

Minutes of the Work Session/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, March 18, 2015.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Daniel Donahue, President
Mr. Paul Giambona, Vice President
Mrs. Kristen Daum
Mr. Brian Fielding
Mrs. Barbara Medellin
Mr. Michael T. Rich, Jr.

ABSENT: Mrs. Kim McDonough

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.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS: None

ACTION ITEMS: The Action Items listed on the agenda were reviewed and discussed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Midterm Review – Mr. Grande, high school principal, was present to provide an update of the midterm exam results. He stated that most of the grades were in the 70's, and that at the mid-point, this is normal. Each department came up with a plan moving forward.
2. Ranking - Mr. Grande also spoke about ranking. He said that we should be over 60% in advanced Regents rate. AP test takers have doubled and students have been successful and the results have been good. He also explained that the low rate a few years ago was solely based on the Trig. Advanced Regents. The math requirement to graduate was increased from 3 to 4 years. The high school is still working to improve things. They

- are continuing to change the culture at the high school. The closed campus has been a success. It is a more academic place.
3. Curriculum/Instruction/Staff Development - Mrs. Roemer presented to the Board the 2015-15 budget and how it pertains to curriculum, instruction and staff development. She explained that her budget was based on maintaining and improving instruction. The bulk of the budget is devoted to staff development and curriculum development.
 4. Summer Support – Dr. Murphy explained why the YES program was reduced. The District is proposing a summer support program, intervention program, for students in grades 1-4 in reading and small groups of math (close to 90 very at-risk students – 2 sessions of 90 minutes). This is intervention, not YES. This money is in the budget right now. The high school summer school program is also in the budget. There are a lot of teachers interested in working in the program. A resident asked about continued attendance of students in these programs. Dr. Murphy stated that the commitment of the students is to attend the program daily. If students don't show up, they can be replaced by other students.
 5. Science Research – Mrs. Rigo, high school Science Chairperson, and Mr. Grande were in attendance to speak about the proposed science research program. Dr. Murphy explained that the district has been speaking about starting this program for years. Mrs. Rigo visited many schools that have this program. She distributed information and a proposal. She explained that it would be more cost effective for the district to send students to the LISRA Institute once a week after school from 5-8 p.m. This program would be started in the 9th grade. Dr. Murphy also explained that at this time there are students who would be eligible for this program who will be 9th graders next school year.
 6. Budget Committee Report/Feedback – Ms. Patricia Mahon, Mr. Russell Heigl, and Mrs. Cathy Costanza from the Budget Committee presented their feedback and ideas for the 2015-16 budget. A handout was distributed.

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

- A resident asked a question about opting-out of assessment tests.
- A resident asked if Health is in the budget for summer school.
- A resident asked questions about the Superintendent's contract.
- A resident commented about how things are said at the meetings.
- A resident asked how the Budget Committee is selected.

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EXECUTIVE

SESSION:

On **Motion** of Mr. Fielding, seconded by Mr. Giambona, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:49 PM to discuss the library lease.

RETURN TO

REGULAR

SESSION:

On **Motion** of Mr. Giambona, seconded by Mr. Rich, and unanimously carried (6-0), the members came out of Executive Session at 9:07 PM.

ADJOURNED:

On **Motion** of Mr. Giambona, seconded by Mrs. Medellin, and unanimously carried (6-0), the meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr
District Clerk

Minutes approved _____