

March 13, 2010

A Special Public meeting of the Board of Education, Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, was held on Saturday, March 13, 2010 in the Administration Building, commencing at 8:30AM for the purpose of conducting a Budget Workshop Session.

Present: Mimi Godwin, President
Sheila J. Conklin, Trustee
Craig Laub, Trustee
B. Joseph Lillis, Trustee
Vincent Nadile, Trustee
Katharine M. Swibold, Trustee

Roll Call

Absent: Paul Rode, Vice-President

Also present: Howard W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Barbarann Tantillo, Assistant Superintendent
John J. Staiger, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business
Kathleen Conley, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Marilyn Mercado-Belvin, Principal John Paulding School
Michele Milliam, Principal, Tappan Hill School
Meghan Fitzgerald, Principal, W.L. Morse School
William Greene, Principal, Washington Irving School
Elizabeth Lopez, Principal, Sleepy Hollow Middle School
Carol Conklin, Principal, Sleepy Hollow High School
Charles Scarpulla, Director of Athletics

Call to Order

President Godwin called the meeting to order at 8:32AM.

CARRIED 6-0

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Swibold, that it be
RESOLVED: That the Board appoint Barbarann Tantillo clerk pro-tem.

**Clerk Pro-
Tem**

There was a moment of silent meditation, after which the Pledge to the Flag was given.

Meditation/Pledge

Introduction and Overview

Dr. Smith noted that the previous work session discussion focused on the centralized aspects of the school district, emphasizing that the proposed spending represents a 4.3% decrease in spending from 2009-2010 school year. He explained that the focus of this work session would be on the Instructional Program.

Elementary Program

General Program- Dr. Smith reported that there is a recommendation to eliminate three (3) elementary sections (grades kdg, 3rd and 5th) and add one section in grade 1, as well as a proposal to increase class size. The budget also includes a reduction in teaching assistants, particularly at the 1st grade level which would end the practice of a dedicated TA for every general education classroom. Building consolidation recommendation includes closing Tappan Hill and reorganizing grade distribution as follows: John Paulding, pre-k, kind; Morse, gr. 1, 2 and Wash-Irving, gr. 3-5.

Supplementary Program- Dr. Tantillo reviewed the Universal Spanish Language Program which serves all general education students in grades Kdg. - 5. Current staffing levels which include 2 teachers are included in the budget. The focus of the Challenge Program which serves advanced students in grades 2-5, was explained by Dr. Tantillo. No changes in staffing were recommended for the next school year. Dr. Tantillo provided a description of the Washington Irving music program which consists of band, orchestra, and chorus and involves more than a third of students at grades 4 and 5. The current level of staffing was recommended for 2010-2011.

Intervention Services- Kathy Conley, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, provided an overview of the academic services intervention (AIS) model, K-12, which focuses in the areas of ELA, math, social studies and science. Elimination of the middle school AIS specialist position was recommended for the next school year. In addition, Ms. Conley described services for students with disabilities which are delivered both within and outside of the district. Marilyn Mercado-Belvin explained the purpose of ESL services, mandates, and the way in which student progress is monitored and evaluated. Recommendations include a reduction of an ESL teacher at the elementary level in order to increase staffing at the middle level. Ms. Conley also reviewed the district's special education program, noting that existing resources were being reallocated to serve the needs of incoming kindergarten students.

Building Closure Recommendation- Dr. Smith spoke about the elements of the consolidation plan. Savings include, but are not limited to, elimination of a principal with the restoration of an assistant principal at WI, due to the addition of the 3rd grade, as well as reductions in staff in the following areas: clerical, nurse aide, lunch monitors, custodial, transportation and special education. Potential savings is approximately \$670,000 with \$100,000 additional savings in year 2 and beyond. Dr. Smith also explained that a contingency budget would involve additional cuts in areas such as: elementary supplementary programming, middle level summer programs and high school sports.

Citizens' Comments

Questions and concerns involved the tax rate impact on Sleepy Hollow and the need for further cuts, clarification of the types and numbers of specialists at k and 1 level, consolidation plan, change in 3rd grade transportation policy, supplementary elementary education program, special education, contingency budget, labor costs, bus monitors, teaching assistant staffing and substitute costs.

Secondary Program

Middle School- Beth Lopez described the instructional program, support services and extracurricular offerings for students in grades 6-8 with a recommendation for current staffing levels in the general education program, despite the lack of complete staffing as originally conceived with the inception of the Middle School model.

High School- Carol Conklin gave an overview of the academic program, student activities and supplementary services offered to students on grades 9-12. Recommendations in staffing for 2010-2011 included the reduction of a music teacher.

Athletics- Chuck Scarpulla explained the cost reductions associated with the 2010-2011 sports program which involved the elimination of a coach, savings in ice hockey expenses, reduction of various fees, and reorganization of intramural sports.

Citizens' Comments

Questions and concerns were related to: the need for strong programs and student achievement for attracting and maintaining residents, athletics costs and tax impact on real estate values.

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CARRIED 6-0

Trustee Swibold moved, seconded by Trustee Lillis, that it be
RESOLVED: That the meeting of the Board be adjourned.

Adjournment

CARRIED 6-0

11:40AM

Respectfully submitted,

Barbarann Tantillo
Clerk Pro Tem