



EAST ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOE Response
to
BAC Recommendations

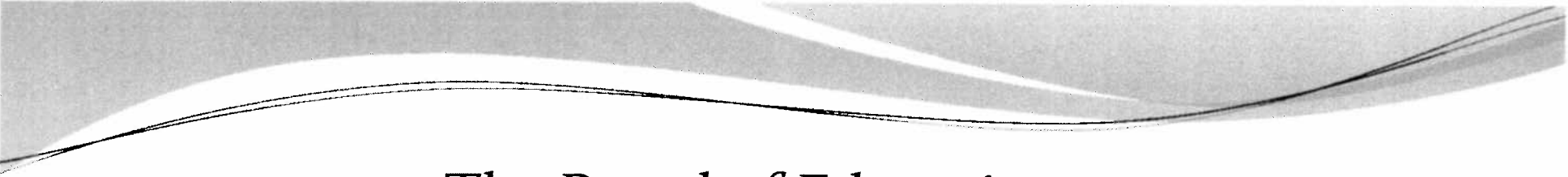
Presented by:

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April 7, 2016



The Board of Education
and the
East Islip School District Administration

would like to thank the BAC

for their efforts over the past several months.

Their presentation to the Board of Education demonstrates the thought and study that was applied to their work.



The BAC, BOE and Administration are aligned in support of the following items:

1. Spending Efficiencies
2. Maintaining quality programs with exacting inventory controls
3. Collaborative efforts between staff and community
4. Maintain and enhance current educational opportunities
5. Seek to reallocate funding for Academic Advancements
6. Maintain Music, Art, Athletics, Clubs and provide extended opportunities for students
7. Support for the long term vision of our district.
8. The Long Range Planning Committee should continue analyzing future trends
9. Closing of the high school campus

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

The BAC made the following recommendations in regard to East Islip High School:

- Support of a closed campus
- The termination of allowing students to come in late and/or leave early.
- Programming students for a full 8-period day
- The philosophy is that these things will increase graduation rate and increase the number of students receiving an Advanced Designation Diploma.

BOE Response:

- The campus will be closed beginning in the Fall of 2016.
- The administration will explore the scheduling of students who come in late and leave early for possible change in the future.
- The administrative team will explore a full schedule for all students in subsequent years.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

BOCES Career and Technical Education Program for our High School Students

The BAC recommends allowing 15 students to take CTE programs at BOCES' sites for the 2016/2017 school year.

BOE Response:

- The administration plans to conduct a cost benefit analysis of utilizing BOCES for CTE programs for the 2017/2018 school year.
- The Long Range Planning Committee will also be asked to analyze this option for students for future planning.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

- The BAC recommended a 5% reduction to various budget codes in the first draft of the 2016/17 Budget. This reduction could reduce the 2016/17 Budget by \$142,616.45
- BOE Response
 - Building level budgets were adjusted for enrollment trends.
 - Prior to the first draft of the budget, Building level budgets were further reduced between 5 and 10%
 - The first draft of the 2016/17 Budget had a shortfall between expenses and revenues/reserve funding of \$894,463.
 - This gap has been eliminated, due in part to reducing some of the budget codes recommended by the BAC.



BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

- The BAC recommended a 5 to 10% reduction in services budgeted to BOCES (services that will not affect special education or student education spending).
- BOE Response
 - The District's aid ratio for aidable services provided by BOCES is 68.8%, which means that .68 cents of every aidable dollar spent is reimbursed to the District.
 - Of the \$5.3 million BOCES budget, less than half would fit the description of not affecting special education or student education spending.
 - The administration will review non-student related categories for possible reductions.



BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

- The District should investigate soliciting vendors or technical services that are less expensive than BOCES can provide.
- BOE Response
 - In most cases, BOCES is not the vendor providing services. The District benefits from the purchasing power of the districts that belong to the BOCES consortium.
 - In addition to procuring services through BOCES, the District issues on average 23 bids per year, as well as the extension, on average, of 10 bids from previous years
 - The District also “piggybacks” other municipal bids.
 - For items below bidding thresholds, three competitive quotes are obtained.



BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

- The BAC strongly encourages a decrease in overtime spending. Although these lines in the projected budget have decreased, the committee believes that the District can reduce these costs further as we have found them to be excessive in previous years.
- BOE Response
 - There are many factors to be considered when analyzing overtime. The District has found, especially in the area of Buildings and Grounds, that it may be less expensive to have in-house staff work on certain projects, rather than hiring an outside contractor.
 - Due to recent equipment purchases, it has become cost effective to have work done in-house (i.e.: last major snow storm).
 - The District will continue to monitor overtime to ensure that funds are spent in the most efficient manner possible.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

It is the BAC's opinion that teacher absences can be better fiscally managed. The BAC recommends that absences be covered by another teacher's duty period or that a substitute be used instead of paying a teacher to cover. Teachers should not be compensated for coverage, unless these options are not available.

BOE Response

- Whenever available, substitute teachers are used to cover a teacher's absence. Duty periods are non-instructional periods. Therefore, if a teacher's duty is removed (i.e., lunchroom duty, hallway duty, etc.) the class they would cover would only be a study hall. Students would not have an instructional period. The District does not support reducing instructional periods and replacing them with study halls. In most instances, teachers who are absent leave substitute plans which are utilized by our substitute teachers and or/teachers who provide period coverage.
- The District has begun to allow uncertified teachers who are working towards their certification to sub, at a lower cost, for up to 40 days. This may increase the substitute pool.
- The District works with the following colleges/universities on an ongoing basis to build our substitute pool.
 - Hofstra University
 - CW Post – LIU
 - St. Joseph's College
 - Dowling College
 - Etc.
- Unfortunately, districts across New York State are facing a significant shortage of substitute teachers at the present time.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

- The BAC recommends the centralization of the pre-school and Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs at the ECC.
- The BAC suggests that an increase in revenue is possible by increasing enrollment for all programs.
- BOE Response
 - The philosophy of the District has been to provide UPK at locations in the District that were convenient for families.
 - The revenue generated from the pre-school and UPK programs is a result of the Request for Proposal process.
 - Separate lease agreements, which includes rental income, are in place for the tenants occupying space at the ECC.
 - Negotiations between the District and current/prospective tenants is a topic meant for discussion during the executive session of the BOE.
 - The District will research the viability of charging rent for classrooms used for UPK at Timber Point and Connetquot.
 - The IRS codes pertaining to the tax exempt borrowing of the District relates to how much space is being utilized by a private concern, not the amount of rent received by the District.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

School Merger

Due to declining enrollment over a 10 year period, which has been projected to continue through 2023 (as per the Long Range Study conducted) the BAC recommends a school merger which has been recommended for the past several years.

BOE Response:

The District has been responsive of this recommendation in the following manner:

- An efficiency study was conducted in the 2013/2014 school year which examined enrollment and building trends over a 10 year period.
- The District reconfigured our elementary schools in September 2014 to two K-2 buildings and two 3-5 buildings. This reconfiguration has resulted in the reduction of staff each year at the elementary level
- The District's Long Range Planning Committee has been re-established and will continue to analyze the BOCES study for future considerations regarding building utilization.

BAC Recommendation and BOE Response

Personnel Efficiencies

The BAC supports reducing staff to be more in line with the teacher/pupil ratio and that courses should be reconfigured in order to reduce those running with low enrollment.

BOE Response:

Scheduling (K-12) will reflect the reduction of teachers based on declining enrollment.

Based on student course requests at our high school, courses with low enrollments have been dropped.

Students who have requested these courses will receive their second, or perhaps, third choice of a course in lieu of the one initially chosen.



Comments and Questions from the Board of Education...