

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Thursday, February 17, 2011, 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
Mr. Bruce Kahn – Trustee
Mr. Michael D. Sapricono - Trustee (arrived at 7:37 p.m.)

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. As the first order of business, Board President Brian Fagan led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN MEETING

Mr. Fagan advised the audience that this evening's meeting was a Budget Workshop Meeting. He also advised that the March 3rd Regular Meeting would be held at the Harbor School and after that Budget Workshop Meetings will be held each week in the Manor All Purpose Room. He encourage residents to attend and hoped that those who do attend will get a better understanding of what the budget process is and how the Board comes to their decisions

Mr. Conboy updated the Board on the following:

Harbor Driveway:

- DEC approved our application
- Public notice in Newsday next week and will run for seven days
- Notice will also run 15 days in the DEC newsletter
- Conversation with Mike Kelly, Nassau County Attorney's office

Rebate on Solar Project will be \$107,000

Center for American Progress link which lists every public school across the country and ranks them on their efficiencies related to their achievement and rated them on their ROI (Return on Investment)

Mr. Conboy also advised that the only agenda item this evening is the planning of the budget for the 2011-2012 school year. He briefly explained the process so far, the uniqueness of this year and the budget challenges facing the district. Mr. Conboy briefly touched on the following:

Budget process to date

- Decreased State Aid expected and information received from the State
- First meeting specifically for 2011/2012 budget
- Board and Administration were waiting for the State Budget
- BAC has been meeting regularly since December
- Unlike any other year
- Newsday article – Cuts in State Aid - 15.6% cut for Seaford
- Community 90% residential
- State Aid very important to Seaford
- No longer receiving revenue from BOCES for rental of Seaford Avenue School – Seaford Avenue School now vacant
- History of returning money to taxpayers to pay down the tax levy before the vote

If we do not spend an extra cent over the 10/11 budget the tax levy increase for 11/12 would be between 5% and 6%
Contingency Budget 2.3% Budget to Budget increase
CPI increase 1.6%

8.42 % on tax levy if nothing given back to voters to pay down tax levy

Governor Cuomo in favor of a tax cap

Governor Cuomo stated that school districts have the money in reserves to cover the shortfall

Districts are permitted to carry up to 4% in unreserved funds

- Seaford's unreserved funds are approximately 1% -These funds are low because we have in the past used unreserved funds to give back to the community
- Situation 5 or 6 years ago where we had too much money in reserves, above the 2% then allowable which led to a State Audit
- District was then told to make sure we were in line with state mandates

State Budget scheduled to be approved April 1st

If tax cap is put in place in the future we will never pass another budget – we will be talking about tax levy

Discussions will be less about program and more about dollars

When planning over the next few weeks we need to keep in mind 2012/2013 as well as the 2011/2012 budget

Nassau County also desirous of pushing costs back to the school districts such as the sewer tax and the tax certiorari

Governor Cuomo has been talking about changes in aid formulas

Also talking about some high cost Special Education needs that should be pushed back to districts

Governor feels building aid formulas in place now need change

Long community history in how we serve our students

Here in Seaford we have pretty distinct community values

Need to begin planning 2011-2012 Budget

Assistant Superintendent for Business Kenney Aldrich briefly explained documents contained in the budget workbook binders given to each Board member:

2011-2012 Budget Preparation Timeline

Budget Drafts

- First Draft - full roll-up of requests for all departments
- Undesignated Reserve Account History at Seaford
- Budget-to-Budget & Tax Levy % Increases at Levels
- Suggested steps to lower the 2011/2012 Budget
- Revenue Sheets

Areas covered in included:

WORKSHOP TOPIC: 2011-2012 BUDGET PLANNING

Mr. Aldrich's conversation with the Moody's contact concerning the amount of reserve funds, if any, planned to give back to the homeowners and the possible repercussions to the District's bond rating

District's current bond rating and possible effects to that rating

How is the District's bond rating determined and what fund or funds impact our rating

Important to know this information prior to deciding what, if any, monies will be returned to the voters

It is believed that Moody is looking at the Undesignated Reserve Fund; however, at the Board's request, Mr. Aldrich will contact the District's advisers, Capital Markets, to determine what it is that Moody looks at to determine ratings

District's bond rating history

Law being proposed to allow districts to use monies in the Un-Compensated Absences Reserve

Scenarios of contingency budget with and without giving back money to voters

In Albany Committees meeting about mandate relief

- Reports due to the Governor March 1st
- State Budget to be finalized April 1

Rules governing Contingency budgets

- No new equipment purchases
- Public charged for outside use of facilities
- No non-essential maintenance
- No capital expenditures except for emergencies
- Cannot bring in outside consultants

Cost Saving Measures

- Retirement incentives
- Reduction in program
- Looking for concessions in already settled contracts
- Workforce reduction
- District not exactly whole due to cuts made in past years

Suggested steps to lower the 2011/2012 Budget

- Cuts from roll-up of original budget
- Suggestions made by Administration and Budget Advisory Committee
- Cost of textbooks per student this school year
- Mandatory items v. non-mandatory
- BOCES Administration Costs
- Figure in original budget of cost per student for textbooks

Discussions have to be had concerning mandated programs

District has never just offered a mandated program

Lengthy discussion will be needed concerning reserves

Monies to be paid back on bond this year

After February break Central Administration will get together with Wantagh's Central Administration to look at the possibility of shared services

Anticipated Undesignated Reserves

State Aid run and Building Aid

Future of Foundation Aid

Reduction of State Aid

Sewer Tax

School tax for average home owner

Possible tenant for Bast Chevrolet location

History of what past Governor's have proposed compared to the number actually received

- Governor Cuomo's proposals

Possible numbers to look at going forward

- Somewhere between where we are now – 4.4% budget to budget increase with an 11.2 % tax levy and 0% budget to budget with a 5% tax levy

If the Board wants to go with a 0 to 0% percent:

- Everything on this first "Steps to Lower the '11-12 Budget list will go
- 4 or 5 additional lists of cuts
- Necessary to significantly dig into program
- Significant increase in class size

Brief review and impact/effect of listed potential cuts

- 10 out of 15 Department Chairs
- Sheet is used to talk about the level of cut you need to get to a certain level
- Athletics – additional costs which should be incorporated such as supervisors, time keepers, etc.
- Band Camp
- Technology

Need to build a budget that makes sense rather than starting with a percentage

Do we want to work with the current draft or start over

Need to keep in mind possibility of tax cap in 2012/2013

Looking for trends in expenditures and comparisons of what was spent at this time last year to this year

Costs of workbooks at High School

Would it be better to do a 0 based budget and then build on or back into a number

- 80% of budget personnel/benefits
 - Additional information would be needed
- Process on how buildings create their requested budget items

Highlight items which you would like more information

Requests by the Board:

Ability to add a Year-to-Date column on draft budget sheets

- Budget information directly input on WinCap
- Mr. Aldrich will to check to see if WinCap can produce a document with live and non-live data

Produce budget as an excel spreadsheet

What fund(s) does Moody use to determine rates

Sheet with cuts for a 2.3% budget to budget increase

Sheet with cuts for a 3.5% budget to budget increase

Produce budget in landscape

Closing remarks by the Administration and Board

CLOSING REMARKS

- ◆ Congratulations to Will Montgomery – second County Wrestling Championship
- ◆ Boys and Girls Basketball teams both won their Conferences
- ◆ Michael Scialpi recognized as a News12 Scholar Athlete
- ◆ Matt Savino came in second winter track
- ◆ Winter scholar athlete teams: Boys' Track, Girls' Track, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Wrestling

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. DelGiudice, second by Mr. DiBlasio, to adjourn Executive Session at 9:52 p.m.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette
District Clerk