

A SPECIAL MEETING of the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District, of the Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York was held on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, in the Board Room of the Administration Building adjacent to the Senior High School.

Those present: Trustees James F. Bocca, Wendy DeGaetano, Patrick M. Farrell, Cathy Gismervik, Kathleen Jennings, Diane Klein and Diane Thiel

Trustees Carmine Galletta and Peter Scarlatos were absent.

Also present: Mr. Anthony Cacciola, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Dominick Palma, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Student Services; Mrs. Yiendhy Farrelly, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mrs. Jennifer Buscemi, Executive Director for Finance and Operations; Mrs. Amy E. Jones, District Clerk; and residents.

The president opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

BUDGET REVIEW: Superintendent Anthony Cacciola and Executive Director for Finance and Operations Jennifer Buscemi

The trustees and central administrators reviewed section 1000 of Budget Draft #2.1 which had a decrease of \$329,444 from Budget Draft #2. Mr. Cacciola noted that this draft is on the district's website. Trustee Bocca addressed his concerns with the cost of dues for NYSSBA and the cost for NYSSBA's policy service as well as the dues paid to Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association. Trustee DeGaetano explained that she felt these services, which include training for Board members, while not inexpensive are important to the position of serving on a Board of Education. Trustees Jennings, Klein and Thiel expressed their views about the importance of being involved in these associations. Dr. Palma noted that these associations are also advocates and lobbyists for school districts serving as the district's voice in Albany. In addition, the fees for conferences for members are greatly reduced in comparison to their non-members fees. Recommended budget lines to be revisited for draft #3 include; cost for repair of vehicles, the district's phone service, considering creation of a buildings and grounds repair reserve, printing costs, paper usage — Patrick Farrell suggested contacting Xerox to see if they will include the copy paper in our contract as they do for the Town of Babylon, the contract for Xerox through BOCES may be \$30,000 less than budgeted, a possible reduction to our public relations firm and survey company, canceling our REFIT membership, and NYSSBA and NSSBA were discussed as possible cuts. Mr. Cacciola said that the Head Custodian position at Tooker Avenue, which was recently opened due to the passing of the former Head Custodian, is being filled by a custodian and that custodian's position will not be filled.

Mr. Cacciola said that the Board will begin looking through the 2000 section at the February 7, 2012 special Board meeting.

Mr. Cacciola noted that the district now has a link to Facebook and Twitter. However, these cannot be accessed within the district. He also thanked Patt Squicciarini for her maintenance of the district's website. He also thanked all who participated in the recent survey that was on the website. He added that 82% of the survey respondents are West Babylon residents. Mr. Cacciola liked Mrs. Squicciarini's idea of placing the survey on the website.

STATEMENTS/QUESTIONS OF RESIDENTS:

In response to resident William Hill's request Mrs. Buscemi said that the revenue portion of the budget will be broken down in the same manor as the budget was presented this evening.

Mr. Cacciola said he sent an e-mail today regarding the first budget advisory meeting which will take place on Wednesday, February 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Board room.

In response to Lisa DeGeloromo's question, Mr. Cacciola said that the district has a 5 year contract with Xerox for the 34 copy machines in the district, which is BOCES aidable.

Trustee Bocca seconded by Trustee Jennings made a motion to executive session for matters of negotiation and legal matters at 8:40 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Trustee Bocca seconded by Trustee Klein made a motion to adjourn at 10:05 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Attested to: _____

District Clerk