

EAST ROCKAWAY UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
East Rockaway, New York
Remote Public Budget Hearing
7:00 p.m., May 27, 2020
Meeting Close to Public – Live Streamed on ZOOM

MINUTES

Present through ZOOM:

Keith Gamache, Dominick Vulpis, Neil Schloth, Kristen O’Hagan, Peter McNally, Superintendent Lisa J. Ruiz, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Jacqueline A. Scrio; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Mona Hecht, District Clerk, Vitina Fazi

Absent: None

1. The meeting was called to order by Keith Gamache at 7:04 p.m.
2. Mr. Gamache thanked everyone for joining us this evening for our remote Budget Hearing. This meeting is now in order. He asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge was recited.

Mr. Gamache introduced Ms. Ruiz. Ms. Ruiz welcomed and thanked everyone for attending tonight’s budget hearing. She thanked Ms. Scrio for her strong and dedicated leadership in preparing this year’s budget. Ms. Ruiz recognized and thanked the Board of Education and her administrative team for their support and hard work. She then turned the meeting over to Ms. Scrio who spoke further on the proposed 2020-2021 budget.

Ms. Scrio, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, welcomed everyone to the meeting. She started her presentation by sharing the District’s accomplishments for the past years, all in alliance with the District’s Five -Year Strategic Plan. Ms. Scrio, with the assistance of Ms. Ruiz, showed a PowerPoint presentation which described in detail each component of the budget and budget process. Ms. Scrio also spoke about the effects of COVID-19 on the District’s finances and the impact on operating the buildings. She assured the community that the District is prepared in the event there is additional financial deficits. She stated that all presentations regarding the budget have been posted on the website and encouraged everyone to view them. Ms. Scrio ended her presentation at 8:05 pm. Mr. Gamache thanked Ms. Scrio for her dedication and hard work.

Mr. Gamache, as well as board trustees, Mr. Vulpis, Mr. Schloth, Ms. O’Hagan, and Mr. McNally read prepared statements regarding the importance of maintaining our programs and getting a budget passed. Mr. Gamache thanked all the board members for their input.

There were five pre-submitted questions from community members: (1) is there a retirement incentive to bring costs down; (2) what is the increase in district’s budget for the cost of an absentee ballot election; (3) is there a need for a PPS Assistant Director; (4) are monitors and

aides getting furloughed if buildings do not open in the Fall; and (5) will there be a cost savings in hiring an elementary principal when Ms. Ma leaves.

Mr. Gamache, Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Scio answered the questions which resulted in additional conversation.

Mr. Gamache and Ms. Ruiz then responded to questions which came in through the “chat” regarding 3M Film on windows. Mr. Gamache then went on to recap specific details with the absentee ballot procedures and upcoming budget vote.

3. Mr. Gamache asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon motion made by Dominick Vulpis, seconded by Peter McNally, all in favor and none abstained, the motion was passed unanimously, and the public budget hearing was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vitina Fazi
District Clerk