

Minutes of the Special Meeting/Budget Workshop #1 Meeting of the Oceanside Board of Education, Oceanside Union Free School District, duly called and held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. in the School #6 Auditorium, 145 Merle Avenue, Oceanside, New York.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In Attendance: Vice President Schoell, Mr. Blau, Mr. D'Ambrosio, Mr. Maresca, Mrs. McGrath-Mulhern and Mr. Transom. Also in attendance were Superintendent Harrington and Assistant Superintendents De Rosa, Provvido and Van Cott. President Garrity was not in attendance.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schoell and seconded by Mrs. McGrath-Mulhern at 6:02 p.m. to move into executive session in the District Office Board Room.

A motion was made by Mr. D'Ambrosio and seconded by Mr. Blau at 7:28 p.m. to adjourn executive session and move into public session.

In Attendance: Vice President Schoell, Mr. Blau, Mr. D'Ambrosio, Mr. Maresca, Mrs. McGrath-Mulhern and Mr. Transom. Also in attendance were Superintendent Harrington and Assistant Superintendents De Rosa, Provvido, Van Cott and District Clerk Barbella. President Garrity was not in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Sebastian Morales, School #4 student.
NATIONAL ANTHEM – The National Anthem was sung by Haily Conroy, Oceanside High School student.

Mrs. Schoell opened the meeting by saying that Mrs. Garrity is under the weather so is not in attendance at tonight's meeting. Mrs. Schoell announced that Mrs. Garrity will not be running for the Board of Education after 21 years on the Board. She then turned the meeting over to Mr. Van Cott to discuss

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Budget Workshop #1 – Administration and Capital – Dr. Harrington stated that Mr. Van Cott would be presenting specific budget pages to the community this evening. The Board would have an opportunity to ask questions on each page and the audience would then have an opportunity to ask questions as well.

Dr. Harrington introduced Mr. Van Cott who provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached to the records of this meeting). Mr. Van Cott began by presenting some follow-up from the January 17, 2018 Board Meeting with regard to current PILOTS (Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes). Mr. Van Cott was happy to announce that Oceanside School District is no longer identified as a district susceptible with fiscal stress. This was due to careful multi-year fiscal planning and strategic utilization of budget resources. As a result, cash balances are increasing and reserves are being replenished. Mr. Van Cott spoke about budget gap actions and updates within the Administrative and Capital components of the budget.

Mr. Van Cott explained that the State Education Department requires school districts to present their operating budget in a three-part format consisting of Administrative, Program and Capital. He explained that the Administrative component consists of operation of the School Board, Office of the Superintendent, Business Office, legal, auditing and other central administrative expenses. The Capital component includes expenses such as maintenance and repair of school buildings, utilities, custodial staff salaries & benefits, service contracts, supplies and annual debt service. Mr. Van Cott then reviewed the budget pages in detail at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Van Cott provided information on the upcoming budget workshops, budget hearing and budget vote.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Schoell thanked Mr. Van Cott for his very articulate and clear presentation of the 2018-19 budget.

Mr. Blau commended Mr. Van Cott and his team for the tremendous accomplishment of getting the fiscal stress designation removed.

Mr. Blau announced that he will be seeking another term on the Board of Education.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Harrington spoke about Nassau BOCES’ public vote to purchase Jerusalem Avenue School on February 8, 2018. The purchase of this school will eliminate the facilities rental costs charged to our component school districts for the 2018-19 school year.

OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Several questions were raised regarding the budget presented tonight and responses were provided by Dr. Harrington and Mr. Van Cott.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made by Mr. Transom and Mr. Maresca to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Marie Barbella
Secretary to the Board of Education
and District Clerk