

Public Hearing on the proposed Budget for the 2020/2021 School Year for the Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Wednesday, May 27, 2020, via You Tube, pursuant to provisions in an Executive Order given by the Governor of the State of New York, in Seaford, New York.

PRESENT VIA YOUTUBE:

Mr. Bruce A. Kahn - President
Ms. Stacie Stark - Vice President
Mr. Kevin Devlin - Trustee
Ms. Andrea Parisi - Trustee
Ms. Natalie Pedisich – Trustee

ALSO PRESENT VIA YOUTUBE:

Dr. Adele V. Pecora
Mr. John A. Strifolino
Ms. Marie Donnelly
Ms. Mary Anne Sadowski – Attorney
Ms. Carmen Ouellette – District Clerk

OTHERS:

Dr. Charles Leone
Mr. Thomas Lynch
Members of the Community

At 7:16 p.m., the President of the Board of Education opened the public hearing on the proposed budget for the 2020/2021 School Year. As the first order of business, Board President Bruce Kahn led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN BUDGET
HEARING**

Mr. Kahn welcomed everyone to the Annual Budget Hearing. He went on to say that it was different this year as the Board was holding the Public Hearing on YouTube, something they were not used to doing. Mr. Kahn advised that normally there would be a time for community members to come up to the microphone, state their name and address and express their comments or concerns. Since this cannot be done in the usual manner, the Board has set up a provision this evening for residents to email their questions to the Board email which is being monitored by the Board. Any questions will be read and then responded to.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Kahn also advised that directly after the Budget Hearing the Board would be holding its Regular Meeting. He explained that public comments for the Regular Meeting needed to have been sent prior to the meeting so the Board will be unable to answer those questions during the live meeting.

He also explained that there is a different between the Budget Meeting which is considered a public meeting whereas the Board of Education Meetings are considered meetings what are conducted in public.

Dr. Pecora opened by thanking everyone that participated in the budget development process. She went on to say that it was particularly challenging this year in this pandemic envelopment. She then thanked her co-presenters John Strifolino and Marie Donnelly and Tom Lynch, for helping in the formation of the presentation and the creation of everything you are going to see this evening.

Areas covered in the 2020/2021 Budget Presentation by Dr. Adele Pecora, Marie Donnelly and John Strifolino included:

Dr. Adele Pecora:

How is the Budget Process and Vote Different in the Pandemic?
Executive Order 202.26 – Annual Budget Vote & Election
Absentee Ballot & Election Process

Marie Donnelly:

Proposed Budget 2020-2021
Built a Budget still within the Tax Cap
What is the tax levy limit and what does it mean that we are within the tax cap?
Seaford USFD Tax Levy History
Budget Components 2020-2021
Budget Revenues 2020-2021
Uncertainty of State Aid Poses Challenges

PRESENTATION (cont'd)

John Strifolino:

2020-2021 Budget built to preserve programs added in the past several years
Program Enhancement PDL Initiative
Distribution of Devices over 16 months
High School
Middle School
Harbor and Manor

Dr. Adele Pecora:

Budget Enhancements 2020-2021
What happens if the budget fails
Ramifications of operating under a contingency budget
Stay Seaford Strong
Other Key Dates to Remember
Absentee Ballot Information – What happens if I do not get my ballot back in time?
Questions regarding the budget?

Board President Bruce Kahn advised those listening that if they had any questions regarding the budget that could email them, and the Board would be able to respond to those questions. He then advised that he was going to give everyone a couple of minutes to email their questions. Board Vice President Stacie Stark, monitoring the Board of Education email, advised there were no emails/questions.

Mr. Kahn thanked Dr. Pecora for the presentation. There were no questions from the Board Members. Mr. Kahn advised that he had received a few emails this past week questioning why we were at the tax cap in light of things being so bad out there, people losing their jobs, etc. He stated that the real reason is that they were not left with much choice with the Governor talking about a 20% cut to School Aid and the Governor also being able to cut State Aid up to three times during this year. He went on to say that if they had gone below the tax cap it would have left the District no room and we would have to make major cuts to our programs, possibly cut staff and increase class size. He also stated that they always try to just ask for just what we need.

Board Member Andrea Parisi stated that the presentation really showed how far the District has come, all the programs that we have in place and what is necessary moving forward. She went on to say that the presentation was very comprehensive and informative.

Board Member Kevin Devlin stated that a budget is more than just a financial plan. It's our values and what we think is important for our children in the District. Thank you to Central Administration for the presentation.

In closing, Mr. Kahn advised that if anyone thinks of anything after this meeting is over they can always email the Board of Education or contact Ms. Donnelly or Central Administration if they feel that the question is more in their ballpark than the Board's.

At 7:53 p.m., Board President Bruce Kahn closed the Public Hearing on the proposed budget for the 2020/2021 School Year.

**CLOSE OF BUDGET
HEARING**

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette
District Clerk

Andrea Parisi
Vice District Clerk