

**ROCKY POINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
March 27, 2006**

**Mrs. Thalen called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM.**

Pledge of Allegiance

Present:           Geraldine Thalen, President  
                  Joseph Sanseverino, Vice-President  
                  Jane Bonner, Trustee  
                  Howard Gimple, Trustee  
                  Michael Matera, Trustee  
                  Carla L. D'Ambrosio Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools  
                  Sherry J. Alessandro, Asst. Supt. for Human Resources/Administration  
                  Michael W. Ivanoff, Director of Finance and Operations  
                  Irene Pedota, District Clerk

Absent:           None

**Mrs. Thalen opened the meeting to questions or comments from the community. She asked that questions relating to the budget or Fairfield be held until those items were discussed later in the meeting. Mrs. Thalen announced that it was the board's intention tonight to discuss and come to a conclusion with regard to what the community would like to see Fairfield provide to the community:**

- Mrs. Nicole O'Neill commented about how well the bus accident that occurred recently was handled by the administration, staff, parent chaperones, and Mr. Knapp in particular. She expressed her appreciation to everyone, especially the parents, who even though they were injured, made sure that the children were taken care of.
- Ms. Reynen thanked Mr. Read and his staff for the wonderful St. Patty's Day parade that students participated in at the FJC. Her son was very excited and it was a wonderful experience for the students, parents and guests.
- Mr. Raymond Edmonson announced that his son has been awarded a \$95,000 football scholarship to CW Post. He credited the Board of Education for having the foresight eight years ago to consider the addition of the football program to the district. He thanked everyone – present and former board members, the administration, the athletic office, Mr. Jordan and the guidance secretaries for making it possible for his son to obtain the scholarship.
- Mrs. Thalen added that many people are aware that Mr. Edmonson is a large part of why the football program has been so successful. Mrs. Thalen thanked Mr. Edmonson for all he's done. She congratulated him and said that besides his athletic ability, his son must also possess many other good qualities that helped him achieve his scholarship.

**There were no other questions or comments at this time. Mrs. Thalen reminded everyone that there would be an opportunity for other questions later in the meeting.**

## **MINUTES**

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Minutes of the following Board of Education Meeting be accepted as presented: **Regular Meeting, February 27, 2006, Special Meeting, March 7, 2006, Regular Meeting/Audit Committee Meeting, March 13, 2006.** All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **TREASURER’S REPORTS**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Treasurer’s Reports for the month of **January 2006** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **EXTRA-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY ACCOUNT TREASURER REPORT**

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Extra Classroom Activity Treasurer Report for the month of **January 2006** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education accept the Financial Reports for the month of **January 2006** as presented. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **RESOLUTION FOR HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT**

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education authorizes the Board President to enter into an agreement for health services for the current 2005-06 school year with the following districts:

Middle Country Central School District  
Three Village Central School District  
South Huntington U.F.S.D

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked what these charges were for. Mr. Ivanoff explained that these contracts are for students that attend private and parochial schools to obtain services. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

### **DONATIONS TO THE DISTRICT**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve and accept the donations from Target and Washington Mutual.

In lieu of discussion, Mr. Ivanoff explained that the donations totaled approximately \$1,000.00 between Target and Washington Mutual.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

### **APPOINTMENT OF VOTE WORKERS FOR BUDGET HEARING/ VOTE/ELECTION (BUDGET HEARING - MAY 9, 2006/BUDGET VOTE- ELECTION – MAY 16, 2006); BOARD OF REGISTRATION; POLL CLERKS; TELLERS; AND SUBSTITUTE TELLERS AND POLL CLERKS.**

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education appoint the following persons as substitutes for the Board of Registration/Poll Clerks/Tellers for the Budget Hearing/Budget Vote/Election. The hourly rate for the Board of Registration and vote workers will be \$9.00.

Deborah McNeill	Substitute Board of Registration/Poll Clerk/Teller
Charlene LaCascia	Substitute Board of Registration/Poll Clerk/Teller
Mariana Freeman	Substitute Board of Registration/Poll Clerk/Teller
Rose LaFountaine	Substitute Board of Registration/Poll Clerk/Teller
Cathy Sidorsky	Substitute Board of Registration/Poll Clerk/Teller

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMMITTEE 2005-06**

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools,

that the Board of Education approves the following members of the 2005-06 Professional Development Plan (PDP) Committee for a two-year term:

**Sherry Alessandro**, Administrative Representative, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources/Administration  
**Anja Groth**, Administrative Representative, Director of Instruction  
**Lynn Ricca**, Administrative Representative, Asst. Director, Special Education  
**Joseph Centamore**, Administrative Representative, MS Principal  
**Carol Tvelia**, Administrative Representative, JAE Principal  
**Susan Sullivan**, Administrative Representative, Asst. Principal, HS  
**Howard Gimple**, Representative for Higher Education  
**Margaret Bonasera**, Teacher Representative, JAE  
**Jennifer Golding**, Teacher Representative, FJC  
**Audra Hallock**, Teacher Representative, MS  
**Barbara Kjaerbye**, Teacher Representative, FJC  
**Steven Lagnena**, Teacher Representative, HS  
**Janine Quigley**, Teacher Representative, MS  
**Nicole Schirtzer**, Teacher Representative, FJC  
**Deborah Tonetti**, Teacher Representative, HS  
**Daniel Vedder**, Teacher Representative, FJC  
**Margaret Smith**, PTA Representative

In lieu of discussion, Mrs. Thalen asked Mr. Gimple to explain the need for the resolution. Mr. Gimple explained that the purpose of the committee was to make sure that all of the requirements of the state's professional development plan are met and that having a committee is part of these requirements.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

#### **RESOLUTION FOR THE RECERTIFICATION OF THE DISTRICT SHARED DECISION MAKING 2006 - 2008 PLAN**

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools that the Board of Education vote for the recertification of the District Shared Decision Making 2006 - 2008 Plan.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Thalen explained that the district has to re-certify or amend this plan every two years and that the committee met in March and a decision was made to re-certify it. A schedule of Shared Decision Team meetings will be available on the district's website as well as in each building. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**COMMITTEES ON SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education votes to arrange for appropriate services pursuant to the recommendations of Schedule 3-27-06-A and 3-27-06-B. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS: SPECIAL EDUCATION/PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT MEMBERS**

Upon a motion made by Howard Gimple and seconded by Jane Bonner, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of Theresa Wind, Maria Quaglia, and Lynda McGreevy as Members to the Committee on Special Education/Preschool Special Education. (In accordance with the Commissioner’s Regulations, Part 200 and the provisions of the Education Law, Section 4402.) All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**DONATION FROM ROCKY POINT ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB**

Upon a motion made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino, the following resolution:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the donation of \$1700.00 from the Rocky Point Booster Club in helping the Rocky Point High School purchase a scrolling marquee message board for usage in the High School.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Sanseverino asked if this was similar to the one in the middle school. Mr. Caulfield replied that it was larger. Mrs. Thalen thanked the Booster Club for all the wonderful things they do. There was no further discussion.

All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

**FAIRFIELD PROPERTIES DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Thalen explained that as many members of the community were already aware, in order for Fairfield Development to obtain the district’s approval for increased density, they have offered a benefit. She announced that the board would be coming to a conclusion at tonight’s meeting about what the district would like Fairfield to provide as a public benefit.

Mrs. Thalen explained that one of the items proposed was the donation of an administration building that would replace the current building, for which we currently

pay a substantial amount of rent each year. In addition, Fairfield would be donating 6.4 acres contingent to the JAE School including the installation of soccer fields and additional parking. One of the ideas that came before the board was that the community would like a swimming pool.

Mr. Matera explained that initially the pool would be attached to the administration building; however, current plans call for it to be in a separate building. Although the pool would cost nothing for the district to build, research performed by the district's architect demonstrate that the facility would cost the district \$854,000.00 a year to operate including expenses for staff, utilities, chemicals, etc. This figure does not include expenses for teams, coaches, or transportation of students/athletes.

The district's architect met with Fairfield and discussed that instead of a pool, a maintenance building with two bays for the servicing of district equipment, the installation of a soccer field with new turf, spectator stands and a refreshment stand adjacent to the JAE School, and installation of new turf at the high school soccer field was another option that Fairfield would be willing to donate to the district along with the administration building. Mr. Matera explained that maintenance of the soccer fields and administration building would cost the district approximately \$20,000 a year as compared to \$854,000 a year to maintain a pool.

Mrs. Thalen explained that if a pool was donated to the district, it could not be used for instructional purposes for any of our students who attend the high school and middle school since these students would have to be bused back and forth. Therefore, since there wouldn't be an educational benefit, many members of the board feel that the cost to maintain the pool each year would not be justified.

Mr. Matera stated that the school district's job is to educate the children of the community as best we can without bankrupting the taxpayers. It is not the district's job to have a community center for the school district to run. It would become a burden to the school district because of the cost involved to maintain it.

**Mrs. Thalen asked for questions or comments from the community. She announced that discussion would be limited to two minutes per speaker:**

- Mr. Edmonson said that he is involved in the JV football program, which currently uses the pit for both practices and games and that the field gets pretty torn up. He suggested that if a turf field were installed, safety would be improved for players and spectators.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if he believed that the district should accept the donation of turf fields.
- Mrs. Edmonson said that he did. In addition, members of the community such as the Sharks football organization could also use the field.
- Ms. Reynen commented that Mr. Edmonson's son would not be the recipient of a \$95,000 football scholarship if the board hadn't agreed to the addition of the football program, which had been squashed for many years. She commented that at the end of

last month's meeting, Mrs. Thalen stated that Mrs. Wilson would add a link to the district's website where the community could offer their input with regard to what should be donated by Fairfield but that it never happened.

- Mrs. Thalen said that after a discussion with Mrs. Wilson, it was decided that they didn't want to give the community a false sense of what they would be buying into without providing information about how much it would cost the community.
- Ms. Reynen said that her impression was that the information would not just be about the pool, but what the community would like to see. She believed the community would have an opportunity to see what they would like to get. She is disappointed not to see it up on the website because she thought it was a great idea. It is not fair for the board to make a decision without finding out what the community would like.
- Ms. Diane Burke, President of the Rocky Point Civic Association, wanted to clarify the requirement for Fairfield's giveback was that there should be a giveback to the community, not to the school. She asked the board to take a look at her cost analysis. She would like to have a final decision made, but would like the community to have an opportunity to look at her figures and then come to a decision.
- Ms. Burke explained that she met with athletic directors from Deer Park, West Islip, and Ward Melville to obtain information about the cost of running their pools and included it in a handout that was provided to members of the board and the audience as an estimate of what it should cost this district. They obtained a list of their programs and what they charge for people to use the pool. She added that she also asked LIPA to look at her numbers but has not heard back from them yet. She also contacted pool companies and was told that the numbers for chemicals seem right. She said that Fairfield would look into clean energy alternatives that might cut costs in half.
- Mrs. Thalen had a question with regard to staffing requirements to maintain the pool.
- Ms. Burke replied that it was an estimate and included salaries and benefits.
- Mrs. Thalen asked how many hours per day did the estimate include.
- Ms. Burke said it was based on an average of twelve hours per day.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if Ms. Burke believed that someone could be hired at \$75,000.00 who would maintain the pool and the building.
- Ms. Burke replied that the pools that she researched were not in separate buildings. They assumed one custodian for eight hours and asked how the figures were determined for staff in the architect's numbers.
- Mr. Matera asked how many lifeguards were included in her analysis.
- Ms. Burke replied that the analysis included two lifeguards whenever the pool was open and that if coaches were present, lifeguards were not required.
- Mrs. Thalen said that the Suffolk County Board of Health determines how many are needed in the pool. The estimate that was given to the board said that it was more likely that four lifeguards would be needed at a time.
- Ms. Burke replied that none of the pools that she researched had that many lifeguards.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if her analysis included someone to answer the phone.
- Ms. Burke replied that the aquatics director would be in charge of it.

- Mr. Matera commented that the board was told that we have to have a maintenance staff on duty at all times because of the boilers, which equals 2-1/2 people for 84 hours per week.
- Ms. Bonner added that one of the problems that we are having with the numbers that were presented is that the pool would be in a freestanding building as compared to other places where the pool is part of another building where staff can be shared.
- Mr. Gimple commented that initial figures for the football program were estimated a lot higher than it actually cost.
- Mr. Matera said that there is a big difference between a pool and a football program. If the football program failed, the district would be left with equipment that could be sold or stored and money wouldn't have to be included in future budgets. However, if the pool fails, what do we do with it – use it as a giant terrarium?
- Mrs. Thalen commended Ms. Burke for the work she is doing with the civic association. She asked Ms. Burke if the town or the county would be willing to take ownership of the pool.
- Ms. Burke replied that she didn't think it would be such a big burden to Rocky Point. The idea did come up but the people involved didn't want it to be a Town of Brookhaven facility. They wanted it to be something for Rocky Point to have.
- Mrs. Thalen said that she wasn't disagreeing that it would be nice for Rocky Point. She wanted it years ago. However, now her concern is with the costs that go along with it. She asked Ms. Burke if the town or the county was planning to build a pool at the Robert E. Reade Center in Shoreham.
- Mrs. Bonner replied that it was a tri-county-town-state project.
- Mrs. Thalen asked if that pool were to come to fruition if it would be extraneous because everyone would have access to that pool.
- Ms. Burke said that she thought there was a problem with the funding for that pool. She agrees that we should find out if funding will be achieved.
- Mrs. Thalen said that the board has asked the administration to go to great lengths to find out if the pool would be feasible.
- Ms. Burke asked the board to put their personal issues aside. She said that she really tried to get accurate information and didn't come close to the same number that the school district came up with. They were on the phone with a number of people from the district who were supposed to be getting information and were told that it was always someone else who was doing the research. She has no idea where the district's numbers came from. She was unable to get any information from the district's architect.
- Ms. Reynen said that she and Ms. Burke wanted to get a fair assessment of what the pool would cost.
- Mrs. Thalen, Ms. Burke, and Ms. Reynen discussed whether or not it was necessary to provide lighting on turf fields.
- Ms. Burke asked why the pool could not be built on the high school grounds. Mr. Matera replied that Fairfield could only build on property they owned.
- She asked about the installation of the turf field on the high school grounds.
- Ms. Bonner explained that Fairfield would be donating the money for the installation of the turf field on the high school grounds.



- Mr. Kies explained that Fairfield could not install the turf field. They would make a donation and another company would install it.
- Ms. Reynen, referring to the curriculum issue, commented that other school districts scheduled double periods when necessary to accommodate for transportation. She said that she believes they did a fair job in obtaining information to prove that a pool was feasible if the community wants one. She said that their research also showed that insurance was not an issue. She asked the board to please place information on the website for the community that would allow them to give their input.
- Ms. Reynen also said that whomever the board asked to do the report didn't get accurate figures.
- Mrs. Thalen said that the board felt it was impossible to provide anything but a menu on the website - without information that would enable people to make a decision based on reality.
- Ms. Reynen said it was her impression that the website would be used as a brainstorming session.
- Mrs. Thalen said that some reasonable suggestions - such as a performing arts center - were heard. She thanked Ms. Reynen and Ms. Burke for all of their work.
- Mr. Johann said that he suggested a learning center at last month's meeting because we have a great deficit in that area. He added that 95% of the students in the district live north of Route 25A. The North Shore Library is located south of 25A. He believes that the community could use some type of media/learning/fine arts center where people could have access to PCs, CDs, and DVDs. He added that an amphitheater could be used for outdoor concerts, etc.
- Mrs. Gallino commended the work that the civic association does. She asked if the Fairfield development included a pool for its residents.
- Ms. Bonner replied that plans originally included a pool but not any longer.
- A member of the audience added that if a library was built, the revenue to maintain it would already be there since we currently pay taxes for the North Shore Library.
- Mrs. Thalen said that we would have to show a need for a library. The state makes the decision and they already want us to combine services. If we were to build a library, we would have to fill it with materials.
- Mrs. Johannessen said she understood from her husband that a library would not be a good idea since what we would have to do to extract ourselves from the North Shore Library would be nearly impossible.
- Mrs. DeFrank asked (as a parent and teacher aide at the JAE) if the money could be used to expand classroom space to accommodate the children that would be coming to the district from the new homes.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that the development was mostly a planned retirement community so there would be minimal impact on the district.
- Mrs. DeFrank asked if those residents would be allowed to vote on the budget.
- Mrs. Thelan replied that they would.
- Mrs. DeFrank said that she liked the idea of the turf fields especially since her son plays in the pit and her daughter fell down the hill recently. She asked if some of the money could also go towards a speaker system for the auditorium. She thought it was difficult to hear some of the student performers during the spring musical.

- Mrs. Thalen replied that some of the money could go towards upgrading the audio system at the high school.
- Mrs. DeFrank also suggested some general use rooms. She said Mr. Knapp is still working in the basement.
- Mr. Don Webster, the Athletic Director for Three Village Schools, said that we have an opportunity to make decisions that will impact the educational program. If the pool can't be located at the high school and students must be bussed to the pool, he believes you're not going to "get the biggest bang for your buck." Once it is built, the district will have the responsibility to maintain it and costs are not going to go down. It will become more costly every year. At Ward Melville, they are currently looking into eliminating the community swim program.
- Mr. Lagnena commented that everyone has a lot of nice ideas. He suggested that maybe the district should research all of the ideas to see what is fiscally responsible. Perhaps JAG could research and put information up on the website. With regard to the turf field at the high school, if they are going to donate money, maybe we could add classrooms on or a lump sum could be used for other things.
- Mrs. LaCascia said that we live in a beachfront community. She believes that a good use would be for a community center with air conditioning for plays, practices, PTA events, scouts, etc. because fields would only be used by one part of the community.
- Mr. Drew Martin said that he thinks the pool is a decent idea but expects to see more in the area of research. He suggested a web log where people could discuss their ideas.
- Mrs. Thalen said she believes that the board should discuss the suggestion.
- Mr. Martin said that although he doesn't have any children in the district, he has family that will be relocating to Rocky Point and thinks the pool might make the area even more attractive.
- Mrs. Johannesen said that Fairfield doesn't want to donate something just for the school, but for the entire community. She thinks Diane Burke and Carolyn Reynen did a great job. Of all the programs that are possible, she would like to see a pool. She doesn't think the architect provided accurate information.
- Mrs. Thalen said that Mr. Ivanoff was with the architect the whole way.
- Ms. Reynen said that with regard to the curriculum issue, it would only be in tenth grade and for only ten weeks. It shouldn't be too difficult to schedule two periods together to get the children from the high school to the pool. She also said an aquatics engineer would be hired by Fairfield to determine what it required if the community decides to go ahead with the pool. She was told that the figures the district had came from Dick Mondello.
- Mr. Gimple said that this community has been very supportive of the budget, but the pool could possibly become a very big burden on the taxpayers over the age of the pool, which could end up jeopardizing education in the future.
- Ms. Reynen said that it would end up costing \$17.00 per household per year.
- Mrs. Johannesen said that the turf fields couldn't be considered instructional either. She thinks the pool can be instructional and that the logistics could be worked out.
- Mrs. O'Neill said that the district shouldn't be expected to accept the proposal if it is not what is best for the entire community. Maybe the money should be used for

instructional and spent on the science labs, the library, and classrooms. It is not the board's job to fill the community's needs; it is to fill the district's needs.

**Mrs. Thalen asked if there were any other questions. There were none. Mrs. Thalen urged everyone to remain for Dr. D'Ambrosio's budget presentation.**

## **PERSONNEL**

Upon a motion made by Joseph Sanseverino and seconded by Michael Matera, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, that the Board of Education accept the attached Personnel changes. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **RATIFICATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ROCKY POINT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AND THE ROCKY POINT UFSD**

Upon a motion made by Michael Matera and seconded by Howard Gimple, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to enter into an agreement with the Rocky Point Teachers' Association and the Rocky Point UFSD. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE 2006-2007 SUPERINTENDENT'S PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY**

Dr. D'Ambrosio reviewed the entire expenditures portion of the budget. She named areas that included significant changes and provided details. Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that there are inequities in the distribution of state aid. In addition, the state has not adopted its budget to date and as a result, districts cannot be sure of how much state aid they will receive. Every department is facing increased costs due to federal and state mandates.

Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that her first responsibility is to maintain quality instruction while balancing a fiscally responsible budget and that the district must maintain competitive salaries in order to recruit and retain high quality professionals.

Dr. D'Ambrosio announced that the total 2006-2007 proposed budget was \$58,045,674; a 8.17% increase over last year's budget, which will result in a 7.78% increase in the tax rate.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Dr. D'Ambrosio asked if there were any questions:

- Ms. Burke asked if the 2005-06 numbers were the proposed budget or actual expenses.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio replied that it was what was actually budgeted.

- Ms. Burke asked if we could look at what was actually spent.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio replied she could. The figures in the presentation were from budget to budget, but she would be happy to go through actual expenditures if she made an appointment with her office.
- Mr. Johann had a question with regard to the reserve fund and how it relates to the actual increase in the proposed budget.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that a reserve is necessary to offset unforeseen expenses.
- Mr. Ivanoff explained that they were showing budget-to-budget projections.
- Mr. Johann said that including the \$1.6 million in reserve, the proposed budget actually increased by \$6 million.
- Ms. Burke commented that \$1.6 million is a lot of money and it is important to know where the money is going.
- Mr. Johann also had questions relating to increases in the areas of instruction, salaries, and special ed.
- Ms. Franco had a question with regard to the breakdown for instructional salaries and benefits. She asked if negotiations were discussed with the community.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that negotiations were confidential.
- Ms. Franco asked who is involved in negotiations.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio replied that the district has a team and their attorney is also present during negotiations.
- Ms. Bonner explained that the board doesn't make the rules about what can be discussed. However, Ms. Franco could FOIL the information she was looking for.
- Mrs. Reynen asked if the community had any input on which positions are added or eliminated.
- Mrs. Thalen replied that those are building level decisions.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that they are district decisions.
- Ms. Reynen had a questions with regard to community ed.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that the community ed program is self-sustained, but the money must go through the district.
- Ms. Reynen asked if people must go to each building if they have questions.
- Mrs. Tvelia replied that principals have open door policies.
- Mrs. Bonner explained that the board gives any information they can. She encouraged Ms. Franco to continue to ask questions and she told Ms. Franco that she brings a lot of valuable input to the meetings. Mrs. Bonner added she believes that the whole system is flawed. We don't get the money we deserve. The 60 to 70 percent state aid that the district received in the past is now 40 percent. We have some beautiful new homes but also a lot of needy families in the community.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio explained that the proposed budget was the result of spending many hours to come up with a budget that will have the least detrimental impact on education. The district attempts to obtain grants to defray costs. We have no control over many of the costs and we are not getting our fair share of state aid.
- Mr. Lagnena added that several informative budget presentations were held over the past few weeks where items were broken down line by line; however, only ten or fifteen people attended them.

- Mrs. Callahan said that there was a need for census to be taken so that the district could accommodate future enrollment.
- Mrs. Sparks asked where we stand as far as enrollment.
- Dr. D'Ambrosio replied that we are down about fifty children compared to last year. She explained that classes will be restructured in order to make the best use of staff for maximum potential and that two positions would be eliminated by seniority.

**There were no further questions or comments. Dr. D'Ambrosio invited any one to contact her office if they had additional questions or concerns.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:05 PM a motion was made by Jane Bonner and seconded by Howard Gimple for the Board of Education to go into executive session to discuss particular personnel matters. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Pedota  
District Clerk

The board returned to open session at 10:49 PM.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 10:50 PM a motion was made by Michael Matera and seconded by Joseph Sanseverino for the Board of Education to adjourn the meeting. All in favor – Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla L. D'Ambrosio, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools