

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Thursday, March 21, 2013, in the All Purpose Room of the Manor Elementary School, 1590 Washington Avenue, Seaford, New York.

PRESENT: Mr. Brian W. Fagan – President (arrived at 7:50 p.m.)
Mr. Bruce A. Kahn – Trustee
Ms. Susan Ruona - Trustee
Ms. Jeanmarie Wink – Trustee

ABSENT: Mr. Richard G. DiBlasio – Vice President

Mr. Brian L. Conboy
Mr. John A. Strifflino
Mr. Alan S. Phillips

At 7:33 p.m., Board Trustee Bruce Kahn opened the Workshop Meeting. As the first order of business, Mr. Kahn led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN MEETING

Mr. Kahn advised that due to a work commitment Mr. DiBlasio would not be present this evening and Mr. Fagan was running late due to Long Island Railroad problems

OPENING REMARKS

Topics covered in Mr. Conboy's Administrative Report dated March 15, 2013 included:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Discussions this evening from the High School and Middle School Principals and from Athletic Director Tom Condon

External Auditor Ally Battaglia, is prepared to take a call this evening to discuss the use of EBLAR funds related to the Board discussion held at the last meeting

Update on New York State budget and State aid numbers

- Do not have aid numbers yet
- Perhaps a new State aid run will be available on Sunday
- Information on TRS - smoothing issue
- Additional Workshop meetings on April 2 and April 11
 - In response to Mr. Kahn's request concerning April 2 being the last night of Passover, the meeting will begin at 8:30 p.m.
- April 11 target date for finalizing budget number

Replacement chaperone for Europe trip

FEMA

- Reimbursed for part of our transportation costs; have not received entire payment
- Reimbursed for food loss

Students who passed selection classification for high school athletics

Update from Hamburger firm concerning tax certiorari case with Nassau County

- Opinion letter from Ingerman Smith
- Tax Certiorari reserves

Motion by Ms. Wink, second by Ms. Ruona, to accept the recommendation to approve the Personnel Action Report:

**NEW BUSINESS
PERSONNEL ACTION
REPORT - INSTRUCTIONAL**

A. Instructional (dated March 21, 2013):

P-1: POSITION ABOLITION: No Recommended Actions

PERSONNEL (cont'd)

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:

1. MARY ANNE GRECO

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Position: | Special Education Teacher |
| Type of Appointment: | Regular Substitute |
| Assignment: | Seaford Harbor School |
| Certification: | Special Education – Permanent |
| Effective Date: | March 25, 2013 |
| Expiration Date: | June 30, 2013 |
| Tenure Eligibility: | N/A |
| Tenure Area: | N/A |
| Salary: | As Per Leave Replacement Schedule |
| Reason: | Leave Replacement for Jessica Peters |

P-8: OTHER: No Recommended Actions
No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion by Ms. Wink, second by Ms. Ruona, to approve acceptance of the determinations of the Special Education Committee Meetings of: 2/6; 2/13; 2/14; 2/20; 2/26; 3/4; 3/7/13 and the determinations of the Preschool Special Education Committee Meetings of: 2/13; 2/21; 3/6/13.

CPSE/CSE

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion by Ms. Wink, second by Ms. Ruona, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLUTION – CHANGE ORDER

BE IT RESOLVED based upon a recommendation from the Superintendent, that the Board of Education authorize Change Order #G01 (AIA G701) - for H2M Architects and Engineers covering a deduction of \$2,770 (Harbor School) and \$5,835 (Middle School) for funds not used during the Refrigerator and Freezer Replacement project, and request the Board President's signature on the change order documents.

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Motion by Ms. Wink, second by Ms. Ruona, to accept a donation from NY Life Giving & Volunteering Initiative of an employee match donation from Alicia Masters for \$210, to be used in the Harbor School.

DONATION

Ms. Ruona asked about Ms. Masters. The Board thanked Ms. Master for this donation as well as for past donations she has made.

All Ayes
Motion Carried.

2013-2014 BUDGET PLANNING

Mr. Conboy advised the Board that pursuant to Mr. Fagan's request, Mr. Conboy handed out a packet containing information related to all non-certified personnel separated by building. In response to Mr. Kahn's request, Mr. Conboy advised that the information would be emailed to the Board.

Mr. Kahn briefly updated those present on the current status of 2013/2014 budget planning. He briefly described the process, previous drafts of the budget reviewed by the Board, reductions made in those versions and the status of State aide. Mr. Kahn stated there is still a gap of approximately \$1.3 million.

Areas covered in Middle School Principal Daniel Smith's budget discussion with the Board of Education and Administration:

MIDDLE SCHOOL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Daniel Smith, Principal

Accomplishments during the 2012/2013 school year
Cuts made in previous years
Effect of further cuts
Difference between Middle School vs. Junior High School
Mandated classes

Effects on AIS/Resource Room/Music/Art

Effects on Education of an 8-Period Day

- Becomes 7 slots – 8th slot is lunch
- What would be kept
- What students would lose
- Discontinuation of Accelerated Program
- Shared staffing more problematic

Mr. Fagan arrived

In response to the Board's question about priorities Mr. Smith advised that he would like to do whatever he could to avoid touching academic program and staff

- Middle School is currently skeletal
There are things that could be cut and would save approximately \$10,000 to \$13,000 which he would not want to do (graduation, awards ceremonies, student planners), but at least they would not impact program

Current Middle School clubs

- Embarrassed that this is that can be offered
- Realistically have only 2 true clubs to offer – Science Club and Service club which any student can be in
- All the other clubs require a prerequisite
 - Jazz Band – have to play an instrument
 - National Junior Honor Society – have to qualify to get in
 - Drama Production – have to audition

Would love to have a club tied to every discipline – Math Club, English Club, Journalism, etc.

Middle School Sports

- Intramural sports better than nothing
- Past donations made by Save Seaford Sports
- Cost of full year of intramural sports
- Cost of Middle School sports

Please do not touch current program

- Would love to restore everyone to full-time
- Would be happy if could just maintain what we have

Board discussion concerning possible options for Seaford Middle School staffing, Middle Sports, Intramural program and clubs

Mr. Conboy reminded the Board that Ms. Battaglia of R.S. Abrams had been advised that she would be receiving our call between 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. He briefly spoke about the previous discussion concerning the use of the EBLAR funds and the decision to consult our external auditors on this matter. Mr. Kahn repeated his suggestion of the last meeting to budget \$100,000 for compensated absences and use an equal amount from the reserves and show it as revenue. Discussion continued on any harm in doing this way, impact if putting in the budget but not adding the reserve amount, reducing the current by \$25,000 currently budgeted for compensated absences, keeping it budget neutral and having funds in reserves to be able to do this. Mr. Phillips advised that while the external auditors will guide us in the matter as to what is permissible they will not supply a written opinion.

A phone call was placed to External Auditor Ally Battaglia of R.S. Abrams. Mr. Conboy briefly reviewed the discussion and suggestions concerning compensated absences, accounting for those funds and use of EBLAR funds. She advised that you would budget your total expenses for expected compensated absences and then you will use your reserves as a revenue source. If expense is less than what you budgeted you would only decrease reserve fund by the total expense used. In response to Mr. Kahn's question if a formal resolution was necessary to put the funds back into the reserve, Ms. Battaglia advised that the funds are not moved until you actually incur the expense. In response to Mr. Phillips' question concerning should we making our best guess estimate to assure having sufficient funds, she suggested using a five-year analysis – what the trend has been. Mr. Phillips advised that we do know how many are eligible this year to retire and will be able to know that potential liability. In response to Mr. Fagan's question about if there is any factor which can be applied to the estimates we make of the probability factor, Ms. Battaglia advised that when a district does its compensated absence liability as of June 30th they could take a percentage of a group of people and then work downward.

Continued discussion concerning retirements in past years, expectations in the future, funding for compensated absences, past external audits and plan to budget \$100,000 for compensated absences and use \$100,000 from EBLAR reserves to offset this.

Areas covered in High School Administrators' budget discussion with the Board of Education and Administration:

- Current achievements
- Current offerings
- Concerns over keeping Seaford High School competitive in college and career Colleges look at what our students are doing/classes taken; compare them to other schools; compare them to what we offer
- Over past 4 years sacrifices/cuts – 5 ¾ teaching positions (28 ½ classes) plus guidance and social worker ½ positions
- AIS support program in the High School is not strong; need to be stronger
 - Struggle to meet some state mandates each year
- Amount of students in study halls
- Effect of 8 period day on graduation
 - Essentially cutting out 1/9th of classes (40 classes of education cut)
 - Would be able to graduate with core requirements but would not be able to meet it well or in the same way other area high schools would

**TELEPHONE DISCUSSION
WITH ALLY BATTAGLIA
OF R.S. ABRAMS**

**HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET
DISCUSSION**

Scott Bersin, Principal

**Carisa Burzynski,
Assistant Principal**

**Anthony Allison,
Assistant Principal**

HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET DISCUSSION (cont'd)

- Lack of flexibility with 8 periods creating more conflicts in course availability
- All support opportunities would be at risk
- Would not be able to offer the necessary support to all students with an 8 period day
- Risk that graduation rates would fall; advanced regents definitely fall
- Loss of electives

In order to make students college/career ready, must offer as diverse a program as possible

State assessments will be more difficult to pass; state expects scores to be lower; will require more resources to assist students

Areas covered in Athletic Director Tom Condon's budget discussion with the Board of Education and Administration:

**ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT
BUDGET DISCUSSION**

**Tom Condon,
Athletic Director**

Athletic Department has continued to thrive

- Students performing at a high level
- Support of Save Seaford Sports and the Booster Club

Spring Middle School Sports

- Cost of funding full year of Middle School Sports
- Donations received in previous years from Save Seaford Sports
- Cost of Intramural program
- Benefit/attendance of intramural program

Impact on JV/Varsity sports of continued cut of Middle School sports

- Losing athletes coming into High School
- Numbers not where they would be

Need to cut purchases – only necessary uniform purchases

- Helmets/pads included in uniform
- Safety is a priority

Full program - 50 teams

Awards Dinners/Miscellaneous Fees

- Possibility of no longer having District pay for meals

Reasons for overage in certain budget lines

Proposed increases for 2013/2014

Overages in some budget areas due to donations

Sports covered in current version of 2013/2014 budget

Need to double check 2012/2013 athletics budget numbers

- Does \$300,000 figure include donations

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Would like to see budget presentation report

- What budget was
- Amount of donations accepted
- Amount of donations spent

Mandated items

No matter where you cut it will effect someone

Budget status report

When looking at areas to cut everything is on the table

Once we have our final numbers Administrators may be asked to come back to discuss some of the area discussed this evening

Planned Board meetings on April 2 (8:30 p.m. start), April 4 and April 11 (7:30 p.m. start) to discuss budget issues

What is included in cost of steps/lane changes

Increase in Social Security and TRS costs

Need to meet with Andrew Ward to discuss building/grounds issue as well as District Security

- Mr. Ward will present at the April 2nd meeting

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Scenario of funding compensated absences and timeline
Effect on tax levy and benefit to community; problem with timing
Thank you to building Administrators for stressing importance of education and educational impact with lesser period days
AIS services – need to be given during or after school
- District wrestling program
Impact of not having Middle School wrestling on future of program
Intramural is fine but need competition
2010/2011 District funded fall sports; 2011/2012 District funded spring sports; when will it be wrestling's turn

Closing remarks by the Administration and Board

CLOSING REMARKS

- ◆ Do not want to take away anything
Will take a collaborative effort with people from all sides to come to work together to find a solution that will help us continue the pride and the practices and the education we have had here for so long
- ◆ Thank you to all the Administrators for their presentations
- ◆ Congratulations to the Middle School drama club
- ◆ Not looking to cut sports at the Middle School or High School but we do need to put the education of the children first
- ◆ Tomorrow early dismissal day
Monday, March 25th make-up day – schools in session
Monday, April 1st and Tuesday, April 2nd are make-up days – schools are in session
- ◆ Lot of work ahead of us but will get there with the community's support
Seaford is proud community
Must maintain our integrity and our optimism related to our community

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Kahn, second by Ms. Wink, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURN WORKSHOP MEETING

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette
District Clerk

Bruce A. Kahn
Vice District Clerk