

Town Meeting
January 26, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Murphy at 7:15 pm in the High School Alumni Room. Present were Trustees Beyer, Genovesi, Pombar, Vollmer and Webb. Also present were Dr. Melnick, Mr. Chlebicki and Ms. Buatsi.

Executive Session

At 7:15 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer, seconded by Trustee Genovesi and all in favor, the Board went into Executive Session in the faculty lounge to discuss the collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law (the Taylor Law) and the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property. Trustee Brennan arrived at 7:30 pm.

At 8:00 pm, on motion of President Murphy, seconded by Trustee Beyer, and all in favor, the Board moved to come out of Executive Session and resumed the meeting in the alumni room. There were approximately 50 people in the audience.

Pledge of Allegiance

President Murphy led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board decided to vote on items II and III simultaneously.

On motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Webb and all in favor it was:

Approval of Proposal from Freudenthal & Elkowitz Consulting Group to Conduct Phase II Environmental Site Assessment at the Property on Shore Road

Resolved: To approve the proposal from Freudenthal & Elkowitz Consulting Group to conduct Phase II Environmental Site Assessment services at the Property on Shore Road in the amount of \$26,305

PERSONNEL

Resignation for Retirement Purposes – Certified

Resolved: To accept the resignation for retirement purposes from Bette Blankfein, Special Education, Glenwood Landing, effective June 30, 2006

Appointments – Certified

Resolved: To approve the regular substitute appointment of Kerry Yandrasits, Elementary, Sea Cliff School, on Step 1 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 18, 2006 through February 17, 2006, replacing Andrea Schulz (FMLA)

Increment for Advanced Study

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Sandra DiRe, Elementary, Glen Head, from Step 8 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 8 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective January 27, 2006

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Joanne Fawcett, Guidance, High School, from Step 12 of the MA+15 salary schedule, to Step 12 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective January 27, 2006

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Jennifer Fischer, Special Education, High School, from Step 5 of the BA+30 salary schedule, to Step 5 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 27, 2006

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Elaine Goldman, Social Worker, Glenwood Landing, from Step 19 of the MA salary schedule, salary to Step 19 of the MA+15 salary schedule, effective September 1, 2005

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Elizabeth Goodstone, Elementary, Glenwood Landing, from Step 11 of the MA+15 salary schedule, to Step 11 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective January 27, 2006

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Heather Healy, Elementary, Glen Head, from Step 10 of the MA+15 salary schedule, to Step 10 of the MA+30 salary schedule, effective January 27, 2006

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Caitlin Kirmser, English, High School, from Step 13 of the MA+60 salary schedule, to Step 13 of the MA+EDD, effective January 27, 2006

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Aaron Kozlowski, Physical Education, Glenwood Landing, from Step 2 of the BA+30 salary schedule, to Step 2 of the MA salary schedule, effective January 27, 2006

Resolved: To approve an increment for advanced study for Nathalie Perodin-Silva, ESL, Middle School, from Step 5 of the MA+30 salary schedule, to Step 5 of the MA+45 salary schedule, effective January 27, 2006

Appointments – Non Certified

Resolved: To approve the appointment of Debbie Bailey as a monitor in the Glenwood Landing Elementary School, effective January 27, 2006

Additions to the Per Diem Substitute List

To add the following name to the per diem substitute list:

Nicholas Cassano	Secondary
Maren Karp	Elementary
Diane Molesky	Special Education

Report of the SGO Representative

Alex Romano, SGO Representative reported on activities that have taken place in the high school and reminded the audience that the Battle of the Bands would take place on Friday, January 27.

Preliminary Budget Proposal

Dr. Melnick gave a presentation on the proposed 2006-07 budget. The total amount of the proposed budget is \$75,024,037, or 9.269% above the 2005-06 budget. This total includes the amount of a roof replacement at the high school which reflects 1.8% of the increase. During the presentation, Dr. Melnick explained some of the reasons for the increase such as unfunded mandates which the Board has no control over, as well as increase in utilities and goods and services. He then explained the need for bond referendums to fund the costs of a transportation facility, additional space in the middle school to accommodate the

increase in enrollment and the possibility of including the cost of the high school roof in one of the bond referendums to lower the cost of the budget to a 7.4% increase. The Board of Education will review the budget line by line over the next months and will be able to make changes to this proposal that they find necessary. At the end of Dr. Melnick's presentation, the Board was given an opportunity to make comments and then President Murphy turned the floor over to the public for the Town Meeting portion of the meeting.

Town Meeting

Jerry Romano, Sea Cliff asked for an update on the Keyspan problem. Dr. Melnick explained the Board has been proactive in getting the LIPA generators on the tax rolls. He went on to explain that they will not pay taxes retroactively; it will begin when they are put on the tax rolls. Right now it is in the courts and may never be put on the tax rolls. He reminded the public it will not be in the form of a one time payment, but will reduce the amount of the taxpayer's share of the tax levy.

Karen Swett, Sea Cliff, asked about the contingency cap and what amount of increase the taxpayer is really voting on. Dr. Melnick explained that the Board could provide a budget below the contingency cap, but if the budget is defeated, it cannot be less than a 7.4% increase over last year's budget.

Rita Podaris, Glen Head, asked if the new transportation facility will totally eliminate the need to contract out any transportation. Dr. Melnick explained we will be taking back 11 routes, but it is not cost effective to transport all students. President Murphy explained it enables us to control costs and that last year the increase in contracted costs was 25%. Dr. Melnick added that we would also be able to maintain our own buses reducing maintenance costs. Trustee Brennan pointed out that representatives from our construction company were present in the audience if any resident had a question for them.

Susan Riley, Glen Head, asked about the cost of the roof. She wondered why it is so expensive.

Stuart Schiller, JMOA explained the factors used in estimating the cost of the roof including the material as well as the increase in gasoline and labor. They want to have a good estimate to cover any increases so as not to be caught short. President Murphy further explained that replacement of a flat roof is much more involved in comparison to the homeowner's roof. There is metal fascia, flashing and the square footage is very large. Dr. Melnick also explained that the sub structure must be totally replaced. He also explained that we must take the lowest bid that meets our requirements. Mr. Schiller, went on to explain the process required before the construction begins all of which gets included in the cost estimate and he feels the figure represents a fiscally responsible amount for the roof. Trustee Genovesi added that part of the cost, as explained previously by the construction company, was due to Hurricane Katrina. Trustee Brennan reminded the public that the most recent borrowing was approved for 10 million and only 9 million was borrowed as the need was less. The public can approve the amount estimated for the roof and it may end up costing less.

Tom Knierim, Sea Cliff, asked if the Bus depot could be shared with adjacent districts or if it is best to have our own. Dr. Melnick explained that the Board of Education has been looking for 15 years and has invited surrounding districts to look into a joint facility. Some of the surrounding districts have gone to contracting out most of their transportation and are now unhappy with it and want to go back to their own fleet. Once we are operational, we may be able to contract out our facility for a fee.

Betty Buckout, Glenwood Landing, has been dealing with the buses in her backyard for several years. She would like to see the district spend the money on a new facility.

Amy Aranoff, Glen Head asked, if the bond does pass, what the time frame would be for building the transportation facility.

Stuart Schiller, JMOA explained the process would take approximately 9 months from passage to start construction and the construction would take approximately 2 years.

Jerry Romano, Sea Cliff questioned why we are not purchasing the property now. Dr. Melnick explained there needs to be a separate referendum this May allowing the district to spend the money that was set aside in the capital reserve fund. He does not feel there is a danger of losing the property. At this point, the Board is moving forward on the Environmental Impact Statement. Trustee Genovesi asked if the Board can purchase the property if the budget does not pass, but the bond passes. Dr. Melnick responded the Board can move ahead with the bond even if the budget does not pass. He went on to explain that the high school roof will be done no matter if the budget passes or not as it is a health and safety issue.

Karen Swett, Sea Cliff, feels the Board should take the roof out of the budget and put it in the Bond referendum to lower the budget increase. President Murphy explained that the Board has already had a preliminary discussion on this option. Trustee Brennan reminded the public that the first Saturday in March the Board will be discussing capital expenses and invited the public to attend that meeting.

Margie Anderson, Glen Head, is concerned about passing three referendums at one time.

Amy Aranoff, Glen Head, asked what happens if the roof is in the bond and the bond fails. Dr. Melnick explained that the Board will discuss whether or not to have 2 separate bonds referendums. He explained that the roof cannot be a separate bond by itself because it is a necessity.

Anna Sharkey, Glen Head, asked if the middle school bond can be postponed by one year. Dr. Melnick explained that construction costs are going up approximately 8% per quarter and it does not make fiscal sense to delay. He expressed his desire to hear from the community by calling or by email. He reminded the public there will be a budget hotline again this year with the questions and answers posted on the web site. Dr. Melnick and Board Members will also be attending budget coffees hosted by community members between now and the budget vote.

Amy Aranoff, Glen Head, spoke about the dangerous conditions surrounding the current transportation facility. She would like the community to know how important it is to move it from the current location. Trustee Vollmer suggested using the local papers in a letter to the editor. President Murphy expressed his hope that in addition to the health and safety issues of the current facility, the community will see the savings that can be realized over time with a new transportation facility.

Trustee Genovesi filed her New York State School Boards Association Certificates of Completion of Fiscal Oversight Training with the Clerk.

At 9:55 pm, on motion of Trustee Beyer and seconded by Trustee Pombar and all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth A. Ciampi
District Clerk