

March 26, 2011

A Special Public meeting of the Board of Education, Union Free School District of the Tarrytowns, was held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 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
Katharine M. Swibold, Trustee
Vincent Nadile, Trustee

Roll Call

Absent: Paul Rode, Vice-President
B. Joseph Lillis, Trustee

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

President Godwin called the meeting to order at 8:31AM.

Call to Order

CARRIED 5-0

Trustee Conklin moved, seconded by Trustee Nadile, 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.

Overview: Dr. Smith reported that the budget to budget increase has been reduced to 1.23%, as per the Board's request which includes a tax levy increase of 2.9%.

**Introduction &
Overview**

Debt Service: John Staiger explained that there is a \$628,000 decrease in debt service for 2011-2012 school year. There are currently eight serial bond issues that will mature between the 2012-2013 and the 2036-37 school years. Building aid ratio is anticipated to be increased to 38%. A savings of \$30,000 in interest expenses has been realized from paying off lease payment agreements early.

Revenue/Tax Rates: John Staiger stated that a decrease of \$680,000 in revenue is estimated due to the anticipated reduction in State aid and that interest income will remain flat. A total of \$350,000 will be deducted from the District's state aid allocation for State supported school tuition for students with disabilities. The BOCES state aid has decreased due to reduced spending on consultant services. Transportation expenditures have also decreased which will result in reduced state aid in the area of transportation. The federal "Jobs Fund" monies provided \$461,000 which resulted in a budget reduction in the same amount. In summary, the District is anticipating a total of 8.1 million dollars in state aid and competitive grant monies totaling 2.8 million dollars.

Budget Discussion: John Staiger reported that 5.8 million dollars in tax certiorari claims have been received this year and to date, approximately 1 million dollars in claims have been paid. Dr. Smith reviewed the 2.9 million dollar gap and explained that savings were influenced by input from the

BWS March 26, 2011

community in the following areas: administrative reductions, transportation, custodial staffing, clerical staffing, athletics, instructional personnel (librarian, teaching assistants, Challenge teacher, social worker, school psychologist, guidance counselor, art, physical education and science teachers) with an increase of a 3rd grade elementary teacher. Restoration of some of the positions will depend upon potential contributions from the Teachers' Association. The Administrators' Union give back will involve contributions to help offset increased health insurance costs. Should the budget fail and the Board is forced to adopt a contingency budget, there would be a shortfall of \$379,000. This discrepancy could be defensible and permissible by regulations based on allowable factors involving increased enrollment and growth. Dr. Smith expressed concerns about the impact of instructional and non-instructional personnel reductions on programs and students. Mrs. Godwin conveyed appreciation to the three chief administrators for responsible decision-making that put children first and also commended a committed Board of Education and a caring community who actively participated in the budget development process.

Citizens' Comments

Citizens' Comments: Questions and comments from members of the community were in the areas of: debt refinancing, the District's credit rating, alternative sources of revenue, contingency budget, long-term financial planning, union negotiations and charter schools.

CARRIED 5-0

9:59AM

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Barbarann Tantillo
Clerk Pro Tem