to improve the schools.

Cornwell Avenue would like to see more vegetables and a salad bar offered in the cafeteria. They are interested in a Minecraft Club and a soccer field, complete with scoreboards and goal nets.

George Washington students would like to see flexible seating, a book vending machine and a garden to grow nutritious foods.

The Middle School students are interested in more competitive team activities – i.e., games, cards. They would also like a breakout room to foster team building activities.

Students at the High School requested that ram statues be placed in front of district buildings to foster RamPride. They, too, are interested in flexible seating and a salad bar. In addition they would like to create a Step Club and a Life Skills class to prepare students for life after high school and college.

Under **BUDGET WORKSHOP** – Mr. Press informed residents that this budget meeting will review the instructional categories and revenues portion of the budget and reviewed the budget timeline. Mr. Press then highlighted the following topics:

The 2020-21 Proposed Budget is \$65,625.600, with a budget-to-budget increase of \$2,049,823; a 3.22% spending increase and a 2.96% tax levy increase. Budget Adoption is on April 21st.

Challenges to budgeting include the 2% tax levy limit legislation; Foundation aid not fully funded; attempts to cap state aid, BOCES aid and transportation aid. In addition, 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/AIS and special education mandates.

Mr. Press then reviewed the various instructional area codes and announced that the budget included the addition of a special education teacher to support a 12:1:1 or a 15:1:1 class at Cornwell Avenue, a psychologist for CPSE and to service out of district students. It also includes the addition of a teaching assistant, as well as school monitors to accommodate the needs of our special education students. He reviewed revenue projections and projected state aid. He discussed the 2020-21 initiatives, which include AP Capstone, new course offerings, high school business

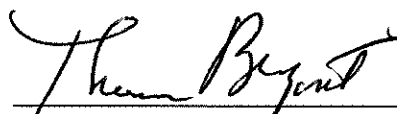
electives, the extension of Investigations Math to grades 2-3, a new science program and career exploration for special education students.

Mr. Press spoke about placing a Proposition before the voters on May 19th establishing a Capital Reserve Fund. This would allow the district to complete larger capital projects that could not be included in the annual budget, at no additional cost to taxpayers. The reserve would be funded from unspent money remaining at the end of the school year. A “yes” vote in May would simply allow the district to open the capital reserve fund. No funds could be spent from the reserve without a vote by residents authorizing the spending. He stated that the majority of school districts in Nassau County have a capital reserve fund.

Mr. Press reiterated that these are preliminary numbers and are likely subject to change based upon finalized state aid projections. Another possible budget meeting may be held on March 24th.

The Board then took questions from residents in attendance.

At 8:42 p.m. upon the motion of Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Magaraci and carried by seven, the Budget Workshop was adjourned.



Theresa Bryant, District Clerk