A Special Public Budget Meeting of the Board of Education of the Westbury Union Free School District, Towns of North Hempstead and Hempstead, Westbury, New York was held in the Library of the High School, One Post Road, Old Westbury, New York on April 2, 2008.

Present, Dr. Pless M. Dickerson, President
Board of Education: Mrs. Adelaide T. Brinson, Vice President
                      Mr. Floyd T. Ewing, III, Mrs. Connie LoCascio and
                      Mr. Larry D. Wornum

Others Present: Dr. Constance R. Clark, Superintendent of Schools
Other Present: Dr. Robert W. Root, Asst. Supt., Curriculum, Instruction & Personnel
               Mrs. Mary A. Lagnado, Asst. Supt., Business & Management Services
               Mrs. Gloria Lancer, District Clerk

Absent: Ms. Karin B. Campbell
        Mr. Lawrence F. Zaino

CALL TO ORDER:

At 7:40 p.m., Dr. Pless M. Dickerson, President, called the meeting to order.

PRESENTATION:

Copies of the 2008-2009 proposed school district budget was made available to those in attendance.

Mrs. Mary A. Lagnado, Asst. Supt., Business & Management Services, presented a breakdown of the 2008-2009 proposed budget. She noted the number of positions that are supported by the General Fund - a total of 653.5 full time positions – instructional personnel and non-instructional staff. This does not include cafeteria staff or substitutes and seasonal employees. The school district also employs teachers and support staff that are funded through grants. Mrs. Lagnado added that a large percentage of the proposed budget is salaries. A summary of the 2008-2009 budget compared to the 2007-2008 budget by object was reported. Included in the summary – instructional salaries, support salaries, equipment, contracts, supplies, tuition, textbooks, BOCES, debt service, employee benefits and interfund transfers.
In response to a question, Mrs. Lagnado explained that when the school district is on a contingency budget we can’t buy equipment unless it is for health and safety reasons. She reviewed the 2008-2009 preliminary budget and presented the regular budget gross costs - $96,127,775 (5.02%) and the Contract for Excellence Budget - $2,596,746 (2.84%) for a combined budget of $98,724,521 (an increase of 7.86%). The revenue for the regular budget is $29,445,870 and the revenue for the Contract for Excellence is $2,596,746 for a combined budget of $32,042,616. The regular budget tax levy is $66,681,905 (an increase of 5.55%). There is no tax levy cost for the Contract for Excellence Budget. The total tax levy increase in the combined budget is 5.55%.

Dr. Clark spoke about the specific guidelines the district has to follow to receive the Contract for Excellence funds. These guidelines can be found on the district’s website. Funding is monitored by the State Education Dept. It is believed that the funds will stay intact. Dr. Clark noted that on an austerity budget the district can’t do capital projects and can’t buy equipment other than for health and safety issues.

Questions and Comments:

Questions and comments were invited from the audience. The following individuals asked to be heard:

Chester McGibbon  Denise Thompson  
Stan Ercolano   Gail Reese  
Melissa Rakowitz  Deanne Van Nooten  
Maureen Baranov    Regina Jones  

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. LoCascio, seconded by Mrs. Brinson, and carried unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria M. Lancer, District Clerk