

APPROVED
5/9/2012

**Board of Education
Amityville Union Free School District
Amityville, NY 11701**

Budget Workshop Minutes – February 29, 2012

Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School – Auditorium – 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Park Avenue Memorial Elementary School-Auditorium

IN ATTENDANCE: President Michele Sikhrangkur Vice President Juliet Jordon-Thompson
2nd Vice President Lisa Johnson Trustee Kathleen Ward

ABSENT: Trustee Mark Epps
Trustee Nathan King
Trustee Ron Moss

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. John R. Williams-Superintendent of Schools
Dr. William Fanning-Interim Asst. Supt. Finance & Operations
Dr. Stephen Neidell-Interim Asst. Supt. Human Resources
Dr. Mary Kelly-Assistant Supt. Technology
Dr. Kathleen Gulbin -Asst. Supt. Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Ed Mercurio- Plant Facilities Administrator
Ms. Kelly Reape, Esq.-Guercio & Guercio

COMMUNITY: Three members present

1. Meeting Called to Order By President Sikhrangkur at 7:05 PM.

A. Emergency Exit, No Smoking Statement

**In the unlikely event of an emergency, you need to note that exits are clearly marked. Take a moment to note the exit nearest to where you are seated. *Smoking is not allowed on school grounds. *As a courtesy, please turn off cell phones and pagers during the meeting.*

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Community Input Regarding Board Agenda Items Only None

President Sikhrangkur appointed Trustee Kathleen Ward as District Clerk Pro Tem for the meeting.

Dr. Williams announced that Dr. Fanning would give a brief update of the budget.

Trustee Moss arrived at 7:08 PM.

Dr. William Fanning:said that we filed the required report with the Office of the State Comptroller that establishes what we believe to be the tax levy limit. It computed to a little over 2.6% increase over the current tax levy. We are continuing to work on the costs for BOCES Special Ed. We have been able to cut about \$100,000 from those costs but we have more to go. We will probably cut 24 or 25 people but we want to get that number to 22. There are some retirements coming and we will recommend that some of those positions not be replaced. We will be looking at salaries and benefits. Dr. Fanning then asked the Board if there were any questions.

President Sikhrangkur asked how much are we allocating from the general fund? Dr. Fanning said that is appropriating \$4.5 million from fund balance. Right now we have \$2.5 million. That means we would need to generate an operating surplus of not less \$2 million in order to make \$4.5 million. That would leave nothing. But that may improve as we approach the end of the year.

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2nd Vice President Johnson expressed concern that we won't get the 60% affirmative vote to pass the budget if we go over the 2% cap and then the voters would not come out to pass a budget the second time around.

Trustee King arrived at 7:12 PM.

2nd Vice President Jordon-Thompson said that I think our budgets have been passing because we have been transparent to the public and we keep our word to the public.

President Sikhrangkur said the consensus is that we will be right at the levy. Not above or below it. We have to be as straight forward and clear when presenting the budget to the public.

Dr. Williams agreed with Vice President Jordon-Thompson that we have a job to educate the public that this is not 2%. It will be closer to 2.6% so we have to explain this to the public - transparency and no surprises.

Trustee Moss asked when are we going to start educating the public. President Sikhrangkur said that we have to adopt the budget first. We have some feedback on what the levy means to us in dollars and cents. Administration is going to pair down budget to that amount with as little loss of staff and faculty as possible. Then it will be presented to the Board for adoption.

Dr. Williams explained that the 2% tax cap is the starting point and the state has approved certain exemptions that can be included in the levy and still be within the cap such as the increase in payments to retirement systems.

Trustee Ward said that education about the budget should be started prior to the adoption.

The Board and administration then discussed ways to get budget information to the public because people do not fully understand what is going on. Trustee Moss said he would do research into the possibility of using public television. .

President Sikhrangkur asked if the community had any question about the budget. No one responded.

President Sikhrangkur appointed Trustee Ward as District Clerk Pro Tem.

MOTION to RECESS to Executive Session for Litigation, Advice from Counsel and Personnel/Particular Persons at 7:45 PM made by Vice President Jordon-Thompson, seconded by Trustee Moss. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith O'Neill, District Clerk

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Dr. Kathleen Gulbin -Asst. Supt. Curriculum & Instruction
Ms. Kelly Reape, Esq.-Guercio & Guercio

ACTION TAKEN: None

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Ward, District Clerk Pro Tem

MOTION to RESUME Open Session at 8:24 PM made by Vice President Jordon-Thompson, seconded by Trustee Moss. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Ms. Kelly Reape left at 8:24 PM.

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2. **Board Action Recommended by the Board of Education**

- A. **Approval of Board Minutes** None
- B. **Board Action Recommended by Board Policy Committee** None
- C. **Board Action Recommended by Board of Education**
 - 1. Request for Authorization to Initiate Litigation

MOTION to APPROVE Agenda Item 2C-1 made by Vice President Jordon-Thompson, seconded by Trustee Moss. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

- D. **Audit Committee** None

3. **Board Action Recommended by the Superintendent**

- A. **Superintendent** None
- B. **Personnel** None
- C. **Business and Finance** None
- D. **Monthly Finance Report** None
- E. **CSE & CPSE Action/Meetings** None

- F. Curriculum and Instruction None
- G. Data and Technology None
- H. 21st Century Community Learning Center None

4. Reports

- A. Legal Counsel for the District None
- B. Superintendent of Schools None

The Board then discussed the tractor trailer parked overnight on successive days at Northwest Elementary School.

Trustee King advised that there are four legislative meetings scheduled for the Albany Conference. It was confirmed that Trustee King, Trustee Moss and President Sikhrangkur will be in attendance.

MOTION to ADJOURN Special Meeting at 8:26 PM made by Vice President Jordon-Thompson, seconded by Trustee Moss. **Motion CARRIED:** 6 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Ward, District Clerk Pro Tem