

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 Geneva N. Gallow School, 74 Farmedge Road, Levittown, New York, on, Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

The meeting was called to order by the President of the Board of Education, Mr. Peter Ray, at 8:02 PM.

PRESENT: Mr. Peter Ray, President
Mr. Carl Bonsignore, Vice President
Mr. Joseph Buda
Mr. Robert Condela
Ms. Patricia Mahon
Mr. Kenneth Rochon

ABSENT: Mrs. Christine Holt

Also Present: Mr. James Parla, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Dana DiCapua, Assistant Superintendent for Business; and Mrs. Concetta Carr, District Clerk.

Mr. Ray led the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence for our troops and veterans.

PLEDGE

BUDGET HEARING

Mr. Ray began the meeting by thanking everyone for attending this evening.

Mr. Parla also thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He announced Budget Vote is on Tuesday, May 19, at the Michael F. Stokes School from 12 Noon to 9 PM. He announced that presentations will also be given at the Stokes PTA, Sparke PTA, and PTSA meetings.

He began the Powerpoint presentation with the current budget for the 2008-2009 school year. He stated that this was the lowest budget to budget increase in ten years. He said that State Aid is falling short of our budget requirements. The tax levy for 2009-2010 is the fourth lowest increase in 10 years, which is 3.98% and a proposed budget increase of 2.95%. He also stated that the Board of Education is trying to keep the tax burden off the residents as much as possible.

Mr. Parla presented a section-by-section analysis of the budget. He

stated that the Board of Education tried to keep as much as possible for the educational programs while keeping expenses down.

He announced that cuts were made in administrative staff, p/t dean position, 9.5 teaching positions, clerical staff, reading aides, library clerks, custodial staff, a nurse, and a reduction in BOCES technical support staff. The summer YES, Saturday academy and the freshman baseball team have cut. There is a reduction in requested materials, supplies, equipment and conferences. Mr. Parla contacted SCOPE about doing a summer program. It would cost about \$200-\$225 per student. SCOPE has agreed to run a full-day child care program for the same period of time as the summer YES program.

Mrs. DiCapua, Assistant Superintendent for Business, continued with the summary of the 2009-2010 proposed budget.

Questions and opinions from the public pertained to:

1. Expenditures
2. Financing of lead project at the high school.
3. Ways to decrease the budget
4. Retiree concerns about increased taxes
5. The elimination of reading aides
6. The elimination of the library clerks

At this evening's budget hearing, Mr. Parla had the following information available for public review:

- Proposed 2009-2010 Budget Summary including Expenditures, Revenues, Fund Balance, Tax Levy and 3-Part Budget Comparison Summary.
- Exemption Report
- District Administrators' Salaries
- Proposed 2009-2010 Budget divided into three components, pursuant to Chapter 436 of the Laws of 1997 – Administrative, Program and Capital. This budget printout will include 2008-2009 Actual Budget, 2009-2010 Proposed Budget, the change in dollar

amount and the percentage change. These headings will also be available in the ST-3 format.

- Property Tax Report Card
- District School Report Cards

These printouts have been available in the Business Office since April 28, and will be available until the budget vote on May 19, 2009.

On motion of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mr. Bonsignore, and Unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 8:57 PM to discuss the following items:

**TO EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

1. Lead abatement project
2. Personnel issues pertaining to the high school principal position
3. Personnel issue pertaining to the superintendent search

Executive Session started at 9:16 PM.

On motion of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mr. Bonsignore, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr
District Clerk

Minutes approved _____