

April 5, 2011

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A WORKSHOP 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, April 5, 2011, in the Performing Arts Center of the Senior High School.

Those present: Trustees Lucy Campasano, Wendy DeGaetano, Patrick M. Farrell, Carmine Galletta, Kathleen Jennings, Diane Klein, Peter Scarlatos and Diane Thiel
Trustee: Jerry Nocera was absent.

Also present: Mr. Anthony Cacciola, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Yiendhy Farrelly, Executive Director for Human Resources and Mr. Arthur Williams, Executive Director for Finance and Operations; Mrs. Amy E. Jones, District Clerk and residents.

The president opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Mr. Cacciola apologized for the delay due to technical difficulties. He noted that the Board will be adopting the budget for the 2011-2012 school year at the April 12, 2011 Board meeting. Mr. Williams and Mr. Cacciola explained the changes to the state aid since the March 22, 2011 meeting. Mr. Cacciola made the following recommendations to the Board:

After a review of the high school schedule for next year by Dr. Vassallo and Dr. Palma, Mr. Cacciola recommended a reduction of three secondary positions, based on declining enrollment.

Reduce the amount for software by \$64,037.00 due to the reduction of anticipated state aid for software.

Based on communication with staff, community members and the Board, Mr. Cacciola also recommended a reduction to sports related overtime by \$60,000. This would require the careful scheduling of events on weekends and holidays. In addition, he recommended a reduction of \$40,000 to the sports materials line. This coupled with previous reductions totals \$195,274.00 in sports related reductions.

Mr. Cacciola recommended the reduction of one art teacher and one music teacher instead of two art teachers and one music teacher. He said that the amount of art time would be on a rotating weekly basis in the elementary buildings. This reduction would also eliminate instrumental music lessons in grade four. Mrs. Farrelly explained that the administrators would meet with the department chairpeople to determine the most beneficial way to manage the new format.

Mr. Cacciola's final recommendation pertained to the inclusion class model. He recommended changing the current recommendation of reducing the program by five inclusion teachers to reducing the program by two inclusion teachers. He said that Dr. Palma, who could not attend this evening's meeting, felt that this would enable the district to keep the program as close to the current model as possible. Again, this process would be worked out with the building principals and staff.

The above changes result in \$371,286.00 less than the budget of March 22, 2011. The budget to budget increase amounts to .89% and the tax rate would be 6.46%. It was also noted that if the budget is defeated and the district were forced to go to a contingent budget, the tax rate could be 7.3%

President Farrell polled the Board regarding accepting the recommendations of Superintendent Cacciola and the Board unanimously approved the recommendations.

Statement of Residents:

Residents Carolyn Lilly, Vincent Mulieri, William McShane, Donna Schwarz, Dawn Conboy, Jim Prunzion, Toby Leddy, Raymond Schein, William Hill and James Bocca were thanked for offering their input on the various budget cuts.

In response to Mr. Hill's question, Mr. Cacciola said that approximately 2 million of the 4.9 million dollar appropriated fund balance will come from the retirement contribution reserve and that the information is available on the district's website.

Mr. Farrell thanked everyone for attending this evening and for their input.

Trustee Campasano seconded by Trustee Thiel made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

The motion was **CARRIED** by all present

Attested to: _____

District Clerk