



Farmingdale School District

DATE: May 14, 2019

KIND OF MEETING: Special Meeting / Public Hearing

PLACE: Howitt Middle School East Cafeteria, Howitt Middle School

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Goldberg, Mrs. D'Amico, Mr. Espinosa, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Lively, Mr. Morales, Mrs. Soete

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Defendini, Mr. Zakian, Dr. Brennan, Dr. Olsen, Mr. Motisi, Mrs. Rogers

OTHERS ABSENT: Dr. Ripley

**Call to Order
and Pledge of
Allegiance**

Board President Michael Goldberg welcomed those present and stated that the purpose of this meeting was a Public Hearing session prior to the Budget Vote and Election on May 21, 2019. He stated that Superintendent of Schools Defendini and his administrative team had presented to the Board of Education and the community a comprehensive budget that allowed for the continuation of programs and services. Mr. Goldberg encouraged those present to share their ideas, comments and questions during the two scheduled public participation opportunities. As stated in board policy, public participation would be limited to topics on the agenda. No person would be able to speak for more than three minutes and each period would be limited to thirty minutes. Mr. Goldberg thanked all for their anticipated courtesy and cooperation. He pointed out emergency exits. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public
Participation**

Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting for the first public participation. No one came forward at this time.

**Budget
Presentation:
2019/2020
Proposed
Budget**

Board President Michael Goldberg introduced Superintendent of Schools Paul Defendini. Mr. Defendini stated that this evening's meeting marked one week prior to the 2019 Annual Budget Vote and Election. As such, the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a Public Hearing to provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions or provide feedback on the budget that is presented to our residents for its approval at the May 21 budget vote and election. Mr. Defendini introduced Assistant to the Superintendent for Business Michael

Motisi and asked for his final 2019-2020 budget presentation to the Board of Education.

Mr. Motisi's presentation began as an overview of the information shared with the public during the past two months, both at Board of Education meetings and at various community venues. He summarized the 2019-2020 proposed revenue budget of \$171,083,800, which represents a tax levy increase within the limits provided under the tax cap legislation. Mr. Motisi also provided a summary of the 2019-2020 proposed cost element summary, reflecting a budget-to-budget increase of just over \$5 million.

Mr. Motisi's presentation included details of the reductions that would result if the budget were defeated on May 21. Program impacts may include increased class sizes at the elementary level, reduced elective opportunities at the secondary level, reductions in athletics, performance groups, extra-curricular activities, equipment purchases, maintenance projects and support services.

Mr. Motisi concluded his presentation with the language presented on the ballot for the two propositions and the two uncontested board trustee candidates who are running for reelection. The final slide reminds residents to vote on May 21 in the Howitt Middle School West Gymnasium between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Goldberg thanked Mr. Motisi and his staff for all of their efforts during this past budget season.

**Public
Participation**

Board President Michael Goldberg opened the meeting for the second public participation. No one came forward at this time.

Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Espinosa, the meeting moved into Executive Session to discuss a specific personnel matter in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting moved into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Morales, seconded by Mrs. Lively, the meeting was reconvened.

Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:39 p.m.

On a motion made by Mr. Morales, seconded by Mr. Espinosa, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Mary E. Rogers, District Clerk