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MINUTES
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting – April 5, 2011
Pulaski Street School Auditorium

NOT BOARD APPROVED

PRESENT: Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Vice President Mr. Gregory Meyer; Ms. Angela DeVito; Mr. Jeffrey Falisi; and, Mrs. Amelia Lantz.

LATE: Mrs. Kathleen Berezny.

ABSENT: Mr. Timothy Griffing.

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

Board President, Mrs. Cotten-DeGrasse, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Call to Order

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

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 5 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to Executive Session at 5:36 p.m.

Mrs. Berezny arrived at 5:43 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Falisi, seconded by Mrs. Berezny, to return to open session.

Return to
Open Session

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 7:03 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

The meeting opened at 7:11 with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

There were about 15 other people in attendance.

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Preliminary 2011-2012
Budget Presentation

Ms. Carney announced that the district will be getting just under \$600,000 in restored state aid next school year. This is more than what had been expected according to state aid numbers recently provided by the state Legislature as compared to Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposed budget earlier in the year. She stated that the district is very grateful for the hard work our legislators have put forth. The Board has made the decision to use this money to offset proposed tax increases. The \$109,594,658 proposed budget now represents a 1.26% spending increase over the current year's budget rather than the 1.96% that had been reflected in previous budget presentations and a 5.06% impact on the tax levy versus the prior 5.97% projection. This 5.06% tax levy does not mean a 5.06% property tax increase because actual rates are not determined until the state property tax equalization rates are set by the townships that make up the school district (Riverhead, Southampton, and Brookhaven). This is usually determined in October and will, at that time, determine the budget's impact on property tax bills. However, there is still a state aid reduction of \$1,589,464; a federal aid reduction of \$897,199; as well as, state mandated increases in pension costs of \$2,060,268. This is before any other mandated or contractual increases. If pension payments were deducted, the budget would actually be at -0.64%. She noted that the 1.26% budget-to-budget increase is the lowest the district has ever had. Additionally, the 1.26% spending increase is less than the overall contingency cap as set by the State Education Department at 1.92%. A contingency budget is imposed on the district, by state law, should voters reject the district's proposed budget. If the budget is defeated, the district has the option to put up a revised budget for a revote or adopt a contingency budget immediately. If the budget fails a second time, the Board of Education must adopt a contingency budget. The Board of Education expects to adopt a proposed budget at the Board meeting scheduled for April 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Riverhead High School. A public hearing will be held at the Board meeting scheduled for May 10.

Mr. Thomas Payton, Principal at the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School, gave a presentation on what the impact of the 2011-2012 preliminary budget would have upon their school. Current enrollment is at about 370 students. The number of classroom teachers at Roanoke would remain the same but would see the loss of a Library Aide and a Teaching Assistant. All K-4 buildings will have one security guard. Some of Roanoke's goals are:

Roanoke Avenue
Elementary School
Presentation

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- Continued implementation of the Teacher's College approach to balanced literacy
- Focus on small group instruction anchored in analysis of student data and teacher collaboration
- Increase parental involvement in all aspects of the school and classroom
- Maintain high expectations for all students

The new motto at the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School is: *Aim For Success; Accept Nothing Less.*

Mr. David Densieski, Principal at the Pulaski Street School, gave a presentation on the building and how the proposed budget would impact their school. Enrollment at Pulaski is close to 700 students. The preliminary 2011-2012 budget would see the following reductions in staff:

Pulaski Street School
Presentation

- 5th Grade Teacher (-1)
- 6th Grade Teacher (-1)
- Library Aide (-1)
- Teaching Assistant (-1)
- Clerk Typist (-.5)

Goals of the Pulaski Street School include:

- 1.) Continue to improve student achievement
- 2.) Continue to improve community relations
- 3.) Continue to promote a positive school culture

Comments heard from community members are:

Community Comments

-an emotional plea from two former librarians that the Board of Education reconsider the elimination of a librarian at the Roanoke Avenue School and keep this full-time position

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

Recess to
Executive Session

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education recessed to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m. No action would be taken upon return to open session.

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A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Falisi, to return to open session.

Return to
Open Session

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 8:55 p.m.

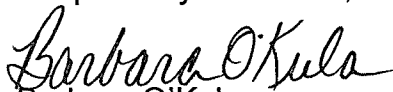
A motion was made by Mr. Meyer, seconded by Mr. Falisi, to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Yes 6 No 0
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara O'Kula
District Clerk