

May 8, 2013

The Budget Public Hearing Meeting of the Board of Education of the Freeport Union Free School District was held on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, in the cafeteria of the Caroline G. Atkinson School. Ms. Mulé, President of the Board of Education, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. She then led in the pledge of allegiance.

Those present were: Ms. Debra Mulé, President
Ms. Vilma Lancaster, Vice President
Mr. Ronald Ellerbe, Trustee
Anthony J. Miller, Trustee
Mr. Michael Pomerico, Trustee

Absent were: none

Also present were: Dr. Kishore Kuncham, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Mary Bediako, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel
and District Clerk
Dr. Wafa Westervelt, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction
Mr. Michael Singleton, Executive Director of Operations
Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director for Business

Absent were: none

The number of people in the audience at the opening of the meeting was approximately 10.

Budget Hearing

Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Kishore Kuncham, Superintendent of Schools, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then reminded everyone that the budget was adopted by the Board of Education on April 17, 2013 as per law. At the hearing the district and the public will be hearing the details of the budget. He thanked the PTA and PTA Council for their support of the budget. He also announced that it is National Nurses Week and today we honor our School Nurses, who support our students and families with outstanding services and also act as liaisons between the schools and families.

Other announcements:

- The April Employee of the Month was Jimmy Jones, of John W. Dodd Middle School, and the theme was Pitching in to Help a Colleague/Parent.
- The May Employee of the Month is Sara Molese, of Freeport High School, and the theme is Promoting Teamwork.
- Congratulations to Hunter Frederick, FHS Senior, for winning a National Achievement Scholarship.

Dr. Kuncham introduced Mr. Kenneth Bellafiore, Director of the Freeport Memorial Library to present the proposed Library Budget for 2013-2014.

Proposed Library Budget 2013-2014

Mr. Kenneth Bellafiore, Director of the Freeport Memorial Library, discussed the Proposed 2013/2014 Library Budget (as attached) and gave an update on various exciting projects happening at the Library nearing completion, along with a slides show to highlight all the activity and events. He also pointed out that the Freeport Memorial Library was able to be a warming center and power center, for people to charge phones and laptops as well as be in a warm place, in the aftermath of Super Storm Sandy. Mr. Bellafiore praised the Freeport Electric Company for the prompt restoration of the power at the Library and the dedication of his staff for their selflessness during very difficult times.

Questions from the Public

The public was given the opportunity to address Mr. Bellafiore about the Proposed 2013/2014 Library Budget.

School Budget 2013-2014

The Superintendent gave a short overview about the difficulties facing the District in building the 2013-2014 budget. He said that it has been incredibly difficult to formulate this budget and stay within the State imposed tax cap. We cannot continue to cut 3 million plus dollars every year. It has been truly painful to lose 30 staff members and cut programs that our students need. We have maintained the core programs for this year through economies and efficiencies and we are doing our very best to bring a responsible budget to the voters. He further stated that in 2014-2015 we cannot continue to reduce staff and still continue to maintain the quality of our programs. To maintain programs such as full day Kindergarten, the community must start thinking about piercing the tax cap. He reminded the public that Freeport spends \$4,000 less than the Nassau County average per pupil and collects \$8,000 less than the Nassau County average in taxes per student.

Mr. James Robinson, Executive Director of Business gave a Power Point Presentation reviewing the proposed 2013-2014 Budget.

Questions from the Public

The public was given the opportunity to address the Board of Education and Administration regarding the 2013/2014 Proposed School Budget.

Dr. Kuncham asked the public to please come out and vote, don't hesitate to call with any questions. This is a fiscally responsible budget. He added that registration to vote was on-going through May 14, 2013, and absentee ballots were available until May 20, 2013 for this election.

Executive Session

At 9:10 p.m. Mr. Pomerico moved to adjourn to executive session for one matter of personnel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller and passed unanimously.

The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

At 9:50 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Ms. Lancaster the Board returned to open session. The motion carried unanimously. The vote was; Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

The motion carried unanimously. The vote was; Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Adjournment

At 9:51 p.m., with no other business, on a motion by Mr. Ellerbe and a second by Mr. Pomerico, the Board adjourned the meeting. The vote was: Ellerbe, Lancaster, Miller, Mulé and Pomerico.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be the Annual Budget Vote and Trustee Election meeting at 9:30 p.m. on May 21, 2013 at the Caroline G. Atkinson School.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Bediako
District Clerk