

Public Work Session

A Public Work Session of the Board of Education of the Northport-East Northport Union Free School District was held on Monday evening, December 7, 2009, beginning at 9:45 p.m., in the Board Conference Room at the William J. Brosnan School, 158 Laurel Avenue, Northport, New York, with Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Chairperson, opening the meeting and presiding.

Members present: Mrs. Liz Dragone, Mr. Joe Gannon, Mr. Rob Ingraham, Mr. Tim Madden, Mrs. Donna McNaughton, Mrs. Arlene S. Munson, Dr. Kay Hutchins Sato, Mr. Stephen V. Waldenburg, Jr., Mrs. Karen Wills

Members absent: None

Also present: Dr. Marylou McDermott, Superintendent of Schools

1. President Waldenburg called the meeting to order.

Public attendance: There were approximately 6 persons present.

2. Mr. Waldenburg led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance; and

3. Pointed out the emergency exits.

4. Dr. McDermott stated that in an effort to present the budget in the clearest manner, in a way that is best viewed by the entire community, it was imperative to make some changes. Dr. McDermott noted that the budget book will be the same except for two changes. The first change is to the adjusted budget column, which will now be called the adopted budget column. The intention is to say this is the column that was approved by the voters and adopted by the Board of Education. The other change is to centralize some codes for better buying power.

Dr. McDermott reviewed the following reasons for the changes to the format: The new format aligns with the New York State Taxpayer Budget Notice. The format represents the voter-approved, Board-adopted budget. The format conforms to Finance Manager reporting formats and streamlines the budgetary process. The format eliminates unnecessary manual calculations by staff which reduces the possibility of human error. The format presents a more accurate representation of spending priorities and re-allocations.

Ms. Kathleen Molander, Assistant Superintendent for Business, explained the difference between an adopted budget and an adjusted budget. An adopted budget is the budget that the Board adopts, the budget the community has approved. The adjusted budget is the adopted budget with adjustments to that adopted budget. Ms. Molander provided samples of how the budget columns will appear in the new format.

Mr. Matt Nelson, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, reviewed budget code centralization stating that centralized codes in the Office of Instruction, including textbooks, repairs and equipment/technology will allow for coverage of significant repairs from a consolidated code with funds previously budgeted in multiple codes. Mr. Nelson noted that centralization will allow for the alignment of spending and program equity in all buildings, and flexibility to meet the needs of programs across the District. Mr. Nelson stated that computer supplies and contract services will also be centralized in many buildings to facilitate budget codes that align with actual spending history, less code "rollover" from year to year, and present an accurate reflection of what it costs to run the technology infrastructure in each building.

There was a brief discussion regarding other districts using the adopted budget format, consolidation of

services, public notification of the proposed format, and the summary pages in the budget book.

Trustee Gannon inquired if information could be added to include the final budget from two years prior and if Finance Manager could produce the budget in spreadsheet format.

Ms. Molander stated that the final budget from two years prior could be included and Finance Manager can produce a spreadsheet.

There being no further business to discuss at this time, motion was made by Trustee Sato, seconded by Trustee Munson, to adjourn the meeting.

At 10:20 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting adjourned.

Beth M. Nystrom
District Clerk

bmn