

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

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

**7:00 P.M.
Minutes**

The follow participants were present via ZOOM videoconference.

Meryl W. Ben-Levy, President
Clifford Saffron, Vice President
David Dubner
Michael Levine
Steven Litvack
David Seinfeld
Bruce Valauri

ALSO PRESENT

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Allison Brown | Superintendent |
| Joseph C. Dragone | Assistant Superintendent for Business and Administration |
| Karina Báez | Assistant Superintendent for Primary Education |
| Michael Goldspiel | Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education |
| Nancy Carney Jones | District Clerk |
| Alida Pahlevan | Student Delegate |

ABSENT

Ms. Ben-Levy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - Board of Education Meeting

Preliminary Announcements

The Roslyn Union Free School District continues to take steps to reduce the potential for exposure to the coronavirus (COVID-19). The District's efforts in this regard are made in furtherance of federal, state, and local mandates to limit any and all public gatherings.

As authorized by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.1, issued on March 12, 2020, and as extended by subsequent Executive Orders, this meeting is being held remotely by videoconferencing and the public will not be permitted to attend the meeting in-person. The Board of Education will make a motion setting forth the manner in which the meeting will be conducted and waiving any applicable policies or common practices with respect to the conduct of the meeting. The public participation portion of the meeting will be suspended. The meeting will be video broadcasted in order to provide the public with the ability to view the meeting. This meeting will also be recorded and later transcribed in accordance with Executive Order 202.1, as extended.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recommendation to accept the Claims Auditor's Report for March 2021.

Ms. Ben-Levy moved, seconded by Mr. Saffron, carried by a vote of 7-0, to accept the Claims Audit Report for March 2021

Recommendation to accept the minutes from the following meeting: April 8, 2021

Ms. Ben-Levy moved, seconded by Mr. Saffron, carried by a vote of 7-0, to accept the minutes for April 8, 2021.

Board President's Comments

Ms. Ben-Levy extended "her heartfelt congratulations to the members of our staff who have earned tenure this evening."

Superintendent's Comments

Ms. Brown expressed her congratulations to the faculty who have earned tenure this evening. "These decisions reflect the achievements of our faculty, in their teaching, their professional engagement and service to our school district. We are truly fortunate to have such incredibly gifted and dedicated faculty and staff working with our children in our buildings. I ask that everyone join me in congratulating them on a job very well done and I hope this recognition brings all kinds of new challenges and opportunities for each one of them in the Roslyn School District. Congratulations to all of them."

Student Delegate's Comments

Ms. Pahlevan, OCC President, updated the Board on the current OCC activities: Freshman and sophomore representatives are busy planning fundraising ideas for next year. Junior representatives are working on their upcoming junior dance. The seniors are very excited having recently received the news they would be having the prom and in person graduation. In addition, the entire student body had the option to return to in person classes this week and everyone was very excited to be back and looking forward to an amazing end of the school year.

Ms. Brown, Mr. Dragone and Ms. Ben-Levy made the following comments regarding the Property Tax Report Card:

Ms. Brown

"As required by law, this evening the Board of Education will be adopting the 2021-2022 school budget - in addition, we are making a new recommendation about our tax levy. You will recall where we were at our last meeting. While the budget increase remains at 2.89% and even though we have a tax levy limit of 2.45%, administration at that time was recommending a tax levy increase of 2.24%. Tonight we are recommending that the Board of Education adopt the budget at 2.89% but that the Board of Education set the levy increase at 1.98%

What enabled us to do this was the analysis of promised additional state Foundation Aid, which we can apply to the tax levy. This also aligns with the Board's goals to reduce our tax levy as far below the levy limit as is possible without endangering our educational programs or putting us into fiscal stress. I am going to ask Joe to explain."

Mr. Dragone

"In the context of the larger landscape, the total increase in funding statewide for public education was just over 3 billion dollars. But of that amount, 1.1 billion dollars was simply to fill the hole that the state created last year by its "pandemic adjustment". In fact, the funds to cover that "pandemic adjustment" were provided to districts during 2020-2021 through the Federal CARES Act, so the real increase in state funding that school districts will be seeing next year is "only" 1.9 billion dollars of the 3 billion before mentioned.

Now, of that 1.9 billion dollars, 500 million dollars was the result of reimbursements (meaning that schools are getting back a percentage of money we already spent) for expenses we made last year (at BOCES, in capital projects, in transportation, in special education). That leaves 1.4 billion dollars as the real increase in aid statewide without any strings attached. This is called Foundation Aid and it has a complex calculation formula.

That 1.4 billion dollars was provided to districts in several different ways. Some districts (like Roslyn) never received the amount we were owed in Foundation Aid. From 2007-08 through 2019-20, according to the formula, Roslyn has been underfunded each year by as much as 2.7 million dollars. In total, Roslyn cumulatively received 16.7 million dollars less in Foundation Aid than the amount which we should have received under the formula during those 12 years. So Roslyn, like many other districts in New YS, has been scheduled to receive a "catch-up" payment of an additional \$750,000 in Foundation Aid next year.

Since Roslyn historically did not receive the full amount of Foundation Aid promised by NYS, you would think that we would have had to significantly increase taxes to make up for the shortfall. After all, our \$750,000 increase promised for this year is only a small portion of the 16.7 million dollars of underfunding. But our Board of Education did not do that. They worked hard to control costs and increase revenue from other sources. So, we are now recommending that the BOE apply the majority of these promised state funds to reduce the tax levy next year resulting in an increase of 1.98%.

The balance of the promised state funding must be applied to support and enhance our educational program and to mitigate the significant costs we have incurred due to the pandemic. During the period from March 2020 through today, we estimate that the additional costs we have incurred due to COVID are in excess of 1.5 million dollars.

The balance of those costs are currently being funded through the use of our reserves. Additional federal grant money is promised for reimbursement, but under very stringent requirements and deadlines.

So we need to put this tax levy increase of 1.98% in context. The tax levy imposed by our school district in the era of the tax cap (beginning in 2012) has always been significantly less than the state limit allowed. And in so doing we have saved the taxpayers in Roslyn to date \$10 million dollars. Be mindful, however, that in doing this we also lower the tax levy limit going forward. This is a fact that requires both pause and

caution. For example by lowering the levy next year from 2.45% to 1.98% we also lower the following year's limit by .47%. That said, we believe this is the lowest levy we can responsibly recommend without endangering our educational programs or putting us into fiscal stress.

Again, this levy we are proposing for 2021-22 is lower than our levy limit and lower than the levy we had estimated on March 1st. So for these reasons, I am a strong advocate at setting the levy at 1.98%.

On behalf of the Board of Education and a grateful community, Ms. Ben-Levy thanked the Administration for “how hard you worked on the analysis of things coming in real time, how hard you worked all year long, how much it took from you on a daily with the entire school administration to literally sharpen your pencil and figure out where we could find responsible budgeting and reflect our savings and this analysis with the state aid is no exception to that and with all the guidance over all the years we gratefully appreciate the effort.”

Ms. Waxman Ben-Levy:

Let us also remember, during the 12 year period from 2008-09 through 2020-21, Roslyn increased the tax levy of an average of 1.17% per year –which is the second lowest increase of all 56 school districts in Nassau County! Think about that. This fact directly contradicts the assertion of some governmental leaders that school districts are the sole cause of the increase in property taxes. As we all know, our tax bill is determined by the county assessor and the value assigned to your home by that county agency. If your tax bill increase has averaged more than 1.17%, you need to call the county and ask them why! This evening, I support administration's analysis and their recommendation to set the levy increase at 1.98%. I support it based on the application to the levy of a portion of the catch up Foundation Aid that however small it is in comparison to what is owed to us we have been promised that we shall receive. We understand that this increase to us small portion that it is was negotiated and fought hard for. And I believe it is right to return a large portion of it or the lion's share of it to the community. That said, I am concerned that the state's assurance of continued funding for Foundation Aid for the next three years at this level, may be built upon shifting sand – relying on taxing corporations and wealthy individuals who could easily move out of state, hoping to generate revenue in tenuous ways while simultaneously allocating money that the state may not have and possibly may not generate and possibly may not collect. And that we possibly may not get. I am supporting this recommendation, however, on faith because we have been specifically assured by our state representative that we will continue to see the significant increases in our state aid for the next two years (until we are fully funded for Foundation Aid) pursuant to the formula and that the state will be able to continue that level of support for our near future. The word that was used was “guaranteed”. While I am skeptical...that was the word. Having said that, let me poll the board.

Ms. Ben-Ley requested a poll vote from the Board of Education.

Shall the levy be set as recommended at an increase of 1.98%?

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Mr. Dubner | Yes |
| Mr. Levine | Yes |
| Mr. Litvack | Yes |
| Mr. Saffron | Yes |
| Mr. Seinfeld | Yes |
| Dr. Valauri | Yes |
| Ms. Ben-Levy | Yes |

Ms. Ben-Levy once again, thanked the Administration “for all their hard work, diligence and you continuing efforts to do the best job possible for this community and I am very, very proud of it.”

Ms. Ben-Levy made a motion to accept the agenda as a consent agenda including the agenda addendum.

Ms. Ben-Levy moved, Mr. Saffron seconded and carried by a vote of 7-0, to move as a consent agenda including the agenda addendum.

Ms. Ben-Levy made a motion to adopt the agenda as a consent agenda including the addendum.

Ms. Ben-Levy moved, Mr. Saffron seconded and carried by a vote of 7-0, to adopt as a consent agenda with the addendum.

ACTION ITEMS

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)**

Addendum
P.1 Professional

| Item | Name | Action | Position / Replacing | Class | Type | Location | From | To | Certification / Class / Step / Salary |
|------|--------------------|---|-------------------------|-------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| 147 | Kristina Sanicola | Coach Appointment* *** | JV Girls' Lacrosse II/1 | | | HS | 4/22/21 | 6/14/21 | Per RTA Contract |
| | | DELETE #138 On Orig. P1 | | | | | | | |
| 148 | Jacqueline Nichols | Appointment Special Ed 12 Month Program | Para-professional | | | | 7/1/21 | 8/11/21 | Per RPA Contract |

Note: All appointments above are subject to state and local conditions due to COVID-19.

******All extracurricular appointments are subject to the Governor's order regarding school closure.**

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: Seneca Consulting Group, Inc.
 Services: Consulting services for compliance with the Affordable Care Act for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022
 Fees: Total estimated to be \$20,000.00
- (ii) *Contractor: Bayada Home Health Care, Inc.
 Services: Various services for the 2020-21 school year as specified in the agreement
 Fees: Total estimated to be \$5,000.00 (1:1 skilled nursing; RN \$58.00/hour, LPN \$53.00/hour)
 (Agreement is subject to review and approval by district counsel)

Recommendation to **amend** the following contract (iii) which was approved by the Board of Education on June 30, 2020 (item B.1. (xxiii)):

- (iii) *Contractor: Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf/Mill Neck Services.
 Services: Various services for the 2020-21 school year as specified in the agreement

Fees: Total estimated to be ~~\$65,478.60~~ \$100,050.50 (~~\$363.77~~ \$472.50/day x 180 days plus \$70.00 per hour for extra-curricular activities)

B.2. RESOLVED, that the Capital Fund Appropriation Transfers on the attached document be approved. **(Attachment B.2.)**

B.3. Recommendation to approve **2020-21** general fund appropriation requests:

| <u>FROM BUDGET CODE</u> | | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1670-200-03-9000-311 | CENT PRINTING EQUIP | \$5,798.98 |
| 1680-200-03-9000-311 | COMPUTER EQPT | \$37,173.12 |
| 1680-440-03-9000-311 | TRAV CONF WKSHP | \$3,500.00 |
| 1680-450-03-9000-311 | SUPVSN SUPPLIES C C | \$10,201.02 |
| 2610-443-04-9000-311 | LIB PROF & TECH SVCES EH | \$2,660.00 |
| 2610-443-08-9000-311 | LIB PROF & TECH SVCES HS | \$1,510.00 |
| 2630-460-04-9000-311 | STATE AID COMP SOFT EH | \$1,880.55 |
| 2630-460-06-9000-311 | STATE AID COMP SOFT HTS | \$1,487.42 |
| 2630-460-07-9000-311 | STATE AID COMP SOFT HH | \$788.91 |
| | Subtotal | \$65,000.00 |

| <u>TO BUDGET CODE</u> | | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1680-490-03-9000-311 | CENTRAL DATA BOCES SVCS | \$65,000.00 |
| | Subtotal | \$65,000.00 |

REASON FOR TRANSFER REQUEST: To cover costs associated with the Sophos EDR/MTR district security services and software.

B.4. Recommendation to approve **2020-21** general fund appropriation requests:

| <u>FROM BUDGET CODE</u> | | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 9060-800-03-9000-303 | MEDICAL INS ADM | \$62,038.66 |
| 9065-800-03-9000-303 | HEALTH INS OPT OUT | \$70,000.00 |
| | Subtotal | \$132,038.66 |

| <u>TO BUDGET CODE</u> | | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1620-450-03-9000-310 | CUST SUPP – DIST | \$64,615.25 |
| 1620-450-04-9000-310 | CUST SUPPLY– EH | \$15,625.75 |
| 1620-450-06-9000-310 | CUST SUPPLY- HGTS | \$5,318.41 |
| 1620-450-07-9000-310 | CUST SUPPLY- HH | \$16,429.76 |
| 1620-450-08-9000-310 | CUST SUPPLY- HS | \$17,929.74 |
| 1620-450-09-9000-310 | CUST SUPPLY- MS | \$12,119.75 |
| | Subtotal | \$132,038.66 |

REASON FOR TRANSFER REQUEST: To allow for the purchase of additional custodial supplies district-wide.

B.5. Recommendation to approve **2020-21** general fund appropriation requests:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <u>FROM BUDGET CODE</u> | | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
| 2110-448-06-9000-601 | TCHG FIELD TRIPS HTS | \$7,522.05 |
| | Subtotal | \$7,522.05 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <u>TO BUDGET CODE</u> | | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
| 2110-459-06-9000-601 | CLASSROOM LIBRARIES | \$7,522.05 |
| | Subtotal | \$7,522.05 |

REASON FOR TRANSFER REQUEST: To cover costs associated with purchasing books for the literacy program.

B.6. Recommendation to approve the following payments to BBS Architects for professional services rendered to the district and reimbursable expenses pertaining to capital improvements at the locations indicated in the table below. [Funds will be deducted from the Capital Budget Codes indicated in the table below.]

| Payment | Location/ Project | Budget | PO #S | Inv # |
|------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-------|
| \$8.82 | Hts. Reimbursables | 2110-245-06-20HT | H19-00022 | 15 |
| \$8.82 | HH Reimbursables | 2110-245-07-20HH | H19-00022 | 13 |
| \$1,193.62 | HS Reimbursables | 2110-245-08-20HS | H21-00023 | 4, 5 |

B.7. RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the 2021-2022 summer and/or school year between Roslyn and Bethpage UFSD for the transportation of children, subject to approval by counsel, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute any documents necessary to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

B.8. RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the 2021-2022 summer and/or school year between Roslyn and East Williston UFSD for the transportation of children, subject to approval by counsel, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute any documents necessary to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

B.9. RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year between Roslyn and Herricks UFSD for the transportation of children, subject to approval by counsel,

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute any documents necessary to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

- B.10. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year between Roslyn and North Shore UFSD for the transportation of children, subject to approval by counsel,
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute any documents necessary to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

- B.11. RESOLVED** that the Board of Education hereby approves the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the 2021-2022 school year between Roslyn and Westbury UFSD for the transportation of children, subject to approval by counsel,
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Education be authorized to execute any documents necessary to effectuate said Agreement on behalf of the Board of Education.

- B.12.** Joint Northwest Transportation Bid with Carle Place UFSD, East Williston UFSD, Glen Cove Schools, Great Neck UFSD, Manhasset UFSD, North Shore Central SD, Port Washington UFSD, Roslyn UFSD and Westbury UFSD

WHEREAS, it is the plan of a number of public school districts in Nassau County, New York to bid jointly Transportation Services, and

WHEREAS, the Roslyn Union Free School District is desirous of participating with other school districts in Nassau County in the joint bidding of the services mentioned above as authorized by General Municipal Law, Section 119-0 and

WHEREAS, the Roslyn Union Free School District wishes to appoint a committee to assume the responsibility for drafting of specifications, advertising for bids, accepting and opening bids, tabulating bids, reporting the results to the Boards of Education and making recommendations thereon, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Roslyn Union Free School District hereby appoints the Business Official or his/her designee to represent it in all matters related above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Roslyn Union Free School District Board of Education authorizes the above mentioned committee to represent it in all

matters leading up to the entering into a contract for the purchase of the above mentioned services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Roslyn Union Free School District Board of Education agrees to assume its proportionate share of the costs of the cooperative bidding, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Roslyn Union Free School District Board of Education agrees (1) to abide by the majority decisions of the participating districts on quality standards; (2) that unless all bids are rejected, it will award contracts according to the recommendations of the committee; (3) that after award of contract(s) it will conduct all business directly with the successful bidder(s).

- B.13.** Recommendation by Jason Lopez, Assistant to the Superintendent for Technology & Security Infrastructure (Information Technology Specialist III), to declare as surplus the attached computers, monitors and printers which are no longer operational or upgradable and have outlived their useful life. Items will be put up for public sale based on their salvage value. Any items not sold will be disposed of properly. **(Attachment B.13.)**

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 March 5, 17, 22 and 24, 2021; April 7 and 9, 2021.

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 February 9, 10, 24, and 25, 2021; March 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, 22, 24 and 25, 2021; April 7 and 9, 2021.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

BOE.1 RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby adopts the budget in the amount of \$118,663,250 be presented to the qualified voters of the district at the Annual Meeting on May 18, 2021, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Education hereby authorize the submission to the State Education Department and publication of the 2021-2022 Property Tax Report Card. **(Attachment BOE.1)**

BOE.2 Recommendation to nominate the following two Board members to serve as co-chairpersons of the Annual Election and Budget Vote to be held on May 18, 2021: Nominee(s): Meryl Waxman Ben-Levy, President and Clifford Saffron, Vice President.

BOE.3 NASSAU BOCES ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS BUDGET & ELECTION OF BOARD TRUSTEES:

[a] BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Roslyn Union Free School District hereby approves the Nassau BOCES Proposed Administrative Operations Budget for the 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$23,234,809.00.

[b] BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Roslyn Union Free School District hereby cast its votes to fill these three (3) BOCES Board seats effective July 1, 2021 from the candidates so nominated, Susan Bergtraum, Martin R. Kaye, Michael Weinick.

Ms. Ben-Levy moved, Mr. Saffron seconded and carried by a vote of 7-0, to accept the Personnel Agenda items P.1- P.3, Addendum P.1, Business/Finance Agenda Items B.1 – B.13, Curriculum and Instruction Agenda Items C&I.1 – C&I.2, and Board of Education Agenda Items BOE.1- BOE.3 as a consent agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Ms. Ben-Levy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Saffron, carried by a vote of 7-0, to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Carney Jones
Nancy Carney Jones
District Clerk