

Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Discussion of the Board of Education, Island Trees Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, Levittown, New York. The meeting was held at the Stephen E. Karopczyc School, 74 Farmedge Road, Levittown, New York, on Tuesday, March 22, 2011.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Mahon, President, at 7:00 PM.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Patricia Mahon, President  
Mr. Kenneth Rochon, Vice President  
Mr. Robert Condela  
Mrs. Kristen Daum  
Mrs. Kim McDonough  
Mrs. Barbara Medellin  
Mr. George Storm

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dr. Charles J. Murphy, Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Arlene Genden Sage, Assistant Superintendent for Special Ed.  
Mrs. Susan Hlavenka, Assistant Superintendent for Business  
Mrs. Concetta Carr, District Clerk

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Ms. Mahon led the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence.

**OPENING** Ms. Mahon stated that the Board is trying to get the best fiscal balance with fiscal constraints. Over 70% of the budget is tied in with staff and benefits for staff. Some are contractual and cannot be changed.

Dr. Murphy stated that when the Board started reviewing the budget a couple of weeks ago, they started with a 5.8% tax levy. He stated that if we are doing a reduction, we are doing it in the best interest of the District.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

The following items were discussed:

1. Basketball winches – \$5,800 for manual winches for the high school gymnasium. The Board decided to go forward with this. The item will go out to bid, but will be put into the 2011-12 budget now.
2. Technology – John Rezek, I.T. Manager, made a presentation about the new technology, Virtualization. He explained that this is a “green” product because we will do away with hard drives and reduce power consumption. The computers are run off servers. There is a monitor, keyboard and “thin clients” that consume less energy (A/C in rooms).

He explained that a majority of the current equipment in the district is not functioning correctly. Class time is wasted trying to log onto the system. He stated that 210 P.C.'s would be replaced with "thin clients" this year and that old and new equipment can be utilized. He also stated that the thin clients are useless without the server, so this reduces the temptation of taking the equipment home (theft). The Board consensus was that this is an investment in the schools future and the childrens' future. We have to keep up with technology. We have to move forward. The Board agreed to explore virtualization.

3. Review of Budget Committee Ideas – Ms. Mahon feels that the Committee's take on technology has shaped the way for the District to go in that direction.
4. Staffing Information – The Board discussed the course selection process in the secondary schools. It was stated that at this time there are no plans to make any staff changes at the elementary level. The Board went over the lists of projected master schedules to decide what sections can be cut or collapsed.
5. Middle School Athletics – Regarding reducing teams to reduce taxes \$58,900, Dr. Murphy pointed out that reducing sports teams can cause discipline problems in the future. Some students look forward to playing on certain teams.
6. Middle School and High School Co-curriculars – Mr. Bloom and Mr. Grande looked at reducing the number of meetings, but not the clubs.

**COMMENTS  
FROM VISITORS  
(OLD & NEW  
BUSINESS):**

A resident asked a question about the wrestling room.

A resident asked a question about the reserve funds.

A resident asked a question about staff reductions last year.

A resident made a comment about the budget increase in another district and teacher negotiations.

A resident made a comment about class sizes and teacher negotiations.

A resident asked a question about Virtualization.

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A resident made a comment about RP classes, foreign language, and the sports program.

**EXECUTIVE  
SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Condela, seconded by Mrs. Medellin, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 9:03 PM. to discuss personnel staffing.

**RETURN TO  
REGULAR  
SESSION:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Condela seconded by Mr. Storm, and unanimously carried (7-0), the members came out of Executive Session at 9:57 PM.

**ADJOURNED:**

On **Motion** of Mr. Rochon, seconded by Mr. Storm, and unanimously carried (7-0), the meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Concetta Carr  
District Clerk

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_