

**BYRAM HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
ARMONK, NY
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Meeting: 7:00p.m. (Proposed Executive Session)
Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
Special Report: Budget Hearing II**

DATE: March 15, 2016

TIME: 7:30 p.m. Public Meeting

PLACE: Board Room in District Office

PRESENT: **Board of Education Members Present**
Ms. Robin Glat, President
Mr. Ira Schulman
Mr. Scott Levy
Ms. Joyce Meiklejohn
Mr. Michael Sanders
Mr. Brett Summers, Vice President

Absent:
Dr. Alban Burke

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. William Donohue, Superintendent
Mr. Gregory Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services; District Clerk
Dr. Tim Kaltenecker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Ms. Jen Lamia, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

1. Call to Order

The Board met in Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. At 8:10 p.m., the public meeting was called to order by Board President, Ms. Glat. Ms. Glat reported that the main purpose of the meeting is to discuss budget related items covered under Budget Hearing II. This Budget Hearing II meeting is one of two budget meetings that the public can offer suggestions or comments to the Administration's Proposed 2016-2017 Budget. Budget Hearing III is the second budget meeting that the public is also given the opportunity to offer suggestions or comments which will take place on March 22, 2016.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

3. Proposed Executive Session upon Board Approval

The Board met in Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to discuss the following Executive Session items:

- 3.1 Contract Matter - BHAA**
- 3.2 Contract Matter - BHTA**
- 3.4 Legal Matter - Individual Student**

Ms. Glat noted that Executive Session will reconvene once the public meeting adjourns to discuss Executive Session Item **3.3: Board of Education Matter - Succession Planning.**

4. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public at this time.

5. Revision and Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Summers and seconded by Mr. Sanders to adopt the agenda as presented. Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Summers and seconded by Mr. Levy to adopt Item 6: Consent Agenda - Personnel and Item 7: Consent Agenda - Special Services as presented. Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

6. Consent Agenda - Personnel

- 6.1 CSEA Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement:
 - 6.1.1 Michael Storr, Custodial/Bus Driver, CH, effective 3/29/16
- 6.2 CSEA Probationary Appointments:
 - 6.2.1 Jonathan Vasquez, Bus Driver, Transp., effective 3/03/16
 - 6.2.2 Marie Amilcar, Bus Driver, Transp., effective 3/14/16
- 6.3 CSEA Provisional Appointment:
 - 6.3.1 Philip Peterson, Assistant Supervisor of Transportation, Transp., effective 3/16/16
- 6.4 Approval to add additional teaching assignment, .2 FTE, Special Education, effective 3/14/16-6/30/16
- 6.5 Spring Coaching Appointment: Alexis Vallario Asst. Varsity Softball

7. Consent Agenda - CSE/SubCSE/CPSE Recommendations

8. New Business - Acceptance of Byram Hills Education Foundation Fall 2015 Grants

8.1 Acceptance of Byram Hills Education Foundation Fall 2015 Grants

Ms. Glat initiated the discussion regarding the Fall 2015 Grants. Mr. Jason Berland, Byram Hills Education Foundation Chairman, and Lori Kanner, Byram Hills Education Foundation President, were present for the meeting. Dr. Donohue reported that the Byram Hills Education Foundation is proposing the Board of Education accept their gift for several significant grants. Dr. Donohue explained that the grants are very much in-line with the District's technology initiatives and the Foundation's funding will help make possible the District's goal to model 21st Century classrooms at HC Crittenden Middle School and Byram Hills High School. These grants, in addition to the "Full STEAM Ahead!" grant which was approved by the Board of Education on September 21, 2015 in the amount of \$90,495, total the Foundation's gift to the District at \$315,705. Dr. Donohue mentioned that this is a tremendous gift by the Foundation and enables the District to provide for very significant and worthwhile programs and also enables the District to remain under the tax levy cap.

Mr. Berland and Ms. Kanner thanked the Board for considering these grants. Mr. Berland noted the District has greatly enhanced its technology initiatives and the BHEF is delighted to partner with the District to bring these initiatives to the students. Ms. Glat thanked Mr. Berland and Ms. Kanner for the Foundations generosity and commented that the Byram Hills' community that contributes to these

grants has been very generous and education oriented. Mr. Summers brought attention to the Foundation's total donations to date of approximately \$3.8 million. Mr. Schulman mentioned that he remembered when the Foundation was first founded, and how most people, at the time, thought it was a good idea, never imagining the enormous amount of money the Foundation has been able to raise. Mr. Schulman thanked the Byram Hills Education Foundation and congratulated them on all they do and continue to do for the students of Byram Hills.

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Summers to accept the Foundation's donation for the BHEF Fall 2015 Grants. Vote: 6-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

9. Special Report: Budget Hearing II: Review of Proposed 2016-2017 Budget Expenditures by Administration for Special Services, Technology, Fine Arts, Curriculum and Instruction

9.1 Review of Proposed 2016- 2017 Budget Expenditures by Administration

Budget Hearing II officially opened at 8:21 p.m.

Ms. Glat mentioned that the Board was joined by Ms. Jill Boynton, Director of Special Services, Dr. Andrew Taylor, Director of Technology, Mr. Deepak Marwah, Director of Fine Arts and Dr. Tim Kaltenecker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction for attending the evening's meeting to present their Proposed 2016-2017 Budgets to the Board and community.

Dr. Kaltenecker presented the Curriculum and Instruction budget first, followed by Dr. Taylor, Ms. Boynton, and Mr. Marwah.

9.2 Mandated Services for Students with Disabilities Budget Presentation

Ms. Jill Boynton, Director of Special Services, presented the Special Services Department's section of the Administration's Proposed 2016-2017 Budget. She reported that the department's budget reveals a 2.6% increase which includes salaries, equipment, contractual, BOCES services and materials and supplies.

Ms. Boynton provided an overview of the Special Education Department. She explained that Special Services is responsible for students from pre-school up to the age of 21 and includes an ENL (English as a New Language) program. Other items also included in the department's budget are school nurses, homeless students and contracted services, such as occupational services, physical therapy and speech therapy services. Ms. Boynton explained how students are classified, noting that if there is a suspicion of a learning disability and /or if a referral is requested from a professional, a parent or doctor, the department then addresses the matter with staff and principals for possible needed intervention and the findings are then sent to parents. She noted that the Special Education Department needs parental consent before following through with a complete evaluation and once consent is given, the department has 30 days to complete the evaluation for preschoolers and 60 days for school age children. Ms. Boynton further explained that meetings are then scheduled with the Committee on Special Education Chairperson, the Special Education team and parents. She explained that once a student is classified, an individual education plan (IEP) is then developed for the student. She noted that a re-evaluation of the students' needs is required every three years. Ms. Boynton reported that there are over 300 students with disabilities and 74 of those students are preschoolers with disabilities. The District is bound to provide mandated services in the least restrictive environment (including co-teaching, team teaching, push-ins, special classes and out-of-district placements, which also could include a BOCES program). Ms. Boynton further mentioned that the District accepts students (from other districts) on a tuition paying basis (paid by the district requesting services), noting that the District currently has four students in this category. She also noted that the Committee on Special Education can also make recommendations to declassify a student. She then answered questions from the Board on developing programs, consultants, and the increased percentage of classified pre-school children.

9.3 Technology Budget Presentation

Dr. Andrew Taylor, Director of Technology, presented the Technology Department's section of the Administration's Proposed 2016-2017 Budget. He reviewed the four focus areas of the 2016-2017 Technology Budget, which include: 1) Technology, 2) Resources, 3) Professional Development, and 4) Space.

Dr. Taylor detailed five budget expenditures that support the above mentioned focus areas of the 2016-2017 Technology Budget. These include: 1) Instructional Technology Staff, 2) Hardware and Software, 3) Professional Development, 4) Maintenance and Supplies, and 5) BOCES. Dr. Taylor further reviewed the BOCES expenditures and the many areas they provide services for, such as, LAN/WAN support, application support/purchases, internet bandwidth and many more.

Dr. Taylor reviewed the five financial focus areas of the 2016-2017 Technology Budget as follows: 1) provide access to appropriate technology, applications and resources, 2) create strong technology infrastructure, 3) support infusion of the 4C's for professional development, 4) replacement of aging whiteboards with modern presentation stations, and 5) reimagine labs and learning spaces to meet changing needs. Dr. Taylor then reviewed what this all means for Byram Hills: teachers will be prepared to use technology, the network is strong and scalable, teachers are developing 21st Century Curriculum, the Technology staff is preparing for the future of technology, new learning spaces are evolving, technology is being maximized to enhance student learning and Byram Hills is becoming a leader for technology integration in the region. Dr. Taylor then answered questions from the Board concerning IPA and saturation with the Chromebooks, as well as the capacity of the bandwidth and the aging of the Smartboards.

9.4 Fine Arts Budget Presentation

Mr. Deepak Marwah, Director of Fine Arts was introduced, but first Mr. Schulman congratulated Mr. Marwah on the recent high school theater production of Beauty and the Beast. Mr. Marwah then presented the Fine Arts Department's section of the Administration's Proposed 2016-2017 Budget.

Mr. Marwah commented that he inherited a well-crafted budget from his predecessor, Ms. Joy Varley. The Fine Arts budget has allowed Mr. Marwah to support instructional goals, continue enrichment, provide ample supplies and instruments and fund other District opportunities, such as the All State Music Festival in Rochester, the All County Festival and the Young Artists program at the Katonah Museum of Art. He explained that most of the increases in his budget are due to salary. He reported that students from Coman Hill, Wampus and Crittenden are questioning what art is and he noted that teachers are not just giving them projects to work on but are also providing historical content of the subject matter. He noted that, recently, a fourth grade class was asked to share what art is and one young student commented that, "Art is everything and you can show what you believe in through art." Mr. Marwah reported that the District also offers courses such as 3-D Printing, AP Studio Art, AP Photography and Film Making. Mr. Marwah reported that under Contractual Services of the Music portion of the Fine Arts Budget, an increase is noted for Vocal Music at the middle school level. He explained this is due to a needed accompanist a few times per week, as well as at school concerts. He noted that by taking this approach, it affords the teacher more instructional time for the students. Mr. Marwah also reported that consultants have been hired for BobcatTV. He then answered questions from the Board regarding student participation and ideas on how to allow older students, who opted out of the Fine Arts program, to return to the program.

This portion of the Budget Hearing involving the Directors concluded and the Directors departed at 9:13 p.m.

9.5 Curriculum and Instruction Budget Presentation

Dr. Kaltenecker provided a broad picture of the 2016-2017 Curriculum and Instruction Budget which supports professional learning and programs. He reported that the Curriculum and Instruction Budget has an increase of 4.6%, the largest since 2008. Dr. Kaltenecker explained the reason for the increase is due to a large amount of time spent by teachers during the summer months on curriculum work and technology training. He noted that in the last Byram Hills Teachers Association contract, an increase was provided to teachers for summer curriculum work. He also noted that because of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) curriculum, the District is providing much needed professional learning opportunities for teachers. Dr. Kaltenecker mentioned that a new Budget Line in the Curriculum and Instruction budget has been added for program materials which will be utilized for the K-5 Math Study beginning in 2016-2017, and additional program materials in the future to align with the new NYS standards, such as new programs in science and social studies, as well. Dr. Kaltenecker then answered questions from the Board.

9.6 Budget Steps from Here

- 9.6.1 March 22, 2016: Budget Hearing III, District Office, 7:30 p.m.
- 9.6.2 April 12, 2016: Budget Hearing IV, District Office, 7:30 p.m.
- 9.6.3 April 26, 2016: Adoption of 2016-17 Budget by Board of Education, D.O., 7:30 p.m.
- 9.6.4 May 3, 2016: Budget Hearing V, District Office, 7:30 p.m.
- 9.6.5 May 17, 2016: Budget Vote/Trustee Vote, 6:30 am - 9 pm; Public Mtg.: 9 pm (Approx.)

9.7 Public Communications

Dr. Donohue reported on the Public Communications portion of the Administration's Proposed 2016-2017 Budget. He noted the communications portion of the budget is a fairly small portion of the budget which includes BobcatTV, the Spectrum newsletter and the 2016-2017 Budget Brochure. He reported that during this current year BobcatTV was utilized slightly more than in past years for the taping of some District presentations, such as the Parent Advocacy Night. Dr. Donohue explained that although the District does not plan to generate a large increase in BobcatTV programming, the District would like to have the flexibility to use BobcatTV should the need arise. Ms. Lamia noted that BobcatTV would still be utilized for various training methods within the District, including possible training for substitute teachers.

9.8 Other Considerations / Questions

Mr. Schulman asked if there is anything the Administration would like the Board to consider regarding the Proposed 2016-2017 Budget, however, nothing was proposed during this meeting.

9.9 Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

9.10 Board Member Requests for Further Information Regarding Changes to the Proposed 2016-2017 Budget

There were no requests for further information. Budget Hearing II concluded at 9:18 p.m.

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Superintendent

Dr. Donohue commented that traditionally they do not provide staff reports during this Budget Hearing meeting. He thanked Mr. Barry for videotaping the meeting as Mr. Mike Sparrow, the District's videographer, was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Barry will videotape the March 22 meeting as well.

10.4 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Ms. Lamia did not provide a report for this meeting.

11. Board Reports

11.1 President

Ms. Glat noted that Mr. Burke could not be present for the evening's meeting. She reported that she attended a meeting on March 14 at White Plains High School with Mr. Summers and Mr. Levy featuring the Commissioner of Education, Ms. MaryEllen Elia. Ms. Glat reported that the Commissioner is interested in hearing from all in attendance and it seemed the main concern was over the Common Core Standards. Ms. Elia reported that the state is currently reviewing the standards and that a committee is being formed to address the Common Core Standards. Ms. Elia mentioned that those interested in being a member of the committee can apply via the NYS Education website (<http://www.nysed.gov/aimhighny>). The Commissioner also noted the lack of resources provided for the roll-out of the Common Core. Many teachers used EngageNY as the curriculum instead of as the support it was intended to be. It was noted that New York State had the highest opt-out rate in the nation. It was also reported that a new testing company is now being used and test questions are currently under review and it was noted that this year's test times will be shortened. Concerning APPR, it was reported that there will be no teacher consequences based on student results and there will be opportunities for students to receive a Regents diploma. Further discussion was held on the matter, and it appears that there could be a shift in education development in New York State.

11.2 Committee/Board Members

Mr. Schulman congratulated the Boys Basketball team for a great season. The team was Section I, Class A champions. The team won the regional championships and then went to the State Semi-Finals against Elmont. Mr. Schulman reported that the team lost by two (2) points, however, it was an exciting game and season. Mr. Schulman offered congratulations to both the players and the coaches.

Mr. Sanders noted that the Byram Hills Education Foundation Gala will be held at the Capital Theatre in Port Chester on May 13, 2016.

11.3 Topics for Future Agendas/Request for Information

There were no requests for future agenda items.

11.3.1 March 22, 2016: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing III, D.O., 7:30 p.m.

11.3.2 April 12, 2016: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing IV, D.O., 7:30 p.m.

11.3.3 April 26, 2016: Board of Education Meeting, Adoption of Proposed 2016-17 Budget, D.O., 7:30 p.m.

11.3.4 May 3, 2016: Board of Education Meeting, Budget Hearing V, D.O., 7:30 p.m.

11.3.5 May 17, 2016: Board of Education Meeting, Budget / Trustee Vote, HCC, 6:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

12. Communications to the Board

There were no additional communications to the Board.

13. Executive Session

The Board reconvened into Executive Session to discuss Item 3.3: Board of Education Matter - Succession Planning as this was not discussed earlier, prior to the beginning of the public meeting.

At 9:30 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Levy and seconded by Mr. Schulman to reconvene into Executive Session to complete discussions on Item 3.3, Board of Education Matter - Succession Planning. Vote: 6-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

14. Adjournment

The public meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Tulkin-Godoy, Secretary

April 12, 2016
Date