

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 26, 2014.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Daum, Vice President, at 7:00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Kristen Daum, Vice President
Mr. Daniel Donahue
Ms. Patricia Mahon
Mrs. Kim McDonough
Mrs. Barbara Medellin
Mr. George Storm

ABSENT: Mr. Kenneth Rochon, President

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.
(left at 7:38 PM)
Mrs. Concetta Carr, District Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Daum led the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mrs. Susan Hlavenka spoke about the partial tax exemption that certain veterans who served during wartime are getting on their county taxes and who are now eligible to get a partial exemption on their school taxes. She explained that the wartime level is determined by the county assessor. She also stated that “Gold Star Parents” (parents of unmarried soldiers killed in battle) will be eligible for a partial tax exemption.

ACTION ITEM

Board of Education Approval to Adopt “Gold Star Parents” Veterans Partial Tax Exemption from School District Real Property Taxes

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, a **Motion** was made by Ms. Mahon, seconded by Mr. Storm, and unanimously carried (6-0) to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, paragraph (b) of subdivision 7 of section 458-a of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York allows the District to provide tax exemptions to “Gold Star Parents,” as defined by section 458-a, who are owners of qualified real property in the District and such property is the primary residence of such Gold Star Parent, and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the community to provide such relief to the Gold Star Parents residing in our District, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education elects to participate in the exemptions afforded to “Gold Star Parents” of Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 7, paragraph (b),

AND IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District adopts the statutory basic maximums as defined by Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a) and (b) for its maximums for exemptions of Real Property Tax Law section 458-a, subdivision 2, paragraphs (a) and (b).

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board of Education accepted the Financial Report for December, 2013, as presented.

DISCUSSION

Dr. Murphy recognized the members of the budget committee who were present at this meeting. Dr. Murphy began the budget discussion by stating that a few weeks ago, the district was looking at a 2.1% tax levy. Today, we are at a .82% tax levy and budget-to-budget increase. This percentage could change due to issues such as universal pre-k. The district is waiting for final information from the state. Dr. Murphy said the budget is still a work in progress.

PRESENTATIONS

Budget review presentations were made by the following:

- a. Curriculum and Instruction
- b. Library
- c. Art
- d. Music
- e. Stokes
- f. Sparke

**COMMENTS
FROM VISITORS
(OLD & NEW
BUSINESS):**

A resident asked a question about the 9th grade assessment exam.
A resident asked a question about salaries, health care and retirement.
A resident asked a question about teachers retiring and new hires.
A resident asked a question about BOCES renting rooms in Sparke.
A resident asked questions about the Farmedge property appraisal and bids.
A resident asked a question about the BOCES lease.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Storm, seconded by Mr. Donahue, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:30 PM. to discuss a personnel issue.

**RETURN TO
REGULAR
SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Storm, seconded by Ms. Mahon, and unanimously carried (6-0), the members came out of Executive Session at 9:17 PM.

ADJOURNED:

On **Motion** of Mrs. Medellin, seconded by Mr. Donahue, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr
District Clerk

Minutes approved _____