

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Thursday, March 29, 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 A. Strifolino
Ms. Antonia L. Hamblin – Attorney

At 7:38, 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 March 26, 2012 included:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Brief review of 2012 budget workshop meetings
Next meeting BOE Regular Meeting, Tuesday , April 3
Workshop Meeting tonight

- Athletics and Technology presentations
- Discussion of tax levy cap
Tax levy cap
Hope to zero in on tax levy increase

Review and update on issues concerning State Aid

- Guidance received from State concerning deferred building aid
Changes in tax cap law
State Aid run received today

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

CPSE/CSE

1. Recommend acceptance of the determinations of the Special Education Committee Meetings of: 2/27; 3/9; 3/19.
2. Recommend acceptance of the determinations of the Preschool Special Education Committee Meetings of: 2/15; 2/29; 3/5; 3/7; 3/14.
No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to accept a donation from Michelle Puttlitz-Golub of one Detecto brand balance beam scale to be used in the Middle School's physical education department. The value of this scale is \$350.

DONATION

Board President Brian Fagan expressed his thanks to Ms. Puttlitz-Golub for her donation.

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

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

1. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a Health Services contract with the North Merrick School District for one Seaford-residing student currently attending private/parochial school in North Merrick for the 2011-12 school year. The cost per student is \$993.
2. Recommend the Board of Education enter into a Health Services contract with the Manhasset Public Schools for two Seaford-residing students currently attending St. Mary's High School in Manhasset for the 2011-12 school year. The total cost is \$1,815.14 (\$907.57 per student).

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to award a contract to Intralogic Solutions, Inc. as the approved provider of security and fire monitoring services for the 2012-2013 school year, and authorize the Board President to sign said contract.

Superintendent Brian Conboy briefly advised that these were three separate contracts, explained the need for them and the expected savings of \$7,000-\$8,000 from last year. Board Vice President Richard DiBlasio commented that the dollar amount for each of these contracts was not included in the agenda description as is the usual practice.

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

- Procedures, receipt and responses related to emails sent to the Board of Education
 - Procedures of calling meeting
 - Appropriate public notice
 - Never heard the Board say they were going to elect to have discussions in private.
 - Sale of Seaford Avenue or plans are part of the budget discussion

Board can call an emergency or special meeting

- Bob Freedman gives guidance and his opinions are not law

There was no emergency Board Meeting

- Board called a Special Meeting which was noticed to move on the work for the sale of the Seaford Avenue School
- Meeting was called to review the contract for the sale of the Seaford Avenue School and a proper Executive Session was called
- People have opinions and are entitled to differences of opinions

Discussions of the sale of the Seaford Avenue School will be more appropriate once we adopt the budget

- Those discussions concerning the proposed sale will be forthcoming and held in public

CONTRACTS

**CONTRACT - NORTH
MERRICK UFSD HEALTH
SERVICES – PROGRESSIVE
SCHOOL**

**CONTRACT - MANHASSET
PUBLIC SCHOOLS HEALTH
SERVICES**

**CONTRACTS – INTRALOGIC
SOLUTIONS, INC.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –
AGENDA ITEMS**

**BOARD/ADMINISTRATION
COUNSEL**

Athletics – Athletic Director Tom Condon:

2012/2013 BUDGET PLANNING
ATHLETICS

Previous cuts made in Athletic Program

Explanation of Athletic budget lines; roll-up budget from last year:

- Salaries
Coaches, Timers, Scorers, Athletic Director
- Apparatus
- Travel
Coaches to State Meet or away event
- Repairs
Reconditioning of equipment (helmets, pads/uniforms), equipment breakage, maintenance of weight room
- Miscellaneous
Tournament fees, athletic awards, sports association fees, etc.
- Contracts
Game doctor and Section 8 fee
- Periodicals
- BOCES
Previous year costs
Cost depends on number of teams
- Supplies
Increase needed this year
- Uniforms
Varsity Wrestling, Girls' Varsity Soccer, Boys' Varsity Basketball
No uniform purchases made last year
Uniform includes anything that an athlete wears – cloth items, pads, head gear, helmets,

Method in deciding attendance in tournaments

Replacement of rejected equipment

Requirements concerning presence of Doctor/EMT or Athletic Trainer games

Concussion Management Policy

- Services of Doctor Ahmet, Concussion Specialist at St. Joseph's Hospital
Hot-line; set up concussion screening at St. Joseph's hospital at a low cost; student be seen by concussion specialist within 72 hours
Baseline testing for all our students
Description of test

Schedule/chart of uniform purchases created in 2005

- Projected replacements needed in uniforms to 2013
- Budget cuts necessitated changes and created an inability to stick to schedule and make purchases of uniforms
- Chart needs to be recreated from scratch
- Dollar amounts listed for uniform purchases are pre-bid prices; purchases are made through Ed Data
Expectation is to come in under pre-bid amount
 - Board requested last year's chart
- Transportation

Technology – Technology Director Fred Kaden and ACT members Robert Necco, Mike Conte and Tom Karonous:

2012/2013 BUDGET PLANNING
TECHNOLOGY

Current condition of technology in District

Reason for the creation of the Advisory Committee for Technology

Bottom line - slightly more than in original roll-up of budget

BOCES services/fees

- Estimated BOCES aid

5-Year Plan – Basic Needs to get District on track:

- Breakdown of proposed purchases and costs for each year
 - Replacement of computers in all buildings and Central
 - Other Equipment
 - Servers,
 - MacBook Pros,
 - UPS – Battery Back-up
 - Switches
 - Base wireless system
 - wireless access points
 - Video conferencing equipment
 - Mobile Labs
 - Software
 - Contracts
 - Supplies
 - BOCES
 - Infrastructure

Benefits and uses of new technology implementation

Questions:

Current infrastructure

- Couple of switches not done in bond to be replaced in Years 1 and 2
- Bond work done on infrastructure designed to support Years 1-3 of Five-Year Plan
- Upgrade infrastructure in Years 4-5

Plan to purchase computers

- Year 1: High School and Middle School
- Year 2: Manor and Harbor Schools
- Includes Nurses, Social Workers, Guidance and any administrative functions
- Last several years over 300 computers classified obsolete by Board
 - Previously had multiple computers in classrooms
- Numbers are for basics –
 - Numbers provided should be the do not go below numbers
 - Provide a computer in every classroom
 - Will probably ask for more computers next year to establish multiple computers in classrooms

Year 1 Network Cabling

- Will cover multiple areas – Manor and Middle School Computer labs
- Possibility contract to include Installation of switches being done by techs
 - Covers only existing equipment; Unlikely but will check

Year 2 Server

- Contracts – Server integration
- Additional cost to allow for additional collapsing

Year 3 Installation Costs:

- Contracts – Installation costs but no new purchases

TECHNOLOGY (cont'd)

Year 4 Contracts:

As technology grows more installation needed

Savings in electricity not included in roll-up

- Mr. Ward's budget

\$88,000 difference between roll-up budget and this evening's numbers

Need to decide putting everything through BOCES

\$40,000 technology grant from Senator Fuschillo

- Money will be used to purchase Smart Boards for the classrooms

- Enable students to interact with and use in the classroom

- Preliminary estimate of purchase – 18 Smart Boards

Email Archiving

- Yearly expense

- Service – unfunded mandate

- Concerns over wireless plan becoming outdated

Ability in the future to be more green

Advisory Committee for Technology Vision for future technology students should have in Seaford

- iPads for Middle School and High School students

Benefits and uses of iPads

- Digital books

- Mobile iPad carts for Elementary schools

- Smart Boards in every classroom

- Safari Montage

- Polycom Video Conferencing

- Internet Radio

- Media Access

- News & Media Center

- Digital Library

- Digital Archiving

- Digital Curriculum

Cost of Digital Archiving

- Can use in-house staff but still need software and storage capabilities

Assured that the plan provides that every student in the District is afforded the opportunity to have the best to prepare them

Thanks to ACT members Tom Karounos, Mike Conte, Rob Necco and Sean Urban for all the time and efforts on behalf of our students

Tom Karounos, ACT Chairperson, stated the plan presented is what they feel is best

Large collaboration will be needed concerning curriculum, policy, parent involvement, etc. for the implementation of the Vision

ACT and their expertise can be helpful concerning various areas of the implementation of plan

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

STUDENT COMMENTS

- How can District afford iPads but not sports
Screening of individuals providing services to the District; difference between inexpensive and cheap

District has a certain amount of money with which to work when planning a budget

BOARD/ADMINISTRATION

- Look to provide the best quality for what we have to spend
- Board meeting next Tuesday; Board/Administration likes to hear from students and their opinions

Areas covered in the discussion concerning setting the tax levy number:
Worksheet of different scenarios of tax levy percent increase for the 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 school years

2012/2013 BUDGET PLANNING

Original January Governor's run

New revenue numbers

Updates:

- Seaford can accrue entire deferred building aid as if it was received in 2012
- State Aid run posted today
- District receiving an additional \$279,543 in Aid
- Seaford's maximum allowable increase with a simple majority vote is 2.93%

Review of Tax Levy Cap plus exceptions and rules governing same

- 2% plus allowable exceptions
- Effect on future budgets

Need to look at future and budget with other years in mind

Review of effect/necessary dollar amount of cuts with:

- 2.93%
- 2.75%
- 2.50%
- 2.25%
- 2.00%

Need to determine what the Board is comfortable with and what community will tolerate and what number will be put before voters in May

Need to determine what the tax levy will be

- Cuts would be determined once that number is decided upon

Need to look at future years when determining numbers

Benefits and uses for comparative data

Board:

Need to keep roll-up budget in mind plus some of the items discussed during Administrator/Department presentations such as technology and costs due to the Common Core Standards and APPR

Importance of getting information out to community and assure that they understand how the tax cap works

Concerns over the future; reserves

Making assumptions for future years

- Certain things cannot be factored in
- Best guess

Moody's rating affected by our reserves

- Bond rating affects our interest rates

No guarantees on amount of State Aid

Legislation looking to revoke EBALR

Projected amount of fund balance

Concerns over 2% Tax Cap Concept

- Reality is that it is not 2%
- Need to really educate the community

Board:

Goal is to get off of contingency budget; have a reserve that is as appropriate as can be and move forward
Effect on budget of changes in the accrual amount
Concerns over increased costs for ERS/TRS and medical
Possibility of using more than \$700,000 of accrued funds this year
Looking to expand on curriculum, put back things
Any information concerning impact of health care reform and medical changes
Request that Mr. Aldrich attempt to obtain information concerning what impact, if any, may be expected from Health Care Reform
Funds that were transferred/budgeted into Worker's Compensation fund
- Can't plan for these kind of expenses
Effect on percentages if \$88,000 for technology added

Administration:

Mr. Conboy not recommending 2.93%
- Too high a number and will leave us nothing for 2013/2014
If we are able to do right by our students now, even if we can't restore some of the valuable things lost, building the health of the district is so important
- Making sure we have better reserves
- Maintaining as much as we can maintain
- Inching forward the best we can keeping the confines of the tax cap in mind
Rare that we go several years without retirement breakage
Breakage can be used to build fund balance
Tax Certioraris
BOCES EBALR
If we use less than \$700,000 of accrued funds:
- Will not be adding back curriculum
- Will be looking for additional cuts in curriculum
District needs to be concerned about:
- Bond rating
- Meager reserves which need to be built
- School District in the business of educating students
- Need to find a balance – need to decide a number
- Need to decide on a number" 2.00% is too low and 2.93% is too high
Balance of accrued funds will be used for 2013/2014 school year
Not restoring at this point; trying to maintain
Need to use additional Aid wisely
Value judgment as to what can be done now realistically
Once Board decides on tax levy number Administration will work on ways to get to that number
No information on impact of health care reform
Comfortable with budgeted numbers for Workers' Compensation
-

Discussion among the Board continued on:

- Tax levy percentage
- Reduction of \$700,000 accrued funds
 - Taking \$150,000 from that amount would necessitate an additional \$150,000 in cuts
 - Effect on 2013/2014 school year budget
- Addition \$88,000 for technology
- Desire to not deplete reserves to such a level
- Concerns about unanticipated costs
- Projected fund balance for 2011/2012 school year

Request for scenarios on impact of reduction of accrued funds

Possible cuts recommended by Budget Advisory Committee and Administration should need arise

Need to make final decision at Tuesday's Board Meeting

Roll-up does not include more than the Fall season of Middle School Sports

Recommended number of fund balance is 4%

- District currently has less than 1%
- History of District using fund balance to pay down tax levy
- History of issues concerning fund balances
- Loss of State Aid and income from the Seaford Avenue School

After polling each of the Board members, it was decided

- 2.50% tax levy increase to be put before the voters
- Add \$88,000 for technology
- Would like to scenarios of reduction of \$700,000 accrued funds by \$150,000
- Look at reductions in textbooks and postage
- List from Mr. Conboy of cuts to achieve 2.50%
 - District at barebones; will be very strong on opinions of what can be cut and what should not be cut

Tuesday night's Board Meeting will be dedicated to finalizing numbers

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Addition of individual name to email list of Board Meeting notifications
Confusion concerning budget presentations
What is included in the roll-up budget
Information distributed or posted on screen for audience
- Cost of planners given to students; way to save money
Would we save money if we only ran two late buses rather than 4 at the High School
- District was never told to reduce unassigned fund balance; choices were made; lot of factors play into decisions
Concerns over entering into Executive Session; why some of the dialogue needed to take place in Executive Session when some discussions have already taken place in public
Motion made in public so community understands why session must take place
Do not believe it was the intention to protect the sale price or negotiations

PUBLIC COMMENTS (cont'd)

- Need to get off contingency
What are we going to do let people know and get the word out
Unhappy with some of the presentations; unclear to the public as to what was in or not in the proposed budget
Look at some of the things that were taken away last year to restore this year
- Look into iPad with Projectors rather than Smart Boards to save money
Put information on the website concerning proposed 2012/2013 budget
- What is the advantage of getting off contingency budget
One of the things that should be explained to the public
If it went on contingency how much would have to be cut
If we put out a 1.99% budget how much would have to cut
Has to be a balance but everyone has to give; everything has to give a little
Need a reserve and shouldn't squander additional money that has come in

Audience is observing work sessions of the which are intended as round table discussions between the Board and Administration

- Initial numbers were presented at first budget planning meeting
- Administrators didn't ask for expansion or increase in program because they were made aware of the need for cuts

Planners have been a topic of conversation

Students use them and information is contained in planners at the secondary level which much be distributed to students

May be able to save money by having late buses make more stops

The \$3 million dollars found in 2005 was mandated to give back to taxpayers

When getting into the actual components of the contract, between us and the Berman Group, there were components that would have given us a disadvantage if discussed in public.

- Would have detracted from the negotiations and affected the sale price

Expect to come to a finalization of the budget on Tuesday evening

- Plan to do Town Hall meetings, Budget Hearing on May 3 and budget presentations at District Organizations' meetings

Once we know our increase number we will have information on Website

There is a letter from Brian Conboy on website explaining 2% Tax Cap

- Brochures are going to homes which explain the tax cap

When on contingency budget there are many things you cannot do such as buy equipment

- With new tax cap regulations If you fail two budgets this year you go back to the tax levy increase you levied the year before

An additional \$1.3 million on top of anything else we would cut next week

Somewhere between \$400,000-\$600,000 would need to be cut to put out a 1.99%

ADMINISTRATION/BOARD

Closing remarks by the Administration and Board

- ◆ Thank you to the Technology Committee for their work on the Plan;
they have a nice vision
Hopefully one day we will get close to that vision
- ◆ Reach out to college students and our 18 year olds to make sure they
are registered to vote
- ◆ Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 3
Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 17
Anyone interested in running for the two Board seats open should see
Carmen Ouellette to get candidate packets
It is important that what people hear at these meetings are not
necessarily validated comments but comments made by their own
personal interpretations
This Board of Education strives very hard to post everything in a
timely manner and go into appropriate meetings to discuss everything
at an appropriate level.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. DiBlasio,
second by Mr. Kahn, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 11:12 p.m.

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette
District Clerk

Bruce A. Kahn
Vice District Clerk

CLOSING REMARKS

**ADJOURN WORKSHOP
MEETING**