

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Monday, May 23, 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

ABSENT: Mr. Michael D. Sapraine - Trustee

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. 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 advised that due to the budget failing we are here tonight to discuss the additional work needed to be done for a potential re-vote and the options open to the district. He then introduced Mr. John Brooks, a Seaford resident and former Board member, who has been working on the issue of State Aid funding.

**OPENING REMARKS**

Areas covered in Mr. Brooks' presentation on the "Inequities in State Aid Funding Formula" included:

**PRESENTATION**

Seaford:

- History of State Aid in Seaford; Seaford never fairly represented
- Teachers and Administrators' salary levels
- Per student spending
- Current budget situation
- Lack of commercial property taxes; 90% tax burden to residents
- Lowest costs; highest tax rate

Discussion in Albany concerning the need of a tax cap

Unfairness of the way State Aid is distributed throughout the State

The way education is being funded in New York State must be changed

- Does not believe Governor understands how broken the system is
- Seaford residents need to reach out to Assemblyman and Legislators; send letters to Albany

If State Aid was distributed evenly through the state Long Island would get in excess of \$1,000,000,000 and Seaford would receive \$18,000,000 in State Aid instead of \$8,000,000

Trying to get a meeting with one of the Governor's aides

Wrote a proposal as to how education should be run

- Take the required programs which have to be run; look at the regional cost differences and make sure every district is fully funded for those programs
- Then if a district wants to spend more that information would go up

Mr. Fagan:

- District runs pretty efficiently; working to continue to operate as efficiently as possible
- Board and Administration working on ideas to streamline everywhere we can to make us more efficient; to make us more flexible when times like this, which we have no control over, come down on us
- Takes years and a lot of hard fighting to change things

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PRESENTATION – JOHN BROOKS (cont'd)

Topics covered in Mr. Conboy's Administrative Report dated May 20, 2011 included:

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

Congratulations to Mr. Fagan and Mr. DiBlasio who won re-election  
All three propositions on the May 17<sup>th</sup> ballot failed  
Purpose of this meeting tonight is to talk about budget; it is a workshop session of the board meeting in public  
There are no other agenda items

Proposition No. 2: Harbor Roadway Project

Failed

Can be put up again after a certain period of time if that is what the Board would like to do

Period of 90 days (might be as soon as 45 days) must pass

If proposition is to be revisited it will most likely not be until next school year

Proposition No. 3: Transportation Mileage Reduction

Placed on ballot after a groups of citizens obtained the requisite amount of signatures and approached the Board

Board not obligated to put it back

If that group or another group of citizens approach the Board the future a proposition such as that could be placed on the ballot in any given year

Proposition No. 1: The Budget

**2011-2012 BUDGET  
PLANNING DISCUSSION**

Board has a few decisions to make which must be made tonight

Re-vote date for all of New York State is Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.

First option would be to take the exact same budget and put it up again on June 21

- Do not believe Board thinks that is the proper thing to do

Second option would be to reduce the budget put up on May 17<sup>th</sup> in some way and present it to the voters on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

The third option is to go immediately to Contingency budget

- Board could raise the budget-to-budget expenditure from the current 2010/2011 operating budget 2.26%

- Based on a formula the State provides which is the CPI as of January 1, 2011 (1.6%) x 120 = 1.92% + any debt a district has

- Seaford contingency budget number is 2.26%

- There are several other restrictions if Board decides to go immediately to contingency budget

- No new equipment

- Charge community groups for outside use of facilities

- No capital spending; only emergencies

- Administrative component of budget cannot exceed 1.813%

- No non-essential maintenance

- No use of outside consultant services

First thing Board must decide is how they would like to proceed

If the District were to go immediately to contingency, cut backs on expenditures in the proposed budget would need to be made and we would need to be prepared for the contingency restrictions.

If we decide to put up a second vote at what level would that be; what would the budget-to-budget and tax levy increases be

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BUDGET PLANNING DISCUSSION (cont'd)

Board Questions/Comments:

Technology:

What equipment is included/excluded on a contingency budget  
Would like more specific information concerning the computer equipment currently in the budget.

Benefits of doing RFP's and state bids

Breakdown of computer/technology numbers contained in the budget brochure

Mr. Aldrich advised that equipment is defined as anything that has a long-life or which is depreciable and over \$500 in value, go on our asset list and they feel could be deferred. He gave an example of the computer equipment in the current proposed budget.

Technology Director Fred Kaden briefly explained the makeup of the dollar amounts in the budget for technology equipment/services, state contracts and pros/cons of RFPs for technology services.

Mr. Fagan stated that he felt putting up the same budget was clearly not an option

- Stated he did not know how to go from 2.92 % Budget-to-Budget, to come up in the middle as opposed to going to a contingency level budget

Mr. Conboy asked the members of the Board if they were of the same mind as Mr. Fagan not to put up the same budget and put up a budget somewhere in the middle of the failed budget and 2.26% contingency level

- Essentially \$425,000 away from where we are now; Do we need to cut the full \$425,000 or something lower
  - Difference between 2.92% and 2.26 % budget-to-budget increase is \$357,000 plus \$68,000 which needs to be put back (was put in for assumed breakage for retirements which will not be occurring)
- Passed contingency level budget at 2.26% does not give us the restrictions we talked about earlier but we would need to cut \$425,000 out of the proposed budget we gave voters on May 17.
- In addition to cuts made in 2010/2011 and proposed cuts for 2011/2012 cuts were made across all departments and areas
- Do we want to start with extra-curricular or curricular – some are mandated some are not mandated

Mr. Conboy briefly described those things which would not be allowable and what that would mean to the District on a contingency budget

The Board agreed that the same budget would not be put up. Discussion on available options, potential areas of reduction and impact from those reductions included:

Less than contingency

As close to contingency number as possible

A number somewhere between contingency and what had been presented to voters on May 17

Mr. DelGiudice stated he felt it should not go below contingency level  
Maintaining the curriculum even if it meant larger class sizes in the secondary level (rather have a larger class size and keep the class than lose the class)

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BUDGET PLANNING DISCUSSION (cont'd)

Ways to consolidate perhaps reducing some positions

Keep program solid while reducing budget

Current class sizes at all levels, what they would be with possible cuts and what may be involved in reducing and consolidating program

Cut items that in current budget that have budgeted amounts but no expenditures this year

- Mr. Aldrich advised that while there are no expenditures listed as yet for some lines there are numbers listed in the encumbrance line for those budget lines
- Expected to spend all monies in this budget

A brief discussion took place concerning the 2010-2011 encumbrance reports, budget line year-to-date figures, transfers, use of undesignated reserves and projected year-end numbers

- Mr. Conboy advised that looking at the encumbrance report will give a better understanding of the spending on budget lines

A review of the Board member's opinion concerning the budget to be presented to voters on June 21 was to come up with a number between contingency and the May 17<sup>th</sup> number, going as close to contingency as possible

Continued discussion covered:

- If you go below contingency level you pay the price next year if there is a 2% cap – everything cut this year is included in that cap
- Initially thought about going lower but feel that will hurt us
- All for going as close to contingency as possible but what will we lose and what will cost us
- Cost to the community if on contingency – charging for use of facilities
- Value of contingent items,
- Affect of contingency budget and/or use of reserves on bond rating,
- proposed tax cap - inclusions and exclusions, what it can mean to the district,
- Contingency budget compared to being on contingent level,
- Current and expected reserves, LIPA solar project funds
- Possibility of using fund balance to bring down tax levy
  - Lack of money in reserves to comfortably do this
- History of monies given back to voters to bring down tax levy

Mr. Conboy:

- \$425,000 to get from 2.92% to 2.26%
- Full day kindergarten treated as ½ day kindergarten in funding
- Foundation aid frozen 3 years ago (approximately \$225,00 per year we did not get and will not get ) – district received only half of the aid we were supposed to get
- Future of foundation aid
- Full-day kindergarten
- Completion of bond projects and building aid
- Middle School athletics – funding of partial seasons
- Need Curricular program over extra-curricular
- Painful to say knowing what extra-curricular programs meant to me and other people but we are a school district – academic concerns are why we are here
- Fund raising and previous discussions about only partial funding of Middle School Sports

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BUDGET PLANNING DISCUSSION (cont'd)

Discussion concerning possible cuts and the dollar value of those cuts:

Middle School Fall, Winter I, Winter II and Spring  
Seasons, all costs: \$185,000  
Middle School Intramural Program for 40 weeks: \$ 40,000  
Possibility of fundraising for Winter and Spring seasons  
Need to reach a decision on Middle School Sports  
Suggestion that District fully fund the Fall Season of Middle School sports  
and allow the community if they choose, time to fund raise for Winter I,  
Winter II and Spring season of Middle School Sports  
Suggestion that they not necessarily take \$150,000 out of the Middle School  
but just take it out of the athletic budget; not targeting just one population  
Reducing costs of supervision by using security guards instead of teachers  
for crowd control at athletic events

Motion by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Fagan, that effective July 1, 2011, all  
supervision for crowd control at athletic events will be done solely by  
security guards for the 2011/2012 school year.

**RESOLUTION – CROWD  
CONTROL SUPERVISION AT  
ATHLETIC EVENTS**

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

Discussion continued on budget reductions:

Maintenance helper position which will be eliminated

Agreed upon cuts so far: Approximately \$210,000  
\$141,000 (MS Sports reduction) + \$68,623 (Maintenance Helper Position)  
Need to look at program/salary – One FTE approximately \$92,000  
Balance needed to be cut – approximate equivalent of 3 FTE positions  
Look at computer equipment before looking at cutting more personnel

Mr. Conboy advised that Mr. Kaden without wiping out all of his purchases  
has been able to come up with savings in that budget line

Mr. Kaden explained the ways in which he was able to come up with a  
\$33,000 savings, where that money was taken from and what has been  
removed from his technology request. He also explained what effect it  
would have and what it would mean to technology within the district.  
Discussion continued concerning servers (on-site and off-site), switches,  
filters, purchasing/leasing, technology needs of the District, other areas of  
technology and costs/savings.

Attorney Chris Venator briefly explained that there is precedent that in  
specific circumstances equipment purchases could possibly be made while  
on a contingency budget.

The creation of committees using community expertise was also discussed  
and will be a topic for discussion at a future workshop meeting.

Discussion continued on technology, possibility of doing an RFP for  
services, and additional technology cuts In lieu of cutting teachers.

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BUDGET PLANNING DISCUSSION (cont'd)

After further discussion it was decided to cut \$80,000 from technology and it was determined that approximately \$42,000 was still needed in cuts. Discussion concerning a .5 cut or perhaps looking at the 500 line by line budget for other areas

Discussion continued on where to find the additional \$42,000 in cuts necessary. It was decided that an additional \$20,000 could be found in supervision costs due to using security. It was also decided that the remaining \$25,000 needed would be cut from the 500 line-by-line budget.

Mr. Conboy briefly summarized the starting budget numbers and percentiles, where the Board started, areas considered, and the final cuts decided upon to reach the \$425,000 to bring the budget down to contingency level.

MS Sports reduction	\$141,000
Maintenance Helper Position	\$68,623
Technology	\$80,000
One FTE (approximately)	\$93,000
Savings in supervision costs by using security	\$20,000
Reductions in the line-by-line budget	<u>\$20,000</u>
	\$422,623

Mr. Conboy advised the Board that Executive Session would be needed. He stated he had met with several of the bargaining units earlier in the day and wanted to share some information.

The Board also felt that instead of keeping the \$141,000 cut in athletics general they should be specific so the community would know exactly what would be cut. Discussion concerning Middle School Sports, only keeping the Fall season and allowing the community to fund raise if they choose.

Discussion continued concerning the need to be at contingency level or somewhere close to that figure, adding the FTE position back into the budget and its effect on the budget numbers.

Decision was made by all to add back the one FTE position (approximately \$93,000) from the cuts with the agreed understanding that if the budget failed and the District was required to go on contingency, one FTE position, still to be quantified, would need to be cut.

After a final review and double-check of the original numbers, breakage, cuts and add-backs it was determined that the new budget number would be: \$54,920,057 which is a 2.43% budget-to-budget increase and a tax levy of 8.35%.

Mr. Conboy stated that the recommendation is that the District will fund the Middle School Fall sports program and hopefully some community based effort could be put forth to put some of that program back. He also advised that approximately \$30,000 would be needed to put in two seasons of an intramural program as originally envisioned.

Board President Brian Fagan asked for a motion to adopt the budget of \$54,920,057 for the 2011/2012 school year representing a 2.43% budget-to-budget increase of 2.43% and an 8.35% tax levy of 8.35%, such vote taking place on June 21, 2011 at the Manor and Harbor Elementary Schools from

BUDGET PLANNING DISCUSSION (cont'd)

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

2011/2012 BUDGET

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Seaford School District budget for the 2011/2012 school year be approved by this Board and presented to the community for voting purposes on June 21, 2011 in the amount of \$54,920,057 with a budget-to-budget increase of 2.43% and a tax levy of 8.35%.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Is the District still funding Band Camp and if so, what is the cost  
There are Assistant Principal positions which can be eliminated  
People with positions who are not qualified for those positions  
Looking for significant cuts which do not effect education; did not cut deep enough
- Request for recap of cuts
- Need to get out to the community and get correct information to them
- A resident/teacher read a statement from the Executive Board of the UTS which touched on lost positions, District's financial planning, ½ year freeze taken during the current year, salary concession offer rejected by Board, previous year's cuts, "hard freeze' not a viable offer and willingness to consider a counter-proposal from the Board should one be given..
- PTA looking for information to be able to clear up issues and stop rumors and get accurate information  
Timeline for putting up Harbor Roadway for re-vote  
Rumor that it wasn't necessary to vote on roadway  
Need for Roadway; safety issue
- Frustration as a taxpayer to contact legislators. you may or may not get a response and more times not or a response pointing the finger elsewhere  
Tax increases are unbearable; people just don't have the money  
Must find a way to align the cost structure with the economy
- Were all extracurricular activities addressed or just athletics
- What is included in the Fall season of Middle School sports  
If there is fundraising would it be done season by season  
If that money is not raised and that sport not offered are those children eligible to try out for JV or Varsity  
If a child has played up can they ever come back to Middle School level  
What does the \$141,000 in athletics include  
What does the Middle School Fall Season cost
- Are Fall Sports in compliance with Title IX  
Under new budget is full day kindergarten still in  
If we go on contingency budget will we still have full day kindergarten
- Was the \$30,000 for a Middle School Intramural program put back in  
If the community raises the money for Middle School Sports where will that \$30,000 be allocated

PUBLIC COMMENTS (cont'd)

- Do not believe a great job was done in explaining to public  
Assume you expected first budget to pass; were you surprised it failed  
What help is being provided to contact legislators; what has been done collectively to address this situation  
What level of input did you get from the community for the 5 or 6 things that you decided to cut  
Feel there was no input and cuts were predetermined
- Budget Advisory Committee starts in January meeting every two weeks  
Workshop Meetings poorly attended  
Mr. Kaden gave a presentation on technology; Mr. Condon gave a presentation on athletics  
It's a process and if you don't follow the process your poorly informed
- 9% increase in this District very hard to sell  
Years ago there was a committee called REFIT that would go back and forth to Albany  
Need all the districts from Nassau and Suffolk should go to Albany to all of the Legislators  
Must get moving quickly to do something with the Avenue School

Christopher Venator, Attorney

- Cannot talk about individual personnel; talking about individual personnel is crossing line and inappropriate; comments should be kept general

Administration:

**ADMINISTRATION/BOARD  
COMMENTS**

Cuts made in proposed budget:

- District funding Middle School Sports Fall season only
- One facilities position
- Mr. Kaden's computer allocation by \$80,000
- Reducing supervision differential by \$20,000
- Reducing 500 line-by-line budget by \$20,000
- In the event the budget does not pass we will need to go to a 2.26% budget-to-budget increase which will require the reduction of one FTE from the instructional staff

Band Camp has not been cut and the total cost of the Band Camp program is \$9,600

There is no relation between the Harbor Roadway and the rumored restructuring of the elementary schools and they will never be related

- Harbor Roadway cannot go on the June 21<sup>st</sup> ballot; definitely a next school year thing for the Board to consider

A Number of clubs were cut in the beginning

Middle School's Sports Fall season includes: Boys' Football, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Girls' Field Hockey, Cheerleading,

- Fundraising would have to be done prior to the start of the season and district would have to have all the funds necessary before the season begins
- Some children would be eligible if they passed the Section Classification test which indicates that a Middle School Child has the physical and emotional make-up to compete at the High School level
- \$141,000 is for the Winter I, Winter II and Springs Middle School seasons



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ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS (cont'd)

- Middle School Fall Season costs \$59,524
- \$150,000 figure for Middle School sports did not include BOCES fees and supervision
- \$30,000 was not put back in for intramural program but there may be other ways to find that money

Full-Day kindergarten is in and will still be in even on contingency

No matter what information we give people but cannot make them read it

- Very complicated puzzle – a lot has to do with Albany but there is a lot we have to do here
- If anyone has ideas or ways to better educate people as to what the budget process is all about we would be happy to hear from them

Christopher Venator, Attorney

Board cannot have any active role in fundraising

- Board has authority to accept donations from community organizations to fund a sports program for a season
- If the community were able to raise all the money for Winter Season I all that money would have to be raised before the seasons starts
- Not permitted to set up a pay-to-play requiring a child to pay to play
- Cannot just have boys or girls programs – Must keep Title 9 consideration in mind

There were a multitude of budget workshop meetings held up to this point

- People spoke at these meetings and Mr. Kaden gave a PowerPoint presentation
- Attendance at those budget presentations gave residents the opportunity to hear input from people, hear the PowerPoint presentation and what the needs of the District are

Board:

Inappropriate to single out individual employees and/or performance at a meeting – we are not at liberty to discuss those matters

It was necessary to have a vote on the Harbor Roadway Project

It is not mandated that if you go on contingency you lose Full-Day Kindergarten

Do not believe anyone on this Board was happy putting up that budget

It was one of the hardest budgets to put forward

- When we originally started with this budget with an approximate 15% increase in tax levy and made a lot of cuts to get down to 8.99%; More cuts were made tonight to get even lower
- This was not something we just decided overnight
- Wanted to keep the tax levy down
- Very tough tonight – none of us want to make cuts

We had asked Mr. Kaden to come back this evening with a plan

- We have some community members who are knowledgeable in technology who will sit on a committee to determine what we need
- There was a discussion on computers earlier this evening on computers

Recommend community contact Mr. Conboy if they are planning to fund raise to determine due date and obtain any further information necessary

Thank you to everyone who came down tonight

- Important to come to meetings to get correct information; we meet every two weeks every month

Mr. DiBlasio:

Thank you for re-electing me; volunteered to help out the community and to bring a better education to our children

It's a lose-lose situation when dealing with people's taxes especially when bulk of the money you count on comes from other areas where you really have no control over – State Aid

- What wasn't planned was the \$1.5 million reduction in State Aid
- Current level of 1.1% reserves is dangerous; need to slowly bring our reserves back up

Was appalled at the statement made that because of poor financial planning the district did not have enough funds in reserves to reduce the burden to tax payers when the reader of the statement was a member of the Budget Advisory Committee

Mr. Fagan:

The Budget process begins now

Discussion on the Seaford Avenue School will be on the June 2<sup>nd</sup> agenda

- Board will be selecting one of the two firms (Cushman-Wakefield, Grenier-Maltz) who presented to the Board to move forward with this
- Contact Mr. Aldrich if interested in getting involved with Budget Advisory Committee
- Proposal offered to the Board by the UTS back in March was actually going to cost the District money in year 2 and beyond  
The Board unanimously agreed to reject that proposal

As a result of adopting a budget this evening tomorrow's meeting is cancelled

Board President Brian Fagan asked to have a motion to adjourn the Workshop Meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contracts.

No action will be taken.

At 11:12 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. DelGiudice, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting and enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contracts.

No Discussion  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

There being no further business, at 11:45 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. DiBlasio, second by Mr. Kahn, to adjourn Executive Session.

No Discussion  
All Ayes  
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen Ouellette,  
District Clerk

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

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**ADJOURN WORKSHOP MEETING**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION**