

(247)

MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting – March 19, 2013
High School Auditorium

NOT BOARD APPROVED

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Mrs. Susan Koukounas; Mrs. Amelia Lantz; and, Mrs. Kimberly Ligon.

LATE: Mr. Thomas Carson.

ABSENT: Messrs. Jeffrey Falisi and Gregory Meyer.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Nancy Carney, Dr. Lois Etzel, Mr. Sam M. Schneider, and Barbara O’Kula.

Executive session was cancelled and did not meet prior to the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were about 8 other people in attendance.

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse announced that nominating petitions for those interested in running for the Board of Education are available for pick-up at the Office of the District Clerk, 700 Osborn Avenue, Riverhead, New York. The deadline to submit petitions is April 22, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at the District Administration Office.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ligon, seconded by Mrs. Lantz, to adopt the published agenda.

Adoption of
Published Agenda

Yes 4 No 0
Motion Carried.

Comments from the community related to agenda topics only include:

Community Comments

•Request for a breakdown of the \$10 million fund. (Ms. Carney stated that the proposed fund is in response to criticism of ongoing maintenance on long term projects. The bus garage was one of the things taken out of the bond as there were other priorities. But, in the overall plan, if we sold District-owned land at Tuthills Lane, we would be able to use that money to establish a savings account for bus garage construction. The bus garage is in such a dilapidated state that it will likely be condemned at some point in the future.

Minutes
Board of Education
March 19, 2013
Page 2

NOT BOARD APPROVED

County Legislator, Al Krupski, has stated his support for the acquisition of development rights at Tuthills Lane by Suffolk County and will introduce a bill in the County Legislature to authorize preservation of this land as farmland.)

•What are the plans for the three acres at Phillips? (Ms. Carney stated that this acreage could be a potential site for the bus garage. There is a piece of road ("paper road") that would be purchased for not more than \$55,000 and an adjacent \pm 1.5 acres to the industrial Enterprise Park for not more than \$425,000 for buses that would not interrupt traversing through residential areas and give immediate access to Route 24-Flanders Road.)

•Would like to see any monies saved be used to break down our bond. (Ms. Carney stated that the bus garage was built in 1920 as a barn for horses that ran on the half-mile track. Today, the wiring, infrastructure, pavement, roof, and doors are crumbling and beyond repair. The community has articulated that we do not have a long term plan. This would be a savings account that will not result in another bond referendum but would be initiated with the sale of the land. The voters will ultimately decide how the money will be spent.)

Mr. Carson arrived at 7:09 p.m.

Ms. Carney gave the fourth presentation in a series on the 2013-2014 proposed budget. As advocates for students and public education, we need to have our voices heard as more than 15% of the revenue for our District comes from state aid. State aid figures are expected to be finalized by the end of the month when the Governor finalizes the budget. Therefore, a review of revenue will take place at the April 9th Board meeting.

Preliminary 2013-2014
Budget Presentation
*Revenues and Projected
Tax Levy and Ballot
Propositions*

There will be two additional propositions on the ballot for the budget vote and election of Board members on May 21, 2013.

Proposition #1 will ask for voter approval to establish a savings account of up to \$10 million to fund a new bus garage, maintenance area and improvements to the athletic fields. It will be funded through the sale of property on Tuthills Lane and unreserved, undesignated fund balance.

Minutes
Board of Education
March 19, 2013
Page 2

NOT BOARD APPROVED

Proposition #2 seeks to purchase two parcels of land that would allow construction of a new bus garage that would have immediate access to Route 24-Flanders Road at a total combined cost of \$480,000 (including closing fees).

Both propositions would incur no additional taxes...there would be no impact on the budget, and no debt to residents of the Riverhead Central School District. It establishes a savings account for future use; funds land purchases from the sale of other real property; and, allows the District to replace a failing building.

The community is invited to tour the bus garage to see first-hand the deterioration of this facility...rain comes through the roof and plastic sheeting is used to protect equipment from the elements, roof beams are rusting, ventilation systems are leaking or are just extremely inefficient, door frames are warped, electrical wiring is exposed and antiquated, there is inadequate storage, features grease pits, both the interior and exterior pavements are cracked...the structure is old, rotting, and falling apart. Kudos to the transportation and maintenance departments for doing the best they can in a very challenging environment.

Comments from the community included:

- A parent spoke in favor of Proposition I as she had opportunity to tour the bus garage and was shocked to see the staff working under such poor conditions. The District is being responsible for their long term plan.
- Have there been any injuries to staff who work there? (Ms. Carney stated that we have a very competent staff who are to be commended for their vigilance. We comply to the best of our ability and such working conditions need to be addressed long term.)
- Is the District prepared that the dirt will have to be reclaimed as the site was also once used by the Army and there may be asbestos issues, etc.? (Per Ms. Carney: Yes.)
- Has any thought been given as to what kind of athletic field would be put there if the building were to be demolished? (Ms. Carney stated that this is not a major concern at this point. However, we will look at where we are in terms of community partnerships and being cost effective.)

NOT BOARD APPROVED

Minutes
Board of Education
March 19, 2013
Page 4

A motion was made by Mrs. Lantz, seconded by Mrs. Koukounas, to approve the following resolution:

Approval of Ballot
Proposition on
Establishing a
Capital Reserve
-Approved

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby authorizes the presentment to the voters, at the annual school budget vote and school board election to be held on May 21, 2013, a proposition to read as follows:

“SHALL the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District be authorized to establish, pursuant to Education Law section 3651, a Capital Reserve Fund to be known as the “Transportation, Maintenance and Athletic Fields Capital Reserve” for the purpose of building, rebuilding, renovating or demolishing any district owned buildings used by the Transportation and Maintenance Departments, including work on parking lots, fuel tanks, buildings, repair bays, ventilation systems, sanitary systems and electrical systems, and any ancillary or related systems therein, including costs and expenses incidental thereto, and for renovation to athletic fields, including turf, drainage, irrigation, lighting, spectator and sanitary systems, and any ancillary or related systems therein, including costs and expenses incidental thereto. The ultimate amount of the aforesaid Transportation, Maintenance and Athletic Fields Capital Reserve Fund is \$10,000,000 plus interest thereon and the probable term is to be 10 years; the funds are to be transferred from unreserved, undesignated fund balance remaining in the general fund, from existing capital reserves for which all other legal purposes have been completed, or from funds received by the district from the sale of real property; with the exact amounts of each transfer to be approved by the Board of Education prior to said transfer.

The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee is hereby directed to deposit monies of this reserve fund in a separate bank account to be known as the “Transportation, Maintenance and Athletic Fields Capital Reserve”.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk is directed to include the text of the proposition in the Legal Notice for the election.

Yes 5 No 0
Motion Carried.

NOT BOARD APPROVED

Minutes
Board of Education
March 19, 2013
Page 5

A motion was made by Mrs. Ligon, seconded by Mrs. Koukounas, to approve the following resolution:

Approval of a Ballot
Proposition on
Purchasing Real
Property
-Approved

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby authorizes the presentment to the voters, at the annual school budget vote and school board election to be held on May 21, 2013, a proposition to read as follows:

“SHALL the Board of Education be authorized to acquire by negotiated purchase a parcel of vacant real estate adjoining the northerly boundary of the Phillips Avenue Elementary School designated on the Suffolk County Tax Map as District 0900 Section 141.00 Block 01.00 Lot 010.000, and having an area of ±1.4 acres at a price not to exceed fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000.00), which shall include the purchase price and the usual acquisition closing costs and adjustments;

And, shall the Board of Education be authorized to acquire by negotiated purchase a parcel of vacant real estate beyond the northerly boundary of the Phillips Avenue Elementary School designated on the Suffolk County Tax Map as District 0900 Section 141.00 Block 01.00 Lot 009.140, and having an area of ±1.5 acres at a price not to exceed four-hundred twenty-five thousand (\$425,000.00) which shall include the purchase price and the usual acquisition closing costs and adjustments;

And, shall the Board of Education be further authorized to expend four-hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$480,000) received from the sale of other district owned land to pay costs of such acquisition.”

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Clerk is directed to include the text of the proposition in the Legal Notice for the election.

Mr. Carson inquired as to whether we would double-check the value of the property to which Ms. Carney stated that she would work on getting an appraisal.

Yes 4
Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse
Mrs. Koukounas
Mrs. Lantz
Mrs. Ligon

Minutes
Board of Education
March 19, 2013
Page 6

NOT BOARD APPROVED

No 1
Mr. Carson

Motion Carried.

Mrs. Koukounas passed along a reminder to people that tonight's presentation will be on the website. It is important to start talking about this and that everyone comes out to vote.

Opportunity for
Board Members

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse mentioned her pleasure to be at the ribbon cutting ceremony at the newly expanded library and media center at Phillips Avenue Elementary School on March 14. Arrangements are being made to open up the computer room for community access so it will be getting a lot of use.

Ms. Carney announced that our NJROTC Drill Unit remains undefeated after its fourth consecutive victory at the North Rockland Area 4 Northeast Regional Drill Competition this past Saturday. They have had a stellar year and we are so very proud of their accomplishments.

Opportunity for
Superintendent

There were no comments made by the R.C.F.A.

Opportunity for R.C.F.A.

There were no further comments made by members of the community.

Community Comments

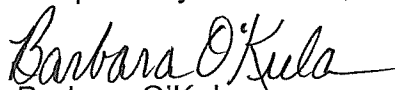
A motion was made by Mrs. Koukounas, seconded by Mrs. Lantz, to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Yes 5 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk