

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 3, 2011.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board of Education, Ms. Patricia Mahon, at 8:02 PM.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Robert Condela

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. Concetta Carr, District Clerk

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

BUDGET HEARING

Dr. Murphy began by stating that there have been many budget meetings, and the Board and Mrs. Susan Hlavenka, Assistant Superintendent for Business, were available to respond to people if they had questions about the budget. He also stated that we knew it was going to be a tough budget year. We lost about 9% in state aid (over \$1.3 million). We get a small amount of funds from grants, but the district depends on the revenues received from taxes. A decrease in revenues was attributed to pension and health care cost increases and mandated retirement contributions. The district tried to keep the expenditures down - .52% - being mindful of the community. We are at the top 10% of the districts on Long Island with a low budget-to-budget increase. The district was able to keep the tax levy low – 2.99%. Dr. Murphy continued by saying that the district started with a 7% budget and the Board got it down to 2.99% along with the direction from the Budget Committee. Teaching staff was reduced, but the district got creative by reducing and collapsing sections. The club activities expense was also reduced. The children will still get the opportunity to participate in the clubs but will attend less times than before. The district was able to reduce the teaching staff expense by \$500,000. This budget includes some needed capital projects: intercom systems in three schools (High School, Sparke, and Stokes), and a new technology virtualization plan. Also, custodial/maintenance overtime was reduced to cut costs.

Dr. Murphy pointed out that there is a lot of budget information on the Island Trees website showing that we are in a very good position financially and where our budget stands compared to similar districts.

Ms. Mahon stated that voting the budget down would only make a \$50,000 difference (contingency budget), which would still be a 2.7% tax increase. The capital projects and the computer project would be taken out of the budget.

The budget vote and trustee election is on May 17, 2011, at Michael F. Stokes School from 12 Noon to 9 PM.

COMMENTS

- FROM VISITORS:** A resident had a question about meet the candidate night.
A resident had a question about the tax impact on a home (assessed value).
A resident had a question about the tax rate.
A resident had concerns about spending the reserve funds.

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

- Proposed 2010-2011 Budget in Three Part Format
- District Administrators' Salaries
- Exemption Report
- Property Tax Report Card
- District School Report Cards

These printouts have been available in the Business Office since April 15, 2011, and will be available until the budget vote on May 17, 2011.

ADJOURNED: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr
District Clerk

Minutes approved _____