

## East Islip Union Free School District

### Board of Education

April 3, 2013

#### Board of Education Response to Budget Advisory Committee Recommendations (3/21/13)

The members of the Board of Education wish to express their sincere gratitude for the efforts of the members of this year's Budget Advisory Committee. We fully understand, recognize and appreciate the enormous amount of work, thought and collaboration put forth in this worthwhile endeavor in support of the East Islip School District. For the past several months you have worked hard to find a balance between an educational program that provides the best opportunities for our children and maintains a fiscally and prudently sound budget that will be accepted and approved by our taxpayers. This unenviable task is one that we as Board members and our administrators, as well, have struggled with throughout the budget process. I respond to your recommendations as President and spokesperson of the Board of Education with respect and appreciation.

The recommendations and responses are as follows:

1. **Restore secondary music program** – The Board accepts this recommendation and has asked administration to include the restoration of the entire instrumental and vocal music program, grades 4-12 in the proposed budget for 2013-2014.
2. **Restore JV and Varsity Athletics** – The Board accepts this recommendation and asked administration to restore the current JV and Varsity Athletic Program in the proposed budget.
3. **Restore 9 period day at East Islip High School** – The Board accepts this recommendation and it is included in the proposed budget.
4. **Restore full day kindergarten** – The Board accepts this recommendation. The full day kindergarten program will be included in the proposed budget through an agreement reached with the East Islip Teachers Association.
5. **Recruit a new superintendent** – The Board is in the final stages of hiring a new Superintendent of Schools. We are hopeful that we will be able to make the appointment and introduce the new superintendent at the April 18<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.
6. **Place one member of the Board of Education on the Budget Advisory Committee** – One or two Board members will be on the committee.

7. **Reduce overall spending by 5% in equipment, conference and travel, general supplies, supplies and materials** – The Board accepts this recommendation and administration is proposing a \$622,000 reduction in non-salary codes. This is well beyond the 5% recommended by the BAC.
8. **Do not re-hire or fill the Data Services Administrator** – The Board has asked the administration for their response to this recommendation. Mrs. Becker-Santa could you please give us your response.
9. **Continue to approach all vendors in an effort to reduce costs without deferments** – The Board accepts this recommendation and is requesting that administration, whenever possible, seek reductions from appropriate vendors and contractors.
10. **Re-structure the elementary schools**- The Board will further examine the possibility of restructuring the elementary schools based on a declining enrollment during the 2013-2014 school year. Mr. Finello could you please comment on the administration's analysis of that recommendation.
11. **Re-structure East Islip Middle School** – The Board has asked administration to review this recommendation. Mrs. Becker-Santa I believe you have been working with Mr. Bernard, our middle school principal, analyzing this recommendation. Would you please give the administration's response?

Once again we thank you !