

APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education

BOARD WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 27, 2008

VOLUME XXVII, PAGE 195
ELMONT, NEW YORK

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD WORK SESSION

Minutes of the Work Session of the Board of Education of the Elmont Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, held at the Elmont Road School on Wednesday, February 27, 2008.

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Byer, President
Elsy Mecklenbourg-Guibert, Vice President
Lorraine Ferrigno
Michael A. Jaime
Carol Parker-Duncanson
Aubrey Phillips
Frank Ragona

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Mr. Albert Harper,	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Robert Geras,	Director of Business and Finance
Mrs. Barbara Schwartz,	Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education
Dr. Lynne Stucchio,	Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Colum P. Nugent,	School Attorney
Celestine L. Lloyd,	District Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL ABSENT: None

CONSULTANT PRESENT: Mr. Thomas W. Galante

On a motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Ragona, the Board convened in Executive Session at 6:30 PM.

EXECUTIVE
SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mrs. Carol Parker-Duncanson, seconded by Ms. Ferrigno, the Board convened in Public Session at 7:30 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION

Motion Carried Unanimously

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Mrs. Byer called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Byer welcomed everyone to the District's first public Board Work Session of the School year to review the budget draft for 2008-2009.

Mr. Harper also welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated its purpose for the discussion of the proposed budget draft for 2008-2009. He stated that input was received from board members, parents and community members. Mr. Harper welcomed the audience's input, concerns and thoughts. Mr. Harper stated that this budget draft takes into account some reductions as well as some additions.

REVIEW OF THE 2008-2009 PROPOSED BUDGET

**REVIEW OF
PROPOSED
BUDGET 2008-
2009**

This budget draft includes a reduction from \$3,026,903 to \$1,250,000; the 2007/08 capital program budget included one-time funding to "leverage" EXCEL State aid.

A reduction of two (2) classroom teachers to reflect estimated changes in enrollment.

Projected savings resulting from refunding of the 2000 bond issue which will save the district \$44K.

Savings of \$406,126 resulting from payoff of bond debt.

Reduction of \$10,000 for transportation vehicle replacement.

One (1) additional Special Education classroom teacher at Clara H. Carlson, two (2) additional speech teachers and six (6) additional Special Education aides requested by the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

Mr. Harper referenced the commendation received for the way in which our program is run. There have been requests for the district to be a model for its Pupil Personnel Services.

One (1) additional AIS teacher and one (1) additional ESL teacher requested by the Director of Curriculum.

Transfer of School Lunch Fund if the Board of Education were to decide to maintain current meal prices.

Connect-Ed automated telephone communication system.

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Software management system to automate the district's voter registration and management of activities for referendums.

**REVIEW OF
PROPOSED
BUDGET 2008-
2009**

Mr. Harper stated that the needs of the community are our primary goal in providing the budget proposed for our students. We will try to keep the budget down. Mr. Harper thanked everyone and the Board of Education. He stated the Board members have been extremely attentive to the concerns of the community in keeping the taxes as low as possible.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

**QUESTIONS/
COMMENTS
FROM BOARD
MEMBERS**

Mr. Ragona inquired if there was any other way we can keep costs down? Mr. Harper stated that the proposed budget has a .5% tax levy increase. He stated that there may be areas in which the Board can look into, in an effort to keep costs down. Mr. Ragona thanked Mr. Harper.

Ms. Ferrigno made inquiries referencing the State mandated Board of Education training expense for 2006-2007. She requested a complete breakdown of this cost as it appears to be a large amount of money that was spent.

Mr. Harper assured Ms. Ferrigno that this item could be reviewed. Ms. Ferrigno also requested the training and conference expense line be audited as well.

Ms. Ferrigno inquired about the decrease in Art and the increase in Physical Education. Mr. Harper explained that due to an excess of art supplies, there would not be a need to purchase additional items. Mr. Harper also stressed that there will not be a reduction in service at all.

Ms. Ferrigno further inquired about the key reduction in Special Education Teachers, however it is noted that there will be an additional amount of \$240K. It was noted that we were dealing with two different years. Mr. Galante explained the details of this action. He stated that the increase also takes into account staff turnover as well.

Ms. Ferrigno was thrilled to see how we can continue to save pennies. She stated that there is a need to maintain our own services and she would like to see the numbers requested prior to her making a vote on the proposed budget.

Mr. Phillips complimented Mr. Harper and staff for presenting such a comprehensive budget draft.

QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE - None

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Mrs. Byer thanked everyone and Mr. Harper for attending the workshop.

NEXT BUDGET WORKSHOP

**NEXT BUDGET
WORKSHOP**

Ms. Byer announced that the next workshop will be March 10, 2008, 7:00 pm at the Elmont Road School.

This portion of the Board Work Session ended at 7:55 PM with a recess, after which the Regular Board of Education meeting commenced.

Submitted by,

March 18, 2008
Date Approved

Celestine L. Lloyd
District Clerk