

(286)

MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Special Meeting – March 29, 2011  
Aquebogue Elementary School Cafeteria

NOT BOARD APPROVED

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Mrs. Kathleen V. Berezny; Ms. Angela DeVito; and, Mrs. Amelia Lantz.

ABSENT: Messrs. Jeffrey Falisi, Timothy Griffing, and Gregory Meyer.

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Nancy Carney, Dr. Lois Etzel, Mr. Joseph Singleton, and Mr. Joseph Ogeka, Jr.

Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Call to Order

A motion was made by Mrs. Lantz, seconded by Ms. DeVito, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel.

Recess to  
Executive Session

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to executive session at 5:39 p.m.

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to return to open session.

Return to  
Open Session

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 6:48 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting resumed at 7:02 with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were about 12 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara O’Kula.

Community comments related to agenda topics are:

Community Comments

-the donation of \$10 from Splish Splash is an embarrassment and insult to the school district. She made a \$2 on-the-spot cash donation to supplement their donation and make it a total of \$12.

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

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the following revised proposition for placement on the ballot for the May 17, 2011 School Budget Vote and Election of Board Members:

“Shall the Board of Education in accordance with General Municipal Law §6-d be authorized to fund the previously established Repair Reserve Fund with up to \$3,000,000 of unreserved, undesignated fund balance from the 2010-2011 fiscal year, and thereafter, by budgetary appropriation and/or application of unreserved, undesignated fund balance, or donations?”

In a discussion that followed, Ms. DeVito requested clarification of the proposition as she thought the Board had already passed a resolution that created a Repair Reserve Fund...now we are authorizing up to \$3 million from fund balance? (Per Mr. Singleton: This is language that the attorneys developed. Under General Municipal Law, the taxpayers must approve the deposit of \$3 million of unreserved funds into the Repair Reserve Fund...the Board thereafter has the right to spend the monies after a public hearing with a notice of five days prior to the hearing except in the event of emergency repairs.) Ms. DeVito suggested that an explanation of how this works be posted on the district website as well as in the budget brochure for the May 17, 2011 vote.

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Approval of Revised Proposition for Placement on the ballot for the May 17, 2011 School Budget Vote and Election of Board Members  
-Approved

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Ms. DeVito, to approve the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District approves the field trip request of Elizabeth Scaduto, Director of ESL, for one (1) student to participate in the Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute, sponsored by Eastern Suffolk BOCES and Western Suffolk BOCES, on April 2-4, 2011 in Albany, New York, at no cost to the district.

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

Overnight Field Trip  
-Approved

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

Approval of Amendment to Agreement  
-Complete Rehabilitation Consultants  
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby approves an amendment to the Agreement between the Riverhead Central School District and Complete Rehabilitation Consultants, Inc. to increase the present limit of \$50,000 for the provision of related services for its students with handicapping conditions, effective July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 to a cost not to exceed \$70,000, with the additional \$20,000 being paid from federal funds.

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Berezny, seconded by Mrs. Lantz, to approve the following resolutions inclusive of the \$2 cash donation from Laurie Downs to supplement the donation of \$10 from Splish Splash:

Donations  
-Approved

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby accepts the donation from Festival Fun Parks, LLC (Splish Splash) in the amount of \$10.00 for the Riverhead High School.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby accepts the donation from the Riverhead Faculty and Community Theatre (RFCT) of three (3) new Shure Microphones to the Riverhead High School.

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Riverhead Central School District hereby accepts the donation from the Phillips Avenue PTO in the amount of \$3,000 for transportation for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade New York City trip on June 13, 2011.

Mrs. Berezny thanked the RCFT for the donation of three state-of-the-art microphones for use at the High School that can also be used in their productions.

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

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*Preliminary 2011-2012  
Budget Presentation*

Ms. Carney announced that the district is waiting notification from the state on the amount of state aid being restored. Any amount would be very welcomed. Significant increases in ERS and TRS pension costs (39%) and the very significant reductions in state aid (14.2%) will increase the tax levy by \$4,939,546 (5.7%). This increase is before any other mandated or contractual increases. The district has worked hard to present a budget that the community could support and keep academic programs in place. The preliminary 2011-2012 preliminary budget in the amount of \$110,345,610 represents a 1.96% budget increase and reflects almost \$4 million in reductions. She noted that this is very close to a contingency budget (an approximate difference of just \$40,000). The budget increase without TRS and ERS would have been a negative -0.01%. Under a contingency budget, the following are state mandated contingency reductions:

- instructional and non-instructional equipment
- community use of facilities
- decrease in student supplies
- building improvement, except for safety items

The district has also worked hard to increase Rigor and Relevance in the classroom and the following are just a sampling of our programs and initiatives:

- Teacher's College Readers and Writers Workshop
- FOSS Science program
- EnVision Math: this is a primary resource in mathematics in Grades 5 and 6
- Middle School Bridge Program
- Ninth Grade Academy
- Wise Financial Literacy Program
- Smart Physics
- Wide selection of Advance Placement Courses

Next year's initiatives include alignment of curriculum to common core standards, sharing services, full implementation of Atlas (a web-based curriculum mapping program (*i.e.*, credit recovery, home-based tutoring), the piloting of a mentoring program for students at risk, and exploring partnerships with community churches and businesses to mentor students in the district.

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Some questions raised by the Board of Education are:

-What caused the reduction of -8.9% in Transportation from BOCES? (Per Mr. Singleton – there are two reasons why. The first is a reduction in the number of students attending BOCES facilities and a slight decrease in the number of locations we have to go to. The other is that the district has picked up a few routes with our own fleet via the use of handicapped vans.)

-It is hoped that retirements will reduce the number of employees being laid off.

-It was stated that often times, people look at our budget and see items that are BOCES aidable – perhaps the BOCES aid ratio could be explained on our website, as well as, in the budget brochure and newsletters.

-We have offered a retirement incentive to all eligible employees in the district...perhaps an explanation could be put on the web and brochure/newsletter on how it is determined to bring people back. This would be a good way to deal with misinformation or concerns.

-Why do we have the costly position of a CIO (Chief Information Officer)? How does this information get used for development? (Per Ms. Carney: This position of a data analyst is an unfunded mandate which every school district must have in place. The information must go to the state and needs to be detailed and quality controlled. This person is in charge of overseeing the collection and verification of assessments. It is an on-going process. That information is then disseminated to the buildings and teachers to look at for patterns in the curriculum. This is an important process that we keep getting better at.)

In continuation of the presentations by each building/department and how next year's budget will impact their building, Mr. Phil Kent, Principal of the Aquebogue Elementary School, commenced to give a Power Point presentation about the school whose motto is: "Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM)", and whose focus is to develop students to be great learners and take pride in becoming community members. Class size will be the biggest challenge they will face since the school has never seen a decline in enrollment. Statistics dating back to 2006-2007 show enrollment growth of 420 students to the current enrollment of 484 students. With that in mind, staffing cuts and excessing are:

*Aquebogue Elementary  
School Presentation*

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- ▶ Classroom Teacher (-1)
- ▶ Teaching Assistant (-1)
- ▶ Library Aide (-1)
- ▶ Security Guard (-1)
- ▶ Custodian (-.5)

Goals for 2011-2012 include:

- Improve student achievement
- Improve community relations
- continue to bolster student achievement through Reading and Writing Workshops, character/environmental education, and Math integration
- the international educational program, *Odyssey of the Mind*, remains in place. Aquebogue's team of 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been very successful in their three years of regional competition

All in all, the school will continue to move forward to maintain programs and keep the building secure. Mr. Kent thanked the Board of Education, administration, parents, teachers, support staff, and the Aquebogue PTO for all their support.

Community comments are:

Community Comments

- disappointment that there are so few people from the community and parents in attendance
- concern on the absence of three Board members

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

Adjournment

Yes 4 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Barbara O'Kula  
District Clerk