

May 6, 2010

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, was held on Thursday, May 6, 2010 in the Board Room of the Administration Building, commencing at 8:00PM.

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

Roll Call

Also present: Howard W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Barbarann Tantillo, Assistant Superintendent
John J. Staiger, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business

Absent: Nelly Valentin, District Clerk

Call to Order

President Godwin called the meeting to order at 7:45PM.

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Lillis, that it be
RESOLVED: That the Board goes into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters.

Executive Session

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7:45PM
No formal action was taken.

Public Session

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8:02PM

Trustee Swibold moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, that it be
RESOLVED: That the Board returns to Public Session.

**Pledge to the Flag
Silent Meditation**

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

President Godwin asked that the following be remembered, who recently passed away:
Herbert John Tweddle, the father of Vicky de Barros, Kindergarten Teacher at Tappan Hill School.

President Godwin stated that the District Clerk is not in attendance due to illness. Cathy Lia, Business Office Secretary, is subbing for her this evening.

**Communications,
Petitions &
Requests from
Public**

President Godwin reported that she received emails regarding the budget and the dual language program. She also received a phone call about the removal of a fence in Sleepy Hollow.

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Trustee Nadile moved, seconded by Trustee Rode, that it be

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education, having received copies of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 27, 2010 approves as amended. *Note: Trustee Laub stepped out of the room and was not present for this motion.*

The budget hearing was opened at 8:07PM.

Dr. Smith indicated that this evening's board meeting is the mandated public hearing on the school budget. He reported that the process began early in the fall 2009 with looking at the budget in a different way. They went through program by program, line by line, with the emphasis placed on efficiency. At the end of the budget process, unfortunately, there were some program cuts that had to be made. The school budget for 2010/2011 is \$63,440,147, which represents a 1.48% budget to budget increase. This figure is in the ballpark of the regional median and comparable to other districts. Highlights include:

- Tax levy increase is 3.87%; .1% for Tarrytown and 6.62% for Sleepy Hollow
- 20% reduction in administrative unit positions
- 20% reduction in non-instructional staff
- Reallocation of ESL and special education staff so that we can address emerging needs without having to add staff
- Closure of Tappan Hill school
- Triple trip busing, reduction from 10 to 5 buses for elementary transportation
- Increase walking distance for students in grades 3 from .3 miles to .5 miles
- Reduction of some teaching assistant support in grades 2-5
- Increase in our class size guidelines
- Some program cuts - including elimination of middle school summer school program, high school electives, bus monitors
- Elimination of elementary foreign language teachers – we are exploring option of foreign language learning opportunity through a computer managed program
- Cost shifting – alternative ways to raise money, option for asking for voluntary contributions for sports program
- Cut back on field trip expenses
- Some contract concessions – contract for teachers for the next two years reflects the lowest increase per year of a contract period of any contract settlement reported to us since the beginning of the year. A freeze on coaches and advisor stipends for the next two years.

To achieve these savings, we had to make a reduction in staff, which includes 12.7 instructional staff, 33 non-instructional staff. Staffing total will be lower next year than it was in the beginning of this decade, even though our enrollment is up by about 19%. We will literally be doing more with less. We have not, in any significant way, cut into our existing academic programs. Our budget of \$63,440,147 is below the contingency budget of \$63,767,852. A budget newsletter is being mailed to all residents and the budget information is also listed on our website and at the Warner Library. We have responded to invitations from various groups to speak about the budget, including the Rotary Club, Kendal, and Crest Association over the next week. We have involved the public as much as possible in the process. Discussion followed

Citizens comments included:

What is the impact if the proposition for walking eligibility does not pass?

**Mandated Public
Hearing on
Budget**

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What is the impact of the state budget on the schools for next year?

The Board should consider doing the same exercises for next year and engaging the community early on

What is the breakdown of the number of students from the town of Mt. Pleasant and the town of Greenburgh?

How much money does the district receive from non-resident students?

The budget hearing was declared closed at 8:50PM.

Dr. Smith gave a brief update on the elementary school consolidation planning. There is a fairly elaborate process in place to plan for the orderly transition. Most of it revolves around the work at Morse and Washington Irving. A number of committees have been established - One deals with facility environment questions both inside and outside of school; another committee is looking at scheduling issues, another one is looking at the character education program; and another one is dealing with events and traditions. The timeframe for doing all this work is the end of May. The physical moving will take place during the month of July and will be done by in-house staff. We will be accommodating summer programs, through the recreation department at both John Paulding and Washington Irving. Summer arts camp will take place again this year at Morse and a new Challenge summer camp is also scheduled.

Dr. Smith noted that in the board folders tonight there is a list of potential expenses for the transition, which include:

- Electric surge protectors at Morse and Washington Irving
- A vertical lift installed at John Paulding to allow handicapped accessibility
- Installation of lockers at Morse
- Some smaller size furniture for the computer room at Morse
- More shelving
- Bathroom modifications at Washington Irving
- Playground improvements, landscaping at Morse

Discussion followed.

Dr. Smith reported on the revised approach for the athletics funding for next year. He noted that the District had a \$63,000 reduction target established; however, there was a growing consensus to cover the gap thru alternate funding. It was translating to a suggested contribution level that was a bit high and this raised a lot of questions. We went back to the athletics director to look at possible ways to cut costs so we could close the gap. The revised proposal includes the following:

- 50% reduction for fall and spring open gym for the high school
- Reduction from head varsity to asst varsity swimming
- reduction of officials at away games for basketball
- Reduction of junior varsity games
- Decrease in wrestling tournaments
- Additional participant coverage for extra ice time for ice hockey practice
- Reduction of assistant coach positions from full time to half time

Discussion followed.

Dr. Smith reported that parents of students in the 3rd grade dual language program were notified today that we are moving ahead with plans to consolidate next year's 4th grade dual language from two classes to one, in order to avoid the discrepancies that we were facing with class sizes. Discussion followed.

**Superintendent's
Report**

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Dr. Smith indicated that included in the board packets are some contracts that will come up for approval at the next Board of Education meeting. They include agreements with: Calculator & Computer Center; consultant for unclaimed aid in special education and the Ameresco contract. Discussion followed.

Dr. Smith reported the following good news items:

- Marilyn Mercado-Belvin will be receiving an award from BOCES – the American Dreamers Award for her work in helping students with disabilities achieve their goals. A luncheon is planned for next week.
- Gail Persad will be receiving the Harrison High School Annual Jazz Educator award for 2010

President Godwin reported that at the prior Board of Education meeting, we accepted a nomination to have three discussions regarding the naming of the new batting cage facility, donated by TNT Baseball Softball Association, in honor of Michael Birrittella. Discussion followed.

A second discussion will take place at the May 27th Board of Education meeting.

A citizen commented on the suggested voluntary contribution amount for the sports program and the three year contract for network support and equipment maintenance.

A citizen commented on the dual language program.

A citizen thanked the board for all their hard work during the budget process and inquired about the elementary foreign language program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Laub moved, seconded by Trustee Conklin, that Policy #4240 - Revised Policy Raising and Management of Student Funds through Extra-Classroom Activities is adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Swibold moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, that Policy #4240R Extra Classroom Activities Funds Management Regulations is adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Nadile moved, seconded by Trustee Rode, that Policy #6700R – Purchasing Regulation, Revised Policy is adopted.

Trustee Nadile thanked John Staiger for all his work on these policies. President Godwin thanked Trustee Nadile for his assistance on these policies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Rode moved, seconded by Trustee Conklin, that

**STAFF
PERSONNEL:**

**Staff
Appointments:**

**S. Tavares
D. Erenberg
D. Marcus**

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RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following Staff Personnel Motions, as listed:

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following instructional/non-instructional staff for the 2010/2011 school year:

Sandra Tavares, Elementary Teacher

Assignment: W.L. Morse School
Appointment Type: Leave Replacement
Effective: September 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011
Certification: New York State Permanent Certification, PreK-6
Education: University of Central Florida, Daytona Beach, FL - MS
Pace University, Pleasantville, NY - BS
Experience: W.L. Morse School, Sleepy Hollow, NY
Elementary Teacher, 2 years
Dutchess BOCES, Poughkeepsie, NY
ESL Teacher, 1 year
Salary: MA, Step 7 (\$79,103)

David Erenberg, Chemistry Teacher (Replacement)

Assignment: Sleepy Hollow High School
Appointment Type: Probationary
Probationary Dates: September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2012
Tenure Area: Chemistry
Certification: New York State Initial Certification: Chemistry 7-12; Biology 7-12
Education: Pace University, Pleasantville, NY - MST
Brandeis University, Waltham, MA - BS
Experience: East Ramapo High School, Spring Valley, NY
Chemistry Teacher, 2 years
Living Environment Teacher, 4 years
Genetics Teacher, 3 years
Salary: MA, Step 5 (\$72,419)

David Marcus, Earth Science Teacher (Replacement)

Assignment: Sleepy Hollow High School
Appointment Type: Probationary
Probationary Dates: September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2013
Tenure Area: Earth Science
Certification: New York State Initial Certification: Earth Science 7-12
Education: Long Island University, Stony Brook, NY - MS
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY - BA
Experience: John Jay High School, Cross River, NY
Earth Science, Astronomy & Oceanography Teacher, 3 years
Salary: MA, Step 5 (\$72,419)

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an unpaid childcare leave of absence to Patricia Rubino, Elementary Teacher – Washington Irving School, effective October 19, 2010 through June 24, 2011.

Unpaid LOA:

**P. Rubino
L. Bernabei
J. Walsh
D. McCarl
R. Pichardo**

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an unpaid leave of absence Leah Bernabei, Teaching Assistant–

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Washington Irving School, effective September 7, 2010 through December 10, 2010.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby grants an unpaid child care leave of absence to Jennifer Walsh, Mathematics Teacher - Sleepy Hollow High School, effective October 19, 2010 November 30, 2010.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby revises the unpaid childcare leave of absence for Deborah McCarl, Science Teacher – Sleepy Hollow Middle School, effective January 27, 2010 through May 14, 2010.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby extends the unpaid leave of absence for Rosetta Pichardo, Teaching Assistant – Tappan Hill School, effective April 30, 2010 through June 11, 2010.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following to an Elementary Summer School 2010 position:

Randal Lichtenwalner Principal \$4,635

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts the following retirement resignation:

Richard Perugini, Physical Education Teacher – John Paulding School, effective June 30, 2010, after 22 years of service.

Trustee Lillis thanked Richard Perugini for his service. Discussion followed.

President Godwin thanked Rick Perugini for all his years of service and noted that he will be missed.

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following to Secondary Summer School 2010 position:

Janet Longo-Abinanti Principal \$8,375

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following instructional/non-instructional substitute staff for the 2009/2010 school year:

Bruce Lyons	Long Term School Monitor	\$14.04 per hour (effective May 6 through June 4, 2010)
Myrene Conner	Long Term Teacher	\$290 per diem (effective January 4, through May 14, 2010)
Donna Gelard	Long Term Teacher	\$290 per diem (effective May 6, 2010 through June 25, 2010)

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby appoints the following instructional/non-instructional staff for the 2009/2010 school year:

**Staff Appointment:
T. Lupetin**

Thomas Lupetin, Part-Time Bus Dispatcher, 3 hours per day, probationary, in accordance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations, at a rate of \$24.86 per hour, based on Step 9 of the CSEA salary schedule, effective May 7, 2010.

**Elimination of
CSEA positions:
L. Jones
M. Horner**

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BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Tarrytown Union Free School District hereby eliminates two (2) full time Civil Service positions in the title of Teachers Aide, effective June 30, 2010; and

**Elimination of
CSEA positions &
termination of
employment:**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the employment of La'Von Jones and Marianne Horner as the least senior employees in the title of Teachers Aide are hereby terminated effective June 30, 2010.

**L. Jones
M. Horner**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, that it be
RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following Student Personnel Motions, as listed:

**STAFF
PERSONNEL:
CSE/CPSE**

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education accepts the recommendations from the Committee on Special Education (CSE) at its January 20; February 23; March 23, 24; April 7, 12, 2010 meetings, as attached. (Appendix #1).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Swibold, that it be
RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following Finance & Facilities Motions, as listed:

**FINANCE &
FACILITIES**

RESOLVED: That the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns' Board of Education hereby authorizes the funding of the District's approved Tax Certiorari Reserve with the excess of 4% from unappropriated fund balance at June 30, 2010, after the designated amount for tax reduction has been set . The allocation of such excess fund balance will be determined subsequent to June 30, 2010.

**Tax Certiorari
Reserve**

Discussion followed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Nadile moved, seconded by Trustee Lillis, that it be
RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the following General Motions, as listed:

GENERAL:

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby accepts, with appreciation, the following gift:

**Gift:
Tarrytowns Rotary
Foundation**

Tarrytowns Rotary Foundation, of a check in the amount of \$1,000, to be used towards the technology program in the District. President Godwin thanked the Rotary for this generous donation and for being such a huge supporter of the district.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Education is authorized and empowered to execute an agreement with Pace University, One Pace Plaza, New York, to provide staff development training, effective September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010, as per the attached. (Grant funded)

RESOLVED: That, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education hereby approves the dates, time and place of the Board of Education meetings for the 2010/2011 school year, as per the attached list. (Appendix #2)

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President Godwin inquired about the retention basin at the bottom of the hill. John Staiger indicated that pictures were taken and sent to the insurance risk manager and they are in the process of evaluating the situation.

Trustee Lillis inquired about the new teacher evaluation process and its impact on student performance data. Discussion followed.

A citizen requested a copy of the approved Board of Education meeting dates for 2010/2011.

A citizen inquired about the district's bullying program. Discussion followed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9:59PM

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nelly Valentin
District Clerk

Cathy Lia
Business Office Secretary

Appendices:

- #1 CSE/CPSE Reports
- #2 2010/2011 Board Meeting Dates