

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Thursday, February 16, 2012, 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. Bruce A. Kahn – Trustee
Ms. Annalisa Siracusa Antonette - Trustee
Ms. Jeanmarie Wink - Trustee

Mr. Brian L. Conboy
Mr. Kenney W. Aldrich
Mr. John Striffolino
Mr. Christopher Venator – Attorney

At 7:32 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

None

OPENING REMARKS

None

**PRESENTATIONS
RECOGNITIONS**

Topics covered in Mr. Conboy's Administrative Report dated February 10, 2012 included:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Budget Planning will be discussed later in the meeting

- Budget planning will need to be discussed at every subsequent meeting
- Line by line budget proposal given to Board to be used as a foundation for budget discussions
- Need to assign discussions for each of those meetings

Governor's thirty-day deadline for State Education and New York State United Teachers to settle dispute that was leading to the delay getting the APPR statute in place

- News conference today announcing agreement reached on APPR
- Ingerman, Smith to send out guidance document for putting APPR in place
- Believe what we have in place so far is good
- APPR must be in place in every New York School District by January 17, 2013; those districts that do not have it in place will be subject to losing State Aid
- Seaford will be working to make sure we get our APPR in place in a timely fashion

New back-up information for transfers on tonight's agenda given to Board
Information from Nassau and Suffolk County Council of Superintendents outlining financial challenges of this year and sensible reforms

Information concerning recent discussions on purchasing in our District and Board policy concerning same

- Believe some language within purchasing policy needs to be firmed up so there is no misunderstanding going forward

Update from Hamburger, Maxson, Yaffe, Knauer and McNally firm concerning the appeal on the fight concerning tax certioraris

Concussion management policy changes

John Striffolino's newsletter sent out with all report cards on New York State Common Core Standards

Manor Teacher Katie Haug has been chosen to receive the prestigious award by Nassau BOCES as one of their education partners this year

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –
AGENDA ITEMS**

None

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to acknowledge acceptance for audit of the Budget Transfers, as indicated in the new budget transfer detail sheet.

BUDGET TRANSFERS

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 of January 23 and 26, 2012.

CPSE/CSE

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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

CONTRACTS

1. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a contract with the Hempstead School District for three Seaford-residing students currently attending Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead for the 2011-2012 school year at a cost of \$2,649 (\$883 per student).
2. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a contract with the Massapequa Public Schools for six Seaford-residing students currently attending private/parochial schools in Massapequa for the 2011-2012 school year at a cost of \$4,804.20 (\$800.70 per student).
3. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a contract with the Uniondale UFSD for thirty-four Seaford-residing students currently attending private/parochial schools in Uniondale for the 2011-2012 school year at a cost of \$20,885.86 (\$614.29 per student).
4. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a contract with the Plainedge Public Schools for eighteen Seaford-residing students currently attending Maria Regina School in Plainedge for the 2011-2012 school year at a cost of \$9,918 (\$551 per student).
5. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a contract with the Jericho Public Schools for five Seaford-residing students currently attending the Long Island Lutheran School in Jericho for the 2011-2012 school year at a cost of \$4,845.75 (\$969.15 per student).

**HEALTH SERVICES
CONTRACT – HEMPSTEAD
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**HEALTH SERVICES
CONTRACT – MASSAPEQUA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**HEALTH SERVICES
CONTRACT – UNIONDALE
UFSD**

**HEALTH SERVICES
CONTRACT – PLAINEDGE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT
– JERICO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Areas covered in the discussion on Health Services Contract:

- Term of Health Services contracts
Timeline of receipt of contracts to District
Districts bill Seaford for health services for Seaford students who attend private/parochial schools in other Districts
- Mechanisms in place to assure proper payment

CONTRACTS (cont'd)

6. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a rental and service contract with Northeastern Office Equipment from February 23, 2012 – July 1, 2012 for twelve Savin machines at a cost of \$18,965.12.

**CONTRACT – NORTHEASTERN
OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

Areas covered in the discussion on Northeastern Office Equipment Contract:

- Clarification of term of contract – 4.25 months
- Need for this contract (office machines)
- No greater cost than District had been paying monthly
- Did we need all 12 machines; did we consider consolidating machines
- Expectations are to consolidate machines with future contracts
- Possibility of overages on machines;
Board needs to be assured cost will not go over; do not believe we need all twelve machines; why not consolidate for the next four months and save money
- Administration comfortable with projections - no expectation to go over and no additional cost to District

7. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a contract with Just Kids Diagnostic & Treatment Center for Special Education services that will be provided during the 2011-2012 school year at a cost of \$291.

**CONTRACT – JUST KIDS
DIAGNOSTIC & TREATMENT
CENTER**

8. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a contract with Literacy Builders of Plainview, New York for providing professional development to Seaford School District teachers in grades 3, 4 and 5 in the area of English Language Arts/Literacy. This agreement is in effect March 1, 2012 – May 30, 2012.

**CONTRACT – LITERACY
BUILDERS OF PLAINVIEW**

9. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a contract with RCP Consultants Inc. of Oceanside, New York for providing professional development to Seaford School District teachers in grades 3, 4 and 5 for the purposes of ELA strategies and test-taking skills. This agreement is in effect March 6, 2012 – March 30, 2012.

**CONTRACT – RCP
CONSULTANTS, INC.**

Areas covered in the discussion on Literacy Builders and RCP Consultants Contracts:

- Cost of contracts included in back-up but not listed on agenda; in future list cost in agenda
- History of relationship with District and staff development with District
- Specify in more detail hours/days to be worked in future contracts
- Include teachers from other building in professional development
- Change Board approval to all teachers at those grade levels rather than just Harbor teachers

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to accept the donation of two new Wii video games and five slightly used Wii video games from the Seaford SEPTA to be used in the Connections Program located in the Manor and Harbor Elementary Schools and targeted to the fourth and fifth grade students.

DONATIONS

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

The Board and Administration thanked SEPTA for their donation.

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to declare the list of old or damaged books from Janet Capestany in our book depository as obsolete so that they may be removed from the Book Room, as indicated in the Board's documentation.

OBSOLETE ITEMS

Mr. Fagan asked about the possible donation of these books, Mr. Conboy advised that these particular books are very old, pretty beat up and not appropriate for donation. He also advised that the District has donated books in the past and is not ruled out for the future.

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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

FIELD TRIPS

1. Recommend the Board of Education approve the High School's field trip request to The College of New Jersey on Wednesday, February 29, 2012.
2. Recommend the Board of Education approve the High School's field trip request to Monmouth University in New Jersey on Thursday, March 1, 2012.

Brief discussion concerning the cost of the buses, cost to students and District field trip budget.

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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

TEXTBOOK ADOPTION

1. Recommend the Board of Education approve the high school's textbook adoption request for Forensic Science: Fundamentals and Investigation by Anthony J. Bertino, 1st Edition, 2012 copyright date, to be used in the Forensic Science course which fulfills the third year requirement for science.
2. Recommend the Board of Education approve the high school's textbook adoption request for America Now by Robert Atwan, 9th Edition, 2011 copyright date, to be used in all grade 10 English classes to align with the Common Core Standards.

Are text books Smart Board ready and technology ready? First set of books are textbooks and there is an online version. Will be looking at next year's student population to determine online need. Second set of books are readers.

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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 February 16, 2012):

- 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 the following High School club and extracurricular appointment for the 2011-2012 school year.
- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Linda Schwartz | Gay-Straight Alliance Club | \$1,367 (pro-rated) |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|

Brief discussion concerning qualifications/background of candidates for club advisors.

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Areas covered in the discussion on 2012/2013 Budget Planning:

**WORKSHOP TOPIC:
2012/2013 BUDGET
PLANNING**

Governor Cuomo's tax levy cap

- Preliminary information given to districts
- 2% of 2011-2012 Seaford projected tax levy
- Rules governing super majority of voters needed to pass more than a 2% tax cap
- Allowable cap exceptions
 - TRS/ERS does not give Seaford an allowable exception for 2012/2013
 - Capital costs
 - Projects were finished and sent up to State as quickly as possible
 - This year received decent amount of building aid
- Preliminary belief that Seaford's allowable simple majority tax cap would be somewhere between 2% and 3%
- State Comptroller February 15th webinar
 - Worksheet on Comptroller's website which all districts must work from;
 - All districts must submit all their numbers by March 1st; website will tell district's what their allowable tax levy cap is

Seaford's numbers put in on State Comptroller's website worksheet:

- Tax levy for 2011/2012 school year
- Multiplied by tax base growth factor (set by State)
- Pilots (payment in lieu of taxes) received 2011/2012 school year
- Pilots receivable for the school year that will end June 30, 2013
- Tax levy necessary for expenditures resulting from court orders or judgments resulting from tort actions for current school year
- Tax levy necessary for pension contributions and expenditures caused by growth in the system average actuarial contribution rate of ERS, normal contribution rate of TRS in excess of 2 percentage points
- Capital tax levy less building aid for school year ending June 30, 2012
- Capital tax levy less building aid for school year ending June 30, 2013
- Allowable growth factor 2%

2012/2013 BUDGET PLANNING (cont'd)

Difference between 2011/2012 levy and 2012/2013 allowable levy

- 2% for Seaford really means .68%
- Seaford may be the only district in state that cannot propose at least a 2% increase to voters

Calls and correspondence sent to legislators concerning Seaford's numbers

- Seaford In an unusual and unique situation
- All Seaford is asking for is the ability to propose a 2% budget

Current 2012/2013 budgeting situation

- Situation more grave than anyone anticipated
- Seeking legislative support from Senator Fuschillo and Legislator McDonough
- Need to rally support
- Can only raise our tax levy \$304,194 plus the State aid

Comparison of final 2011/2012 budget to preliminary roll over 2012/2013 budget (Board has not done line by line examination)

Revenue

- State Aide
 - Building Aide
 - Interest on investments
 - Health services
 - Tuition from other districts
 - E-Rate Funding
 - Miscellaneous
 - BOCES EBALR refund
 - Driver Education
 - Pilot
 - Comparison of 2011/2012 revenues and expected 2012/2013 revenue
- Current difference between roll-up budget and how much we can raise our budget is \$862,839

- If we could put up the 2% the amount we would be looking for would be approximately \$250,000 (instead of \$862,839)

Letter sent to legislators

Residents should contact their legislators to see if anything can be done; District in a very difficult and dire situation

Importance that Legislators understand what their legislation has done and needs to be reviewed as a long-term situation

Never heard anything that any district would be putting up anything less than 2%

May need to have a meeting for Seaford residents and employees sometime in March to fully understand the situation

Mr. Venator briefly spoke about what he believed occurred concerning legislators approval of the 2% legislation, their understanding of what they voted on and the complexity of the legislation language

- He advised he will communicate with New York State School Attorneys Association to see what if anything they could do to get information out
- Need to ask New York State School Boards Association to put something together to submit to legislators

Important that Superintendents' Council write similar letter as well

Examination of legislation needs to be made

- Unintended consequences can happen with new legislation (if it was unintended)

2012/2013 BUDGET PLANNING (cont'd)

How do we proceed

80% of budget is salaries and benefits

500 line budget

Look at dates of scheduled meetings

- Make a timeline as to what to discuss at each meeting
- Elementary Instruction, Secondary Instruction (Middle School and High School), Special Education, Technology, Athletics, Transportation, Facilities
- Break areas down for discussion; have appropriate personnel present to answer questions as needed
- Budget sheets to list only budget categories to be discussed on that particular evening; if possible subtotal numbers
- Encumbrances should be shown along with current year expenses
- Need to have new costs for next year isolated (such as APPR, 3rd Party Assessments)
- Send letters again this year to all external vendors requesting a decrease or to hold steady their rates
- Funding for professional development will also be needed for APPR
- Look at transportation, ridership, routes, late buses, etc.
- Rules governing pulling parts of budget out and place on separate referendum

Tentative Schedule for 2012/2013 budget discussions:

- March 1 - Facilities, Technology, Transportation
- March 8 - Elementary Instruction
- March 15 - Special Education, Employee Benefits
- March 22 - Secondary Instruction
- March 29 - Athletics

Comments, Questions and/or Concerns Raised by the Public included:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Technology as a referendum
 - When approaching legislators focus on substance and education
 - How sure are we on Special Education enrollment from other districts
 - Credentialing certificates
 - Teacher contracts
 - Funding of tax certioraris if necessary
 - Pilot for Massapequa Nissan
- Communication
 - Budget still going up 4%
 - Budget transfers
 - Show community proposed budget against current budget
 - When fiscal year completed post on website proposed budget compared to what was actually spent.
 - Compare budget brochure numbers to actual numbers
- One year on website has worksheet showing actual vs. proposed
 - Building aid received from State
 - Believe unfunded mandates should be included in budget discussions at future workshop meetings
 - Feel EBALR should be used to fund reserves; huge mistake to use for program
 - What is expected surplus for end of this school year
 - How much do we have in the unrestricted undesignated fund balance reserve; permitted to have 4%
 - Don't follow how we got down so low in fund balance

Hearing from Special Education Department that tuition student enrollment probably not going to change; can expand at Manor one or two students
Board needs to discuss strategies concerning contract negotiations
Need to set up reserve for tax certioraris 2012/2013; payout if necessary will be in 2013/2014

**BOARD/ADMINISTRATION/
COUNSEL**

Town of Hempstead made decision on Pilot of Massapequa Nissan
- Only two people were in audience at hearing - Kenney Aldrich from our District and Frank McKenna from the Seaford Public Library
Budget info will be posted on website Friday
Some mandates are included this year; others will need conversation
Used fund balance in past years to pay down tax levy

Closing remarks by the Administration and Board

CLOSING REMARKS

- ◆ Message to the State – “Albany we have a problem”
Mr. DiBlasio briefly expressed his frustration, disgust and concerns over the current situation
Intention by State was to relieve the burden on taxpayers
Seaford has always played by the rules; Feel sorry for the children
- ◆ Mr. Conboy spoke about his preliminary conversations with Senator Fuschillo and Legislator McDonough and their request to get information in writing to them immediately
To get to the numbers - definitely effecting the number of employees
Almost feels like the District has been blindsided; maybe this will finally galvanize us and make sure we explode with attention here in Seaford that this is unsustainable, unconscionable and cannot stand
Much more communication needs to take place
- ◆ Congratulations to Manor Teacher Katie Haug – very deserving of the award
- ◆ Congratulations to 10th Grader James O’Hagen – taking 3rd place in his weight class at the Nassau County Wrestling Championships

At 9:53 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations with all bargaining units and to discuss a specific personnel matter.

**ADJOURN WORKSHOP
MEETING**

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to adjourn Executive Session at 11:37 p.m.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette
District Clerk

Bruce A. Kahn
Vice District Clerk