

HARBORFIELDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREENLAWN, NEW YORK 11740

Kind of Meeting	-	Special Meeting/Budget Meeting
Place of Meeting	-	OMS Auditorium
Date of Meeting	-	April 7, 2010
Board Members Present	-	Mr. Mastroianni, Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Banks, Mrs. Boba, Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Schoer, Mr. Toles
Board Members Absent	-	None
Others Present	-	Mr. Carasiti, Ms. Todaro, Mr. Nimmo, Dr. Koenig, Community Members

Mr. Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Banks, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining agreement status, grievance filed by teaching assistants, and other personnel issues.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried unanimously, the Board returned to the special meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Mr. Mastroianni led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance and asked that all cell phones and beepers be silenced during the meeting.

Budget Discussion

Mr. Carasiti discussed the total expenditures per pupil comparing Harborfields to similar New York State school districts and all New York State public schools. Mr. Carasiti then presented budget scenarios showing a 0% budget increase which would be a contingency budget and a 2.42% budget increase which would be an estimated tax rate increase of 3.31%. With this budget the district would still cut 24.7 staff positions, eliminate the OMS after-school intramural program, reduce interscholastic athletics, eliminate Commerce Plaza, reduce the gifted program, eliminate School-to-Career program, reduce the student assistant liaison, eliminate the cultural arts program, reduce the allocation for summer academy, and reduce miscellaneous items in the maintenance budget by \$30,000.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Mastroianni read an anonymous letter stating that they did not feel the need for the SAIL program.

A resident questioned the cut of \$50,000 in the athletic budget.

A resident asked if parents could offset some of the costs of the sports team. Mr. Schoer stated that it is illegal for a school district to collect money for "pay to play"; however, several organizations, such as HACEF and the Booster Club are able to collect money and donate it to

the district for a particular purpose. This does not guarantee that your child will be picked for the team.

A resident inquired as to the percentage of residents that do not have children attending schools in the district. Mr. Carasiti responded that it was around 60%. She continued that she was unhappy about the cut of the technology teacher at TJL.

A resident inquired as to what is being done regarding energy savings. Mr. Carasiti advised that a contract will be signed with Johnson Controls very shortly. Johnson Controls will be checking on lighting, heat, and other sources of energy in each of our buildings.

Several residents spoke in favor of the SAIL program urging the Board not to eliminate this program.

A resident asked about the status of the high school track and the SMART Boards. Mr. Carasiti advised that the new track should be completed by the start of the new school year. Ms. Todaro responded that the SMART Board proposal was submitted to SED two weeks ago and once it is approved by the state the district will go out to bid.

A resident stated that the athletic budget is being cut another \$25,000 plus the \$50,000 for interscholastic athletics and asked if everyone is sharing equally in these cuts. Mr. Carasiti advised that it is impossible to share equally but it is as close as we can get.

A resident asked about privatizing the custodial staff which would save money on benefits.

Mr. Giuliano asked if we could have information posted to the website regarding sponsorships.

A resident stated that if every parent became a member of the Booster Club we could pay for some of these cuts.

A resident stated that he has lived in the community for 25 years and has nothing but terrific things to say about our programs. He continued that if everyone with children spoke to 10 residents without children about getting the budget approved this would be a very good investment.

A resident asked about the teachers' salaries. Mr. Carasiti stated that the district is in contract negotiations at this time and cannot discuss this item. She asked what is in the budget for salaries. Mr. Carasiti responded that \$700,000 is contained in the budget for step increases. All administrators took a freeze last year and this year their increase will be 3 1/2% to 4%. This is a contractual obligation. Mr. Mastroianni advised that Mr. Carasiti took a freeze last year and will also take a freeze this year.

A resident asked that the librarian cut to Washington Drive be reconsidered.

Board Discussion

Mr. Mastroianni and Mr. Banks stated that they would be in favor of an after school enrichment program at OMS in place of second teams. The Board asked if Commerce Plaza could be done

as a field trip. Ms. Todaro stated that it could be. Mr. Banks asked that the School-to-Career program not be totally eliminated from the budget.

Mr. Carasiti advised the Board that these items would be further discussed at the April 14 meeting at which time the Board must adopt the budget.

It was the **consensus** of the Board that an additional \$25,000 be allocated for the after school enrichment program at OMS. The voting was as follows:

AYES: Mr. Mastroianni, Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Banks, Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Schoer, Mr. Toles

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Boba

It was the **consensus** of the Board that .4 School-to-Career position at the high school be put back into the budget. The voting was as follows:

AYES: Mr. Mastroianni, Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Banks, Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Schoer, Mr. Toles

NAYS: Mrs. Boba

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Toles, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the special meeting of April 7, 2010 at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Muller
District Clerk