

(277)

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Special Meeting – April 17, 2013  
Riverhead High School Library

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Vice President, Mr. Gregory M. Meyer; Mrs. Susan Koukounas; and, Mrs. Amelia Lantz.

LATE: Messrs. Thomas Carson and Jeffrey Falisi.

ABSENT: Mrs. Kimberly Ligon.

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

There were three other people in attendance.

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance to the flag at 5:37 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was held for the victims of the deadly Boston Marathon bombings.

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

Adoption of  
Published Agenda  
-Approved

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

There were no comments from the community related to Agenda topics only.

Community Comments

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

Election of BOCES  
Board Members  
-William Hsiang  
-Lisa Israel  
-Fred Langstaff  
-Sandra Townsend  
-John Wyche  
-Approved

WHEREAS, there are five (5) vacancies on the Board of Cooperative Educational Services to be filled at the annual election to be held on April 17, 2013, and

WHEREAS, the five vacancies are for three-year terms commencing on July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the candidates listed in alphabetical order are as follows:

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William Hsiang (Riverhead Central School District)  
Lisa Israel (Greenport School District)  
Fred Langstaff (Sayville School District)  
Catherine Romano (Islip School District)  
Sandra Townsend (Central Islip School District)  
John Wyche (Bridgehampton School District)

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District may vote for up to five (5) candidates, provided that no more than one vote may be cast for each candidate:

The Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby casts its vote in the annual election of members of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services for the persons indicated as follows:

√William Hsiang (Riverhead Central School District)

Yes 4 No 0

√Lisa Israel (Greenport School District)

Yes 4 No 0

√Fred Langstaff (Sayville School District)

Yes 4 No 0

Catherine Romano (Islip School District)

Yes 0 No 4

√Sandra Townsend (Central Islip School District)

Yes 4 No 0

√John Wyche (Bridgehampton School District)

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

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Mr. Falisi arrived at 5:43 p.m.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the Administrative Budget of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services for 2013-2014.

Mr. Meyer commented that a lot of similar districts to ours in size receive much more BOCES aid. (Ms. Carney explained that the amount of aid is based on the state aid formula. We are considered "land wealthy" ...this is factored into the formula...and, results in less aid.)

Yes 5 No 0  
Motion Carried.

BOCES  
Administrative Budget  
-Approved

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement with the Riverhead Administrators Association dated April 17, 2013.

Yes 5 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Approval of Memorandum  
of Agreement  
-RAA  
-Approved

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby authorizes reimbursement of the cost of credit monitoring services for an employee whose identity was stolen while engaging in official District business, in an amount not to exceed \$200.

Yes 5 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Authorization of  
Reimbursement  
-Approved

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

Approval of Agreement  
-Approved

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RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby approves an agreement, dated April 11, 2013, respecting IRS § 403(b) payments, with an employee whose identity is known to the Board of Education; and, authorizes the President of the Board of Education and the Superintendent to sign the agreement.

Yes 5 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Mr. Finnerty, in response to a request made by Mr. Falisi at the last Board meeting, gave a presentation on a five point plan to upgrade security at RCSD buildings at a cost of \$102,200, including new and upgraded cameras, digital recorders, shatter resistant film on selected glass doors, and a new security office. The cost of this plan will be integrated in the 2013-2014 draft budget.

*Presentation*  
-Security Upgrades  
-2013-2014 Budget

Mr. Carson arrived at 5:55 p.m.

The Board of Education exchanged dialogue and ideas to secure our buildings that included vigilant monitoring of hallways, mandated use of ID tags, use of analogue vs. digital systems, use of our intranet in the event digital cameras went down, constant communication and presence, accountability to students and staff and the community, and educating our staff about what their responsibilities are to keep our students safe....the more eyes out there...the better.

As Ms. Carney, stated - All things being talked about are critical as we need to create a culture of security that is re-enforced daily; however, a decision has to be made as whether existing other reserves funds will be used to implement upgraded security measures District-wide. We have a budget to put forth for adoption on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and are here to talk about putting additional money toward security and options. Keep in mind that the budget needs to pass before we can do anything and remain under the 2% cap. If the budget is voted down, it effects everything.

There are two options to fund security upgrades:

#1) If the Board of Education chooses to add to the expenditure portion of the proposed 2013-2014 budget, it would increase the budget-to-budget spending to 5.22% (from 5.12%) and raise the tax levy from 3.82% to 3.92%

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#2) The Board of Education would take the money from other reserves funds (workers compensation, unemployment and ERS) and therefore keep the tax levy at 3.82%.

The following is a consensus of the Board in favor of Option #1:

Yes

Mr. Carson  
Mr. Falisi  
Mr. Meyer

No

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse  
Mrs. Koukounas

Mrs. Lantz stated that she was not confident with making a decision and did not want to be hasty.

Ms. Carney stated that regardless of either scenario...we are not looking to override the tax levy. Our reserves are sound and if upgrading our security measures are worthwhile and you want to keep the tax levy where is it is...we can get a jumpstart on security upgrades.

It was the majority consensus of the Board to utilize other reserves funds and keep the tax levy at 3.82%:

Yes 4

Mr. Carson  
Mr. Falisi  
Mrs. Lantz  
Mr. Meyer

No 2

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse  
Mrs. Koukounas

A motion was made by Mr. Falisi, seconded by Mr. Carson, to add funds to the tentative 2013-2014 expenditure budget which would increase the budget-to-budget by 5.22% (from 5.12%) and raise the tax levy from 3.82% to 3.94%:

Authorization to  
Add Funds to  
Tentative 2013-2014  
Expenditure Budget  
-Motion Failed

Yes 0 No 6  
Motion Carried.

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A motion was made by Mr. Falisi, seconded by Mr. Carson, to utilize funds from other reserves (ERS, Unemployment, Workers' Compensation) in the tentative revenue budget for 2013-2014 and keep the tax levy at 3.82%.

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Authorization to  
Utilize Funds from  
Other Reserves in the  
Tentative Revenue  
Budget for 2013-2014  
-Approved

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse made the following announcements:

*Comments*

- NYSSBA is launching a *No New Mandates* advocacy campaign designed to create a united front against new, unfunded mandates on school districts that we can no longer afford. A complimentary webinar is being offered on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- An educational rally for the future of public education, sponsored by NYSUT, is being held in Albany on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Please give serious thought about participating.

Mr. Meyer stated that it is now getting at the end of the school year and an athletic trainer and sports physicals go hand in hand. Do we have an athletic trainer for next year on site for all sports for the entire year? And, are we looking into an athletic trainer and an orthopedic surgeon to work hand in hand? (Mr. Ogeka explained that we have a contract signed with an athletic trainer and are now looking into the possibility of an orthopedic surgeon. Ms. Carney explained that the District has had a very challenging year with the hiring of athletic trainers. Mr. Ogeka and Mr. Groth have come up with an interim plan.)

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

Adjournment

Yes 6 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara O'Kula  
District Clerk