

**SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

March 23, 2010

Held at Joseph M. Barton Bldg.

Meeting called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Robert Rossi, President of the Board of Education. On motion by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Liguori, the Board voted unanimously to convene in Executive Session to discuss employment and/or appointment of particular persons, and pending litigation.

At 8:10 p.m. Mrs. Knox moved, Mr. Martella seconded, and the Board reconvened the Regular Meeting.

Members present:

Neil S. Carlin	Robert Rossi
Theresa Knox	Joseph T. Saggese
Louis Liguori	Gladys M. Waldron
Scott Martella	

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent
Mary Cahill, Asst. Supt.
Joan Niles, Asst. Supt.
Karen Ricigliano, Asst. Supt.
Eugene Barnosky, Lindsay Croker, Board Counsel
Visitors
Mary Wilson, District Clerk

I. OPENING CEREMONY - conducted by Mr. Rossi.

INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT

Mathematics Curriculum

Mrs. Cahill introduced Mr. Paul Strader, Mathematics Director, and Jeanne Kull-Minarik, Principal. Mr. Strader and Mrs. Kull-Minarik gave an overview of the District's mathematics curriculum highlighting the enVision Math program which was implemented in 2008.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Rossi thanked Mr. Strader and Mrs. Kull-Minarik for their informative presentation.

II. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Section A - Correspondence - The following correspondence was presented for the Board's review.

1. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi, President, from Congressman Steve Israel regarding Roundtable Meeting.
2. Letter to Members of the Board of Education from Christine Dolce regarding transportation.
3. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi, President, from Erica Lai regarding fundraiser.
4. Letter to Mr. Robert Rossi, President, from Ms. Dorinda Haberfield regarding transportation.

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mr. Knox that the correspondence in Section A, as listed above, be received and that the recommendations of the administration (where indicated) be accepted.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

B. Section B - General Communications – There were no general communications presented for the Board's review.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Bid Recommendation

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following bid recommendation be approved as submitted herein:

09-54 Student Toilet Renovation at H.S. West
SED# 58-08-01-06-0-038-020

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Business Affairs

Mr. Saggese reported that on March 16th the Committee had met and discussed the budget. Budget discussions will continue March 24, 2010.

B. Facilities

Mr. Liguori reported that the Committee met March 11th and were given updates on projects. The District is still awaiting approval from the state on the Tackan Elementary site improvements and HS East's science lab upgrade, window replacement and the synthetic turf field. To expedite the approval process the science lab upgrade may be split from the other two items. H2M has produced a listing of all projects which need to be done throughout the District. At some point in the future discussion will take place on how to move forward on these various projects. There are two ways to approach this: either incorporate money in the budget every year or go out for a bond every few years to tackle some of this work. Mr. Liguori stated that there needs to be further discussion on how to handle maintaining our facilities. The Facilities Committee also received an inventory of all District vehicles. Mr. Liguori noted that currently there is no system in place to maintain District vehicles/equipment. Mrs. Waldron added that on this evening's agenda there is an item to purchase two trucks. Mr. Ehmann stated that the Facilities Department is going forward in creating a prioritized list of projects, vehicles and equipment. The challenge is to try and fund these projects.

On a Facilities related matter Mr. Ehmann reported that there had been a problem with storm water runoff at Branch Brook Elementary. The engineers who built the septic system at Branch Brook are recommending a remedy for that situation. Their report will be ready for the next Facilities Committee meeting.

With reference to the separating of the HS East project awaiting state approval, Mr. Carlin asked if anything will change if the projects are separated and if so, what the impact would be. The Superintendent agreed to get a dollar figure on that change.

Mr. Ehmann explained to the audience that in the last few years the District has tried to address the facilities issue. We are finishing up phase one projects and we have funding sources for those. There are also some phase two projects. A few years ago we had a capital reserve fund established. When all of those projects are done and we see any balance of funds we will assign that to the priority list that we are creating. The elevators throughout the District are in need of much repair – that is a high cost item. It is a safety and accessibility issue that we have to remedy.

C. Athletics

Mrs. Waldron announced that all seventeen of our winter varsity teams qualified for the NY State Scholar Athlete distinction. Five school records were broken this winter.

D. Negotiations

Mr. Rossi announced that we are presently negotiating with the security guards. The teachers' contract negotiations will be starting in April.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Updates – The Superintendent brought the Board up-to-date on the following items of interest:

- The English department and the elementary teachers have been hard at work on a grammar initiative where students from kindergarten through tenth grade will receive intensive grammarian instruction.
- The C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University has announced that Smithtown Social Studies Director Michael Chlystun will be presented with the *Long Island University Educator of the Year Award* at the school's May 7th Commencement Exercises.
- Our Intel students are taking their talents to the local level. Teacher Marie Trinkle will have Intel students bring PET scans to the Middle Schools and take the students through scientific experiments to demonstrate the harmful effects of any kind of narcotic on the brain. This will dove-tail with our Too Good for Drugs program which we are launching this month.
- Smithtown High School East and West DECA completed its best ever results at the recent State Championship Conference in Rochester. More than half the students received awards and 23 students will represent Smithtown at the International Conference in Louisville, Kentucky beginning April 24th.
- SHS West senior John Lambrecht has been selected as a winner of the Special Scholarship by Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. pursuant to an Agreement with National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- The National Honor Society at High School West has raised \$25,000 for the Ankizy Fund to build a school in Madagascar that will be called Smithtown South.
- SHS West seniors Kyrstin Gentilcore and Alyssa Cartwright recently completed a community service project with the Suffolk County Police Department. The seniors painted a mural at the offices of the Emergency Service Section in Ronkonkoma. The project was coordinated with HS West Art Teacher Steve Halem and Police Officer Peter Knudsen.

B. Committee on Special Education

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron, seconded by Mrs. Knox approving Committee on Special Education Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Special Education for cases 307380, 200821, 300636, 309945, 307853, 308685, 309330, 308551, 305788, 160800, 306873, 309580, 301754, 200953, 189539, 301467, 308016, 304527, 309706, 306814, 309374, 304635, 308005, 309454 and 20055 be approved.
2. Sub-Committee on Special Education - RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Special Education for cases 303398, 301556, 307171, 304982, 305095, 307673, 303416, 305742, 305312, 303793, 176268, 178308, 158170, 305898, 150230, 305713, 309430, 305020, 305033, 187439, 190639, 159360, 301418, 176768, 160410, 158180, 176588, 152140, 173357, 157760, 305725, 304185, 303157, 309087, 303937, 306546, 304181, 303272, 303291, 303282, 307830, 309087, 301048, 200477, 200174, 300619, 300084, 200139, 300132, 305561, 308899, 309638, 151850, 308592, 305866, 184829, 172778, 300897, 153180, 301625, 301525, 305725, 300942, 200168, 300890, 305714, 306980, 306979, 305185, 300627, 306431, 305856, 303542, 307328, 306427, 306405, 304052, 303419, 303107, 300478, 302407, 302624, 302112, 150980, 186039, 153170, 181628, 157590, 304928, 305106, 302238, 305966, 302531, 191689, 309495, 310505, 304860, 309346, 305997, 300148, 309202, 305966, 311425, 302414, 305785, 304971, 305037, 305162, 303559, 310795, 304004, 308647, 310424, 308610, 310331, 309722, 308606, 200860, 301381, 200509, 308613, 304186, 308643, 310320, 309775 and 303837 be approved.

C. Committee on Preschool Special Education

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Preschool Special Education Items 1-2 on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Initial Placement for Preschool Special Education Program/Services – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Initial Placement – Program/Services for cases P308568, P311019A and P311019 be approved.
2. Special Education Preschool Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP – RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Committee on Preschool Special Education for Annual IEP Review/Amended IEP for cases P309241, P309503, P309365A, P309365, P309357, P310363, P309224, 309892, P310163, P310428, P309492, P310869, P309709, P310340, P310438, P308039A, P309039, P309374, P309641, P310410, P309648, P309747, P309748, P309749, P310565, P310409A, P310409, P310576A, P310576, P310517, P310481 P309708, P310480 and P310469 be approved.

D. Appointment of Hearing Officer

MOTION by Mrs. Waldron seconded by Mrs. Knox be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education hereby appoints Stephen Bluth as the hearing Officer in the disciplinary charges brought against a District employee; and further, be it RESOLVED, that the employee is hereby suspended without pay, following the service of the charges upon him, for not more than thirty days pending the determination of the charges; and RESOLVED, that the District Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Sharon N. Berlin, Esq.

Discussion

Mrs. Waldron asked if this is a Section 75, the answer was affirmative.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

E. Adoption of REVISED 2009-2010 School Year Calendar

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools be it RESOLVED, that the attached REVISED 2009-2010 school district calendar be adopted.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

F. Calendar for March and April 2010

The calendars were reviewed and amended by the Board. Mr. Carlin asked what the last date is that the Board has to adopt the budget. The Superintendent responded, April 23rd.

G. Litigation – was discussed during the earlier Executive Session.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL REPORT

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Instructional Items A – B on a consent motion.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

- A. Overnight Field Trip Request – Smithtown High School East Girls' and Boys' Track Team – April 16-17, 2010 –Spring Track Meet – Thiells, NY - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that permission is granted for 40 students from Smithtown High School East Girls' and Boys' Track to compete in the Spring Track Meet at North Rockland High School in Thiells, NY. Students will depart April 16, 2010 and return April 17, 2010.

B. Overnight Field Trip Request – Smithtown High School West Boys’ Track Team – April 16-17, 2010 –Spring Track Meet – Thiells, NY - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that permission is granted for 27 students from Smithtown High School West Boys’ Track to compete in the Spring Track Meet at North Rockland High School in Thiells, NY. Students will depart April 16, 2010 and return April 17, 2010.

VII. SECTION C - AUDIENCE

1. Ann Marie Dowling asked that the Board not change to a central pickup system for private and parochial students.
2. Roseann Pultorak spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students.
3. Maureen Flynn spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students.
4. Lisa Katter spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students.
5. Cathy Creighton spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students.
6. Dorinda Haberfield spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students.
7. Christine Dolce spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students.
8. Lisa Maxson spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students.
9. Rich Schlomann suggested that the bussing issue was like a red herring and that there are other larger budget items that need to be considered.
10. Kevin McCrudden spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students. Mr. McCrudden stated that the District had secretly passed a three-year extension for the busses.
11. Mary Ellen McCrossen spoke against a central pickup system for private and parochial students and asked for particulars regarding board member candidacy.
12. Ernest Krauss expressed his view that the District should not install a turf field during difficult economic times. Mr. Krauss discussed increasing teacher productivity or reduced pay.

VIII. BUSINESS AFFAIRS

A. Finance

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Finance Items 1 – 12 on a consent motion.

Discussion

Item #11 – Mr. Carlin asked if this purchase had been vetted. Mr. Rossi said, yes, this was discussed fully at the Facilities Committee meeting.

Item # 12 – Mr. Saggese asked for clarification. Ms. Niles responded that this is for an outstanding legal bill.

Item #4 – Mr. Rossi noted that this resolution authorizes the publication of the legal notice regarding the Annual Election to be held May 18, 2010.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

1. Budgetary Transfers - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfers of funds be approved for the 2009-10 school year:

FROM:	See attached list	\$27,822.69	
TO:	See attached list		\$27,822.69

FROM:	2820-150-51-0000	Prof. Salaries	\$35,000.00	
TO:	2250-460-51-0000	Software		\$35,000.00
FROM:	See attached list		\$1,763,099.20	
TO:	See attached list			\$1,763,099.20

2. Bid Recommendations - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following bid recommendations are approved as submitted herein:

08-18 Ext. Lease of Digital Photocopy Machines
 09-09 Ext. Sheet Music
 09-14 Ext. Paper & Dispensers
 09-35R Upgrades at Mills Pond Elementary –
Correction – SED #58-01-06-0-028-008

3. Contract for Vocational and Transitional Evaluations - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute a contract with the following organization, during the 2009-10 school year, to provide up to three vocational and transitional evaluations, at \$1,000.00 per evaluation for Level II Vocational Assessments:

Career & Employment Options (CEO)
 1 Rabro Drive, Suite 102
 Hauppauge, NY 11788

4. Annual Election and Legal Notice - upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it

RESOLVED, that the Annual Election of the District be held on the 18th day of May 2010, that due notice thereof be duly published, and be it further

RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of Smithtown Central School District, Suffolk County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. That the annual election of the qualified voters of the said School District shall be held on the 18th day of May 2010, and that the polls will be kept open between the hours of 6:00 o'clock a.m. and 9:00 o'clock p.m., time then in effect, for vote by voting machines.

Section 2. That the notice of said annual election, including the proposition(s) to be voted upon, shall be substantially in the form annexed hereto.

5. Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program – BOCES, 2010-11 School Year

WHEREAS, various educational and municipal corporations located within the State of New York desire to bid jointly for generally needed services and standardized supply and equipment items; and

WHEREAS, the Smithtown Central School District, an educational/municipal corporation (hereinafter the “Participant”) is desirous of selectively participating with other educational and/or municipal corporations in the State of New York in joint bidding in the areas mentioned above pursuant to General Municipal Law § 119-o and Education Law Section 1950; and

WHEREAS, the Participant is a municipality within the meaning of General Municipal Law § 119-n and is eligible to participate in the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, First Supervisory District of Suffolk County (hereinafter Eastern Suffolk BOCES) Joint Municipal Cooperative Bidding Program (hereinafter the “Program”) in the areas mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Participant acknowledges receipt of the Program description inclusive of Eastern Suffolk BOCES' standard bid packet and the general conditions relating to said Program; and

WHEREAS, with respect to all activities conducted by the Program, the Participant wishes to delegate to Eastern Suffolk BOCES the responsibility for drafting of bid specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, awarding the bids, and reporting the results to the Participant.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Participant hereby appoints Eastern Suffolk BOCES to represent it and to act as the lead agent in all matters related to the Program as described above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant hereby authorizes Eastern Suffolk BOCES to place all legal advertisements for any required cooperative bidding in Newsday, which is designated as the official newspaper for the Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Participant Meeting shall be held annually consisting of a representative from each Program Participant. Notice of the meeting shall be given to each representative at least five (5) days prior to such meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an Advisory Committee will be formed consisting of five to ten representatives of Program Participants for a term of three (3) years as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Agreement with the Participant shall be for a term of one (1) year as authorized by General Municipal Law §119-o.2.j.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Participant agrees to pay Eastern Suffolk BOCES an annual fee as determined annually by Eastern Suffolk BOCES to act as the lead agent for the Program.

Dated: March 23, 2010

SMITHTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ROBERT ROSSI
President, Board of Education

6. Extra Classroom Activity Accounts - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education hereby approves the following list of potential donors for Extra Classroom Activity Accounts for the 2009-2010 school year:

<u>School</u>	<u>Potential Donor</u>
Dogwood Elementary School	Chase Citibank Great American Opportunities Jack Keats Foundation, Inc. Newsday PTA Donations Stop & Shop Target

7. Revision of the Organizational Meeting July 7, 2009 - Establishment of Petty Cash Funds - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following name change be made under the Establishment of Petty Cash Funds for the Smithtown High School West Principal from John Dolan to Leon Beckerman.

8. Contract for AIDS Awareness Presentations - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to execute a contract with the following organization, to make AIDS

the 2009-2010 school year

\$4,608.00 to fund for the Fifth
Grade field trip on 5/20/10

St. James Elementary parents

\$235.00 to fund field trips for
the 2009-2010 school year

Smithtown Elementary parents

2. Use of Facilities – Special Sunday Approval - upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that Smithtown Township Lacrosse, having been approved to use school facilities at Smithtown Central School District during the 2009-10 school year on July 7, 2009, is hereby granted special Board approval to use Smithtown High School West and Accomsett Middle School, for Festival Day, Sunday, June 13, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

3. Additions to List of Organizations Approved to Use School Facilities, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 School Years – upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the following organizations, having made formal application, are hereby approved for applying to use school facilities of the Smithtown Central School District during the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years, subject to all school district policies, rules and regulations, Standard Uniform Practices and contract provisions.

2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR

Sts. Philip & James CYO
Smithtown Longhorns Association, Inc.

2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

The Booster Club of Smithtown
St. Patrick Youth
Smithtown Storm Baseball Club
Town of Smithtown Recreation Department
VFW Post 395

IX. PERSONNEL

A. Certified – The following Certified Personnel Items were presented for the Board’s approval (Attachment IX. A. 1-5):

1. Appointment of Adult Continuing Education Teacher
2. Request for FMLA, Without Pay/Leave of Absence, Without Pay
3. Appointment of Substitute Teacher
4. Appointment of Volunteers
5. Coaching Assignments

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving the Certified Personnel Items 1-5, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

Discussion

Item #2 – Mr. Carlin questioned the timing of a teacher’s return to the classroom. Mr. Barnosky stated that the statute has a special exemption for teachers that the school district can delay their return until the following school year to prevent disruption of the education process at the end of the school year. Mr. Barnosky offered to send the Board a chart on this item. Mrs. Ricigliano stated that this would not be considered to be a huge disruption to the students. Teachers are contractually entitled to leave time as well as under the Family Medical Leave Act.

Item #4 – Mr. Saggese asked for clarification, whether these volunteers are employees of the District, perhaps teachers. Mrs. Ricigliano replied that they are not necessarily teachers; most of the time these volunteers are through the athletic department, but not solely. They fill out an application and have an interview with Mr. Smith and they need to be fingerprinted. Mr. Carlin stated his hope that these volunteers would not have their children on these teams. Mrs. Waldron noted that many of the volunteers are former players who might have jobs on the outside. Mrs. Ricigliano added that there is a question on the application as to whether they have any working relationship with any of the students on the team.

Item #5 – Mr. Rossi asked for clarification on the grade change. Mrs. Ricigliano responded that this is a correction; the grade had been wrong on the previous agenda.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

B. Classified - The following Classified Personnel Items were presented for the Board’s approval (Attachment IX.B. 1-9):

1. Appointments
2. Appointment - Reason
3. Change of Status
4. Change of Status – Reason
5. Election Worker(s)
6. Leave of Absence Unpaid
7. Leave of Absence – Reason(s)
8. Resignation
9. Rescind Termination

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving the Classified Personnel Items 1-9, as detailed in the attached resolutions.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Amending the Legal Notice

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District hereby adopts the following propositions for consideration by the voters of the District at the Annual Meeting and Budget Vote to be held on May 18, 2010:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

(STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

SHALL the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limits in K-Grade 5 from unlimited transportation to ½ Mile. The total estimated cost of transportation is \$14,643,244.00. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$333,750.00.

PROPOSITION NO. 2

(STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

SHALL the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limits in K-Grade 5 from unlimited

transportation to ½ Mile; and in Grades 6-12 from 1 Mile to 1 ¼ Miles. The total estimated cost of transportation is \$14,643,244.00. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$534,000.00.

PROPOSITION NO. 3

(STUDENT TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES)

SHALL the following resolution be adopted, to wit:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District is hereby authorized to increase the current transportation limits in K-Grade 5 from unlimited transportation to ½ Mile; and in Grades 6-12 from 1 Mile to 1 ½ Miles. The total estimated cost of transportation is \$14,643,244.00. The anticipated savings in transportation costs to the District by increasing the limit is approximately \$934,500.00.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE District Clerk shall include these Propositions in the Public Notice of the May 18, 2010 Annual Meeting and Budget Vote.

Discussion

Mr. Ehmann explained that this resolution would authorize the Board to put these propositions out for a referendum. Mrs. Knox noted that the language, "Upon the RECOMMENDATION of the Superintendent" is not noted here. She asked if the Superintendent is recommending this resolution. Mr. Ehmann responded at this time these propositions are to give the District the ability to ask the community its opinion as to what the transportation boundaries should be. If you are asking me if I am recommending this as a cost savings reduction for next year's budget; these reductions and expenses have not been factored into any of the work that I have done thus far. If the sense of the Board, the majority, is to move forward without passing these, we will create a budget accordingly. If the community speaks and says do not move these boundaries, that money will have been budgeted. Am I recommending this, my answer is I am not recommending this as a budget closing gap right now. I am closing the gap in other ways. If you are asking me should the community have the opportunity to speak; that is a decision that I believe the Board should make in their own manner. That is why we are floating this tonight.

Mr. Rossi asked for a motion on Item #1

MOTION by Mr. Carlin, seconded by Mrs. Waldron approving Proposition #1

Discussion

Mr. Martella stated that it was helpful that there had been open and frank discussion about this transportation issue. He explained that after examining the important issue of safety he has decided that he would not support adding any of these propositions to the ballot.

Mr. Carlin asked for clarification on the Child Safety Zone issue. After that information was shared Mr. Carlin explained that what he personally feels does not matter. He stated that his view is that the proposition should be offered to the voters to make the final decision. He suggested that option #2 be placed on the ballot, neither with nor without the Board's endorsement.

Mr. Liguori stated that after much discussion and deliberation about transportation the Board has come a long way with this learning process. He noted that a sticking point for him had always been the ridership numbers. The District has presented some efficiencies, but there is still more work to be done. Mr. Liguori rejected placing any of the propositions on the ballot right now because of safety concerns.

Mrs. Knox stated that she agreed with most of what Mr. Martella and Mr. Liguori had said. We have responsibilities as Board Members; we don't put a budget out that we don't believe in. You also don't put a proposition out that you don't believe in. Having it on the ballot indicates that your representatives here believe in it and are looking for the community to affirm it. Mrs. Knox rejected the propositions.

Mrs. Waldron stated that her opinion had not changed since the Board's first viewing of these transportation options in January. She said no to them then and was again saying no to them.

Mrs. Waldron agreed with some Board Members who have said it is our responsibility to do our homework and come to an informed decision and do not let a big thing like this, safety of kids, be put out to a community where some people have no idea of where our schools are even located. Seventy-five percent of this population in Smithtown no longer has children in school and if you go out with the biggest proposition to save \$900 thousand I believe that would be irresponsible for us to put that out to the public.

Mr. Saggese stated that as trustees Board Members are elected to represent all 55,000 residents of the town, of which sixty percent do not have children in the schools. Mr. Saggese questioned the propriety of changes to only the parochial school runs and the actual safety issues involved in the three propositions. He suggested that the Board put one of these propositions out for a vote, and suggested #3.

Mr. Rossi stated that when this was first discussed and he saw the savings he felt it was a significant savings for the District, community and the budget. Then he visited the elementary schools with the Superintendent and started to see the roads and the areas and many questions regarding safety areas came to light. Mr. Rossi noted that if you visited the schools and used common sense you would see that at this time there are certain areas where it is not feasible. Mr. Rossi stated that although he does feel that this is one of the things that the community should be voting on he could not, at this time; put any of these propositions on the ballot due to the safety concerns.

Mr. Carlin withdrew the motion.

Mr. Rossi clarified that there will be no referendum on this May's ballot for a change in parameters in transportation.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mrs. Waldron that the meeting be adjourned at 10:40 p.m. Motion carried.

All aye. Motion carried (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson
District Clerk