

**Board of Education Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, September 27, 2016**

**Byram Hills School District**

**10 Tripp Lane**

**Armonk, NY 10504**

**Budget Committee: 6:45 p.m.**

**Audit Committee: 7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting: 7:15 p.m. (Proposed Executive Session)**

**Public Meeting: 7:30 p.m.**

**DATE:** September 27, 2016

**TIME:** 7:30 p.m. Public Meeting

**PLACE:** Board Room in District Office

**PRESENT: Board of Education Members Present**

**Absent: n/a**

Mr. Brett Summers, President

Mr. Scott Levy, Vice President

Ms. Mia DiPietro

Ms. Robin Glat

Mr. Michael Sanders

Mr. Ira Schulman

Ms. Lara Stangel

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. William Donohue, Superintendent

Mr. Gregory Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services; District Clerk

Dr. Timothy Kaltenecker, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

Ms. Jen Lamia, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

**1. Call To Order**

**Action: 1.1 The meeting is called to order by Board of Education President, Mr. Brett Summers**

At 8:12 p.m. the public meeting was called to order by Board President, Mr. Summers.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**3. Proposed Executive Session Upon Board Approval**

**Procedural: 3.1 Legal Matter - Individual Student**

**Procedural: 3.2 Personnel Matter - Individual Student**

**Procedural: 3.3 Legal Matter - Proprietary Rights**

**Procedural: 3.4 Personnel Matter - Individual Employee**

Prior to the public meeting, there was a Budget Committee meeting, followed by an Audit Committee meeting with the Board. The Board met in Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. and discussed the first item of the following:

**3.1 Legal Matter - Individual Student**

**3.2 Personnel Matter - Individual Student**

**3.3 Legal Matter - Proprietary Rights**

**3.4 Personnel Matter - Individual Employee**

**4. Comments from the Public**

**Recognition: 4.1 Public Comments (if any) will be heard at this time**

There were no public comments at this time.

**5. Revision and Adoption of Agenda****Action: 5.1 Revisions (if necessary) and Adoption of Agenda**

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. Glat to adopt the agenda as presented. Vote: 7-yes 0-no. Motion carried.

**6. Consent Agenda - Personnel****Action (Consent): 6.1 Personnel Items**

A motion was made by Mr. Levy and seconded by Ms. DiPietro to adopt Item 6: Consent Agenda - Personnel; Item 7: Consent Agenda - Special Services; and Item 8: Consent Agenda - Business as presented. Vote: 7-yes 0-no. Motion carried

**6.1 Teacher Leave:**

1. Employee #131, Special Ed., CH, FMLA, effective 9/06/16

**6.2 Regular Substitute Appointments:**

1. Sabrina DiBullo, Special Ed., CH, effective 9/06/16
2. Santhea Ogden, Elementary (Grade 2), CH, effective 9/07/16
3. Marion Kelly, Elementary (Library), CH/WA, effective 9/26/16

**6.3 CSEA Appointment Rescission:**

1. Marlene Costello, P/T Monitor, Transportation, effective 9/06/16

**6.4 CSEA Probationary Appointment:**

1. Arthur Richardson, Bus Driver, Transportation, effective 9/23/16

**6.5 CSEA Part-time Availability Appointments:**

1. Josephine Jurado, School Monitor, DW, effective 9/16/16
2. Linda Hernandez, School Monitor, DW, effective 9/23/16
3. Grzegorz Wasila, Cleaner, DW, effective 9/28/16

**6.6 Extracurricular Appointments for BHHS for 2016-17: See Attached List****6.7 Extracurricular Appointments for HCC for 2016-17: See Attached List****6.8 Extracurricular Appointments for Wampus for 2016-17:**

1. Alan Lounsbury - Musical Director
2. Stephanie Messana - Assistant Musical Director
3. Janet Thompson - Technical Director
4. Ken Pearson - NYSSMA
5. David Wolfe - NYSSMA
6. Meg Johnston - Wampus Extended Learning Program, Director
7. Suzanne Milano - Wampus Extended Learning Program, Teacher (Sustainability)
8. Nancy Sarro - Wampus Extended Learning Program, Teacher (Cultures)
9. Melinda Sheehan, Wampus Extended Learning Program, Teacher (Mathematical Relationships)
10. Janet Thompson - VIP, Jr.

11. Fran Poniatowski - VIP, Jr.

## 6.9 Game Supervisor Appointments for 2016-17:

1. Rohitkumar Pandya
2. Rich Romagnoli
3. Larry Cerretani

## 6.10 Fall Coaching Appointment Amended:

1. Marisa Gagliardo - Modified Field Hockey Coach, 9/06/16-9/14/16 (Season cancelled)

## 6.11 Approval to create an additional modified volleyball coach position for the 2016-17 Fall season

## 7. Consent Agenda - Special Services

### Action (Consent): 7.1 CSE/SubCSE/CPSE Recommendations

## 8. Consent Agenda - Business

### Action (Consent): 8.1 Business Items

- 8.1 Adoption of Debt Service Fund Budget for 2016-17 Fiscal Year

**Resolved**, that the Board adopted the Debt Service Fund Budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

- 8.2 Authorization to Delegate Bid Award Authority to Superintendent for 2016-17 Provision of Java City Appliances and Millwork Bid (Byram Hills High School)

**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the Superintendent to award or reject the bids for Java City Appliances and Millwork for the 2016-17 fiscal year.

- 8.3 Approval of 2016-17 Budget Transfers Regarding Salary Budget Codes

**Resolved**, that the Board authorized the budgetary transfer of funds in codes affecting salaries for the purpose of balancing accounts within the total 2016-17 budget.

## 9. Unfinished Business

### Information, Presentation: 9.1 Public Hearing of Veteran's Tax Exemption

Mr. Summers recognized Mr. Vincent Greco in the audience. Mr. Greco was a Byram Hills Board of Education member from 1986 to 1989 and currently serves as Commander of the North Castle American Legion Post. Mr. Greco noted that out of 16 million veterans, 600,000 World War II veterans are currently living.

Mr. Summers opened the public hearing regarding the Veteran's Tax Exemption at 8:16 p.m. to discuss the merits and implications of the tax exemption, as provided in the Governor's regulations. Mr. Carlson explained the legal aspects of the exemption and provided a summary of the presentation given last spring during a Board of Education meeting. Mr. Carlson reported that the required legal notice was placed in the local newspaper, notifying the public of the hearing. He explained that the Board is not required to vote on the exemption at this evening's meeting. He added that if the Board does choose to vote after this public hearing, they can only vote for the state's basic maximum exemption. If a decision is made to either raise or lower the amount of the exemption, another public hearing would be needed.

Mr. Carlson noted that his presentation on the Veteran's Tax Exemption is available on the District's website. Mr. Carlson reviewed the qualifications needed for eligibility for the tax exemption. He discussed the ownership requirements, the exemption amounts (15% of assessed value plus 10% for combat zone, plus one-half for service disability, if qualified as a disabled veteran). Mr. Carlson then discussed the financial implications to the local

taxpayers, which is basically a shifting of taxes from those who are qualified for the exemption to those who are not qualified. Mr. Carlson explained that there is no state reimbursement for the tax exemption. Mr. Carlson reported what the exemption would mean to North Castle community members as follows: 113 veterans would be eligible with \$21,000 of tax money being shifted to other community members; 41 combat veterans and the tax shift to other community members, under state law, would be \$12,632; and 7 disabled veterans and the shift of tax to the taxpayers would be \$4,310. These amounts would total \$37,852 in school taxes to be shifted to local taxpayers which would be an increase to taxpayers in the amount of .05%, which is a \$4 to \$11 increase per year, per tax payer, under the state's basic minimum exemption. This is the amount the Board could act on during this first public hearing of the Veteran's Tax Exemption.

Mr. Carlson explained that the District does not administer this program; this falls under the jurisdiction of the Town Assessor's Office, and paperwork for the exemption must be filed by March 1, 2017. He noted that information regarding the exemption will be placed on the District's website.

Mr. Summers provided some background on the Veteran's Tax Exemption. He mentioned that he spoke with Senator George Latimer, who, providing he is re-elected, intends to cosponsor a bill in the next legislative session that would reimburse school districts and place a cap of \$500,000 on eligible income. Prior to 2014, it was available to other municipalities but not school districts. Mr. Summers noted that the new law imposes a dilemma on the school district; either deny benefits for veterans or raise taxes for others, and the Board does not want to do either. He explained that it is not the school district providing the exemption, it is the community. Mr. Summers added that passing this exemption would not be irrevocable and it can be modified or reversed. He noted that there is another bill that would provide 100% exemption for someone with full combat disability. Mr. Schulman asked if policemen or firemen injured in the line of duty receive an exemption. Mr. Carlson responded they do not. Mr. Schulman asked, if agreeable by the Board, to allow Mr. Greco an opportunity to speak, if he'd like. Mr. Schulman has known Mr. Greco for a long time and has enormous respect for him and would be honored to hear from him.

Mr. Greco, on behalf of the North Castle American Legion Post, thanked the Board for pursuing this matter and bringing it to the level of discussion during a Board meeting. He commented that the relationship the Post has with the District is very much appreciated and only hoped that the Governor would have put this matter into the state's budget. Mr. Greco commented on the decline in the number of American Legion Posts and how all the Posts are striving to stay afloat. Mr. Greco mentioned that since other school districts, such as Bedford and Chappaqua, have already passed the Veteran's Tax Exemption program, the North Castle Post thought it was a worthwhile proposal for submission to Byram Hills.

Mr. Summers added that anything which helps veterans remain in the community creates a more diverse and fullsome community which is to everyone's benefit. He added that if the Board should grant this exemption, the District would still pursue legislation in Albany.

Mr. Schulman added he has some mixed feelings on this. He stated that he has no problem whatsoever honoring veterans with this exemption. His dad was a very proud World War II veteran, and his brother served, and he is very proud of their service. Mr. Schulman asked, "How can you not want to honor people who put their lives in harms-way for their country?" Another question raised by Mr. Schulman is "What took us seventy years to do this for the people who served in World War II? Did everyone fall asleep for seventy years?" Mr. Schulman brought attention to the reality that if the exemption is approved, it is passing tax burdens on to others, though in a very diminutive way. He appreciates Senator Latimer's view that doing this will assist seniors and veterans to stay in the community, but sometimes the act itself is meaningful, irrespective of the financial impact. Mr. Schulman said he has given this matter much thought, and he can support this as the right thing to do. He thinks that Albany should have taken care of the matter decades ago, but now it falls to the children or grandchildren to right it. Mr. Schulman stated that he would like to hold this for another meeting to review what category of exemption the District is interested in complying with. Dr. Donohue added that at this meeting, they are only allowed to approve the exemption at the first level. Therefore, the District would have to approve the exemption at the first level, and can then make changes thereafter.

Mr. Levy added that it's not every day the Board is asked to make a decision about redistribution of tax dollars, however, if the state had funded this, it would clearly had been the fairest system. Having said all this, Mr. Levy does think we should support it for a number of reasons: veterans deserve every help they can get to stay in

the community, and many surrounding communities and districts already have the exemption in place. He noted that the District does not want to be unfriendly to veterans. He stated that waiting for the state to fund this exemption is a lost cause, although, we should absolutely push for it from a lobbying perspective.

Ms. Glat asked if any other school districts went to their communities to take a vote or get them involved. Mr. Levy responded that in Pleasantville they conducted a non-binding referendum at the time of their budget vote to gauge public opinion. Mr. Summers added that the District has until March 1, 2017 to approve the exemption for it to apply for the following tax year. Ms. Glat asked if the District were to go to the community, would it only be Byram Hills, and would the District have access to all those in the district, including those who don't have children in the District. Mr. Summers stated that he did not think so. Mr. Summers first wanted to ask for a Board consensus to be taken and said he does not favor that - it is an extraordinary effort. Mr. Summers stated that because it is reversible, and this is just step one, and the real benefits come in stage two and three. Mr. Schulman responded to Ms. Glat that for better or worse the community has elected the Board to exercise their judgment when it comes to tax matters and, ultimately, this is a tax issue, noting that it affects the distribution of tax dollars. Mr. Schulman stated that he would not try to predict the outcome of a non-binding referendum, and it would be a surprise to him if a community, such as Byram Hills, would say no to this exemption, particularly since the tax dollar increment is small. He would be disappointed if that were the case. Mr. Summers added that they have never had to deal with apportionment of taxes before. Mike Sanders asked if the town has accepted this exemption, as well. Dr. Donohue responded that they have, some time ago. Mr. Sanders said he would support moving it along, as well. It was noted that this matter was reviewed in a very thorough manner and Mr. Sanders would like to take this to the first level at this meeting. Mr. Summers added that this matter was on a Board agenda in the late spring of 2016, and the Board determined that since there were going to be two new Board members in July 2016, they wanted to give the new Board members, Ms. Lara Stangel and Ms. Mia DiPietro an opportunity to voice their opinion. Mr. Summers asked the new Board members for their views. Ms. DiPietro agreed with what Mr. Schulman said, and added that the Board has to be cognizant, as they have an obligation to the taxpayers of the community. They (the community members) may not be looking at the line items or the amounts; they will look at the overall increase when presented with the budget, and may balk at other things we need them to pass. Nevertheless, she thinks it's the right thing to do. Ms. Stangel added that her first job was at the VA Hospital in Brooklyn and she worked with many proud veterans who have endured many hardships during the years. She is very much in favor of this, and agrees it should not be taken lightly, but the good here outweighs the concern and she would be very much in favor of it.

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Levy that the Board adopt the resolution adopting the Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a Property Tax Exemption, as set forth in the three page resolution which will become an exhibit to the minutes in the form:

**"Whereas**, a public hearing was held on September 27, 2016 at 8:15 p.m. at the Byram Hills District Office; whereas one person appeared to speak on said resolution."

The Board can address at another meeting whether they wish to pursue a further level of exemption.

Vote: 7-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

Additional discussions were held concerning the exemption and the consensus of the Board.

Ms. Glat then asked about going forward, what is the process if the District were to re-examine and alter the exemption amount. Mr. Carlson noted another public hearing would have to be held to make any changes. Ms. Glat asked if it would be shown on a budget line and the answer to that is that it would not. Some additional discussion was held on possible changes and what future Boards may have to deal with. Mr. Summers thanked Mr. Greco and the veterans. He said this is more symbolic than substantive. Mr. Greco thanked the Board of Education.

The public hearing concluded at 8:50 p.m.

## 10. New Business

**Action, Information, Presentation, Report: 10.1 Acceptance of External Audit Report for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year**

Dominick Consolo of O'Connor Davies, LLP was present to review the External Audit Report for the 2015-2016 school year which ended June 30, 2016. Mr. Consolo provided the Board with documents prior to the meeting (the Financial Report, the Extra-classroom Activity Funds Report and the Management Letter). He noted revenues came in excess of the budget by \$1.2 million dollars (PILOT: \$155,000, State Aid: \$876,000 and Miscellaneous: \$117,000). On the expenditure side of the budget, the District saved \$4.7 million dollars (General Support/Central Services: \$800,000, Instructional: \$1.6 million, Transportation: \$413,000 and Employee Benefits: \$1.5 million). The District now has a \$26.5 million Fund Balance with \$17.4 million restricted and \$4.0 million assigned, which was reimbursed to the tax payers. Byram Hills has an unassigned Fund Balance of almost \$3.6 million (4% of the subsequent year's budget), which is the maximum allowed by New York State. Mr. Consolo reported that Byram Hills is in excellent financial status.

Dr. Donohue thanked Ms. Susan Palamarczuk, District Treasurer and Mr. Greg Carlson, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services, for their assistance in providing the needed information to the auditors. Dr. Donohue referenced a Journal News article about school districts applying for bonds and noted that District's not applying for bonds is a reflection that a District is doing well, financially. Dr. Donohue mentioned that due to the District's regular upkeep and maintenance in so many areas, Byram Hills does not have the need to go in the direction of applying for bonds.

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. DiPietro to accept the 2015-16 External Audit Report, Extra-classroom Activity Funds Report, Management Letter and Response Plan. Vote: 7-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Sanders to accept the Response Letter. Vote: 7-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

### **Discussion, Information: 10.2 Presentation of the Results of the New York State Education Department's Testing Program**

Dr. Kaltenecker provided a report on the 2015-2016 New York State test results which included a summary of past test results and cohort data. He also emphasized two points of caution relating to the test results: #1) the Commissioner noted that the 2016 ELA and Math tests were revised in such a way that they cannot be directly compared to previous years and #2) the impact of the test refusal rate (21%) may have produced skewed data.

Dr. Kaltenecker reviewed the year-to-year comparison for all Math and ELA students in grades 3-8 from 2013 to 2016. He then reviewed students reaching proficiency levels in both Math and ELA. Dr. Kaltenecker emphasized that only Math 8 students took the Math 8 test and those eighth grade students taking the Algebra course were not required to take the Math 8 test, which avoided double-testing. Dr. Kaltenecker then shared the District's percentile rate, which is in the 90th percentile.

Dr. Kaltenecker also reviewed the ELA and Math Cohort data, Science for grades 4 through 8 and Regents results from 2013 to 2016. Mr. Summers noted there was much testing used to analyze schools for the No Child Left Behind; now the analysis is about APPR.

Dr. Kaltenecker then reviewed the next steps to be taken for data and item analysis which provides information on those students whose scores were below the proficiency level. The next step in reviewing the standards is to see where improvements can be made, so that student intervention can be provided sooner than later. The Board thanked Dr. Kaltenecker for his presentation.

### **Action: 10.3 Adoption of the 2017-2018 Budget Materials**

The 2017-18 Budget Committee Charge, Budget Calendar and Budget Guidelines were updated for the Budget Committee's review during their meeting on September 27 at 6:45 p.m. prior to the beginning of the public meeting.

Ms. Glat suggested two revision: Item 8 of the Budget Committee Charge - her suggestion was to revise "*The committee recommends to the Board*" to "*The Budget Committee works with the Board as a whole to present a budget that complies with the budget guidelines.*" since it is the entire Board that gets involved in the budget process.

The second suggested revision was in the Budget Guidelines: Item 8 - removing "*and the Byram Hills transportation facility*" which is redundant.

A motion was made by Ms. Glat and seconded by Mr. Sanders to adopt the 2017-18 Budget Committee Charge, Budget Guidelines and Budget Calendar as revised. Vote 7 yes . 0-no. Motion carried.

## **Discussion, Information: 10.4 NYSSBA 2016 Proposed Bylaw Amendment and Resolution Book / Proposed Resolutions Worksheet**

Mr. Summers discussed the NYSSBA 2016 Proposed Bylaw Amendment and Resolution Book which was made available to the Board in their packet. He noted there are 24 Resolutions in the booklet, as well as a worksheet summary, which is a helpful tool. Mr. Summers explained that anything that is approved becomes a lobbying position for NYSSBA for the next five years. Mr. Summers highlighted a few resolutions for the Board.

1. Resolution #5 supports limiting the duration of teacher and principal tenure to no more than five (5) years. Mr. Summers explained that there was enough concern raised by many around the state, therefore, it was added again this year.
2. Resolution #8 supports proposals to create a reserve fund to finance employee benefits obligations.
3. Resolution #9 supports appropriate use of technology to enhance programs. Mr. Summers noted that this is too broad and sounds like distance learning. Mr. Summers believes there may be an amendment on the floor for this to specify for the purpose of distance learning.
4. Resolution #13 supports ensuring that Special Act School Districts are treated equitably with all other public schools and that we would all benefit from this.
5. Resolution # 14 supports legislation ensuring state aid is not correlated to the percentage of students taking state tests.

Mr. Levy added that he thinks priority would be around foundation aid and how aid gets distributed to schools, which is less critical to Byram Hills since the District receives such a small amount of aid. Mr. Summers added that WPSBA has really made a difference and Mr. Levy added that they (WPSBA) remain focused on their goals and local control.

## **11. Staff Reports**

### **Information: 11.1 Superintendent**

Dr. Donohue followed-up on Dr. Kaltenecker's presentation on test results. Dr. Donohue reported that he placed a challenge to the faculty to come up with more meaningful ways to evaluate students. As a result, the Math Department has committed, this year, to replace the Geometry regents.

Dr. Donohue reported that Homecoming and the Hall of Fame Induction is taking place on September 30 and October 1. He also reported that the BHEF Wizards event recently took place, Back to School Nights are just about completed and discussions are taking place during Board meetings about the Veterans Tax Exemption, commenting that this is a community that wants to support its children and veterans. Dr. Donohue noted that it has been a good fall in the District.

### **Information: 11.2 Assistant Superintendent for Business and Management Services, District Clerk**

Mr. Carlson discussed Byram Hills' water testing for lead levels in the schools' drinking water. He said Governor Cuomo signed a bill on September 6, 2016 that all elementary schools, Grades K-6 must conduct water testing no later than September 30, 2016 and schools with Grades 7-12 must conduct water testing no later than October 31, 2016. He noted that depending upon the results, there are also deadlines for appropriate action to be taken, as well. Mr. Carlson reported that the District's results of the water testing will be posted within six weeks of the receipt of the official results on the District's website. He noted that water testing is currently taking place, as required and is being conducted through a contract with BOCES.

### **Information: 11.3 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction**

Dr. Kaltenecker conducted his report under Item 10.2 during his presentation of the *Results of the New York State Education Department's Testing Program*. Dr. Kaltenecker mentioned that the 2016-17 Administrative Goals document was given to the Board in this packet and will be made available in the next month's Board packet, as well.

### **Information: 11.4 Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources**

Ms. Lamia discussed the additional day needed for the State's Regents testing. The 2016-17 calendar was changed to reflect the additional day needed for taking the June 2017 Regents. The one page calendar has since been

updated, noting the Regents start date from June 14, 2017 to June 13, 2017. Ms. Lamia noted that this will not have any significant impact on the District calendar.

Ms. Lamia provided an update on the District-Wide Emergency Team. She reported that the team met last week for table top exercises. Ms. Lamia will provide another update to the Board in early 2017.

## **12. Board Reports**

### **Information: 12.1 President**

Mr. Summers offered a reminder of the October 13, 2016, WPSBA program on Student Emotional Wellness. He mentioned that there will be a panel discussion and Byram Hills will present their concept on flexible learning space.

Mr. Summers made mention that Homecoming is this weekend and fireworks are scheduled for Friday, September 30. He also mentioned that on October 8, 2016, 35 boys and girls teams from many area school district will participate in the Gulino Bobcat Run, in honor of Mr. Michael Gulino, retired Byram Hills' Director of Athletics.

### **Information: 12.2 Committee / Board Members**

Mr. Schulman noted there will be an Athletic Advisory Committee meeting on Friday, October 7, 2016. He also made mention of the Byram Hills Hall of Fame Dinner taking place on October 1, 2016 and anyone needing more information and sponsorship information on the Hall of Fame Dinner, can contact Coach Allen. Mr. Schulman mentioned that he was asked to speak at the dinner. It was also noted that a Town Liaison meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2016 and a Policy Committee meeting will take place on October 13, 2016.

**12.2.1 September 30, 2016: Town / School District Liaison Committee, Town Hall, 7:45 a.m.**

**12.2.2 October 13, 2016: Policy Committee, District Office, 9 a.m.**

**12.2.3 October 27-29, 2016: NYSSBA 97th Annual Convention, Buffalo, NY**

### **Information: 12.3 Topics for Future Agendas / Requests for Information**

There were no requests for additional information at this time.

## **13. Communications to the Board**

### **Information: 13.1 Communications to the Board**

There was one communication from Byram Hills Youth Lacrosse, which was forwarded to the Board.

## **14. Approval of Board Minutes**

### **Action: 14.1 Approval of Board of Education Minutes: September 13, 2016**

A motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Mr. Sanders to approve the Board of Education Minutes of September 13, 2016 as presented. Vote: 7-yes, 0-no. Motion carried.

## **15. Executive Session**

The Board met in Executive Session prior to the public meeting and completed discussion on item 3.1: Legal Matter - Individual Student.

At 9:50 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Schulman and seconded by Ms. Glat to reconvene into Executive Session and complete discussions on the following matters:

**3.2 Personnel Matter - Individual Student**

**3.3 Legal Matter - Proprietary Rights**

**3.4 Personnel Matter - Individual Employee**

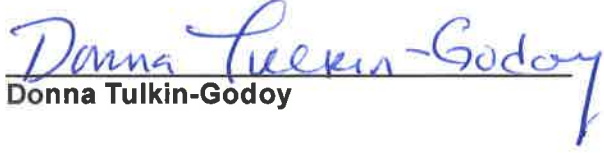
Vote: 7-yes, 0-no. Motion carried



**16. Adjournment**

The Public Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Donna Tulkin-Godoy

**November 8, 2016**  
**Date Approved**

## RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW

### SECTION 458-a PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The following resolution was offered by Ira Schulman, who moved its adoption, seconded by Scott Levy, as follows:

WHEREAS, the District has considered adopting the Real Property Tax Law ("RPTL") Section 458-a exemption which allows school districts to offer a partial exemption from school taxes to the primary residence of (1) a veteran of the United States Armed Services who actively served during a period of war, (2) a veteran who received an expeditionary medal, or under certain conditions (3) a veteran of the Merchant Marine service, (4) a veteran of the American Field Service, or (5) a veteran who served as a Pan American World Airways flight crew and aviation ground support employee, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on September 27, 2016 at 8:15 p.m. in the Byram Hills District Office, Armonk, New York, on said resolution; and

WHEREAS, one person appeared to speak on said resolution; and

WHEREAS, based on the District's review and analysis of the purpose and intent of this exemption as well as its potential financial impact upon the District, the District finds it appropriate and in the District's best interest to resolve to adopt the provisions of this exemption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the District as follows:

Section 1. The purpose of this resolution is to adopt the partial exemption for qualified veteran from real property taxes as allowed by Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a.

Section 2. All terms herein shall be defined in accordance with Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a.

Section 3. As allowed by Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a, this resolution adopts a partial real property tax exemption for the qualified property of qualified veterans as set forth below.

(a) Qualifying residential real property owned by a qualified veteran shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of fifteen percent of the assessed value of such property; provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed twelve thousand dollars or the product of twelve thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less.

(b) In addition to the exemption provided by paragraph (a) of this subdivision, where the veteran served in a combat theatre or combat zone of operations, as documented by the award of a United States campaign ribbon or service

medal, or the armed forces expeditionary medal, navy expeditionary medal, marine corps expeditionary medal, or global war on terrorism expeditionary medal, qualifying residential real property also shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of ten percent of the assessed value of such property; provided, however that such exemption shall not exceed eight thousand dollars or the product of eight thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the class ratio, whichever is less.

- (c) In addition to the exemptions provided by paragraphs (a) and (b) of this subdivision, where the veteran received a compensation rating from the United States veteran's administration or from the United States department of defense because of a service connected disability, qualifying residential real property shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of the produce of the assessed value of such property, multiplied by fifty percent of the veteran's disability rate; provided, however, that such exemption shall not exceed forty thousand dollars or the product of forty thousand dollars multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the assessing unit, or in the case of a special assessing unit, the latest class ratio, whichever is less. For purposes of this paragraph, where a person who served in the active military, naval or air service during a period of war died in service of a service connected disability, such personal shall be deemed to have been assigned a compensation rating of one hundred percent.

Section 3. Application for exemption must be made by the owner of the property on a form prescribed by the state. The owner shall file the completed form in the assessor's office on or before the appropriate taxable status date. The owner of the property shall not be required to refile each year. Applicants shall be required to refile on or before the appropriate taxable status date if the percentage of disability percentage increases or decreases or may refile if other changes have occurred which affect qualification for an increased or decreased amount of exemption. Any applicant convicted of making any willful false statement in the application for such exemption shall be subject to the penalties prescribed in the penal law.

Section 4. If the assessor is satisfied that the applicant is entitled to this exemption, he or she shall approve the application and the real property shall thereafter be exempt from taxation and special ad valorem levies as provided for herein commencing with the assessment roll prepared after the taxable status date referred to herein. The assessed value of any exemption granted shall be entered by the assessor on the assessment roll with the taxable property, with the amount of the exemption shown in a separate column.

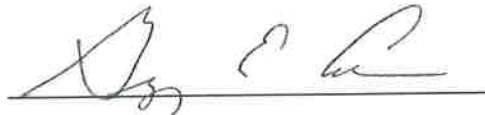
Section 5. This resolution shall be read in conjunction with the provisions of Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a to effectuate the authorized real property tax exemption. If any provision of this resolution is deemed inconsistent with Real Property Tax Law Section 458-a, the Real Property Tax Law provisions shall control.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately and shall be applicable to all assessment rolls prepared hereafter.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

Brett Sumners	Aye
Scott Levy	Aye
Mia DiPietro	Aye
Robin Glat	Aye
Michael Sanders	Aye
Ira Schulman	Aye
Lara Stangel	Aye

The resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.



Gregory E. Carlson

School District Clerk

