

Minutes of the Regular Meeting. Budget Workshop #3, of the Oceanside Board of Education, Oceanside Union Free School District, duly called and held remotely through Google Meet on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

In Attendance: President Schoell, Vice President McGrath-Mulhern, Mr. Blau, Mr. D'Ambrosio, Mr. Kaplan, Mr. Maresca and Mr. Transom. Also in attendance were Superintendent Harrington and Assistant Superintendents Cokley, DeRosa and Provvido and District Clerk Barbella.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Mrs. Schoell, Board President.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2020 were accepted and filed as submitted.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The Treasurer's Report, the Transfer of Funds Report and the Internal Claims Audit Review of Warrants were accepted and filed for audit.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Budget Workshop #3 – Staffing, Revenue, Tax Levy Limit, State Aid

Dr. Harrington stated that Mr. Cokley would be presenting specific budget pages to the community this evening. The Board would have an opportunity to ask questions on each page. The community had an opportunity to ask questions in advance of the meeting.

Mr. Cokley explained that tonight's PowerPoint presentation would cover projected elementary sections, proposed staffing needs, revenue sources, proposed 2020-2021 tax levy, review preliminary 2020-2021 figures and upcoming important dates (attached to the records of this meeting). Dr. DeRosa spoke about the projection of elementary sections. Dr. Harrington spoke about proposed staffing needs in the 2020-21 budget and the retirements of Project Extra-Gifted & Talented teacher, STEM and Makerspace facilitator and elementary music teachers. She emphasized that the General Music Program will continue to be as strong as it is now. Mrs. Provvido spoke about a structural shift in the Project Extra/Enrichment/Wellness Program. Mrs. Provvido emphasized that the Project Extra Program and selection process will continue. She also spoke about the new mandates – full implementation of Next Generation Science standards, Mental Health full implementation and the introduction of Computer Science and Coding program. There will be increased opportunities for enrichment across all grades. Each Project Extra/Enrichment teacher will have a dedicated classroom to be located in the Learning Labs in every building.

Mr. Cokley reported that the preliminary 2020-21 budget is \$160,876,409 which is a 2.32% increase over the 2020-21 budget. The tax levy increase is 3.30% which is under the Tax Cap (the maximum allowable tax levy limit is 3.43%). We are seeking Board approval tonight to adopt the operating budget of \$160,876,409 and approve the resolution to include a proposed Capital Reserve Proposition on the May ballot.

Mr. Cokley reported that based on updated State Aid runs, we anticipate loss of revenue due to Pandemic Adjustment. Oceanside's reduction in State Aid is approximately \$369,000, but there could be additional cuts.

Mr. Cokley spoke about the Capital Reserve Project proposal for the OHS science labs. The proposition on the ballot includes Phase 1 at a cost of \$3.4 million. There is no cost to the taxpayer. The Board is asked to authorize the District to withdraw from our capital reserve fund balance. This fund can only be used in this way. This project is eligible for building aid up to 45% of the total cost.

Inquiries were made by Board members and community members on various budget issues and responses were provided.

The next Regular Board of Education Meeting was scheduled for May 6, 2020. Since we do not have a date for the Budget Vote and Trustee Election, the date of the Budget Hearing will need to be changed.

Mrs. Schoell expressed her thanks to Mr. Cokley and his team for this fiscally sound budget which respects our taxpayers.

Update on School Closure

May 15th is still the current date that we will remain closed under the Governor's directive.

Dr. Harrington reminded the community to participate in Facebook Live Q&A to be held on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

The Board, Central Administration and High School administration will meet remotely on Wednesday, April 29, with the senior class officers to discuss ideas about spring events

Dr. Harrington gave a special shout-out to our teachers, administrators, parents and students for doing a wonderful job.

Dr. Harrington explained that the grading policy is an issue and is being worked on. Information will be coming shortly regarding grading.

Superintendent's Reports

- Enrollment – As submitted
- Professional Staff Development & Overnight Student Field Trips – As submitted.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. APPROVAL TO ADOPT THE 2020/2021 BUDGET

On motion made by Mr. Blau and seconded by Mr. Kaplan

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Oceanside Board of Education adopts the budget for the 2020/2021 school year in the amount of \$160,876,408.

MOTION APPROVED 7-0-0

B. APPROVAL OF BUDGET PROPOSITIONS

On motion made by Mr. Maresca and Mr. D'Ambrosio

RESOLVED, that the statement of estimated expenses of the amount of money which will be required for the ensuing year 2020/2021 for school purposes shall be presented at the Annual Election in the spring of 2020 – a final date still to be determined by Executive Order of the Governor, to the qualified voters of the District for their approval, and that the propositions for said budget shall appear on the voting machines in the following condensed form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

RESOLVED, that the statement of estimated expenses (budget) presented by the Board of Education of Oceanside Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, State of New York, for the School Year 2020/2021 in the amount of \$160,876,408 for the purposes stated, be and same is approved, and said total amount, exclusive of public monies and other lawful income shall be raised by the levy on the taxable property within the school district and collected during the ensuing year as provided by law.

PROPOSITION NO. 2 – CAPITAL RESERVE PROPOSITION RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Oceanside Union Free School District (“District”), is hereby authorized to appropriate and expend from the Capital Reserve Fund, approved by the voters and established on May 15, 2018, an amount not to exceed \$3,309,782 for the purpose of undertaking a school building improvement Project (“Project”) to commence during the 2020-2021 school year and to consist of the construction of improvements and alterations to Oceanside High School property as follows: a complete renovation of four (4) classrooms and two (2) preparation rooms in the science wing of Oceanside High School. These renovations will include all four (4) chemistry rooms shared with AP Biology and Forensics, as well as two (2) prep rooms. The complete renovation will include the removal of all existing cabinets, desks and casework; all four (4) chemistry rooms will include the required fume hood, emergency showers and acid waste piping; a new acid neutralization tank and an approved chemical waste piping will be required; and other work required in connection therewith, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to the financing thereof; and to transfer such sum into the District’s Capital Fund as needed to be expended and applied toward the cost of said Project; provided that the detailed costs of the components of the Project may be reallocated among such components if the Board of Education shall determine that such reallocation is in the best interests of the District and no material change shall be made in the scope of the Project.

PROPOSITION NO. 3 – LIBRARY BUDGET PROPOSITION

(a) **RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Oceanside Library (the “Library”), located in the Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, NY is hereby authorized: (i) to construct additions and/or alterations and improvements to the Library building located at 30 Davison Avenue, Oceanside, NY and site thereof (the “Project”), and to expend therefor, including the reimbursement of prior expenditures made by the Library for the Project, not to exceed \$33,500,000, plus any additional amounts received by the Library in connection with the financing of said Project; (ii) to finance such cost by borrowing a principal amount not to exceed \$33,500,000 from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (the “Dormitory Authority”), a qualified industrial development agency, local development authority or other lending institution(s); (iii) to cause the appropriate taxing authority, or to authorize and direct the Oceanside Union Free School District (the “District”), pursuant to Education Law Section 259, to authorize and direct the appropriate taxing authority to levy therefor a tax payable in annual installments not to exceed \$1,800,000 per year, which annual installment of the tax shall be in addition to the amount presently raised annually by tax for the Library’s annual appropriations, over a maximum period of thirty (30) years for the payment of all principal, interest, redemption premiums, if any, and expenses relating to the financing of the Project; (iv) to assign and pledge all of said tax to the Dormitory Authority or other lending institution(s); (v) to enter into mortgages, loan agreements and any other agreements and/or to take any and all other actions incidental or necessary to the completion of the Project and the financing thereof; and (vi) to refinance any and all outstanding bonds of the Library to the extent necessary to effectuate the foregoing; and

(b) The annual appropriation for Library services of \$4,750,767, heretofore authorized by the voters, is hereby increased by the amount of \$2,153,425, for a total annual appropriation of \$6,904,192 for each year commencing July 1, 2020, representing the amount necessary for Library services pursuant to the written contract between the Board of Education of the Oceanside Union Free School District and the Oceanside Library; up to \$1,800,000 of said increase shall be used to pay for the financing referenced in subparagraph (a) in such years as needed and thereafter for Library purposes; and that taxes shall be levied, assessed, and collected against the taxable property of the District for the foregoing.

MOTION APPROVED 6-0-1 (Mrs. McGrath-Mulhern abstained)

C. ELECTION POLL CLERKS RECOMMENDATION

On motion made by Mr. D’Ambrosio and seconded by Mr. Maresca

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education is hereby designated as a set of poll clerks, to cast and canvas ballots pursuant to Education Law S2019a; subd. 3b; and that a special meeting of the Board of Education shall be

convened for that purpose in the spring of 2020 – a final date still to be determined by Executive Order of the Governor, in the auditorium of the Merle Avenue School #6, Oceanside, New York, at 9:00 p.m.
MOTION APPROVED 7-0-0

D. APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS OF SPRING ELECTION 2020

On motion made by Mr. D'Ambrosio and seconded by Mr. Maresca

RESOLVED, by the Board of Education, Oceanside Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, County of Nassau, as follows:

1. The following persons are hereby appointed to act as Inspectors of Election to be held in the spring of 2020 – a final date still to be determined by Executive Order of the Governor, and to perform such duties at the polling place to which they are prescribed by the Clerk of the District and to take such action as prescribed by the Education Law:

Barbara Davis
Peter Kaiser
Terese Kaiser
John Larrieu
Georgianna Miller
Tonilynn Schmink

2. That the following persons and anyone else who may be required that day are hereby appointed to act as Assistant Clerk at the Annual Election to be held in the spring of 2020, a final date still to be determined by Executive Order of the Governor, and to perform such duties at the polling place to which they are assigned by the Clerk of the District and to take such action as prescribed by Education Law:

Cheryl Ango
Stacey Barbakoff
Monica Barbella
Richard Barbella
Maryann Bruno
Anna Maria Capone
Mary Caridi
Regina Cunningham
Robyn Drangel
Robert Dunwoody
Bonnie Epstein
Ira Epstein
Lewis Epstein
Theresa Fabiano
Karen Farrell
Roberta Gentile
Carol A. Hayes
Mary D. Healy
Deborah A. Jacobs
Mary Ann Marino
Barbara Mischuk
Kathleen Murray
Michael Orlowek
Norma Orlowek
Joseph Passaro
Robert Paul

Anna Pepper
Francine Purcell
Dolores Rogers
Elizabeth Schaeffer
Janice Scheinson
Bonnie Schneider
Susan Segarra
Peter Slavska
Peter Tekworth
John Traverso
Gabriella Tringali
Priscilla Tringali
Elaine Unger
Diane Wegener
Ellen Weiss
Joyce Wilmer
Carl Zampino
Margaret Zampino

MOTION APPROVED 7-0-0

E. APPROVAL TO DECLARE EQUIPMENT SURPLUS

On motion made by Mr. Maresca and seconded by Mr. Blau

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the Board of Education declares the following equipment surplus and obsolete and were donated to Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital to be used during COVID-19: 49 iPads.

MOTION APPROVED 7-0-0

F. SPECIAL EDUCATION PLACEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

On motion made by Mr. D'Ambrosio and seconded by Mr. Maresca

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the CSE/CPSE Chairperson, the Board of Education hereby approves recommended placements and/or services as recommended in CSE/CPSE meetings held on the dates so indicated in the Committee Recommendations for Board of Education Review with Details, dated April 22, 2020.

MOTION APPROVED 7-0-0

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

This is the conclusion of the budget process and Dr. Harrington publicly thanked Mr. Cokley and Mr. Kahan for their amazing work.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Transom at 8:47 p.m. to move into executive session for the purpose of personnel.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schoell at 9:21 p.m. to adjourn executive session and move into public session.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion was made by Mr. D'Ambrosio to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Marie Barbella
Secretary to the Board of Education