

## MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** October 25, 2011

**Type of Meeting:** Work Session

**Place of Meeting:** Middle School Auditorium

**Members Present:** President Dennis Ryan  
Vice President Roy Lester  
Board Member Patrick E. Gallagher

**Members Absent:** Board Member Gina Guma  
Board Member Darlene Tangney

**Others Present:** Mr. David Weiss, Superintendent  
Dr. Randie Berger, Deputy Superintendent, Personnel and  
General Administration  
Dr. Vincent Butera, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum  
and Instruction  
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer  
Dr. Dale Johanson, Director, Comprehensive Arts  
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk

**I. Call to Order/Pledge/Opening Remarks**

Call to Order

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:27 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mrs. Guma and Mrs. Tangney were unable to attend.

### SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

*Introductions by Dr. Dale Johanson*

- Student Speaker Rebecca Spodick recounted her experiences with art courses/teachers in MS and HS and expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided by the LB School District.
- High School Art Department Slideshow of student artwork was presented by Sue Solomonic. Copies were presented to all Board members.
- Russell Goetz, All State Jazz Vocalist and All-State Chorus, detailed his experience with music/arts in the LB School District, as a vocalist, saxophone player, and actor, and then sang “I’ve Got the World on a String,” with Annie Winerip on trumpet (All State Alternate) and Michael Capobianco, accompanist, on piano.

### **SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION (CONTINUED)**

- President Ryan, Vice President Lester, and Board Member Gallagher thanked everyone for their presentations. Mr. Gallagher also highlighted the increased offerings in the arts at the HS including the upcoming Studio for radio and TV production.
- CCPTA Co-Presidents Geri Maquet and Jackie Miller and other PTA Presidents thanked the Board of Education for all of their hard work and presented them with gym bags filled with gifts, “swag bags” from all of the individual PTA groups.
- President Ryan noted that PTA and the Board of Education are bonded by their dedication to service and thanked them for the work that they do and their support.
- Superintendent Weiss thanked the Board on behalf of Administration, for their hard work and dedication and level of effort, concern and care, for our students.

### **II. Discussion of Work Session Topic:**

#### **Property Tax Revenue Cap**

<b>Work Session Topic: Property Tax Revenue Cap</b>
---

**Presentation** by Michael DeVito with David Weiss

Details include: Current Tax Levy and Budget, Summary, Budget Increase, 2011-2012 Revenue Projections, Revenue Sources, Property Tax Levy Cap, 2% Formula, Exceeding the Limit, If the Proposed Budget fails., Other Key Legislative Elements, Projected Allowable Tax Levy, 7 Year Budget and Tax Levy Trend, Multi-Year Financial Planning Results, Understanding Your Statement of School Taxes, 6 Year Adjusted Base Proportions, STAR program, and Next Steps. Presentation is available on the District website and in the office of the District Clerk.

Additional information provided: impact of state aid, implications of not passing budget, growth of interest in budget, preliminary expected rate increase of 2.49%, creation of fund balance 6-7 years ago, method of determining budget, and pension system funding.

*There was a 10 Minute Break for Fruit and Cake in honor of School Board Recognition.*

### **III. Public Comment on the Work Session Topic**

<b>Public Comment on Work Session Topic</b>
---

- Ari Pine- 159 Magnolia Blvd – asked whether 60% super majority included only actual voters; clarification on pension funding, district contributions, questioned need for concern of shortfall; explanation of retirement/pension system and its effect on tax payers.

**Public Comment on the Work Session Topic (continued)**

- Michael Abneri- 94 Regent Drive – appreciated informative presentation; questioned specifics of reserve funds (M. DeVito will email); and basis for debt service and additional taxes.
- Greg Naham – 355 Blackheath Road – asked whether retired teachers return to substitute and suggested that young teachers be given a chance.
- Amy Rand – 64 Barnes Street – asked about additional revenue sources (Island Park, out of district student tuition in LB); Nassau County determination of individual community class contributions for taxes; thought retired teachers making only \$90 per day to sub, were a bargain.

**IV. Board of Education Comments**

**Board of Education  
Comments**

- Vice President Lester requested a review of the projected allowable tax levy; tax base growth factor (fixed rate which comes from state); the separate determination for tax base growth factors for each district; dates for tax levy, (March 1) and proposed state aid (January).
- Board Member Gallagher stated that NYS decreased state aid funding from 35-45% 30/40 years ago to 18% today, shifting burden. Other sources of revenue are critical; created 5 year plan which included Island Park students and the autism piece. Posited scenario with 60% super majority on first vote, then simple majority on second vote using 2% formula. Questioned capping of state aid (by percentage of growth in personal earnings in the state); continuation of small city funding (part of state aid).
- President Ryan emphasized the hard times and need for sacrifice, diligence, less spending, costs. Everything is being looked at in context of 2%. NYS is broke yet continues to require unfunded mandates; new scoring requirements, kindergarten assessments. Started with fine arts program and music, athletics, health, academic, extracurricular and clubs. Thanked Mr. DeVito, everyone individually for their contributions at the work session.

Superintendent Weiss discussed the federal jobs program that paid for additional teachers and that that money is running out. That source of revenue has now disappeared.

**V. President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 9:33 PM.**

**Motion by: Board Member Gallagher**

**Seconded by: Vice President Lester**

**Approved: 3-0**

**Adjournment**

Minutes submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carole Butler, District Clerk  
November 8, 2011