

A Workshop Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Thursday, August 21, 2014, in the Band Room located in Seaford High School, 1575 Seamans Neck Road, Seaford, New York.

PRESENT: Mr. Bruce A. Kahn - President
Mr. Brian W. Fagan - Vice President
Ms. Susan Ruona - Trustee
Ms. Stacie Stark - Trustee
Ms. Jeanmarie Wink - Trustee

Mr. Brian L. Conboy
Mr. John Strifflino
Ms. Elisa Pellati
Ms. Antonia Hamblin - Attorney (arrived 7:35 p.m.)

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

OPEN MEETING

After a brief discussion it was decided that the Board of Education Workshop Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2014 would be changed to Tuesday, September 16, 2014. The meeting time and location (7:30 p.m. – All Purpose Room in the Manor School) would remain the same.

OPENING REMARKS

Topics covered in Mr. Conboy's Administrative Report dated August 18, 2014 included:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Special Meeting held earlier this evening to interview 3 candidates for Middle School Assistant Principal position

- Hope to have individual in place prior to start of school
- Official appointment will take place at first Board Meeting in September

3 basic discussion items this evening

- 2014/2015 District Goals
- List of program cuts during last five school years/setting priorities for restoration of program
- Current Board policy on investments related to collateral

Discussion on Inter-Municipal Agreement between the County and the District for the Harbor access easement (Harbor road) needed in Executive Session

Progress made based on results of Grades 3-8 ELA and Math scores

- Every grade level cohort with the exception of one made progress
- Very impressive progress in a few different cohorts; largest increase in 7th Grade Math
- We are favorable compared to Nassau County
- PowerPoint presentation at September Board Meeting
- Reaching out to other Districts who have had successes to see what they are doing
- Our end game is growth

Received a call from State Ed

- Interested in Seaford taking part in a dialogue about best practices related to Common Core instruction
- Also requested perhaps sending representatives down from Albany to observe

Possible uses of Community Revitalization Funds received from David Dennenberg

- Paving of sandy area up at High School parking lot to turf field from Booster shed and garage area
- Lighting in that area

Notification to District from police department of all arrests related to heroin in Seaford

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Concern over school policies which apply to bullying and harassment
Should feel safe and protected; do not feel that way every day
What should the procedure be when a student is bullied and reports it to an adult
Reported situation practically every day at Middle School

Areas covered in the discussion on Collateral – Securities vs. Letters of Credit included:

**WORKSHOP TOPIC
SECURITIES VS. LETTERS
OF CREDIT**

Current method of securing deposits in our investment accounts above and beyond the covered FDIC amounts

- Discussion with Flushing Bank
- Currently our collateral secured by securities per our Board Policy
- Other options are Surety Bonds, Letters of credit and Reciprocal Deposits
- Ms. Pellati recommends Letters of Credit – NY State Comptroller has backed this since 2011
- Would get District more interest
- District policy would need to be changed to read Securities or Letters of Credit
- Investigate if NYSSBA has policy template
- Recommend First Reading of revised policy at September 4th meeting

Areas covered in the discussion on Board of Education Goals for 2014/2015 included:

**WORKSHOP TOPIC
2014-2015 BOARD OF
EDUCATION GOALS**

Suggested Goals:

Looking for other ways to bring revenue into School District

- Research grant opportunities; Grant writing; Grant Writing Committee
- Develop relationships with corporations/wealthy individuals
- Brochure for Life Skills Program
- Corporate grants for a particular program, if possible
Seaford is a low-needs district
Funding programs after grant money runs out
Combine/share with neighboring school districts for some extracurricular clubs/activities
- Use of facilities
Sponsoring track meets, athletic events, tournaments, etc.
Dance Competitions
- Create one brochure to advertise Life Skills, auditorium and athletic fields
Superintendent will speak to District's public relations person

Development of Budget Advisory Committee

- Re-creation of Budget Advisory Committee
- Past Committees
- Conduct interviews of people who want to be on Committee
- Every budget workshop session open to public
- What do we do with recommendations if we don't have the money
- Perhaps Committee could come up with new ways to create revenue; ways to do things differently
- Some guidelines would need to be given to Committee concerning available money
- What is purpose of Budget Advisory Committee in Tax Cap Era
- Benefits of having Committee; how productive is it
- Goal is to pass budget; stay within the Cap
- Community Advisory Committee to fight and lobby Albany to get our fair share
- Laws concerning formation of Committees by school districts/PTAs
- Stacie Stark to contact PTA's

Restoration/Improvement of Programs

- Creation of a priority list for restoration
- Providing best education to our students – academic, athletic, art, music, etc.
- Building back will be incremental
- Do not believe we would be successful piercing the Cap
- Guidelines for 1% savings – 2015/2016 budget
- Having dollar amounts would be helpful
- November Technology Bond Issue
- Enrichment program
- Possible ways to reduce class size

Improving Scores

- 2008/2009 strongest academic year
- Cuts starting in 2009
- Very proud and enthused that we made some progress but we are never satisfied

**WORKSHOP TOPIC
IMPROVING SCORES**

Summary of Goals:

SUMMARY OF GOALS

- Will try to organize some kind of advocacy to bring greater attention to our revenue needs
Reduction of class sizes a priority;
- Restoring program and having all our budget issues in mind are related
- Preserving, Restoring and Advancing
Preserving as much as what we have in the Community which makes us proud
Restore as much as we can in a valued way
Advance after the first two are in place

None

CLOSING REMARKS

At 9:08 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Fagan, second by Ms. Ruona, to adjourn the Workshop Meeting and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing:

**ADJOURN WORKSHOP
MEETING**

- Contract negotiations with SASA, UTS, Clerical Unit and the Aides Unit
- Harbor Access Road IMA
- Evaluation of the Superintendent

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Fagan, second by Ms. Wink, to adjourn Executive Session at 11:41 p.m.

**ADJOURN EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette,
District Clerk

Susan Ruona,
Vice District Clerk