

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education, Seaford Union Free School District, was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, via SKYPE, pursuant to provisions in an Executive Order given by the Governor of the State of New York, in Seaford, New York.

PRESENT VIA SKYPE:

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 SKYPE:

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

OTHERS:

33 Individuals

At 7:06 p.m., the President of the Board of Education opened the Special Meeting. As the first order of business, Board President, Bruce Kahn led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Kahn advised that there were a few things on the Agenda. Discussion topic for our budget vote, voting process and the need to set up the Budget Hearing date. He went to advise the rules governing the date of the Budget Hearing, the Governor's executive order and the New York State School Boards Timeline. He suggested Monday, June 1st as a date for the Budget Hearing. After a brief discussion it was decided to go forward with June 1st at 7:00 p.m. as the date of the 2020 Budget Hearing.

OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Kahn then spoke about an email from a parent who asked if there was a plan going forward to have interactive online learning experience as close to a classroom setting as possible where the students will be taught lessons and correspond with their teachers in a live setting. The parent also asked if it will be consistent throughout the District.

Dr. Adele Pecora spoke about current and future instruction. Areas covered:

CURRENT & FUTURE INSTRUCTION

Our remote learning and ongoing adjustments made as more information comes from the Governor's office
Primary goals for our students
Importance of student-teacher interaction
Live instruction
Current instruction by some teachers
Clear that this is going to be our world for the rest of the year
Expectations moving forward

Discussion on proposed 2020/2021 Budget covered:

DISCUSSION ON 2020/2021 BUDGET

Tax Cap
Tax Levy
Uncertainty with State Aid
Normally we know where are at this time
State can make changes/cuts three times in the budget
No matter what we settle on tonight, cannot guarantee to the public that is what is in our budget may be there come January or November or October.
Doing the best, we can; hope everyone realizes that we can only base it on what we know today and that can change
Ms. Donnelly's presentation this evening will be up on the District's website either tomorrow or the next day

Budget Presentation by Marie Donnelly, Assistant Superintendent for Business:

PRESENTATION 2020/2021 BUDGET

Proposed Budget 2020/2021
\$73,005,631
Budget to Budget Increase
\$2,348,682 or 3.32%
Projected tax levy increase:
\$1,901,670 or 3.58%
Property Tax Calculation
Proposed Budget: \$73,005,631
Sources of Revenue: \$17,957,782
Property Taxes (Levy): \$55,047,849
Executive Order 202.26

Continued Discussion on 2020/2021 Budget:

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION
BUDGET 2020/2021**

Looking at budget for the last 6 weeks
Expected increase in transportation costs – vendor is not accepting cost CPI index – will need to go out to bid
May need to increase the curriculum writing budget line to deal with distance and online learning
Do we need to consider online texts/cost
Nothing listed for High School subs

Dr. Pecora advised that currently trying to assess what kind of gap we would have in learning and when we would take a look at establishing some benchmarks to assess where the children are at this this moment in time. She went on to say that until we know what September is going to look like we are holding off on planning and they are starting to talk about summer school. School in September may not start as we know it and may have to look differently

Unknown unexpected expenses we may have to budget for
Mailing of ballots to every voter is expected to affect the turnout
- Previous years we had between approximately 1400 - 1600 voters
- Mailing out 13,000 ballots this year
Too many unknowns now to cut anything out of our budget right now
Want to adopt a budget that is acceptable to the community and takes the students' needs into account
Cuts expected from the Governor in 3-month periods. First will come in May after we adopt budget
Concern about cutting now and then having to cut again
Fought so hard over the past years to put all these programs in place
Hoping the community will be behind us and understand why we are going with our tax levy limit and not reducing that.

Each of the Board members expressed their agreement. Additional comments and concerns:

- Completely agree to keep the integrity of our programs that we have worked so hard and come so far
- School safety and all the things that we want to keep in place and continue to move forward.
- A lot of financial uncertainty going on and totally understandable for people to be concerned but this is the best way to make sure our children continue to get the education they have* been receiving and try and keep the integrity of the budget as much as we can even though we know the costs are coming but for right now this is the best course of action.
- Do not know what is coming down but think we should try to do our best to save what we have.
- Community may think we do not understand, we are not caring but that is not true. We feel bad for anyone who has taken a pay cut, been furloughed or have been laid off.
- Know it will be tough for some members of community
- We're elected to do what's best for the students of our district and for us to do that duty can't see us adopting a budget less than we have set now knowing that there will be cuts coming down the line from the government.

To adopt the budget, we are going to need to vote on a resolution.

- Adoption of the budget was added to the agenda as item 3.C.

Motion by Ms. Stark, second by Ms. Pedisich, to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, based upon a recommendation from the Superintendent of Schools, that the Seaford School District budget for the 2020-2021 school year be approved by this Board of Education and presented to the community for voting purposes under Proposition #1 on June 9, 2020 in the amount of \$73,005,631 with a budget-to-budget increase of 3.32% and a tax levy increase of 3.58%.

	No Discussion.
Bruce Kahn -	Aye
Stacie Stark -	Aye
Kevin Devlin -	Aye
Andrea Parisi -	Aye
Natalie Pedisich -	Aye
	Motion Carried.

Voting Process areas covered:

**VOTING PROCESS
JUNE 9, 2020 VOTE**

Found out May 1, 2020 that normal voting will not take place this year

Absentee ballots will be mailed to all qualified voters

Review of NYSSBA School Budget Vote & Election Timeline

May 11th is the deadline for petitions to be in.

- This year 2% of the previous vote in signatures not needed
- Need to submit to the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. May 11th if anyone plans on running
- Two positions open this year – Ms. Stark and Ms. Pedisich
- Names will not be placed in hat to determine placement on ballot as in past years; names will be placed on the ballot in alphabetical order by last name

May 12th first day to get legal notice in by

- This year only required to run 2 legal notices: normally 4
- Legal notices will appear in Newsday and Seaford Herald Citizen

May 21st is deadline to adopt budget

- Does not make sense because military ballots need to be mailed out by May 12th

Military personnel are still required to fill out an application for a military ballot and that should happen the day before we have to transmit them.

- Military ballot application must be filed with the District Clerk by May 14th
- If not registered to vote they need to indicate they wish to register on that application as well

Information postcards mailed to all households

We were not given a timetable, but we have to mail out absentee ballots and they must be returned to the District Clerk by 5:00 p.m. on June 9th

- We have to make sure they get to the residents in time and to give them time to review it and mail it back.
- Currently working with printer and Post Office

This meeting is a Special Meeting which we held to go over the budget, tax cap and vote on the budget if we were all in agreement

Closing remarks by the Administration and Board

CLOSING REMARKS

- ◆ We only had one public comment. We are not set up to take live public comments. As our website says if you have any public comments please send them prior to the meeting so our next meeting is May 13 and we will try to address it.
- ◆ If you have an issue with the school or a teacher, please contact the school building first - the principal or assistant principal. Or if it is a problem with the principal for some reason, you can reach out to the Central Administration. You will get a much quicker response and a lot of time we just have to refer back to them anyway.
- ◆ Thank you to Ms. Donnelly for her presentation
- ◆ Thank you to the Board for adopting the recommend tax levy tonight.
- ◆ Thank you to the teachers for their willingness to continue to enhance our online platforms and use them to provide live instruction for the children in a more enhanced manner going forward
- ◆ We are fully aware that the students and the teachers and the administrators - everybody misses being in the schools and it is a very difficult situation that we're dealing with right now - not being able to all be there together.
- ◆ We know people are working hard. We did not really have a lot of preparation for this set of circumstances and we did not have things to draw so I appreciate all the efforts that are done by the teachers and administrators.
- ◆ We appreciate all the efforts for the parents at home. These are difficult times it is not easy, but everyone's cooperation to work for what is best for the kids is appreciated.
- ◆ Thank you to the teachers. They are going through the same issues every other parent is. Some of them are single parents – one-income families and they are trying to do their job and watch their kids at the same time. They have really been going through the ringer as well just like everybody else.
- ◆ To our community thank you for your patience and looking forward to over the next couple months to get back to normal.

CLOSING COMMENTS (cont'd)

- ◆ Thank you to everybody for their patience and understanding. We are working in a new normal right now and everybody has been really understanding and patient with us and it is appreciated.
- ◆ Thank you to our administrators Dr. Charlie Leone, Mary Catherine Culella-Sun who did not talk tonight.
- ◆ Thank you to all of you who have been working 7 days a week, some of you close to 18-20 hours a week.
- ◆ This was never planned. When we first heard school was being closed, we assumed, okay, for two weeks. So, we put some stuff together for a couple of weeks. Once it became long term, everyone has been working endlessly to make this work for students and the community.
- ◆ Seaford, we always come through it, like we did through Superstorm Sandy.
It's hard, it's frustrating for everyone – parents, families, teachers, kids. It's extremely frustrating and I think everybody is doing the best they can and doing a great job.
- ◆ We just have to remember this is all for the kids

Two members of the community un-muted and spoke:

RESIDENTS REMARKS

- Resident stated that he did not understand how the Board could have only received one email. He stated he had reached out to the school, the principal and sent two emails to the Board with comments and asked how to get addressed
He went on to stated that he knew 35 other people sent emails
- Another resident also stated that he had sent an email and would re-send his email

Just for anybody who is listening. We go into Executive Session and will be coming out of Executive Session to go back into Public Session. From there we will be adjourning the meeting. There will be no business conducted once we go back into Public Session open session, so you do not need to sit around and wait for us to come back to hear what we are voting on.

I would like to thank the public. I know this is tough just being able to listen in and not seeing our faces. Once again this is all new to us, so we thank you for bearing with us and please come back and join us next Wednesday at 7:00 o'clock for our next Regular Meeting.

Mr. Kahn then advised that he needed a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a specific personnel matter, agreements with our collective bargaining units and agreements with our non- aligned employees contracts and upon completion of discussion respecting the foregoing to return to open session.

At 7:44 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Stark, second by Ms. Pedisich, to adopt the following resolution:

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Seaford Union Free School District enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing a specific personnel matter, agreements with our collective bargaining units and agreements with our non-aligned contracts and upon completion of discussion respecting the foregoing to return to open session.

No Discussion.
All Ayes
Motion Carried.

Thank you everybody and good night

Executive Session concluded at 9:25 p.m.

Public Session re-opened at 9:26 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
CONCLUDED
PUBLIC SESSION RE-OPENED**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Stark, second by Ms. Pedisich, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:26 p.m.

**REGULAR MEETING
ADJOURNED**

Respectfully submitted,

Carmen T. Ouellette
District Clerk

Andrea Parisi
Vice District Clerk