

SOUTH COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
189 No. Dunton Avenue, East Patchogue, New York 11772

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER (7:01 p.m.)

Call to Order

Board of Education President Gregory C. Miglino, Jr., called a Budget Hearing of the Board of Education to order at 7:01 p.m. The hearing took place in the Boardroom of the South Haven School, 2714 Montauk Highway, Brookhaven, New York. The Long Island Advance and South Shore Press were notified of this meeting. Notices were also sent to all school buildings and the local libraries.

Board of Education Members Present: President Gregory C. Miglino Jr.; Vice President Carl Moodt, Trustee Victor Correa, Trustee James Jankowski, Trustee Kevin Kirk, and Trustee Barbara Schatzman

Roll Call

Members Absent: Trustee Marian McKenna

Members Late: None

Others Present: Superintendent of Schools Raymond Walsh; Interim Assistant Superintendent for Business & Finance Michael Buzzeo; Accounting Supervisor Darlene Levi; Interim Assistant Superintendent for Personnel Richard Kollar, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Dwayne Adsitt; Bellport High School principal Nelson Briggs; Kreamer Street Primary School principal Sean Clarke; Physical Education teacher Lori Klamut; Transportation Supervisor Louise Colletti; BTA President Spencer Stickley; teachers; Board of Education Candidates; guests and members of the community

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance

Superintendent for Business & Finance Michael Buzzeo led the Board and all others present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. OPENING STATEMENT

Opening Statement

Board President Gregory Miglino welcomes everyone, and then directed them to the flyers and literature that had been placed on the table outside the auditorium.

4. INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES

Introduction of Candidates

Board President Gregory Miglino introduces the candidates vying for seats on the Board of Education:

Gregory C. Miglino, Jr. (Incumbent); Carl Moodt (Incumbent); Kevin Kirk (Incumbent); Owen Durney; Lisa Di Santo Grossman; Michael C. Jaycox; Julio Morales; Rob Powell; Robert Restive; and John Stevens

5. BUDGET PRESENTATION & PROPOSITIONS

Budget Development Process, Revenue & Expenditure Overview, and Review of the Budget and Proposition:

ESTIMATED TAX RATE INCREASE 1.97%

- October 08 Budget Development Begins
- Nov-Dec 08 School and Department Budgets Under Construction
- January 09 Budget Document Finalized with Projected Tax Rate
- February 11/09 Budget Presented to Board
- February-March Budget Workshops-Versions 1-4
- April Finalization of the Budget
- May Budget Hearing (MAY 6) & Budget Vote (MAY 19)

BUSINESS AS USUAL? NO!

MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN COST & PLANS FOR INCREASED REVENUE GENERATION

- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Transportation
- Technology Management
- Special Education Programs will be Enhanced and Generate Revenue

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

- Expenditure
- Revenue

BUDGET CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY

- Zero Based Budget Process
- Site Based Budgets
- High Probability Revenue Projection
- Place Budget in Context of 3 Year Plan

EXPENDITURE LEVEL

- **MAJOR BUDGET DRIVERS**
 - Salaries
 - Negotiations in Progress
 - Fringe Benefits
 - ERS-TRS Will Begin to Trend Upward
 - Special Services
 - Transportation
 - Debt Services

EXPENDITURE PROJECTION 2009-2010 and REAS OF SIGNIFICANT EXPENDITURE (Discussion: Percentage Breakdown)

- ERS

- TRS
- Debt
- Medical
- Special Education
- Occupational Education
- Salaries
- Workers Comp
- Transportation

REVENUE

- The Foundation of the Budget Timeline
 - Expenditure
 - Revenue

\$ AMT OF REVENUE BY ITEM

- Self Generated [\$ 1.5 MIL]
- Fund Balance Support [\$ 1.77 MIL]
- State Aid [\$48.8 MIL]
- Tax Levy [\$50.6 MIL]
- Pilots [\$ 3.27 MIL]

REVENUE PROJECTION FOR 2009-2010

- State Aid
- Other
- Fund Balance
- Tax Levy
- Pilots

STATE AID CONSIDERATIONS

- 01/08 State Aid Cut of \$3.6 Million
- 04/09 Stimulus Plan Replaces the Original Cut of \$3.6 Million
- Artificial Increase in State Aid - 18 Months Cycle

PROPOSED BUDGET

- Expenditure Level \$106,102,996
- % Expenditure Incr 3.89%
- Proj Tax Rate Increase 1.97%
- Inc Cost to Average Home \$108.57/YR

PROPOSED VS CONTINGENT

■	<u>PROPOSED</u>	<u>CONTINGENT</u>
■ Amounts:	\$106,102,996	\$105,900,193
■ Tax Rate Increase	1.97%	1.56%
■ Avg. Annual Inc (\$)	\$108.57/YR	\$86.10/YR
■ Cost Per Day	\$.30	\$.24

COST TO HOMEOWNER

- Average Home Assessment: \$3,000
- Tax Increase @\$3,000 = \$108.57
- $\$3.619/\$100 \times 37 = \$108.57$

BUDGET VOTE – MAY 19, 2009

- WHERE: Bellport Middle School
- TIMES: 7: A.M.—9: P.M.

6. Q & A SESSION

Q & A

Q: the CPR for this year?

A: 3.8

Q: Increase in transportation cost in light of the new contract?

A: \$4 - \$5 hundred thousand

Q: Teachers' salaries are up please explain?

A: This is a Rollover Budget; we have retained the same people; explanation of staff movement due to steps and earned credits were given

Q: Special Education program bringing revenue to the district?

A: The Autism and Life-Skills programs is expected to bring in revenue but they are in the preliminary stages

Q: It seems that the \$2 million increase from last year's budget is really 7% increase?

A: Vast majority of staff is moving down and across; and contract negotiations are ongoing.

Q: Explanation of the Fund Balance?

A: It shows a 3-year plan; we've reigned in spending; and have good management

Q: Has the district identified cuts in the event the budget does not pass?

A: Typically no. Although, cuts could be equipment, programs – no tremendous differences between the two

Q: Difference between Current and Contingent Budget amounts?

A: \$3.96 million to \$3.7 million

Q: Looking at the tax levy amount, how can the tax rate be the lowest on the Island?

A: Referencing the tax rate increase, not the tax levy.

Q: What are the percentages of tax rate increases in Nassau and Suffolk Counties?

Statement: Resident congratulated Mr. Buzzeo for a job well done.

Q: Salaries for only 3 department chairs?

A: Four Chairs are listed with stipends, not salaries

Q: Nothing budgeted for Supplemental Health Services

A: That budget line was left over from the past year

Q: Salary line 2855?

A: The line below is blank – lines below have been reduced

Q: When Pilot monies arrived in the district?

A: January

Q: Why not apply Pilot monies from the previous year to the budget? Why the application of future pilots?

A: Anticipated monies are now added; since the surplus has been created, this method can be applied; there is history and documentation to support these payments; pilot is revenue used to support the Budget Timeline - 2009-2010 Elections

Statement: Pilot money should be used for education, not salaries

Q: Is a 2% raise guaranteed for teachers if there is no contract?

A: There is no provision for increases for maxed-out employees, except those moving across with step increases

Q: Compensation for department chairs – referencing a presentation at the last BOE meeting?

A: In anticipation of this, funds have been incorporated into the budget.

Q: Budget to Budget is confusing – why not give an “actual” for the school year?

A: Always looking at projections; - it is too time-consuming to work on an actual; this involves quantifying land changes; the budget numbers for 2009-2010 is based on actual figures; documents were compared with previous year’s numbers, but these numbers were not totally relied upon.

Q: The meaning of Trans. Underfunding – why the percentage increase?

A: Last year’s figures indicated that it was \$400-\$500 thousand underfunded

Q: Does the budget include funding for the Alternative High School program?

A: Yes. Spending will total \$267,982

Q: Number of students slated for the alternative program?

A: There are 16 to 21 students; but the numbers will vary

Q: Are the bus monitors that are listed, matrons?

A: No.

Q: Since there is large fund balance, why not give the taxpayers a 0% tax rate? Is the business office now staffed with qualified people?

A: The fund balance will be used to buffer future increases, maintain a strong academic base; and prevent employee layoffs. We have good administrators and staff; academics have moved to the forefront; the Auditor’s report is available on our website. In response to your question about staffing for the business, the answer is yes. The business office is staffed with qualified employees.

Q: reference: a 1,200 discrepancy in the flyers that were mailed out?

A: The mistake was on the part of the printer

Q: The legal notice put forth by the school district asking the public to vote on a \$15 million Bond?

A: The district is eligible for additional aid which can be used to convert our buildings to solar power and for other improvements; \$8 million of this money will be dedicated to getting us out of the LIPA grid. There will be 0% to the residents because the district already has the funds.

CLOSE Q & A SESSION

7. BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

The Board has determined that the actions it will take with respect to all items appearing on the agenda are Type II actions under the SEQRA Regulations, 6 NYCRR 617.5, which have no significant impact on the environment.

Item Moved to
Executive
Session

A. WHEREAS, voter propositions must be submitted 30 days prior to the date set for the Annual Meeting and Election unless otherwise specified by Board rule or a statute governing the subject matter of the proposition;

WHEREAS, Education Law section 1703 provides, that no vote shall be taken upon a proposition to increase or decrease the number of members of such board of education unless the notice of the annual meeting shall contain a statement to the effect that the voters of such district will vote upon such proposition;

WHEREAS, Education Law §2003(1) requires that the Notice of Annual District Election be published at least 45 days prior to the election;

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2009, 32 days prior to the Annual Meeting and Election, and after the publication of the Notice of Annual District Election, the Board of Education received a Petition seeking to decrease from nine to seven the number of members sitting on the Board of Education;

WHEREAS, the Petition seeking to decrease the number of members sitting on the Board of Education is untimely as a matter of law;

RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby rejects, as untimely, the Petition requesting the placement of a voter proposition on the ballot for the District's May 19, 2009 annual meeting seeking to decrease the number of members sitting on the Board of Education.

ITEM MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

CLOSE PUBLIC SESSION (8:35 p.m.)

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:36 p.m.)

On a motion by Gregory Miglino; seconded by Carl Moodt, with Marian McKenna *absent for vote*, the meeting moved into Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. in accordance with Open Meeting Law §105 (f) Personnel Matters.

Executive
Session

11. CLOSE EXECUTIVE SESSION (9:18 p.m.)

On a motion by James Jankowski; seconded by Carl Moodt, with Marian McKenna *absent for vote*, the meeting moved out of Executive Session at 9:18 p.m.

Close
Executive
Session

OPEN SESSION

11. MOVE ON BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Reject Petition
as Untimely

B. WHEREAS, voter propositions must be submitted 30 days prior to the date set for the Annual Meeting and Election unless otherwise specified by Board rule or a statute governing the subject matter of the proposition;

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RESOLVED, the Board of Education hereby rejects, as untimely, the Petition requesting the placement of a voter proposition on the ballot for the District's May 19, 2009 annual meeting seeking to decrease the number of members sitting on the Board of Education.

On a motion by James Jankowski; seconded by Carl Moodt, with Marian McKenna *absent for vote*, the Board approves resolution 6-A as stipulated above.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Next Meeting
Date

14. ADJOURNMENT (9:19 p.m.)

Adjournment

On a motion by Kevin Kirk; seconded by Carl Moodt, with Marian McKenna *absent for vote*, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judeth DeGree,

Judeth DeGree, District Clerk