

THREE VILLAGE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
BROOKHAVEN AND SMITHTOWN

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MARCH 1, 2011

Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Three Village Central School District of Brookhaven and Smithtown held at the North Country Administration Center, 100 Suffolk Avenue, Stony Brook, New York 11790 on March 1, 2011 at 8:00 pm prevailing time.

There were present:

John Diviney, President  
Frank McIntosh, Vice President  
Jonathan Kornreich, Trustee  
Susanne Mendelson, Trustee  
Diane Peritore, Trustee  
Glen Whitney, Trustee

There was absent:

Carol Leister, Trustee  
Lauren Kocivar, Student Representative to the Board

There were also present:

Neil Lederer, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Cheryl Pedisich, Asst. Supt. for Educational & Pupil Personnel Services  
Jeffrey Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services  
Kenneth Bossert, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction  
Edward F. Sallie, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
Andrea Wilson, District Clerk  
Visitors

CALL TO  
ORDER

Mr. Diviney called the meeting open at 8:09 pm and led the pledge of allegiance.

CHANGES IN  
THE MEETING  
AGENDA

No changes were made to the meeting agenda.

Board Member  
Resignation

Mr. Diviney announced that Mrs. Leister had submitted her resignation effective February 28, 2011 due to personal reasons. Mr. Diviney thanked Mrs. Leister for her contributions to the District and the Community and her efforts to enhance the education of the students.

2011-2012  
BUDGET

Mr. Lederer introduced Mr. Carlson who provided the Budget Overview.

Budget Overview

Budget Overview:

- “Rollover” budget would require an increase of \$13 million (7.8%)
- Coupled with Governor’s state aid reduction, results in a tax levy increase of \$13.4 million (10.9%)
- Board of Education goal is tax levy increase of 3% (\$3.7 million)
- Difference is \$9.7 million

Major Factors Influencing the Budget:

- Retirement system costs - \$3.6 million *increase* to budget
- Health insurance, other benefits - \$2 million
- Special education tuition - \$1 million
- Debt service due to bond - \$800,000

State Aid

- Governor’s state aid proposal
  - Reduction of \$1.4 million (budget to budget decrease is less because of Federal money)
  - Not as bad as other districts – our building aid piece of state aid is increasing
- Ten years ago, state aid was 31% of budget
- Will be approximately 20% in 2011-12

Contingency Budget:

- CPI for 2010 – 1.6%
- Contingent budget cap for 2011-12 is 1.92%
- Because of increase to debt service, our contingent budget cap would be 2.2%
- Tax levy increase using the same revenues would be 3.4%

Multi-Year  
Budget

- Factors that have most impact this year (retirement system, health insurance, special education, etc.) are wildly speculative in future years
- Budget increase for 2012-13 may be 6% or more, with a tax levy increase of 8% or more, without further reductions

Minutes of March 1, 2011

- Tax Cap Impact / Board Goal
- Tax cap bill has been passed by the NYS Senate, but not the Assembly
  - Does not begin until 2012-13 school year
  - Would require cuts to staff/programs in each year to remain below cap
- Tax Levy Increase:
- Board goal is a 3% increase over 2010-11 levy
  - Gap from rollover budget is \$9.7 million
- How do we get there?
- Reduce expenditures
  - Increase use of fund balance/reserves
  - Increase tax levy (1% on tax levy = approximately \$1.25 million)
- Mandate Relief
- Mr. Lederer noted that there are many programs that are mandated by the state that are not funded. He has spoken with Senator Flanagan who agrees that in order to impose a tax cap (which has not been finalized for this budget year) that these programs should be fully funded. If there is no funding, then they should be excluded from the proposed tax cap of 2% (or CPI, which ever is less).
- Mr. Lederer encouraged community members to lobby for mandate relief. Sample letters and suggested programs for mandate relief are available on the District website. He further stated that mandate relief would be a year down the road, but it will help considerably with future budgets.
- Contractual Concessions
- Mr. Lederer noted that the administration has initiated discussions with some of the bargaining units and noted that the teacher's union had made concessions last year. He welcomes discussions with any of these groups for further cost reductions for the District.
- Staffing / Enrollment Projections
- Mrs. Pedisich presented the staffing/enrollment projections noting that the District anticipates a decrease in elementary enrollment over the next two years.
- Discussion ensued and the Board requested follow-up:
- Setauket Elementary largest enrollment figures
  - Elementary/secondary staffing for previous 4-5 years
- Non-Mandated Programs
- Discussion ensued and the Board requested follow-up:
- Non-mandated program expenses to be included on list as an additional column on the report, including all soft costs
- OTHER RELEVANT ITEMS
- Further budget discussions ensued and the Board requested the following:
- Reduction in busing mileage provided in different increments for possible referendum
  - Fund balance projections for this year to be presented to next Audit Committee meeting
  - Provide entire costs and impact statement for programs (i.e. IG, Pi, Inter-scholastic sports, music, art, etc.)
  - Revenue/expenditures figures
- Mrs. Peritore commented that the girls fencing team for the 10<sup>th</sup> year and the boys fencing team for the 5<sup>th</sup> year had won the Long Island title. Congratulations to the high school athletic department.
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- Mr. Rose, District resident, commented on maintaining the full day kindergarten program.
- Mrs. Leibowitz, District resident, commented on possible reductions to the budget.
- Mr. McMullen, District resident, commented on early childhood education programs.
- MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION
- Mr. Diviney motioned to move into Executive Session at 9:19 pm in accordance with Open Meeting Law (f) personnel matters for particular person(s) (appointment), seconded by Mr. McIntosh and passed with a 6-0-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wilson  
District Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

The Board moved out of Executive Session at 10:30 pm.

There being no further business to be conducted, motion was made by Ms. Mendelson, seconded by Mr. McIntosh, and carried by a 6-0-0 vote to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Peritore  
District Clerk Pro-Tem