

HARBORFIELDS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREENLAWN, NEW YORK

Kind of Meeting	-	Special Meeting
Date of Meeting	-	April 28, 2015
Place of Meeting	-	OMS Auditorium
Board Members Present	-	Dr. McDonagh, Mr. Mastroianni, Ms. Gaughan, Mr. Giuliano, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Steinberg
Board Members Absent	-	None
Others Present	-	Ms. Todaro, Dr. Ianni, Mr. Nimmo, Mr. Cox Ms. Whelan and Community Members

Dr. McDonagh called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Mr. Lee, and carried (6-0), the board and district office administrators moved to Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining negotiations.

The board reconvened the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m., and Dr. McDonagh led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Superintendent's Report

Ms. Todaro announced that the district was embarking on something brand new by hosting our first annual technology fair. It will be held on Friday, May 8, 2015 in the OMS auditorium and will begin at 5:45 p.m. Mr. Cox stated that the response was excellent and they have a number of volunteers. Teachers and students will collaborate to showcase their technology innovation to the Harborfields community. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the event.

Ms. Todaro recalled the grant the district was awarded last year in the amount of \$100,000 from Senators Marcellino and Flanagan. This money was allocated towards the installation of a baseball fence at the high school and the purchase of generators for the district. Ms. Todaro was pleased to report that installation of the baseball fence is complete, and a ceremony is being planned once the senators can coordinate their schedules. Ms. Todaro reminded everyone that banners may be purchased and displayed on the district's fences, facilities, gymnasium, etc. Forms are available on the table in the rear of the auditorium, as well as on the district's website.

Ms. Todaro announced that Friday, April 24, 2015, was the deadline for submitting applications to serve on the district's newly created Full-Day Kindergarten Committee. A total of 28 applications were received and the district will outreach to those selected. The committee will be comprised of two co-chairpersons (Dr. Ianni and Ms. Kelly) along with two community members, four parents, five teachers and one administrator. The committee will be appointed at the May 12, 2015 board meeting.

Ms. Todaro also commented on the capital improvement bond, noting that at the last board meeting, it was brought to our attention that copies of the PowerPoint presentation did not print correctly. The complete PowerPoint presentation has been posted to the district's website and copies are available on the table in the back of the auditorium. She provided a quick synopsis of what was presented at the last board meeting, noting that the overall cost of the bond project is estimated at around \$14 million dollars. She emphasized that this is a preliminary figure, as the projects and associated costs continue to be fine-tuned. She reminded everyone of the upcoming community forums which will be held on June 17, 2015 and June 24, 2015 in the OMS auditorium.

Ms. Todaro mentioned a special event that was held at Harborfields High School. Dr. Manning is the advisor for a group of students who formulated the Wall Street Club. The club has been enrolled in some stock market games, one of which is the Congressional Stock Market Game where the students compete against our Congressman Steve Israel. Congressman Israel graciously accepted Dr. Manning's invitation to come speak to the club's members and that meeting was held yesterday at the high school.

Overview of 2015-2016 Adopted Budget

Ms. Todaro briefly recapped the series of presentations that have been given over the past several months with regard to the 2015-2016 budget. She announced that the proposed budget, adopted at the April 22, 2015 board meeting, remains within the allowable tax levy cap at 1.74% and maintains all the wonderful opportunities for our students. Ms. Todaro reviewed state aid and other revenue, use of reserves and fund balance, as well as staffing changes represented in the budget. Ms. Todaro stated that she was pleased to announce that the budget includes the reinstatement of a 0.5 librarian at Washington Drive Primary School. Ms. Todaro also explained that a second proposition will appear on the ballot for the establishment of a new capital reserve fund. This topic has been discussed at board meetings over the past few months. The original reserve fund, established in 2006, provided for capital projects such as roofing, windows and masonry. The fund is set to expire in 2016 and a decision was made to ask the community to vote on establishing a new capital reserve fund which would expand the scope of permissible projects and transfer the money from the existing fund into the new one. The establishment of this new reserve fund does not impact property taxes.

FINANCE

4.1 Acceptance of Gifts

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following gifts were accepted.

- Gift from General Mills, Box Tops for Education, in the amount of \$1,689.85 to be applied to the WDPS Outreach Fund through the Expendable Trust Account.
- Gift from Ahold Financial Services, A+ School Rewards Program, in the amount of \$1,123.42 to be applied to the TJL Outreach Fund through the Expendable Trust Account.

4.2 2015-2016 Western Suffolk BOCES Administrative Budget & Election of Candidates to Western Suffolk BOCES Board

Upon motion duly made by Ms. Gaughan, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education approved the 2015-2016 Administrative Budget for Western Suffolk BOCES.

Further, upon motion duly made by Ms. Gaughan, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Harborfields Board of Education cast its ballot for two vacant positions for election to Western Suffolk BOCES Board of Cooperative Education Services for the following candidates:

1. Mr. Sydney Finkelstein
2. Mr. Salvatore Marinello

HUMAN RESOURCES

5.1 Professional Appointment

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following professional appointment, in accordance with the schedule attached to the official minutes of April 28, 2015, was approved:

Name	School	Assignment
Joseph Castoro	OMS	K-8 Assistant Principal

5.2 Extracompensation Appointment Schedule

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), and upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the appointees specified

on the Extracompensation Appointment Schedule, as attached to the official minutes of April 28, 2015 were approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident expressed support for the capital improvement bond stating that it has a good blend of projects across many areas. He inquired about the district's plan to educate the public about the bond, especially those who do not attend meetings and may have limited contact with the school district, and he questioned the confidence of the state aid estimate. He also noted that the turf field is a sensitive item and it's important that the community understand why it is included in the list of capital projects. He wondered if there are fears that the turf field would bring down the capital bond. Ms. Todaro responded that the capital bond will include a well-balanced proposal of projects and the district will utilize numerous sources to properly inform the community. Two community forums are planned for the month of June, and mailings, including a newsletter dedicated to the capital bond, will go out to all residents of the district. In addition, social media will also be used as a communication tool to get the word out to the community. Mr. Nimmo responded to the state aid question noting that at this point, the estimate is at 51%. He's confident that when the bond project is submitted to the State Education Department for evaluation, it will be presented in such a way as to maximize the available aid.

A resident suggested that the district start applying for conversion aid for full-day kindergarten just to get an idea of how much we might receive. She also expressed her concern that including the turf field in the capital bond could be the undoing of the bond. She has concerns with the cost of the field, as well as with some reports that suggest the material contained in the field is carcinogenic. She doesn't understand the rationale for going with a turf field. Ms. Todaro noted that the district and the school physician had an opportunity to review the information she submitted on carcinogens in turf fields and none of the articles supported a definitive connection. As for the cost associated with the field, Ms. Todaro emphasized that the cost estimates are preliminary and have to be carefully reviewed. Dr. McDonagh stated that there are research studies from a medical and safety stand point that can be interpreted either way, depending on what body of literature one chooses to read. He noted that the architect could advise the district about the other materials available, and the board has asked the school physician to update his memo on the turf fields. Dr. McDonagh reiterated that costs continue to be reviewed and no final decision has been made as yet. Mr. Mastroianni also commented that use of our fields has grown tremendously over the last few years. He hears the concerns of some community members and they're certainly valid, but he wants to make sure we're looking at both sides of the issue. There's a big difference with adding one turf field compared to the community-sponsored referendum for two turf fields that was brought forward in 2013, and many community members have said they'd support a bond issue that crossed a broad spectrum of improvements such as instructional/co-curricular areas, general facility renovations, auditoriums, gymnasiums, athletic fields, etc.

A resident stated that she understood that there's two ways of looking at the turf field; however, if it's going to put the capital bond at risk, is there a way to break it into two

bonds, one with and one without? Dr. McDonagh stated that it is a possibility and will be taken into consideration as the process moves forward. At this point, the board hasn't even contemplated what the proposition will look like.

A resident inquired about how property taxes would be calculated on a \$14 million dollar bond, before or after state aid? Mr. Nimmo responded that taxes would be based on \$14 million less the state aid. The annual property tax to a household is based on the net of the district's debt service for that year.

A resident and high school student commented that as a student athlete there's a lot of benefit to a turf field. It helps raise the level you play at, and she hopes that everyone will keep an open mind about it. She believes that many people who are voicing opposition to it are those who don't use the fields on a regular basis.

A resident asked if the state aid received would be given during the very first year of the bond and then tend to fluctuate and possibly drop off in subsequent years? Mr. Nimmo responded that the state aid on building projects is written into law so there would be no fluctuation in the aid received.

A resident asked if the capital bond could include better access for handicapped individuals such as walkways, better parking, etc. Ms. Todaro responded that they have received a few other recommendations and would be meeting with the architect to explore those issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Giuliano, and carried (6-0), the board and district administrators moved to Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss the board's evaluation and collective bargaining matters. The board resumed the special meeting at 9:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made by Mr. Giuliano, seconded by Ms. Gaughan, and carried (6-0), the board adjourned the special meeting of April 28, 2015 at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Whelan
District Clerk