

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, February 9, 2011.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Mahon, President, at 7:01 PM.

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

**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. Concetta Carr, District Clerk

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

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

**COMMENTS FROM VISITORS:** There were no comments from the visitors.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Board was asked if there were any questions on the Financial Reports for December, 2010, as presented.

#### **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

This was the first budget discussion for the 2011-2012 School Budget. Dr. Murphy started the discussion by stating that the district has the proposed first draft, which is a starting point. He stated that the district is currently looking at a 5.5% tax levy and a 2.2% budget-to-budget increase.

The major impact to the budget is in employer pension mandated contribution rate increases to the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). This has increased from 8.62% to 11.5% for 2011-2012, \$705,490. Empire health insurance held down costs last year by using reserves. Empire has lost this revenue source, so this has resulted in a

mandated contribution rate increase of 15.78%, or \$716,762. Between the increases in the retirement fund and insurance, this is an additional \$1.6 million in mandated expenses.

Dr. Murphy also discussed some of the proposed capital. The intercoms at the high school, Stokes and Sparke have to be replaced. Also, an inspection by BBS Architects has identified that the kitchen hood system in the high school is not up to code.

The discussion continued with budget presentations from the following:

1. Sparke School
2. Stokes School
3. Island Trees Memorial Middle School
4. Special Education
5. Curriculum and Instruction

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

A resident asked a question regarding whether the district had a dress code or not; particularly, the wearing of hats.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mrs. McDonough, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:16 PM. to discuss a personnel issue regarding a faculty member.

**RETURN TO  
REGULAR  
SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mr. Storm, and unanimously carried (7-0), the members came out of Executive Session at 10:03 PM.

**ADJOURNED:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mrs. Daum, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr  
District Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_

