

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2010, in the All Purpose Room of the Manor Elementary School, 1590 Washington Avenue, Seaford, New York.

PRESENT: Mr. Brian W. Fagan - President
Mr. Richard G. DiBlasio – Vice President
Mr. John DelGiudice – Trustee (arrived at 7:42 p.m.)
Mr. Bruce Kahn – Trustee
Mr. Michael D. Sapricono - Trustee (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)

Mr. Brian L. Conboy
Mr. Kenney W. Aldrich
Mr. John Striffolino

At 7:35 p.m., the President of the Board of Education opened the Workshop Meeting. As the first order of business, Board President Brian Fagan led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN MEETING

Mr. Fagan welcomed everyone. He spoke about the two topics which will be discussed this evening: Budget Planning and Math & Reading Scores.

OPENING REMARKS

Superintendent Brian Conboy stated that next week is Board of Education Recognition Week. Mr. Conboy spoke about the enormous amount of time each board member dedicates to their position and commended the members of the Board for their dedication to the Seaford School District. He then presented each Board member with a small token of appreciation.

**PRESENTATIONS
RECOGNITIONS**

Topics covered in Mr. Conboy's Administrative Report dated October 15, 2010 included:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

The Hofstra Band Festival is tomorrow evening and the Seaford High School Marching Band will be attending and performing.

Homecoming:

- There was a lot of Seaford Pride at Homecoming.
- The Football team has won 37 straight games.
- Mr. Conboy thanked everyone who volunteered to make Homecoming such a success.

Nassau County Budget Hearing:

- Mr. Conboy and Mr. Aldrich attempted to attend the Nassau County Budget hearing but because it was so crowded were unable to get inside the room.
- This meeting was the result of a proposal of Tax certiorari and sewage usage fee.
 - It is being proposed that non-tax entities would be charged a sewage usage fee based on each gallon of water used.
 - This would basically be an expense to all school districts and it's a way to avoid calling it a tax.
- If this passes next week in the Legislature we will have to talk about building a reserve to help offset this unexpected expense.
- We will update you as we receive more information.

Board Questions/Comments/Concerns:

How much this will cost the school district

Are school districts informed of the grievances that are placed?

What is the process of setting up a reserve for this fee?

- How will districts be able to set these reserves up in accordance with the rules of the New York State Comptroller?

Could a letter be sent to Mr. Mangano inviting him to explain his position and justify these fees prior to the vote next Friday so that taxpayers could be informed about this switch being this burden is a lateral to the school tax part of the tax roll?

Mr. Conboy:

There will most likely be lawsuits re: this charge; however, we may have to plan on reserving between \$100K-\$200K.

Essentially a switch of these taxes from county tax to school tax.

- Tax payers are already paying these taxes and all this does is pass the burden onto the school district which will raise the school district budget

No guidance as of yet during these early stages but it may be prudent for districts to start a reserve prior to 2013 when these fees are proposed to initiate.

Not fair play to school districts because taxpayers do not vote on the County budget.

- Taxpayers do vote on School district Budgets and they will take out their frustration by rejecting a School budget.

Vote for this proposal will take place Friday October 29, 2010 just days before the elections

- Believe this was a purposeful act so members of legislature can vote with party lines.

Administrative Report (cont'd):

Discussion on budget planning is on this evening's agenda

Update on Security Cameras:

- They are all installed and are in the process of being programmed.
- They will be operational very soon.

Contingency in bond is \$669,387

Mr. Condon has been sent a memo re: turf field usage and the Board of Education's direction for its use.

High School graduation will be held on Saturday June 25th at 4:00 p.m.

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS
AGENDA ITEMS**

None

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to accept the recommendation to approve the Personnel Action Report, as amended:

**PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT
INSTRUCTIONAL**

A. Instructional (dated October 20, 2010):

- P-1: POSITION ABOLITION: No Recommended Actions
- P-2: POSITION CREATION: No Recommended Actions
- P-3: RESIGNATIONS: No Recommended Actions
- P-4: LEAVES: No Recommended Actions
- P-5: TERMINATIONS: No Recommended Actions
- P-6: TENURE APPOINTMENTS: No Recommended Actions
- P-7: APPOINTMENTS: No Recommended Actions
- P-8: OTHER:

- a) Recommend the Board of Education approve a sixth period teaching assignment for the 2010-2011 school year for the following teachers of Seaford High School:

Rudolfo Gonzalez	.2 FTE	Spanish
Candice Mahoney	.2 FTE	ESL

- b) Recommend the Board of Education approve the following mentor-teacher appointments for Seaford High School for the 2010-2011 school year. Mentors will receive a stipend of \$2,293.

<u>Mentee</u>	<u>Mentor</u>
Jenna Lubicich	Sonia Zervakos
Kevin Phillips	Lindsay Garncarz

- c) Recommend the Board of Education approve the following coaching assignments for the last two weeks of the High School field hockey season:

Patricia Foley	Varsity Field Hockey	End date: 10/9/10	\$590
Cara Cacioli	Varsity Field Hockey	Start date: 10/11/10	\$2,005
Barbara Richko	JV Field Hockey	Start date: 10/11/10	\$1,416

B. Non-Instructional (dated October 15, 2010):

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

- P-1: POSITION ABOLITION:
- P-2: POSITION CREATION:
- P-3: RESIGNATIONS:

- 1. JAMES W. MCCURDY
Position: Groundskeeper
Civil Service Title: Groundskeeper
Location: District
Effective Date: October 4, 2010

PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT (cont'd)

2. PETER DONOHUE
Position: Substitute Part-time Cleaner
Civil Service Title: Cleaner–Substitute Part-time
Location: District
Effective Date: Upon approval of his Form CS-39
(Part-time Cleaner position) by the
Civil Service Commission.
3. KATHY MARSH
Position: Substitute School Monitor
Civil Service Title: School Monitor (Substitute–Part-time)
Location: District
Effective Date: Upon approval of her application (part-
time Teacher Aide) by the Civil Service
Commission.

P-4: LEAVES:

1. KRISTEN FARKASH
Position: Teacher Aide – Part-time
Assignment: Harbor School
Effective Date: September 27, 2010
Expiration Date: November 29, 2010 (approx)
Leave: Unpaid

P-5: TERMINATIONS: No Recommended Actions

P-6: TENURE APPOINTMENTS: N/A

P-7: APPOINTMENTS: No Recommended Actions

P-8: OTHER:

Rescind the October 7, 2010 appointment of Melissa-Ann Vavrica as a part-time teacher aide (she declined the position).

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to approve acceptance of the determinations of the Special Education Committee Meetings listed below:

CPSE/CSE

1. Recommend acceptance of the determinations of the Special Education Committee Meetings of: 9/1; 9/16; 9/21; 9/23; 9/29; 10/7; 9/28; 10/5.
2. Recommend acceptance of the determinations of the Preschool Special Education Committee Meetings of: 9/23; 9/28; 9/30; 10/3; 10/4; 10/5; 10/7.

Mr. DiBlasio asked if we are maximizing our grants as it pertains to professional development. He also asked if we are sending teachers out for these workshops/conferences and are they training other teachers in order to train teachers who didn't attend.

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education has entered into contract agreements for the 2010/11 school year (July 1st through June 30th) with Kenney W. Aldrich, Assistant Superintendent for Business; John A. Striffolino, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Personnel K-12; and Andrew Ward, Director of Facilities.

No Discussion
Brian Fagan - Aye
Richard DiBlasio - Aye
John DelGiudice - Aye
Bruce Kahn - Aye
Michael Sapraicone - Aye
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to approve the following:

OBSOLETE ITEMS

1. Recommend the Board of Education approve the disposal of seven obsolete VCR's at the Harbor School, as indicated in the Board's documentation.
2. Recommend the Board of Education approve the disposal of five obsolete overhead projectors at the Harbor School, as indicated in the Board's documentation.
3. Recommend the Board of Education approve the disposal of a FAX machine located in the Central Administration Office of the Manor School, as indicated in the Board's documentation.

Mr. Kahn asked if we donate these projectors to other districts prior to discarding. Mr. Conboy explained that these are non- workable and if they were workable we would still be using them.

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Questions, comments and/or concerns raised by the public:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A parent spoke about mailings from the School District to parents of special education students:

- She has been receiving phone calls from parents stating they weren't being informed and involved in our schools and in Special Education because there are no mailings concerning school district business within special education
- In the past SEPTA news letter mailings went home to families of these students keeping the parents informed of SEPTA events, what public speakers would be conducting presentations at which SEPTA meeting, etc.
- Once the district stopped picking up the expense for these mailings these parents stopped being informed about special education.
- The three main groups not being informed are preschool, tuition and Out-of-District students for a total of 99 students.
- How is the district facilitating parental involvement policies to include these parents?

PUBLIC COMMENTS (cont'd)

- Wanted the Board of Education to be aware that the Special Education Department and SEPTA were collaborating in that teachers who attended certain SEPTA meetings were getting professional development.

Parent asked if the Shout Out System could be used to get information out to parents

Administration/Board Comments:

We have a WEB site for parents to utilize and invited SEPTA president to hold further discussions with administration to help resolve the issue.

During prior discussions we offered to allow SEPTA newsletters be placed in either a progress report card or regular report card mailing just like we offer other organizations

Recommendation that someone from Special Education be delegated to liaison with SEPTA to ensure those 99 students receive SEPTA information when the District is sending a mailing from Special Education.

Suggestion that SEPTA prepare an introductory package to be handed to parents during their first CPSE meeting which will give the parent the information about SEPTA.

Shout Out System has been used for school closings etc. but concerned that we may lose the value of this system by sending several different Shout Out phone calls home.

Mr. Conboy stated we recently used the Shout Out to get information out regarding a recent incident at the High School where writing on a bathroom wall was discovered which stated a bomb going to go off.

- Students were moved into the auditorium after it was designated a safe location by the Nassau County Police Department.
- The students were disrupted for a total of 40 minutes until the Police Department conducted a sweep of the entire school.
- There is an active police investigation being conducted.

Areas covered in the discussion on Math & Reading Scores included:

**WORKSHOP TOPIC: MATH
AND READING SCORES**

Power Point presentation on the actual data warehouse program and how it stores data.

- Information is given to BOCES to put into the data warehouse
- Data warehouse breaks down each question allowing the district to pay attention to a specific area and allows for more diagnostics
- How information is used and analyzed

Recent State test scores in ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science in Grades 3-8 and certain regents and advanced placement exams

Breakdown of recent test scores on ELA, Math

- The 2010 administration in ELA saw Seaford students' passing rates fall below the regional (Nassau County) average on 3 of the 6 tested grade levels.
- The 2010 administration in Math saw Seaford students' passing rates fall below the regional average on one of the 6 tested grade levels. Our 3rd grade results were the most surprising with 53% of our students passing the ELA exam, and 65% passing Math exam.
- The 3rd grade ELA exam contained 33 questions. To obtain a passing grade of "3", the student needed to answer 29 of 33 questions correctly. This equates to 88%.

DISCUSSION (ELA & Math Scores) (cont'd)

- The 3rd grade Math exam contained 39 questions. To earn a passing grade of “3” the students needed to answer 34 of 39 correctly. This equates to 87%.
- Seaford has scored well above the state and regional average on most grade levels since the inception of the grade 3-8 testing program in ELA and Math
- Changing of the cut off scores by New York State after the administration of the spring 2010 assessments caused most districts throughout the state to see a decline in their passing and mastery rates on both exams.

Literacy in Seaford and what the essential elements are of a Balanced Literacy program.

- Curriculum is based on the literacy work developed at Teachers College, Columbia University.
- 3 components to this curriculum; they include a Reading Workshop, a Writing Workshop, and Work.
- Emphasis focuses on meeting the diverse needs of each student through differentiated instruction, individual conferences and small group work.
- Students are engaged in a variety of activities including sustained independent reading and writing.
- Framework provides the teacher with specific daily teaching points for each unit of study which correlates with New York State learning standards.
- Various activities regarding reading programs.

How do we teach Math in Seaford and what are the essential elements of the Everyday Math Program.

- Curriculum emphasizes conceptual understanding while building a mastery of basic skills.
- Explores the full mathematic spectrum, not just basic arithmetic.
- Based on how children learn, what they are interested in, and the future for which they must be prepared
- Spiraled curriculum where students build on understanding over a period of time, first through informal exposure and then through more formal and directed instruction.
- Concepts are taught in a repetitive fashion.
- Curriculum correlates with NYS learning standards
- Various activities re the Math program.

Added instructional focus for 2010-2011 includes:

- Reviewing and tightening instruction with regard to Balanced Literacy and Everyday Math instruction.
- Lesson script for AIS reading sessions
- Leveled literacy intervention
- Ordered Study Island
- Staff Development, particularly regarding reading conferences
- Emphasis on teachers becoming more diagnostic and prescriptive
- Additional ELA and Math materials
- Professional Development for teachers and bringing back what those teachers learn to all teachers in our district

Analyzing programs from other districts whose scores didn't drop as much as ours.

Meeting with other districts to share information.

Diagnostic and prescriptive – what works for one student doesn't necessarily work for another

DISCUSSION (ELA & Math Scores) (cont'd)

Are our programs flexible enough to meet the changes we are faced with Curriculum is sound but we need to get to this group of students in a different way.

New York State mandate that by 2012 every district must have in place an RTI (Response to Intervention) plan.

- Any student that needs intervention in Reading we have to determine if that student needs tier I, II, III, IV intervention.

Beginning next school year (2011-2012) every school district must have in place APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review).

- Teachers will be evaluated based on test scores.
- Can we measure how our 3rd graders and current 4th graders are doing before this is placed in effect

After all this analysis have we looked at the reason as to why this change in test scoring affected Seaford more than other districts?

- Concerned about what it is that we did wrong to obtain these scores - what is it that we did or did not do.
- Will enhance our curriculum instead of preparing for a test.

At 9:40 p.m. Mr. Fagan announced they would take a ten-minute break.

BREAK

The meeting resumed at 9:50 p.m.

MEETING RESUMED

Areas covered in the discussion on Budget Planning included:

**WORKSHOP TOPIC:
BUDGET PLANNING**

Presentation to Board of the first look at the 2011-2012 budget.

Expected increases in the budget by category.

Loss of ARRA grants

Expected budget increase is estimated at \$3,146,033

Cost of carrying the Seaford Avenue building

Contingency budget to budget increase may be approximately 3%

District's total expense on medical insurance

- Expecting up to a 16% increase starting Jan 1, 2011

Both gubernatorial candidates are taking a position of a tax cap

Programs that are no longer funded that will be added to the budget.

Knowns and unknowns.

- Can't expect more than what we got last year in state aid.
- Education jobs fund has no funding for next year.
- Certain programs won't be funded.

Need to set up a time line early including when the budget advisory committee should meet.

Can't afford to give back through fund balance of \$650,000

Reserves are extremely low and need to be rebuilt

Zero-based budget

Current mandates: AIS services, Remediation, RTI, New evaluation system.

Special Education costs

- Need for a plan in place for the Special Education Department to send our employees out for the right professional development with an intention to expand our programs for our own children.
- Need for strong professional development

Revenue – Tuition-based students

Princeton Plan

Seaford Avenue Building

DISCUSSION (Budget Planning) (cont'd)

Medical Plan options

Strategy for next workshop meeting

- Look at what we budgeted vs. what we actually spent and move forward from there.

Each future workshop will dedicate time to discuss the budget.

Closing remarks by the Administration and Board

CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Conboy gave an update regarding the Seaford Avenue building survey

- ◆ Survey will be posted on the District website November 1st and will remain available until November 30th
- ◆ The Board of Education has the discretion to remove it any time prior to the 30th.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. DeGiudice, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 11:20 p.m.

ADJOURN WORKSHOP MEETING

No Discussion.

All Ayes

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard G. DiBlasio,
Board of Education Vice President &
Vice District Clerk