

Minutes of the Budget Hearing 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, Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

The meeting was called to order by the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Charles Murphy, at 7:33 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mrs. Kristen Daum
Mr. Brian Fielding
Mr. Michael T. Rich, Jr.

ABSENT: Mr. Daniel Donahue, President
Mr. Paul Giambona, Vice President
Mrs. Kim McDonough
Mrs. Barbara Medellin

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

BUDGET HEARING

Dr. Murphy stated that the proposed budget was approved by the Board a couple of weeks ago, and he has been making presentations to the PTA's since then. The theme of this year's budget is "A New Day for Island Trees." We are very fortunate this year with our budget. A stronger economy has produced new revenues with an increase in state aid for our district. Budget-to-budget increase is .82% and Tax Levy is 1.6%. Dr. Murphy went over a power point presentation where he spoke about tax levy averages in Nassau County, Suffolk County, Long Island and Island Trees, and we are in line with all. He spoke about the items that are on the budget for next year. He went over the items which are listed in the district Budget Newsletter. Some of the items mentioned included the Apple Mac Art Lab at the high school, assistant coaches, new trees and shrubs to replace ones that were removed at the buildings, message board at the middle school, Stokes window lintels, new marching band uniforms, new music staff (.5 FTE), Z-Space Holographic Images Science Lab, summer support programs (ESL, Special Ed., Middle School Math (grade 8) and elementary ELA and Math (1-4) pilot), Chromebooks for high school and middle school, district-wide Computers, Promethean and Smart Board upgrades, Board Docs, Board meeting video recording, school election organization system, staffing added for flexibility, high school track replacement,

high school little theater renovation, and elevator at Stokes. The district has an architect preparing a 5-year evaluation of our buildings to address capital needs district-wide.

Dr. Murphy also stated our district received a top rating for the second year in a row based on the fiscal stress monitoring system. Our financial strength looks very good according to the NY State Comptroller's office.

Dr. Murphy pointed out that a 1.6% tax levy equates to an \$86 per household increase on average.

He also mentioned the \$2 billion Smart Schools Bond Act that voters approved last November. The money the district plans to receive, \$1.5 million, will be used to update our technology infrastructure.

COMMENTS

FROM VISITORS: A resident asked a question about the assistant coaches.
Resident also asked a question regarding coaching of gifted students.

At this evening's budget hearing the following information was available for public review:

- Proposed 2015-2016 Budget in Three Part Format
- District Administrators' Salaries
- Exemption Report
- Property Tax Report Card
- Fiscal Accountability Summary
- District School Report Cards

These printouts have been available in the Business Office since April 28, 2015, and will be available until the budget vote on May 19, 2015.

ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr
District Clerk

Minutes approved _____