

APPROVED MINUTES

HARBORFIELDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT GREENLAWN, NEW YORK 11740

Kind of Meeting	-	Special Meeting/Budget Work Session
Place of Meeting	-	OMS Auditorium
Date of Meeting	-	March 10, 2012
Board Members Present	-	Mrs. Boba, Mr. Banks, Mr. Mastroianni, Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Schoer
Board Members Absent	-	Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Toles
Others Present	-	Ms. Todaro, Mr. Nimmo, Mr. Sallie, Mr. O'Brien, Ms. Muller, Community Members

Mrs. Boba called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Dr. McDonagh, seconded by Mr. Banks, and carried (5-0), the Board, district office administrators, and district clerk moved to Executive Session at 8:21 a.m. for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations for aides, monitors, and assistants and an employee disciplinary matter.

The Board reconvened the public meeting at 9:05 a.m. Mrs. Boba led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and instructed those in attendance where to exit the building in case of an emergency. She asked that all cell phones be silenced during the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Ms. Todaro gave an overview of the Draft 2012-13 Budget with a PowerPoint presentation. She stated that the goal for today's budget workshop is to identify the 2012-13 budget scenario that meets the needs of our school community, yet complies with the new tax cap legislation.

She continued that the new tax law provides two options to consider in developing the district's budget. Develop a budget which is at or below the allowable tax levy of 2.86% or develop a budget which exceeds the allowable tax levy of 2.86%.

The key factors contributing to the 2012-13 and future budgets are:

- Tax Cap Legislation
- Declining Enrollment
- Reduction in Federal and State Aid
- Federal and State Unfunded Mandates

Ms. Todaro then discussed the comparison of the 2011-12 tax levy and the 2012-13 allowable tax levy. She also discussed the five-year enrollment projections and state and federal stimulus aid.

Ms. Todaro stated the objectives which were considered in the development of the proposed budget. She continued that the 2012-13 budget proposal reflects a tax levy of

3.40% which exceeds the allowable tax levy of 2.86%. The impact of a 3.40% tax levy budget proposal is:

- Reduction of 10.1 K-12 Staff
- Reduction of 1 Administrative Position
- Reduction in Supplies
- Reduction in other areas including utilities, transportation, maintenance, and overtime

If the proposed tax levy cap exceeds the allowable tax levy, the following language must be included on the ballot:

“Adoption of this budget requires a tax levy increase of 3.40% which exceeds the statutory tax levy increase limit of 2.86% for this fiscal year and therefore exceeds the State tax cap and must be approved by 60% of the qualified voters present and voting.”

A comprehensive report on the 2012-13 budget is on file in the office of the Superintendent.

Board members asked several questions regarding the proposed budget including the cost of overtime, sharing transportation for private schools, changing the district's mileage limits (this needs to be placed on the ballot for approval by the community), monitoring the number of buses we use, asking for additional details if the district needs to cut an additional \$300,000 and also what items would need to be eliminated with a \$700,000 cut. The Board asked Mr. Nimmo to explain fund balance and assessed value.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident thanked the Board for doing some hard work and stated that they are doing it with integrity. She stated that if cuts are to be made, they should be made evenly so as not to pit one faction against another.

A resident asked about our transportation contract and if the district is bound by the number of buses they use. He continued that we don't want to eliminate teachers.

A resident thanked the Board for the work they do on behalf of the residents. She continued that the community needs to be more involved in what is happening in the schools. She continued that everyone should bring two new people to the meetings. She suggested that a meeting be held at the public library.

A resident wanted to know what would be included in the \$300,000 cuts.

A resident suggested that the district offer a very good incentive to teachers who are eligible to retire.

A resident suggested that honors and AP classes be combined.

A resident stated that she was against changing the bussing limits.

A resident asked if the Board intended to cut staff proportionately.

Several residents stated that the 4th grade music program reaches many students and hoped that the program was not cut from the budget.

A resident suggested that the district eliminate printing the district calendar.

A resident asked how class size is determined.

A resident asked why the district does not cut physical education classes. Ms. Todaro stated that physical education is mandated three times a week. This district was not in compliance with state regulations; however, we went into compliance about four years ago.

A resident asked what the savings would be if the OMS teams were cut.

A resident asked if the high school student agendas could be eliminated.

A resident asked what the requirements are for being a coach.

A resident asked what they can do to help in the schools.

A resident asked who decides what the budget number is.

A resident asked about health benefits and stated he would be willing to volunteer to check this out for the Board.

A resident stated that the TjL enrichment program should be eliminated.

A resident asked if there is a teaching assistant in every classroom. Ms. Todaro responded that the district does not have teaching assistants in every classroom; however, there are teaching assistants in all of our kindergarten classes.

Ms. Todaro stated that with a 3.4% budget we would try to maintain everything we have. She continued that we have passed our budget with over 60% for the past several years.

Comments from the Board

Mr. Schoer stated that the Board needs a breakdown of the \$300,000.

Mr. Mastroianni inquired as to a transportation alternative if we are on a contingency budget. How many students would be affected? He asked for a map showing the

affected areas. He also asked about crossing guards. He continued by asking if this is an educationally sound and fiscally responsible budget. He stated that future budgets will be a lot more difficult.

Dr. McDonagh stated that the Board is not proposing a 3.4% budget. This is just a starting point. He continued that at this point we do not know what budget we are going to propose. He went on to say that the Board needs much more specific information. Dr. McDonagh asked for class size research by the next meeting.

Mrs. Boba stated that she would like to see all overtime scrapped and that she was uncomfortable with changing our transportation limits.

FINANCE

4.1 Administrative Services Agreement with the Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Nassau County

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Dr. McDonagh, and carried (5-0), the Board tabled this item at this time.

HUMAN RESOURCES

5.1 Extracompensation Appointment Schedule 2011-12

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Banks, and carried (5-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointees specified on the Extracompensation Appointment Schedule attached to the official minutes of March 10, 2012 were approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Schoer, seconded by Mr. Banks, and carried (5-0), the Board adjourned the special meeting of March 10, 2012 at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Muller
District Clerk