

**ROSLYN UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Meeting of the Board of Education**

Thursday, February 11, 2016

7:15 p.m.

Roslyn High School – Board Room

Meryl W. Ben-Levy, President
Clifford Saffron, Vice President
David Dubner
Adam Haber
Steven Litvack
David Seinfeld
Bruce G. Valauri

ALSO PRESENT

Gerard W. Dempsey, Jr.	Superintendent
Allison Brown	Deputy Superintendent
Joseph C. Dragone	Assistant Superintendent for Business
Michael Goldspiel	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Nancy Carney Jones	District Clerk
Nathan Yang	Student Delegate

7:15 p.m. - Board of Education Meeting

The Board convened in Public Session in the Roslyn High Board Room at 7:21 p.m.

Preliminary Announcements
Emergency Procedures
Cell Phones

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition – Abigail Flyer (Recognition took place during the discussion item.)

Acceptance of Correspondence

Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Dr. Valauri. Carried by a vote of 7-0, to accept the correspondence.

Recommendation to accept the Treasurer's Report for the following month:
December 2015 (**Attachment T**)

Ms. Gillespie presented and discussed with the Board of Education the Treasurer's Reports for December 2015.

Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Dr. Valauri, and carried by a vote of 7-0, to accept the Treasurer's Report for December 2015.

Recommendation to accept the minutes from the following meeting(s):

January 14, 2016

January 28, 2016

Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Mr. Dubner, and carried by a vote of 7-0, to accept the minutes for January 14, 2016 and January 28, 2016.

Board President's Comments

Ms. Ben-Levy commented on the beautiful artwork in the board room. She asked that the students of East Hills be thanked for "brightening up the board room."

In addition, Ms. Ben-Levy had the "profound privilege" of attending the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 and spoke on behalf of the Board of Education. She congratulated Mr. Haber and Mr. Litvack whose children were inducted into the National Honor Society.

Ms. Ben-Levy read the speech she presented at the Induction ceremony. The speech was originally written by and presented in Mary Achor's Weblog, the Richness of American History in 2008. The topic was the true meaning of "noblesse oblige" the motto of the National Honor society.

[Mary Achor's Weblog](#)

The Richness of American History

[The Real Meaning of Noblesse Oblige](#)

"My favorite English teacher, a tough, old-fashioned broad named Miss Edna Stewart, spent an entire high school class period discussing the meaning and obligation of *noblesse oblige*. It was the motto of the National Honor Society, so she was trying to get the ethics of it through our thick skulls. It is *the* class period I have never forgotten.

Noblesse oblige literally translates to "nobility obligates." It implies that with wealth, power and prestige come social responsibilities; it is a moral obligation to act with honor, kindness and generosity.

The term is often used sarcastically, implying that one is a hypocrite by doing a service because one has to, or by being condescending while doing it. My mother used to refer to that kind of attitude as being a “Lady Bountiful,” doing good deeds because you’re *special*, to make yourself feel better and make others feel bad at the same time.

For citizens of America, true *noblesse oblige* has nothing to do with high birth, power or prestige. True *noblesse oblige* is a responsibility for all of us who have been given the benefits of living in a free land, founded on the highest principles. If we, as a country, miss the mark, it is no reflection on the founding principles. It means we have the responsibility to use our energies and intelligence to return to basics and fix it.

When I was in college, I remember the speeches of John F. Kennedy, and how they touched each of us at depth. Every one of us wanted to serve the country, to make it better, to “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” It brought tears to my eyes and made me want to be a better person.

A modern day mystic, Andrew Harvey, is teaching a concept called “Sacred Activism.” It doesn’t mean we all get on board and volunteer to solve one particular problem. What it does mean is that we seek to find the problem that breaks our heart, and then work like blue blazes to fix that. That may mean education, or health care, or violence in our communities, or any of a million other evils.

But it does mean that we enter into that true spirit of *noblesse oblige*—and do it. It is the only answer for our country, and our world.

First Lady Abigail Adams once wrote to her son, John Quincy Adams, “These are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or in the repose of a pacific station, that great characters are formed... The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties. All history will convince you of this... Great necessities call out great virtues. When a mind is raised, and animated by scenes that engage the heart, then those qualities which would other ways lay dormant, wake into life, and form the character of the hero and the statesman.”

We do not need to be wealthy, or powerful, or president to be a hero. We merely need to *act*, with honor, and with a loving and ethical heart.”

Ms. Ben-Levy stated “that any time the board acts together they act with a loving and ethical heart.”

Superintendent’s Comments

Ms. Brown commented on the Middle School play Fiddler on the Roof as “extraordinary” and stated “it was an incredible play; you would not believe that it was middle school children performing.” She congratulated Ms. Breitman, Mr. Huntley and Mr. Sherry the three leaders of the play and all the actors and actresses. She congratulated Mr. Dubner on his daughter’s participation in the play.

In addition, she and Mr. Goldspiel, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, attended the National Honor Society Induction ceremony. She commented on the wonderful tradition of the ceremony which is led by the students. This year the society consists of 92 seniors and 108 new inductees.

Mr. Dempsey shared with the Board the challenges that the recent snow falls presented during the last couple of days. This past Friday the challenge was to make the decision to close school before it started to snow. The decision was correct since it did snow the rest of the day. He expressed his gratification to the snow cleanup crew who was able to clean up the snow in time to allow the Middle School play to be performed on Friday night.

He also commented on the challenges Ms. Brown faced on Monday when they made the decision to open school and it was snowing and the amount of calls she received in regard to the decision.

In addition, he announced that the Boys Basketball team will be in the playoffs this Saturday here at Roslyn High School. An email blast will be sent out announcing the game.

Student Delegate's Comments

Mr. Yang announced the OCC is preparing for their next big event Clash of the Classes. Mitchell Klein is chairing the committee for the event.

Discussion Item(s):

1. Superintendent's Budget 2016-2017 Overview

Mr. Dempsey introduced the PowerPoint presentation *Superintendent's Budget 2016-17*.

This year, Ms. Brown had asked the administrators to read the book *Good to Great*, written by Jim Collins and published in 2001. The book led to many discussions on what makes a great school district. He expressed the theme of this year's budget as one that makes a good school district a great school district.

Mr. Dempsey explained that this budget is the work of the entire staff. The Central Office staff created the budget based on input from all departments. He explained there are several stages to budget approval. The first stage is presenting the Superintendent's budget. He explained there are two parts to the Superintendent's budget, part one is maintaining the programs that we have and the other is innovations to the current program. There will be several department presentations during the next several meetings. Based on the presentation there may be modifications and changes to the budget. The next stage of budget approval is when the Board approves the budget and the final stage is when the community approves the budget on May 17, 2016.

Mr. Dempsey spoke of the concept of good to great and how to create great organizations and great programs. He spoke of the district's effort to work towards greatness. He spoke of the districts' need to know they have a purpose of knowing you are trying to move from good to great. And you are becoming great by choice.

Mr. Dempsey commented there is a second book in the series written by Mr. Collins in 2011, *Great by Choice*, which further explores making a great organization.

He outlined what he thought are the elements that make a great school. A great school is one that:

- Provides academic skills to all students - regardless of their level of need
- Creates a culture that intentionally enhances the social and emotional development of all students
- Offers a physically safe environment with facilities that promote health and are conducive to program success
- Identifies and develops pockets of excellence which includes courses, programs and activities that are evident in the whole school at all levels
- Creates coherence by linking pockets of excellence throughout the school and integrates with other district schools as a child progresses from pre-k – grade 12
- Supports and treats facility and staff in the same ways that it expects students to be treated
- Engages its community in the academic and personal development of all its students – including Board members, parents, volunteers and citizens.

He commented that unless greatness is the intentional goal it is very hard to achieve. It means that leadership needs to be expanded and be a shared experience.

At this time the board ended the discussion temporarily to recognize Ms. Abigail Flyer

Recognition - Abigail Flyer - Out of order

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Ben-Levy presented Abigail Flyer a certificate of achievement for being one of four students in the world to earn a perfect score on the AP Psychology Exam in May 2015.

Ms. Brown congratulated AP teacher Andrea Pearlman on her student's outstanding achievement.

Ms. Flyer thanked Ms. Pearlman for being such a great teacher and stated that AP Psychology was her most favorite class of the day.

Discussion Continued

Mr. Dempsey outlined the budget presentation timeline:

- 2/05/16 – Distribution to the BOE of the Superintendent’s Proposal
- 2/11/16 – Public Presentation by Central Office Team
- 2/25/16 – Presentation of Technology, PPS & Special Education, Transportation Budget Innovations and Highlights
- 3/10/16 – Presentation of Athletics and Facilities Innovations and Highlights
- 3/31/16 – Presentation of final draft of budget including enrollment, personnel, revenue and tax rate implications
- 4/19/16 – Budget must be adopted by the Board of Education so the property tax report card can be published
- 5/05/16 - Budget Hearing conducted in accordance with state law
- 5/17/16 – Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election

The budget to budget comparison is an increase on 0.70% or \$729,031.

Mr. Dempsey outlined the large ticket increases:

Regular Education will increase by \$524,856 or 1.8%

Special Education will increase by \$606,003 or 6.2%

Health Insurance will increase by \$766,082 or 6.1%

Large ticket decreases include:

ERS – Employee Retirement System will decrease by \$320,151 or - 15.4%

TRS – Teachers Retirement System will decrease by \$468,215 or - 7.9%

Debt Service will decrease by \$814,300 or - 31.1%

Central Data Processing will decrease by \$197,974 or -10.5%

Mr. Dempsey spoke about the 2% tax levy limit. This year the tax levy limit is 0.12%. With exclusions the tax levy limit is -0.17% or \$150,000 less than last year.

Mr. Dragone discussed the reasons for the negative levy limit. This year we lost an exclusion to the tax levy because we paid off a bond which lowered the limit. We are now planning on issuing a bond for the capital projects. This process will create an exclusion and impact the tax levy.

The board entered into a lengthy discussion on budgeting and long term planning.

Mr. Saffron stated that he feels very comfortable in the process the district has established for budgeting.

Mr. Goldspiel outlined the following items are included in the budget: Personnel, Facilities, Transportation, Programs, Equipment, Capital money, Technology supplies and Special Education.

He spoke of the programs that will be maintained and are slated to grow which include: Teacher’s College Readers & Writing Project in the elementary and Middle Schools, Go Math, the iPad initiative, Equity resource and Professional Development programs, the

Summer program (The Roslyn Summer Academy), the China initiative and possible future exchange programs.

The technology budget includes: upgrading the classroom instructional machines, laptop carts at the Middle School for coding classes, 50 Epson interactive boards for all elementary school buildings, Project Lead the Way in the elementary schools, a new visitor management system for Adult Education, replace security cameras and classroom phones.

Ms. Brown presented the personnel additions in the budget which include a School Psychologist, a Wilson Reading Teacher for East Hills and Harbor Hill, ABA Special Education teacher at the Middle School and a district wide maintenance worker.

Ms. Brown then introduced the State of the Arts Courses - Building the Foundation for Coding/STEAM

The budget includes training and professional development, additional 3D printers, Project Lead the Way at the High School to include Civil Engineering and Architecture, Project Lead the Way "Launch" at the elementary schools, Grade 6 "Coding for all", a coding elective for grades 7-12, computer programming competitions, a Middle School Robotics Club, two High School computer science courses to include Intro to Java and AP Computer Science, and introduce a Coding Club, Science National Honor Society and Bar Code Long Island. Additional courses being considered are Biology & Animal Care (for the Life Skills classes), Astronomy and Film Studies for grades 7 and 8, Theatre 1, Treble Chorus, Advance Mandarin and Response to intervention (RTI).

Ms. Brown outlined the capital work that is being proposed with a \$1,750,000 Capital transfer. The work includes: purchase and installation of additional security cameras and wireless access points, repair and replace sidewalks, curbs and paving at all district locations, district wide abatement of hazardous materials, repair and replacement of existing HVAC systems throughout the district, irrigation and site work on playfields at all district locations, replacement as necessary of playground equipment and repair and replacement of plumbing fixtures.

Mr. Dragone stated there are three sources that we use to fund our capital work which include the bond, the capital reserve and the \$1,750,000 that has been included in the budget each year.

Mr. Dempsey stated this is the introduction to the budget for the 2016-17 school year for \$104,580,872 an increase of \$729,031.

Mr. Dragone has announced that the budget has been posted on website and the tonight s presentation will be posted tomorrow.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1 Limited to Agenda Items ONLY

(Will be limited to ½ hour, no more than 2 minutes per speaker).

Though not required by law, the Roslyn Board of Education invites public comment during its meetings. Citizens will be recognized by the presiding officer. Please state your name and address before speaking and direct all comments to the Board. This is not a time for citizen to citizen exchanges. We ask that comments not include the names of students or staff members, and comments

are not permitted with respect to confidential matters. Please also be reminded that Board meetings are designed by law to facilitate the school district's business and provide for public Board deliberations. Thank you

Ms. Eleanor Russell, RTA President commented that she personally applauds the addition of a Wilson reading teacher. She taught this approach herself and feels that it really does make a difference. She explained it was originally designed by Barbara Wilson as a program for adults with dyslexia who were not able to read. She states it really works for our students in the early grades and that it is a great expenditure of funds.

She also mentioned the TRS - Teachers Retirement System includes Administrators.

ACTION ITEMS

Action may be taken for each individual resolution or by the titled subgroups. Bracketed information following resolutions is not part of the Board's official action and does not become part of the official record.

PERSONNEL:

ALL PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS LISTED ARE FUNDED IN THE CURRENT BUDGET UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

P.1. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Roslyn Board of Education approves the appointments, resignations, terminations, elimination of positions, transfers, and leaves of absence as detailed in the Personnel Action Reports attached as **(Attachment P.1 Professional)**

P.2. It is the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the following resolution be adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Roslyn Board of Education approves the appointments, resignations, terminations, elimination of positions, transfers, and leaves of absence as detailed in the Personnel Action Reports attached as **(Attachment P.2 Classified)**

P.3 Recommendation to approve the Adult Education Instructor Salaries attached as **(Attachment P.3)**.

P.4 RESOLVED, for operational and/or budgetary reasons, one (1) teaching assistant position in the District's organizational structure is hereby abolished effective January 5, 2015. Given that one teaching assistant position is presently vacant, no incumbent teaching assistants are affected by the said abolition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for operational and budgetary reasons, one (1) teacher aide position is hereby established, effective February 11, 2016.

Mr. Seinfeld moved, seconded by Mr. Saffron. Carried by a vote of 7-0, to approve Agenda Items numbered P.1 - P.4.

Mr. Dempsey requested to table B.5 until the February 25, 2016 board meeting.

Ms. Ben-Levy moved, seconded by Mr. Saffron. Carried by a vote of 7-0, to table agenda item B.5.

BUSINESS/FINANCE:

ALL ITEMS ON THE BUSINESS/FINANCE PORTION OF THE AGENDA ARE WITHIN THE BUDGET UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

B.1. Recommendation to approve the following contracts and to authorize the Board of Education President to execute (those contracts marked with an asterisk have been prepared pursuant to a previous award of an RFP or bid).

- (i) Contractor: Long Island Jewish Medical Center
Services: School Doctor at Football Games from August 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
Total estimated to be \$2,000

Recommendation to **amend** the following contract [(ii) which was first approved by the Board of Education on June 4, 2015 (item B.1(ii))]:

- (ii) Contractor: Brookville Center for Children’s Services, Inc. (3 services)
Services: IBA/ABA services for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016
Fees: Total estimated to be \$26,300
Services: Full day autism program for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 for ~~4 student~~ **2 students**
Fees: ~~\$10,456~~ **\$20,912** for summer program
~~\$62,735~~ **\$125,470** for the school year
Total estimated to be ~~\$73,191~~ **\$146,382**
Services: Educational center program for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 for 1 student
Fees: \$7,894 for summer program
\$47,363 for the school year
Total estimated to be \$55,257
Grand total estimated to be \$227,939, an increase of \$73,191

B.2. Recommendation to approve Capital Fund Budget appropriation transfer requests as per (**Attachment B.2.**)

B.3. Extraclassroom Activity Treasurer Reports (**Attachment B.3.**)
High School, December 2015
Middle School, December 2015

B.4. Recommendation by David Shoob, Supervisor of Transportation, to declare as surplus the following vans:

Van # 21: 1991 Chevrolet P30/Carpenter, 1GBKP32J8M3308702, 144,287 miles

Van# 25: 1993 GMC/Carpenter, 2GBHG31J8P4149698, 153,000 miles

Van #29: 1996 Chevrolet/Carpenter, 1GBHG31Y9TF112841, 225,800 miles

They are beyond their useful life and need considerable repair, need discontinued parts, bodies have cracks and corrosion, and have no value.

Mr. Haber asked that we contact BOCES in regard to selling the buses to them before we sell them for scrape to see if that makes better financial sense.

B.5. TABLED

Bid for Capital Improvements (2014 Bond Projects)

SED # 28-04-03-03-0-001-025 – East Hills E.S.

(KG&D Project #2014-1038)

28-04-03-03-0-006-031 – Roslyn Middle School

(KG&D Project #2014-1037)

28-04-03-03-5-021-001 – Bus Facility at Harbor Hill School

(KG&D Project #2014-1041)

Bid advertised: **December 15, 2015**

Bid Opened: **January 28, 2016 @ 2pm by District Clerk**

Number of invitations to bid distributed: **34**

Number of bids received:

General Construction (GC) **6**

Electrical Contract (EC) **7**

Plumbing Contract (PC) **5**

HVAC Contract (MC) **8**

Recommendation that awards based on low cost satisfactorily meeting specifications be made to the following companies:

General Construction Contract (GC) – W. J. Northridge Construction Corporation, 175 Kennedy Drive, Hauppauge, NY 11788 for the base bid of \$4,445,000 along with the following Add Alternates:

Add Alternate GC - Bus1 – West Drainage	\$200,000
Add Alternate GC - Bus2 – Lift Equipment & Oil Tanks	\$177,500
Add Alternate GC - Bus3 – Sanitary Repair	\$ 48,700
Add Alternate GC - EH1 – 1st Floor Ceilings & Lights	\$ 57,000
Add Alternate GC - EH2 – Removal of Column	\$ 28,000
Add Alternate GC - EH5 – Sod for New Field	\$ 30,000
Add Alternate GC - EH6 – Irrigation System	\$ 12,650
Add Alternate GC - EH7 – Concrete Pavers	\$ 31,600
Add Alternate GC - MS1 – Drainage into Underground System	\$ 65,800
Add Alternate GC - MS2 – VET Flooring	\$100,000
Total Recommended Award:	\$5,196,250

N.B. We are not recommending the award of Add Alternates EH3 and EH4 at this time. It is our intention to rebid these two items.

Electrical Construction Contract (EC) – Relle Electric Corp., 26 Sawgrass Drive, Bellport, NY 11713 for the base bid of \$856,017 along with the following Add Alternates:

Add Alternate EC – Bus5 – LED Lighting	\$ 18,594
Add Alternate EC – EH8 – Lighting at 1 st Floor Classrooms	\$ 50,360
Add Alternate EC – MS4 – Removals for Roof Drainage	\$ 3,658
Total Recommended Award:	\$928,629

Plumbing Contract (PC) – WHM Plumbing & Heating Contractors, Inc., 6H Enterprise Drive, East Setauket, NY 11733 for the base bid of \$305,952 along with the following Add Alternates:

Add Alternate PC – Bus4 – RPZ	\$ 31,820
Add Alternate PC – EH9 – Tie-ins for Irrigation System	\$ 4,649
Add Alternate PC – MS3 – Redirecting Roof Storm	\$ 7,923
Total Recommended Award:	\$350,344

HVAC Contract (MC) – Central Air Corporation, P.O. Box 1334, Roslyn Heights, NY 11577 for the base bid of \$1,109,000. There were no Alternates:

Total Recommended Award: **\$1,109,000**

Total cost of these four contracts (**\$7,584,223**) is within the 2014 Bond Capital Budget. (**Attachment B.5.**)

Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Mr. Dubner. Carried by a vote of 7-0, to approve Agenda Items numbered B.1–B.4. Item B.5 was tabled.

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

C&I.1 Recommendation to accept the confidential stipulations of the CPSE for the dates listed below as well as the implementation plans for the corresponding special education programs, services and parent notification as previously approved by the Committee on January 20, 2016, January 27, 2016 and January 28, 2016.

C&I.2 Recommendation to accept the confidential stipulations of the CSE for the dates listed below as well as the implementation plans for the corresponding special education programs, services and parent notification as previously approved by the Committee on January 20, 2016, January 22, 2016 and January 28, 2016.

C&I.3 Recommendation to approve Elizabeth Brown to attend a college visit to High Point University in High Point, North Carolina from March 16 through 18, 2016 at an estimated cost to the district of \$150.00.

C&I.4 Recommendation to approve Brian Hoffner to attend Harvard Graduate School of Education Annual Learning Differences Conference in Cambridge,

Massachusetts from March 10 through 12, 2016 at an estimated cost to the district of \$800.00.

C&I.5 Recommendation to approve Brian Butler to attend Harvard Graduate School of Education Annual Learning Differences Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts from March 10 through 12, 2016 at an estimated cost to the district of \$1,148.16.

C&I.6 Recommendation to approve 13 students and 2 chaperones from the DECA Club to attend the DECA National Conference in Nashville, Tennessee from April 23 through 27, 2016 at an estimated cost to the district of \$20,886.50. [Total cost of trip: \$29,236.50 – Fundraising: \$2,500.00(8.6%); Student Contribution: \$5,850.00(20%); District Contribution: \$20,886.50(71.4%).]

C&I.7 Recommendation to approve Andrew Demakopoulos to attend Soccer Champions Coaches' Clinic in Uncasville, Connecticut from March 3 through 5, 2016 at an estimated cost to the district of \$1,097.43.

Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Dr. Valauri. Carried by a vote of 7-0, to approve Agenda Items numbered C&I.1- C&I.7.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOE.1 Recommendation to conduct the *second reading* of Board of Education Policies 4410, 4510 and 4511 (**Attachment BOE.1**)

Mr. Saffron moved, seconded by Mr. Litvack. Carried by a vote of 7-0, to approve Agenda Item BOE.1.

Public Comments #2

No comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education Dr. Valauri moved, seconded by Mr. Dubner, and carried by a vote of 7-0, to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Carney Jones

**Nancy Carney Jones
District Clerk**