

APPROVED MINUTES

HARBORFIELDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GREENLAWN, NEW YORK 11740

Kind of Meeting	-	Special Meeting/Budget Meeting
Place of Meeting	-	OMS Auditorium
Date of Meeting	-	April 14, 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, Greg Guercio, Esq., Community Members

Mr. Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Banks, and carried (6-0), the Board along with counsel moved to executive session at 6:06 p.m. for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Mr. Giuliano entered the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Mr. Guercio left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried unanimously, the Board returned to the special meeting at 7:45 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 budget scenario that would be voted on by the Board this evening and also explained a contingency budget.

The Board discussed the reduction in athletics, the elimination of school-to-career, and the phase out of the SAIL program. The Board stated that they were disappointed and unhappy with these cuts but that in order to keep a tax rate that would be supported by all the residents they had little choice. Mr. Carasiti continued that at the present time approximately 27 staff positions are being eliminated, there will be a partial reduction to the gifted program, the cultural arts program will be eliminated, summer academy will be eliminated, the OMS after-school intramural program will be eliminated, and there will be a reduction in maintenance items from the budget. If the district is faced with a contingency budget, additional reductions will result in the elimination of the Science Research program, the Student Assistant Liaison, clubs from all schools, the gifted program, conferences for staff/administrators, and further reductions in the interscholastic team budget.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time Mr. Mastroianni read three e-mails expressing concern about SAIL, student athletics, and clubs. Mr. Mastroianni advised the public that the Board has received many e-mails regarding the SAIL program

A teacher read a letter to the Board from the SAIL teacher which expressed her concern about the anonymous letter that was read at last week's Board meeting stating that she never suggested to students or parents that they speak on her behalf regarding the SAIL program.

A resident asked if the district could place information on the website regarding how much money would need to be raised to reinstate a program and when the money would need to be in. Mr. Carasiti responded that the money would be needed by July 1.

A student stated that sports are the most recognized program and the students want to be a part of the sports program.

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

A resident spoke on fiscal responsibility and asked why we are spending less on our students than other school districts.

A resident thanked the Board for the work they have done on the budget. He continued that things should be fair all across the board and sports has been cut more than other programs. He continued that money needs to be put back into the sports program.

A student stated that taking equipment away from athletics is not fair.

A former student and coach stated that he felt that education is being pitted against sports. He continued that some of the best education he got was on the ball field.

A resident asked if any effort has been made to obtain grants to support athletics or the SAIL program. Mr. Carasiti responded that the money for grants has dried up. He stated that Harborfields is considered an affluent district and said there is very little money out there because of our middle income wealth.

A resident asked if we are spending our budget dollars or is money going to build up a fund balance. Mr. Nimmo responded that each district is required to keep money in a fund balance in case of an emergency.

A student stated that he was accepted at Villanova and Boston University and he was never in the SAIL program.

A resident thanked the Board for all their hard work on the budget. She continued that she is a major advocate of athletics as well as academics. She stated that she is concerned that the district is losing so many teachers.

FINANCE

4.1 Approval of After-school Childcare Program

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Dr. McDonagh, and carried unanimously, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the use of buildings in the district for the After-school Childcare Program sponsored by the Huntington YMCA for the 2010-11 school year. A formal contract will be presented to the Board of Education for execution at a subsequent meeting. Mr. Giuliano requested a legal opinion on this.

INSTRUCTION

6.1 Overnight Field Trips

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Toles, seconded by Mrs. Boba, and carried unanimously, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the overnight field trips listed below were approved:

- Approximately 13 high school students on the girls' cheerleading team to participate in a cheerleading competition in Virginia Beach, Virginia from April 30, 2010 to May 3, 2010.
- Approximately 100 high school students from the marching band to participate in the summer marching band camp at SUNY Farmingdale from August 19-21, 2010.

BUDGET ADOPTION

2010-2011 Budget Adoption

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Schoer, and carried unanimously, and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education adopted the 2010-2011 school district budget in the amount of \$71,467,605 to be presented to the eligible voters of the Harborfields Central School District at the Annual Election and Budget Vote to be held on May 18, 2010.

INSTRUCTION

Support from Town Hall in dealing with issues in our community

No motion was made on this item.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Boba, seconded by Dr. McDonagh, and carried unanimously, the Board adjourned the special meeting of April 14, 2010 at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Muller
District Clerk