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MINUTES  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Work Session – March 31, 2009  
Roanoke Avenue Elementary School Auditorium

PRESENT: President, Mrs. Kathleen V. Berezny; Vice President, Mrs. Christine Prete; Mrs. Ann Cotten-DeGrasse; Ms. Angela DeVito; and, Mr. Timothy Griffing.

LATE: Mrs. Mary Ellen Harkin and Mrs. Gregory Meyer.

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Diane B. Scricca.

Board President, Mrs. Berezny, opened the meeting at 6:15 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Ms. DeVito, seconded by Mr. Griffing, 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 6:16 p.m.

Mr. Meyer arrived at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Harkin arrived at 6:33 p.m.

Ms. Nancy Carney, Mr. Michael Ivanoff, and Mr. Joseph Ogeka, Jr., entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

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

Return to  
Open Session

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The Board of Education returned to open session at 8:11 p.m.

A brief recess followed.

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The meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

There were about 35 other people in attendance.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Barbara J. O’Kula.

It was announced that the presentation on the Mathematics Program has been postponed.

*High School  
Presentation*  
-Mr. David Zimbler  
Principal

Mr. David Zimbler, Principal at the High School, gave a presentation on the High School which has a student population of 1445 students and approximately 200 staff members. A “team effort” to focus on dropouts and knock on doors to say to students, “We need you” has resulted in a 33% decrease. Goals in academic curriculum are:

- 4 years of Social Studies
- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math, Science and Foreign Language as well as college level and AP courses

Mr. Zimbler cited that benefits of Advanced Placement programs include getting a head start; improvement in writing skills and problem-solving techniques; development of study habits necessary for tackling rigorous course-work; and, increased SAT performance based on AP enrollment.

Pre-AP and AP programs provide an opportunity for success which is the strength of a student’s high school curriculum. Students are more likely to complete a Bachelors degree in four years or less.

High School Initiatives include:

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade teaming
- Student Advisory Committee
- FAC (Faculty Advisory Committee)
- High School administration
- Teacher/student assistance program
- Black History Month and Unity Celebration Committee

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Dr. Scricca stated that the level of preparation and rigor of courses is so very important to a student's success at the college level...demands are greater. Mr. Griffing offered that more rigor in financial vehicles such as applying for loans, credit cards, amortization, stocks, bonds, and budgeting be introduced into the curriculum, district-wide.

Mr. Michael Ivanoff, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, presented an overview of the 2009-200 proposed budget. Pending the enactment on the 2009-10 New York State spending plan by April 1, legislative areas of concern by school districts are:

*2009-10 Proposed  
Budget Presentation*  
-Mr. Michael Ivanoff  
Ass't. Superintendent  
For Finance and  
Operations

- Foundation aid (frozen at 2008-09 level for both 2009—10 and 2010-11)
- Two additional years of phase-in to fully fund Foundation Aid (pushed to 2013-14)
- High Tax Aid – frozen at 2008-09 level (\$2.25 million)
- UPK Grant – frozen at 2008-09 level
- Supplemental Excess Cost Aid – frozen at 2008-09 level
- Deficit Reduction Assessment – will be eliminated and restored by federal stabilization funds
- Freeze of aid calculations based on November database – rejected
- 15% District Share of Pre-school special education – rejected
- BOCES, Building, Public High Cost, Private Excess Cost, Transportation – aides as under current formulas
- Textbook, software, library materials and Full-day Kindergarten – all aided as under current formulas
- Charter School Payments – tuition payments to charter schools would be frozen at 2008-09 tuition levels

The 2009-10 proposed budget (\$105,953,599 and serving 982 employees) calls for a 3.30% budget-to-budget increase and a 3.98% tax levy increase. By State law, the district is required to break the budget into three components: Capital (12%), Administrative (9%), and Program (79%).

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Mr. Ivanoff stated that the budget being proposed is less than a contingent budget (4.0%) should the budget fail passage by the voters. The summary of budget areas have been discussed over the past few weeks and the budget codes are "state required" codes. He also noted that the approximate \$1 million in aid that would have been eliminated by Governor Paterson's drastic cuts has been restored/offset by federal stimulus money. The presentation is made part of the Supplemental File of the Minutes.

Mrs. Prete stated that due to the decrease in property sales revenues, loss of payments in lieu of taxes from the Community Preservation Fund (CPF), and the school tax relief program STAR rebate checks going away, the Southampton portion of the school district could well see taxes go up over 20%. She also made note that the school district is no longer involved with the YMCA and will not be getting any so-called "perks" from the leasing of the Tuthills Lane property...no swim team...no swimming lessons, etc. It is now a county initiative and unfortunate that the Riverhead Central School District could not follow through on this project.

Dr. Scricca thanked everyone who partook in the budget process and the difficult decisions that had to be made to secure a budget that continues to support the needs of our students while being fiscally responsible to our taxpayers.

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

Adjournment

Yes 7 No 0  
Motion Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Barbara O'Kula  
District Clerk