

Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Discussion of the Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, Levittown, New York. The meeting was held at the Stephen E. Karopczyc School, 74 Farmedge Road, Levittown, New York, on Wednesday, February 25, 2015.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Donahue, President, at 7:00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Daniel Donahue, President
Mr. Paul Giambona, Vice President
Mr. Brian Fielding
Mrs. Kim McDonough
Mrs. Barbara Medellin
Mr. Michael T. Rich, Jr. (arrived 7:02 PM)

ABSENT: Mrs. Kristen Daum

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Charles J. Murphy, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Arlene Genden Sage, Assistant Superintendent for Special Ed.
Mrs. Susan Hlavenka, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Mrs. Elizabeth Roemer, Admin. for Ed. Progs., Literacy & Staff Devel.
Mrs. Concetta Carr, District Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Donahue led the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence for our troops.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Murphy began the discussion by stating that the Governor has not released State Aid numbers. The district does not know where it stands at this time. As the budget is discussed, a scorecard will be kept until the numbers are released. Topics discussed were:

1. Art – Mr. Scott Roemer and Mr. John Rezek were available to discuss and answer questions regarding the ideas for enhancing the art department. Ideas discussed were: three new high school course offerings: Digital Media Productions, New Media – “Computer Based Art and Graphic Arts/Printmaking, Apple Mac Work Station Lab (HS), Studio Art Summer School, Studio Art (8th grade elective for selective students). This will open up a 5-year art program.

A member of the Budget Committee asked how these ideas came about. Were they requested by the teachers?

2. Assistant Coaches – Mr. Jim Cranmer, Director of Athletics, was available to discuss and answer questions regarding putting back assistant coaches for Boys/Girls Basketball, Boys/Girls Soccer, Boys/Girls Lacrosse, Softball/Baseball, Spring/Winter Track. Salaries for the assistant coaches for the 2014-2015 school year were provided by a grant from Senator

Kemp Hannon in the amount of \$50,000. Mr. Cranmer proposed this for the 2015-16 school year and is currently in the budget. He stated it is easier to run practices with an assistant and for safety reasons.

Members of the Budget Committee asked if participation has gone up or down, suggested strength and conditioning program, and combining smaller teams with other districts.

3. Music – Mrs. Susan Oliveto, District Chairperson for Music, was available to discuss and answer questions regarding music staffing. Most of the discussion focused on the creating of a new 3rd grade orchestra program. Students would be starting an instrument (strings) one year sooner. Music teachers, Mrs. McGrory, Mrs. Ramos, and Ms. Vasco, were present to support this initiative. Other ideas were: add back 7th/8th grade choral lessons, create new 8th grade guitar music elective, and move elementary general music sections from elementary band/orchestra teachers.
4. Capital Work – Mr. Louis DiPadova, Director of Plant and Facilities, was available to discuss the capital work projects. Some of the items discussed were high school lights remote system, message board, Stokes window lintels, landscaping at the memorial middle school and Stokes, Sparke parking, high school auditorium flooring and lighting, memorial middle school stage and window curtains, Stokes window curtains and handicapped accessible gang bathrooms.

EXECUTIVE

SESSION:

On **Motion** of Mrs. Medellin, seconded by Mr. Giambona, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:12 PM to discuss a personnel issue.

RETURN TO

REGULAR

SESSION:

On **Motion** of Mr. Giambona, seconded by Mrs. McDonough, and unanimously carried (6-0), the members came out of Executive Session at 9:24 PM.

ADJOURNED:

On **Motion** of Mr. Giambona, seconded by Mr. Rich, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr
District Clerk

Minutes approved _____