

SPECIAL MEETING

April 17, 2008

Held in Joseph M. Barton Bldg.

Meeting called to order at 7:14 p.m. by Carl Gianino, President of the Board of Education.

Members present:

Carl E. Gianino	Kalervo Raustiala
Theresa Knox	Robert Rossi
Louis Liguori	Joseph T. Saggese

Members absent:

Gladys M. Waldron

Also present:

Edward Ehmann, Superintendent
Joan Niles, Asst. Supt.
Peter G. Albert, Board Counsel
Visitors
Mary Wilson, District Clerk

OPENING CEREMONY - conducted by Mr. Gianino.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

The Superintendent, using a PowerPoint presentation, reviewed highlights of the budget and budget process. He noted that during the last Business Affairs Committee Meeting the Board directed the administration to move the tax rate down as low as possible, while maintaining the program that we have come to enjoy in Smithtown. The PowerPoint presentation covered:

- Trend Analysis – 2005-2006 through 2008-2009
- Non-recurring State Aid
- Included Considerations - \$1,580,622
- Budget Comparison 07-08 to 08-09

At 7:20 p.m. Mr. Saggese joined the meeting.

Mr. Gianino asked if the District had done any kind of projections for the 2009-2010 budget. Mr. Ehmann responded that the District had taken the 2006 number and rolled it over at a 4% cost of living increase, used a very low State Aid figure of 1% increase and increased the assessments one-half percent. Using those numbers, next year's budget increase is 4% and the tax rate increase is 4.8%.

Adoption of Proposed School Budget for 2008-09

MOTION by Mr. Rossi, seconded by Mr. Raustiala that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District hereby adopts the proposed budgetary statement for the school year 2008-09, of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures contained in Proposition #1, in the amount of \$209,339,518, subject to the approval of the qualified voters of the District, at the Annual Election to be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Smithtown Central School District hereby adopts the proposed contingent budgetary statement for the school year 2008-09, of the necessary funds to meet the estimated expenditures contained in the Contingent Budget, in the amount of \$207,341,702.

Discussion – Mr. Gianino noted that if the District goes to contingency all of the capital work cannot be done, new equipment cannot be purchased and the new bus cannot be purchased. Ms. Niles agreed.

Mr. Gianino added that if the Capital Reserve were approved, that work would not be able to be done on a contingent budget. Ms. Niles agreed; adding that if the budget failed and the Capital Reserve passed, the money would be moved into the Capital Reserve but you could not spend it in 08-09.

All Aye. (6-0)

Amended Annual Election and Legal Notice

MOTION by Mr. Rossi seconded by Mrs. Knox, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, be it RESOLVED, that the Annual Election of the District be held on the 20th day of May 2008, that due notice thereof be duly published, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the notice of said annual election, including the proposition(s) to be voted upon, shall be amended and published substantially in the form annexed thereto.

Discussion – Mr. Gianino stated that according to State Education Law he thought it would be a mistake to generalize proposition #3. Mr. Albert discussed the legality and noted that this resolution had been brought forth in order to make the ballot more legible for the voters. After some back-and-forth discussion it was decided that the original language on all of the propositions would remain as approved at the previous meeting.

NO Mr. Liguori, Mrs. Knox, Mr. Saggese, Mr. Raustiala, Mr. Rossi, Mr. Gianino

MOTION DID NOT CARRY. (0-6)

SECTION C - AUDIENCE

1. Neil Carlin asked for an analysis on State Aid and for clarification on whether the listing of items under capital projects was an all-or-nothing listing.
2. Stan Meyers expressed concern over the addition of 1.58 million dollars consideration in the budget which is going to be an on-going increase every year.

Mr. Ehmann thanked Senator Flanagan and the other Long Island legislators and his colleagues across the Island who lobbied quite hard for Long Island's fair share of State Aid. He also thanked everyone who had participated in the budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Rossi, seconded by Mrs. Knox that the meeting be adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Wilson
District Clerk