

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING-VIDEO CONFERENCE OF MAY 12, 2020**

**A REGULAR MEETING of the Board of Education of the West Babylon Union Free School District, Town of Babylon, Suffolk County, New York, was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 through Zoom.com-Meeting ID# 993 1657 9860.**

### **Board of Education Members present**

**Trustees:** Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, and Jennifer Wandasiewicz. Trustee John Evola logged in at 6:05 PM.

### **Also present**

Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Shawn Hanley, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources; Mrs. Michele Psarakis, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations; Mr. Scott Payne, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; William C. Morrell, Esq., School Attorney; and Ms. Barbara A. Burrows, District Clerk. There were approx. 26 people who logged into the meeting.

## **1. OPENING OF MEETING & EXECUTIVE SESSION-6:00 PM**

**Procedural: A. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**Procedural: B. Call to Order by Presiding Officer**

**Action: C. Executive Session**

**Motion to enter into executive session to discuss WBTA and CSEA seniority.**

Motion by Peter Scarlatos, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

**Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

## **2. PUBLIC SESSION-7:00 PM**

Action: A. Approval of Minutes of previous Meeting(s): Regular Video Cnf. Meeting of 5/5/20

**Motion to Approve the Minutes of the Regular Video Cnf. Meeting of 5/5/20**

Motion by Diane Klein, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz

**Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

**Procedural: B. Statement of the Board and/or Superintendent**

Dr. Farrelly opened the meeting by welcoming all to the Zoom meeting. She asked for a moment of silence for all who have lost their lives due to the COVID-19. Dr. Farrelly continued on as follows:

"Thank you for joining us tonight. I hope all had a wonderful Mother's Day. I think we can all agree that "mom multi-tasking" has gone to a whole new level these days.

Later this evening, we will be doing our final budget presentation. As was previously discussed at our last Board meeting and posted on our website - this year's budget vote and trustee election will take place by absentee ballot. All ballots must be received via mail by 5:00 PM on June 9th. A postcard outlining this year's process will be mailed home. Information will be included in English and Spanish. Information has also been posted on our website.

As you know, our buildings and grounds departments have been working on the building exterior work. This week we began an abbreviated schedule for office assistants to go through mail, close out vouchers, address end of year school items, etc. The business office has continued to go into the

office all while practicing social distancing and wearing appropriate masks to complete essential tasks. The business office is working on closing out the books for this year.

I would like to take a moment to reiterate a thank you to our teachers, social workers, psychologists, guidance counselors, speech and language therapists, OTs, PTs, and all who are remotely supporting our students academically and emotionally during the school building closure.

Last week, classes who were not previously conducting live support, began to do so. We thank everyone for your patience as some may have had some "glitches" or scheduling conflicts as our teachers continue to learn new systems.

Last night, there was a clarifying email that was sent out to SHS parents regarding 4th quarter grades. In this email, it was noted that students have an opportunity to earn 3 extra credit points for attending teacher's live virtual sessions. We are asking parents to partner with us and strongly encourage students to actively engage with their teachers and classmates during these sessions. This can enhance their understanding of the course content, clarify assignments, and provide much needed social and emotional interaction. Experts agree that meaningful connections with others is crucial in maintaining positive mental health now and in the future.

If you were issued a district chromebook and are experiencing technical difficulties, please reach out to tech support by emailing [wbhelp@wbschools](mailto:wbhelp@wbschools). This information can be found on our website. As a reminder, the chromebooks are district property. Unfortunately, some chromebooks that are being brought back for tech support have been clearly vandalized. Please, please emphasize to your children that these devices should be cared for and not vandalized - as all families signed off that they will be held responsible for them.

And last, please be aware our next Board meeting will take place on May 26th. The annual budget hearing will also take place on that date."

### **3. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AND/OR EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION**

#### **Presentation: A. Final 2020-2021 Budget Review & Adoption: Dr. Yiendhy Farrelly, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Michele Psarakis, CPA, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations**

Mrs. Psarakis presented the final "General Fund Budget Adoption" PowerPoint. The content of the draft highlighted : **Revenues** - tax levy; projected school property tax; other revenues; state aid; revenue projections; and projected reserves/fund balance. **Expenditures** - new budget expenditures; budget appropriations by object; and contingency budget. **Next Steps.** Mrs. Psarakis said there were a couple of changes since the May 5th draft presentation. The tax levy is calculated at 5.6308% which is within the tax cap. The district is not looking to pierce the cap. During the February Board meeting, the Board agreed to apply \$1,250,000 bond premium to reduce the tax levy to **3.9521%**. The tax levy was filed with the NYS Office of the State Comptroller on March 1, 2020. Mrs. Psarakis reviewed the chart under the projected tax levy-proposed budget section. Mrs. Psarakis reviewed the "Revenue Projections Based on NYS Adopted Budget". The budget to budget increase is 3.07%.

Dr. Farrelly reviewed the **2020-2021 Budget Expenditures** which include: maintain all current curricular and co-curricular programs; transfer to capital \$210,000 to address facilities needs, such as windows, boilers, unit vents, HVAC, floor replacements, site work, etc; 5 new large buses, 2 new 30-student vans, and 1 new wheelchair van - \$720,189.20 over a 5 year lease/purchase agreement; additional Chromebooks for students; computer upgrades for Building Management System - \$90,000; South Bay School whole building water filtration system - \$15,000; and new playground for Forest Avenue School - \$76,000. The adjustment from the previous budget draft was to include a new playground at Forest Avenue with a cost of \$85,000 (\$76,000 for the large playground and \$9,000 for a smaller climbing toy). We have swapped out with other equipment pieces and have included the large playground in this draft. The 2020-2021 Budget changes from previous drafts continue to include: cameras for 5 new buses - \$13,167.10 (removed); GPS system for Transportation Dept. - \$19,740 (removed); Athletics - additional equipment and coaches based on

student enrollment (removed); Salary reductions to overtime, substitutes, retiree attrition, and increased grant funded positions - \$394,978; Reductions to Professional Services and staff Conference Codes - \$91,302; BOCES reductions - \$84,100; and materials/supplies - \$73,300. These items are considered to be "wish list" items. The district will hold off and review for next year's budget.

Per William Morrell, school attorney, said there is not a set date yet for a statewide revote.

Dr. Farrelly reviewed:

**What happens if the budget does not pass?** If the proposed budget is defeated, the BOE can do one of the following: 1. submit the defeated budget for the statewide budget revote (no date has been set); 2. submit a revised budget for the statewide budget revote (no date has been set yet); or 3. adopt a contingent budget. If the budget is defeated for a second time, the BOE must adopt a contingent budget. A contingent budget is restricted to ordinary contingent expenses. **Ordinary contingent expenses are** those necessary to provide the minimum services legally required to: operate and maintain school buildings and educational programs; preserve the property of the district; and ensure the health & safety of students and staff. **Ordinary contingent expenses do not include the following:** new equipment, i.e. playground, 5 new large buses, 2 new 30 student vans, 1 new wheelchair van; public use of school buildings and grounds, except where there is no cost to the district; non-essential maintenance; capital expenditures, i.e. transfer to capital. The tax levy under a contingent budget can be no greater than the prior year actual tax levy. In addition to the \$2,860,845 use of reserves and appropriated fund balance projected, a contingent budget requires **an additional \$2,146,846 in appropriated fund balance, program/staff reductions or a combination of both.**

**The Next Steps are: May 12, 2020 - BOE meeting (final review and adoption of proposed budget); May 18, 2020 - property tax report card must be submitted to the state; May 26, 2020 - school budget hearing and BOE meeting to follow (budget statement and required attachments must be made available, upon request); May 27, 2020-June 3, 2020 - mail budget notice to eligible voters; June 9, 2020 - school budget vote and trustee elections by absentee ballot. Ballots must be mailed to the District Clerk, in the envelope provided, and be received by 5:00 PM on June 9th. Ballots are scheduled to be mailed out between May 27th and June 3rd. Budget Vote/Trustee Election information will be posted to the website.** The presentation will be posted to the district website.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Action (Consent): A. Approval of the Consent Agenda  
Motion to approve the consent agenda.**

Motion by Peter Scarlatos, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

**Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

#### **5. BOARD OF EDUCATION (N/A)**

#### **6. PERSONNEL - BOARD OF EDUCATION 19-A (N/A)**

#### **7. PERSONNEL - PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL 19-P- (N/A)**

#### **8. PERSONNEL - CIVIL SERVICE PERSONNEL 19-C- (N/A)**

#### **9. FINANCE**

**Action (Consent): A. Adoption of 2020-2021 School District Budget**

**RESOLVED:** that the school district budget for the 2020-2021 school year, in the amount of \$118,267,917, proposed by the West Babylon Board of Education, in accordance with Section 1716 of the Education Law, be hereby adopted, and that said budget be voted upon by the residents, by absentee ballot only, on June 9, 2020.

**Action (Consent): B. Approval of Textbook Budget Transfers**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the following budget transfers:

Account Code	Account Description	From	To
A2110.4800	Districtwide Textbooks		52,676.86
A2110.4800-01	Santapogue Textbooks	255.35	
A2110.4800-02	Forest Avenue Textbooks	25.20	
A2110.4800-03	Junior High School Textbooks	28,848.30	
A2110.4800-04	High School Textbooks	19,403.50	
A2110.4800-06	South Bay Textbooks	3,776.54	
A2110.4800-07	Tooker Avenue Textbooks	344.43	
A2110.4800-08	JFK Textbooks	23.54	
	Transfer of textbooks from school codes to districtwide code		

**Action (Consent): C. Approval of Mini Bid Award - Hempstead Ford**

**RESOLVED:** that the West Babylon Board of Education approves the mini bid award to Hempstead Ford for the replacement of the damaged Buildings and Grounds truck from last Fall.

Mini bid price: \$31,391  
 Optional Plow and Tow Package: \$ 1,795  
 Total Price: \$33,186

The District will apply \$10,523.50 of insurance recovery received from NYSIR for the damaged vehicle towards the purchase of the new truck.

**10. CURRICULUM (N/A)**

**11. FACILITIES (N/A)**

**12. POLICY REVIEW (N/A)**

**13. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Information: Capital Project Update - Resume Construction Work (as allowed in the industry) at Forest Avenue, Senior High and JFK Schools**

Dr. Farrelly shared with the Board of Education that the district is looking to resume the following construction work (as allowed in the industry): the Forest Avenue School elevator addition; the Senior High School fuel tank removal; and the JFK fuel tank removal. When parts become available, the blow-off valve at South Bay School will take place. The valve will determine if there is a need for the whole building water filtration system. At this point, all these projects will take place outdoors. Eventually, the Forest Avenue School elevator will be enclosed. The Board trustees were in agreement to resume the construction work.

**14. NEW BUSINESS (N/A)**

**15. RESIDENTS STATEMENTS**

**Procedural: A. Statements of Residents: Public Statements will be taken using the Chat feature of Zoom**

There were no questions/statements submitted by the public.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

**Action: A. Adjourn Meeting (Should take place by 10:00 PM)**

**Motion to Adjourn the Meeting at 7:27 PM.**

Motion by Peter Scarlatos, second by Jennifer Wandasiewicz.

**Final Resolution: Motion Carried**

Yes: Lucy Campasano, Cathy Gismervik, Peter Scarlatos, Ray Downey, John Evola, Diane Klein, Jennifer Longo, Christopher Paolillo, Jennifer Wandasiewicz

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_ District Clerk