

*APPROVED MINUTES of the Elmont Board of Education*

SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 27, 2020

VOLUME XXXIV, PAGE 172  
ELMONT, NEW YORK

BOARD OF EDUCATION

SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Elmont Union Free School District, Town of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York, held remotely by Zoom on Wednesday, May 27, 2020.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael A. Jaime, President  
Patrick O. Emeagwali  
Anthony S. Maffea, Sr. (joined the meeting at 7:18)  
Sheldon Meikle  
Karen Taylor-Bass

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT: Tameka Battle-Burkett, Vice President  
Michael Cantara

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Mr. Albert Harper	Superintendent of Schools
Colum P. Nugent	School Attorney
Mr. Kenneth Rosner	Director of Curriculum & Instruction

PUBLIC SESSION

PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Jaime called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

Mr. Jaime led the pledge of allegiance.

Mr. Jaime asked for a motion to appoint Mr. Harper as the chairperson of the budget hearing.

On a motion by Mr. Emeagwali, seconded by Ms. Taylor-Bass, the Board appointed Mr. Harper as chairperson.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mr. Harper turned the meeting over to Mr. Nugent for the report of the attorney.

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY

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ATTORNEY

Mr. Nugent conducted the Budget Hearing as follows:

BUDGET  
HEARING

The Budget was adopted at the May 4, 2020 at the Board of Education Meeting, as required by statute, in the amount of **\$94,465,873**. This is amount that the Board seeks approval on in the election which will be held on June 9, 2020 by absentee ballot.

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BUDGET  
HEARING

That amount if passed, represents the total amount that the Board can spend during the 2020-2021 school year. In the budget that has been posted online you can see the allocation of the \$94,000,000. Its clearly marked for certain areas. However, a word of caution. The Board plans to spend that money on those items, but that could change given the nature of what this Board and every other Board is dealing with...the pandemic. The pandemic has raised costs for not just Elmont, but for the entire state. That's what we're concerned about... the state of New York. The Governor has stated he may have to adjust the amount of state aid for school districts. We constructed that budget relying on a certain amount of state aid that may not be available to us. If it is not available to us the Board may have to adjust some of the programs and maybe if it becomes dire... there may be an adjustment in staffing. Because staffing is the largest part of the budget.

The budget that has been constructed is notable for one thing. The Board worked diligently on this budget, even with the Coronavirus and the problems that it brings. They know the people in the community are in financial distress. Many people are in financial distress and with that in mind the Board has constructed a budget that does not raise taxes. The taxes will be the same as they are for the year that is expiring (2019-2020). That's a remarkable achievement and Mr. Harper and Mr. Galante have to be complimented for their ability to do that in this day and age. I will tell you that it relies heavily on certain reserves that the Board and the Administration accumulates on a regular basis when times allow. Over the past few years times certainly have allowed. We had a good economy... a really good economy and it allowed this Board to accumulate some reserves. We look at the community and we look at people, many who are in distress and with that in mind we have the budget that we have.

For now, the budget we are presenting funds all the programs we have. None of them have been cut and it maintains the current class size. The current class size is a low-class size and that is really the best that an educational program can do... keep the class size low because the academic results in a lower-class size are better than in a class size that is very large. If we increase the class-size, we don't need as many teachers. That's just a fact. Going forward we hope to maintain the class size. We want to keep programs such as Model UN, Lab Research, Enrichment Academy and Saturday World Language. They all stay for now and our hope is that they will remain for the coming year. The Board, Mr. Harper, Mr. Rosner and Mr. Galante will work hard to keep them.

There is a slight decrease in the tax rate. It's one tenth of one percent. Not only did the taxes not go up, but they went slightly down. We bring it to the public with a word of caution because there are intervening factors. We know what we can raise in taxes and we know what we are planning to receive in state aid, but that is subject to change.

This event is called the budget hearing. Boards are required to hold this hearing 10-14 days before the election and there was a time when the budget hearing took place before the budget was adopted. The laws changed on when the Board could adopt the budget. The Board is required to adopt the budget 24 days before the election.

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The current situation does not allow us to have questions or comments on the budget. However, a person can ask questions. You can send it to the District Clerk at [districtclerk@elmontschools.org](mailto:districtclerk@elmontschools.org). The budget is available on the District website [www.elmontschools.org](http://www.elmontschools.org)

BUDGET  
HEARING

The budget vote will take place on June 9, 2020 by absentee ballots received by 5 PM.

Mr. Jaime thanked Mr. Harper, Mr. Galante and Mr. Rosner for a fiscally responsible budget that maintains the excellent programs and excellent staff, while being fiscally responsible to the community.

Mr. Emeagwali concurred with Mr. Jaime. Residents will be happy with this budget. It is a remarkable achievement in view of everything that is going on.

Mr. Harper stated that credit goes to Mr. Galante. He is a wiz at what he does. It is miraculous that when you ask him a financial question, that would probably take the normal person two days to answer, Tom says hold it I have it right here. We are fortunate to have him working here in our school district.

This concludes the budget hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Emeagwali, the Board adjourned the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Motion Carried Unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Taylor-Bass, seconded by Mr. Emeagwali, the Board convened in executive session to discuss personnel matters and matters within the attorney-client relationship.

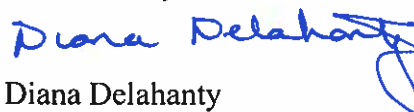
Motion Carried Unanimously

On a motion by Mr. Maffea, seconded by Mr. Emeagwali, the Board adjourned executive session at 7:32 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Carried Unanimously

Submitted by,



Diana Delahanty  
District Clerk

June 2, 2020  
Date Approved